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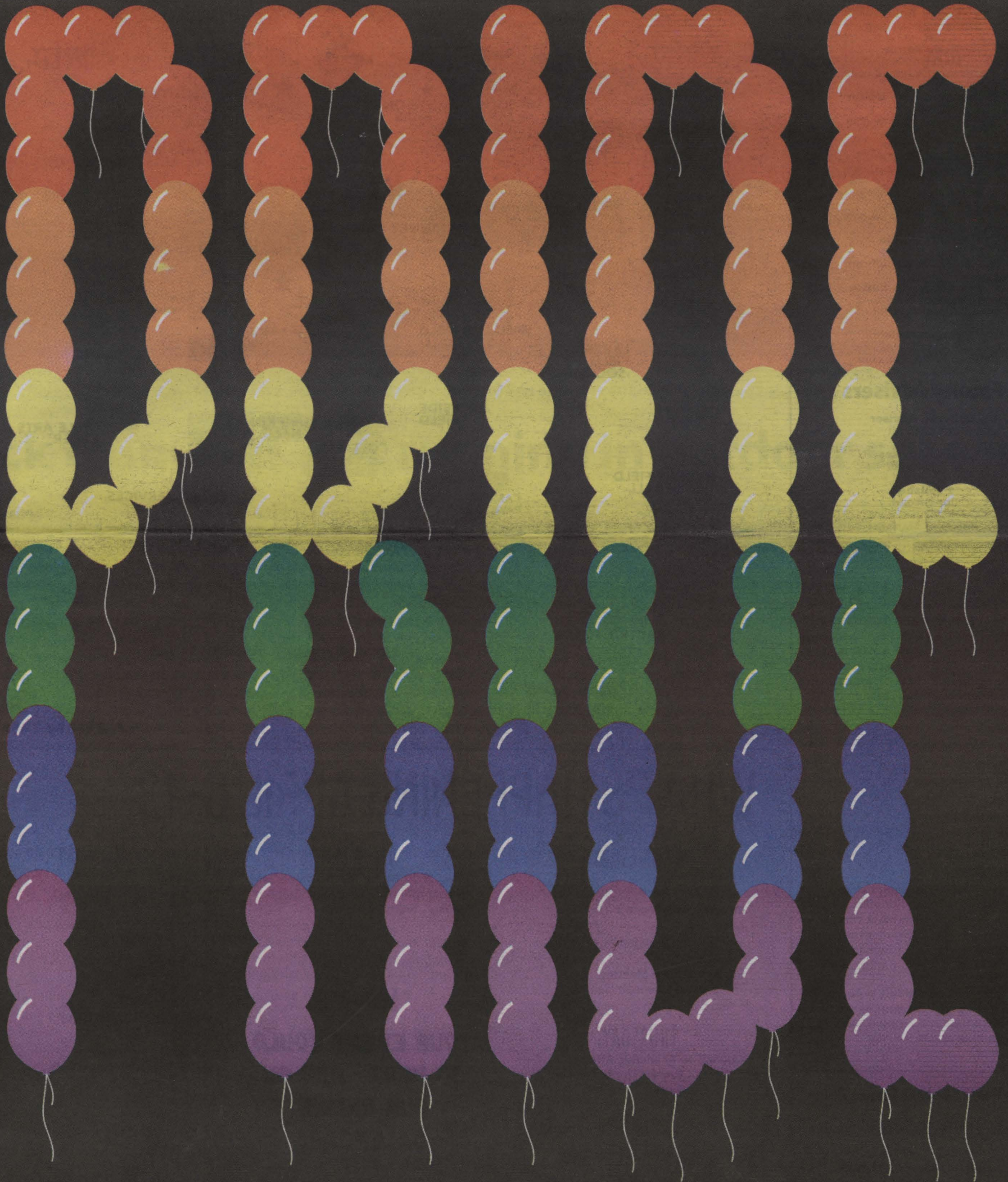
THE WEEKLY EDITION
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

' T E L L T H E T R U T H A N D D O N ' T B E A F R A I D '

April 6, 2022

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

VOL. 106 | NO. 82



Eastern celebrates Pride Month in April, rather than June, each year to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community during the academic year. This year the month will be celebrated with safe zone training, an Instagram campaign and more.



Eastern has over 30 all-gender bathrooms
See page 2 for their location.



What can Eastern expect to see from Pride month this year?
See page 3.



The football team has begun practicing under new leadership.
See page 8.

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The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published weekly on Wednesday, in Virdon, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per week is free to students and employees. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

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The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Corryn Brock at 581-2812.

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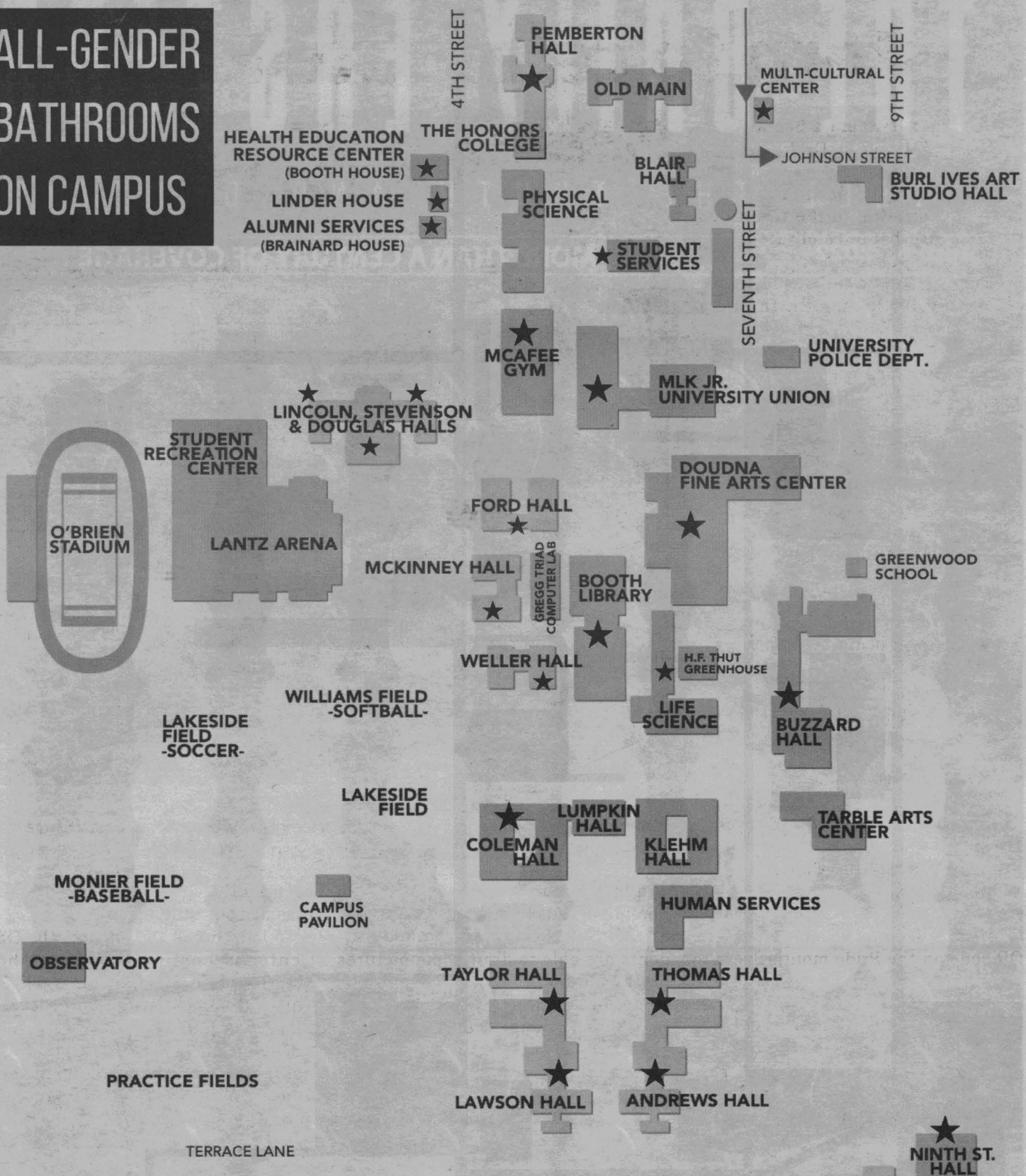
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**ALL-GENDER
 BATHROOMS
 ON CAMPUS**



Graphic by Luke Taylor

WHAT'S HAPPENING APRIL 6-13

<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Park</p> <p>Inclusive Excellence in Higher Education 6:30 p.m. - Doudna Fine Arts Center</p> <p>Student Senate Meeting 7 p.m. - Stevenson Hall</p>	<p>ALL WEEK</p> <p>Spring 2022 Discarded Textbook Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday - Textbook Rental</p>	<p>MONDAY</p> <p>Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Park</p>
<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Council on Academic Affairs 2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room, Booth Library</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>YOUR EVENT COULD GO HERE- AND ON OUR ONLINE CALENDAR!</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Park</p>
<p>FRIDAY</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>CONTACT US WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT</p> <p>Send your event information to dennewsdesk@gmail.com to be added to our online and print calendars!</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Tai Chi 4:30 p.m. - Kiwanis Park</p> <p>Student Senate Meeting 7 p.m. - Stevenson Hall</p>

Eastern to celebrate Pride with events

By **Adriana Hernandez-Santana**
Campus Reporter | @DEN_news

At Eastern, Pride month takes place in April due to the traditional Pride month being celebrated when most students are home for summer break.

To start off the month, the Progress Pride flag was raised on the campus flagpole last Friday to help kick off and celebrate Pride month.

On Wednesday, there will be a Safe Zone training event. Safe Zone is a two-hour educational event on how to help make those in the LGBTQ+ community feel safe, welcomed and heard.

Also on that day, the GSD Center will be hosting game night. Not only that, but they will also be teaching some meditation techniques over at the lower level of Stevenson Hall. This event will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

On Friday, there will be an Instagram campaign titled "Where do you feel pride?"

Students are encouraged to post about where they feel prideful in their lives.

On April 12, the GSD Center is working alongside Eastern's Health Education Resource Center to talk about safe sex.

Safe Zone will return on April 14 to offer a second session. Use the QR code on the Pride month flyers to sign up.

On April 15, there will be another Instagram campaign titled "Post your Pronouns." Eastern students and faculty are encouraged to post their pronouns as a part of the campaign.

The Sexual Assault Counseling



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

From left, Payton Ade, a sophomore history and political science major, Jaclyn Thomas, a senior interpersonal communications major, and Anne Flaherty, the Vice President for Student Affairs, help each other to raise the pride flag in the South Quad on Friday, April 1, 2022.

and Information Services, SACIS, are hosting an outdoor event on April 18 at noon at the Library Quad. Students are able to draw some pictures on the sidewalk with chalk and play some yard games.

April 22 will be a moment of silence. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Mellin Steps and Library Quad will be asking students to take a moment to remember those in the LGBTQ+

community who were silenced by harassment or bullying.

To help break the silence, the GSD Center is hosting a fashion show starting at 6:30 p.m. on April 22. This will be held at the lower level of Stevenson Hall.

On April 29, there will be one final Instagram campaign, asking students "What Does Pride Mean to You?"

And to close off Pride month, the LGBT club will be hosting a Second Chance Prom. Everyone is welcome to come to the Second Chance Prom.

It will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the University Ballroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Adrianna Hernandez-Santana can be reached at 581-2812 or at aihernandez@eiu.edu.

Professors, GSD coordinator react to anti-trans laws

By **Ryan Meyer**
Campus Reporter | @meyer_ryan_twt

On March 31, Transgender Day of Visibility, President Biden signed an executive order "Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation."

At the state level, discrimination through legislation against the LGBTQ+ community has been more prominent in 2022 than in any other year, according to NBC, and roughly half of the 238 proposed bills so far, as of March 20, are aimed at transgender people.

Melinda Mueller, chair of Eastern's political science department, said that conversations surrounding transgender rights are causing people to address such topics.

"So whenever something was a non-issue, a lot of people could just look away and not have to face it," Mueller said. "And now that they are confronted with thinking about it, then they're going to push back and oppose it."

According to data from The Trevor Project from 2021, "at least one LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13-

24 attempts suicide every 45 seconds in the U.S."

Mueller said that statistics like those are one of the most worrisome consequences of anti-transgender discourse.

"I think I worry most of all about mental health and the suicide rate of LGBTQ youth," Mueller said. "I think that that's a real risk when we marginalize populations more and more, or violence against the LGBTQ people, because we kind of stir up this idea of animosity against them."

In order for change to occur, Mueller said, it is important to act if bills are being introduced so as to try and prevent them from being passed and to voice their dissent.

"One thing is that just because these bills get introduced doesn't mean that they get passed into law," Mueller said. "And if they're introduced it's really important that people work to let legislators know that they're not happy with them if they're not happy with them, to vote, to get involved and to try to make that change."

A proposed law in Texas would require teachers and health professionals to report parents for helping their

child receive gender-affirming medical treatment, referring to it as child abuse.

Tanya Willard, the coordinator for Eastern's Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity, said a law like this is bad for both parents and their children.

"That's awful because those parents are doing everything they can to make sure that that kid gets to be who they are," Willard said. "...Those parents are probably that kid's strongest, biggest allies. They're going to be their biggest cheerleaders, their biggest supporters. You're taking that away from kids who already have a lot stacked up against them."

Karen Swenson, a political science professor at Eastern, said that opposition to such laws and efficient trial courts could stop the laws in their tracks.

"Well, we do have pretty powerful interest groups there that have quite a bit of money like the American Civil Liberties Union," Swenson said. "And I think they're pretty quick to fight back litigation, and I think these laws are probably dead on arrival because the courts can act on them pretty quickly."

Swenson also described the ap-

proach a lawyer might take to defend families in court.

"If you were a lawyer for those families, you'd take a two-pronged attack," Swenson said. "You'd claim that these laws violate equal protection because they target a suspect class, they're really motivated by animosity towards transgender people, and you'd also argue that it violates the due process rights of the parents to raise their children in their own best judgment."

Willard said the present does not feel great, but she is optimistic about the next generation's rise to positions where change can be made.

"I think there's a lot of reason to be hopeful a little further down the road," Willard said. "We just got to be patient and let some of these young people grow up and get into those positions of power."

Mueller was also able to approach issues such as these as reasons to act and inspire people to make a change.

"On the other hand, maybe it will encourage more people to run for office and more people to get involved in advocacy," Mueller said.

Ryan Meyer can be reached at 581-2812 or at rameyer@eiu.edu.

Editorial

There will always be room to grow

In a lineup of university campuses, Eastern has a lot to like when it comes to support for LGBTQ+ students.

Notably, EIU Pride is an active organization, the Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity provides both education and material resources and the Doug Dibianco Living Learning Community gives students a chance to live in an environment which makes them feel safe.

There is still room to grow.

The GSD Center recently created a map which directs students to each of the all-gender bathrooms on campus.

These bathrooms are helpful for transgender, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming students because using a gendered bathroom can put them at risk from those who don't think they should be there.

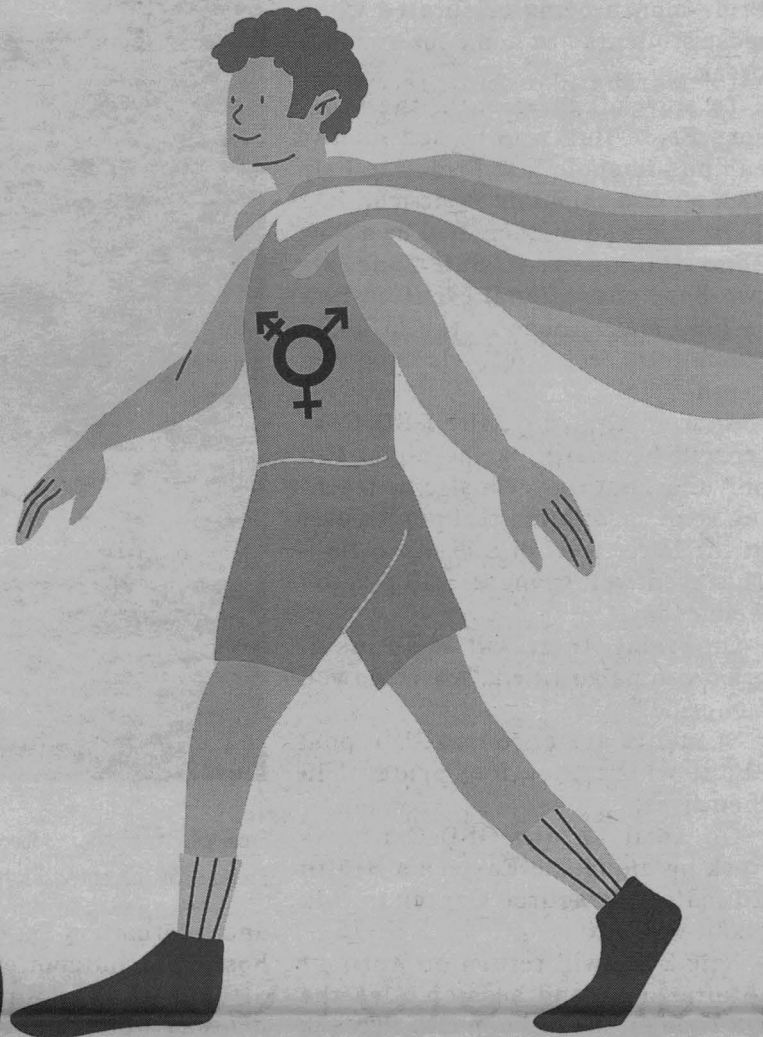
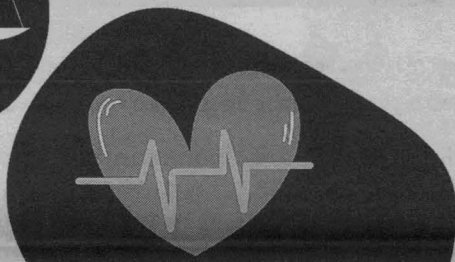
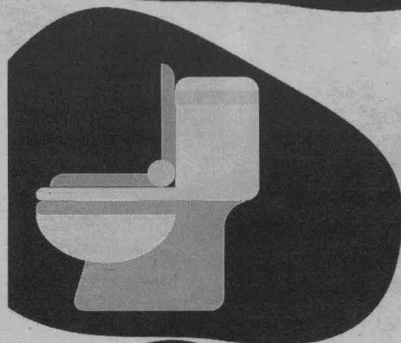
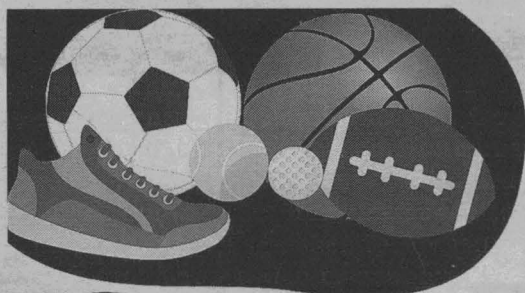
Out of all the buildings on campus, 26 have at least one all-gender bathroom. Not bad! However, this number does not include some of the main, most public buildings on campus.

Old Main, arguably the hub of operations for administration and one of the first places new students will go, only has gendered restrooms.

The Recreation Center, another building which sees traffic from every category of students on campus, also only has gendered restrooms.

Blair, Lumpkin and Klehm Halls and the Physical Sciences building, all academic halls, are all also without an all-gender bathroom.

In most of those cases, one or two all-gender bathrooms would probably service the entire building. In res-



Graphic by Corryn Brock

idence halls, more access is important.

Most of the residence halls currently only have one all-gender bathroom. When students spend most of their time in those halls, it's hugely inconvenient to have to head down to the

lobby or basement every single time they need to use the restroom, not to mention that these bathrooms don't include showers.

Eastern has made a visible effort in recent years to provide resources for LGBTQ+ students, especial-

ly transgender students. In light of the current political climate around trans people, taking an extra step to provide more all-gender bathrooms would be taking a stand and showing students that they are welcome and safe here.

Education

Hidden and open pride that can be found in schools

There are all forms of life that enter the public school system. There are so many diverse people from diverse lifestyles. But one that has been becoming less taboo in schools is students who identify within the LGBTQIA+ community. As a future educator, seeing and hearing these students is very important. Amplifying their pride can do wonders in these students' self-esteem and overall experience within the school.

One thing that has been becoming more common within schools are gender-neutral bathroom. Something as simple as feeling safe and comfortable while going to the bathroom is something members of LGBTQIA+ community have to worry or think about often. If a student cannot use the bathroom, how are they going to focus or do their best within the classroom?

Opening a gender-neutral bath-



Ellen Dooley

room can be considered "hidden pride." It is not necessarily screaming out to look at what the school did, but it is what should be done. Giving gender nonconforming students a safe place to do a human basic function should be a given, but at the same time, it is a gentle nod, say-

ing we support and see you. Not all schools do this. Not all students are heard. Therefore, it is important to recognize daily functions impact the lives of diverse student populations.

A way to show "open pride" within a school is having a GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) or a pride club. Any form of these organizations gives students a place and opportunity to discuss issues within their school, community, or own life. Ally students can hear about issues that surround their peers and what they can do amplify their voice or solve a problem.

This can be considered open pride because of the community it can form within the school. It is a group that can present problems to the student population or school officials. It can also show that a school is trying to become a more accepting school by allowing these students to voice their opinions and just be themselves in

the school.

No student should be afraid to go to school. If a student is afraid to go to school, there is something wrong with that school. No student should be bullied, beaten, threatened, or even killed because of how they identify. The LGBTQIA+ community celebrates being proud of who they are because their community has not always been allowed to. It is important to remember those who have come before and have lost their lives for just being who they are.

Pride is important in school. Pride should be celebrated not just in June. Every student deserves to go to school in a safe environment no matter their sexual or gender identity.

Ellen Dooley is a sophomore special education major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at emdooley@eiu.edu.

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Philosophy

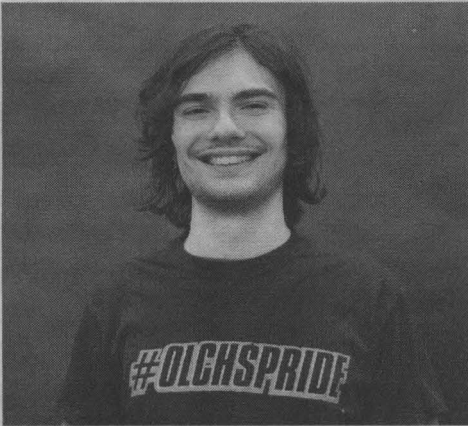
Is “what is a woman” really an easy question?

Recent right-wing political media has criticized the left for its viewpoint on gender, arguing that the left can not even answer one of the “easiest” questions. Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn recently asked Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson if she could “provide a definition for the word woman.” Jackson responded, “Not in this context. I’m not a biologist.”

Conservative talk show host Michael Knowles claimed that “this should be the end of [Jackson’s] nomination” in his video “LOL: ‘What Is A Woman?’ Blackburn DESTROYS Ketanji Jackson With One Question,” claiming that “it turns out she is a big, dumb, stupid, idiot.”

Steven Crowder, also conservative-leaning, states “yeah, ya know, woman: tits, vagina.” A guest on the show later adds “I came out with these chromosomes. Need I say more?”

From this we can extract two claims: the question of what a woman is allegedly easy to answer,



Ian Palacios

and a biologist is the relevant authority to answer this sort of question. I believe both of these are false.

Just for context, the 2020 PhilPapers survey, a survey dedicated to recording which proportion of philosophical theories are endorsed by professional philosophers, found the following distribution regarding gender: 29% believe gender is biological, 21.5% believe it is psychological, 63% believe it is social, and

4% believe it is unreal.

Now, it is certainly possible that the 29 percent who believe gender is biological are correct, yet the data at least gives us reasonable evidence to doubt the question is so clear cut. If not, why then would philosophers be so divided on the issue?

So, why doubt gender is obviously biological?

First, let’s understand what a relevant definition is. Though there are many ways to use definitions, what we are not looking for is the way people use words, since often the way people use words are too vague and inconsistent to offer a precise theory of a phenomenon.

Instead, what we want is a metaphysical description of the concept ‘woman,’ the necessary and sufficient conditions of womanhood.

Essentially the objection against the biological theory of gender is that it cannot explain many culturally gendered phenomena. This view has trouble accounting for why manhood and womanhood ex-

ist outside of biology.

If, for example, all it means for a person to be a woman is her biology, then why does there appear to be something “unwomanly” to wear manly clothing or play in particular sports? How does the gender view account for the apparent tension of men wearing makeup, dresses, and high heels?

For this datum, the social theory of gender has a stronger explanation. As author Simone de Beauvoir said in “The Second Sex,” “One is not born, but rather becomes a woman.”

Secondly, for any proposed “biological definition,” there will always be counterexamples: some people are not born with XX or XY chromosomes and some people are intersex.

The answer to “What is a woman?” could be biological—but it certainly isn’t obvious.

Ian Palacios is an English and philosophy major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or at impalacios@eu.edu.

Social Commentary

Dear LGBTQ+ Community, I am glad I am part of you

On Feb. 7, I came out in a column as part of the LGBTQ community. I’ve known, as I say in that column, that I’ve been part of that community since the age of 14.

I’ve never really talked about it, but I’ve always kind of known that my sexuality was the way it was for years.

I never had celebrity crushes, or thought about and gossiped about boys as a middle or high schooler. I never got why other girls did either.

And then I figured it out: I’m not straight. It all made sense.

It was always interesting watching people in middle and high school be like, ‘oh, isn’t so and so adorable,’ while I shrugged and said ‘I guess,’ not thinking anything of it.

A friend asked me once how I knew I wasn’t straight, to which I said that I kind of just knew.



Katja Benz

They then asked if I liked it, to which I said that I didn’t know any different.

Pride month came up after that. We talked about Stonewall, and it was nice knowing that somebody cared about LGBTQ history and pride.

I think that more people should be like that. I’m not only going to be part of the LGBTQ community in June. I’ll be in it year round (it’s not like I’ve been in it for the past eight years or anything).

And I think that there’s more that we can do as a society to fix that.

We can first teach about Stonewall. I did a lot of research on it myself, but not everybody does that.

It should really be required in the history curriculum across the board. If, according to the pledge of allegiance, every K-12 student in the U.S. must say every school day, ‘with liberty and justice for all’, why can’t schools do that?

It would have made me, as an LGBTQ student, feel heard and understood by not only my teachers, but to an extent my peers. And I’m sure it would make other students

in this community feel that same way.

I’m proud to be part of this community, so I don’t understand why people are so hesitant to learn about it.

We can also, as a society, unlearn that not being straight is bad. It’s not.

While I’ve never felt different from my heterosexual peers, I almost feel judged sometimes when I tell them I’m part of the community, as if I’m a bad person for being in it.

I’ve gotten weird looks when I tell people, which is why I’m always hesitant to tell people.

And I shouldn’t feel that way. My sexuality isn’t a bad thing and it never will be.

Katja Benz is a junior English major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at kkbenz@eu.edu.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

DO YOU FEEL EASTERN HAS DONE A GOOD JOB OF ACCOMMODATING LGBTQ+ STUDENTS?

CHECK OUT DAILYEASTERNNEWS.COM TO SEE WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

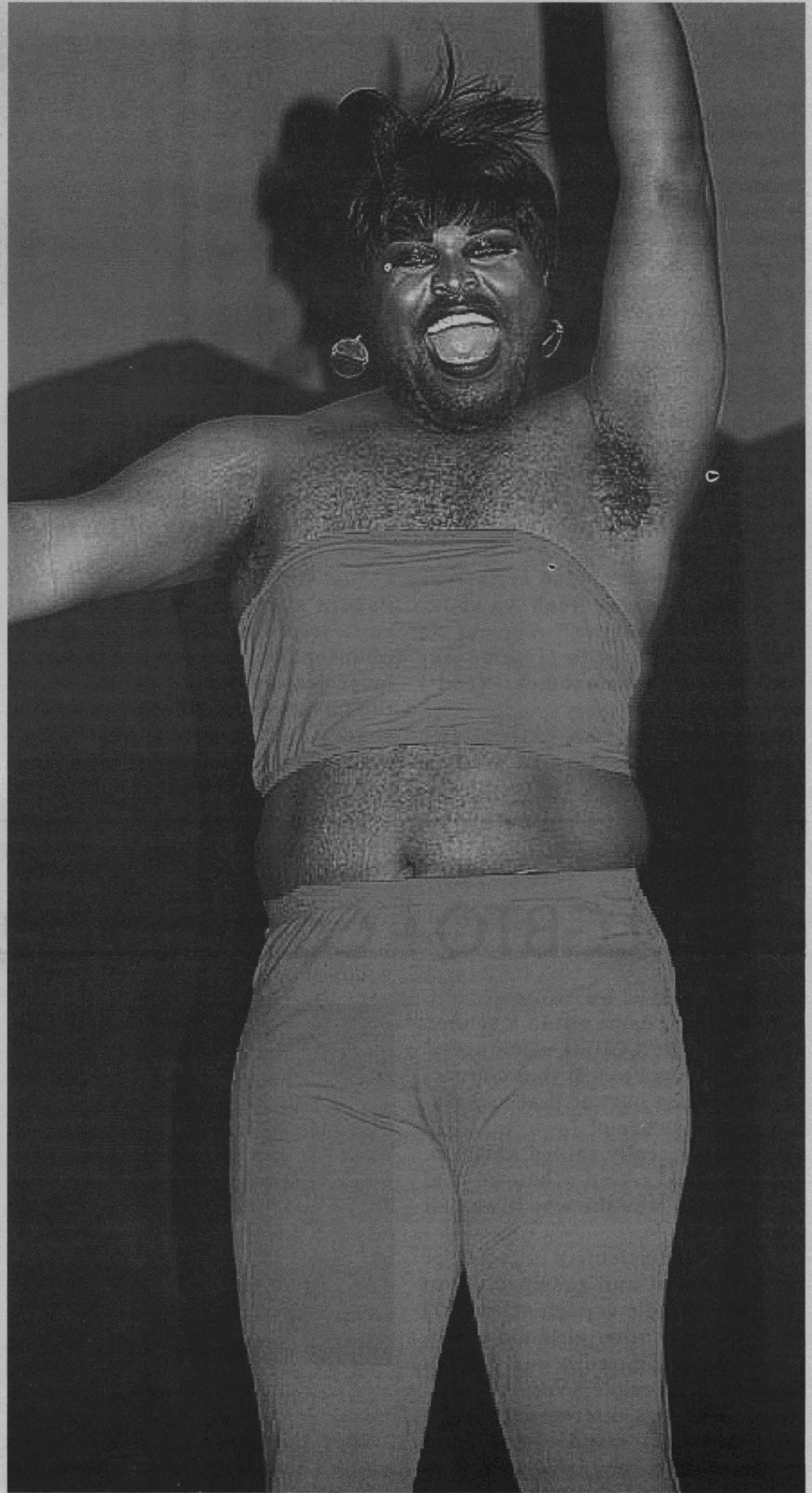
Pride at Eastern throughout the years



FILE PHOTOS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(Above) Sophomore marketing major Kristofer Wilhelmsen (left) and freshman Tess Stouffer (right) lay in the middle of the South Quad in support of the "Day of Silence." The four-hour-long protest was in 2006 to stand up for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

(Below) Members of EIU Pride run a table where people could leave their handprints for EIU Pride Week in the Bridge Lounge of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union in 2015.



FILE PHOTOS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lady Deviant performs their routine Friday night during the EIU Student Drag Show in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union in 2019.



Sophomore Eastern Student and Pride member Molly Ferris lectures about the transgender community in Roberson Auditorium during "T-Time with Molly." Topics that were discussed included common misconceptions and little-known facts regarding people who are transgender. The event was one of the first to kick off Eastern's chapter of Pride Week in 2012.



BY ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern sophomores Akiya Kollore (right) and Shanisa Stinson jump side-by-side while competing in the women's 100 meter hurdles at the EIU Big Blue Classic held at O'Brien Field on April 1. Kollore placed first with a time of 14.21 and Stinson came second at 14.33.

Track teams off and running in outdoor season

By Adam Tumino
Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

With the EIU Big Blue Classic now in the rear-view mirror, the 2022 outdoor track season is officially underway for the Eastern men's and women's track and field teams.

The Classic, held April 1 at O'Brien Field, was the second outdoor meet of the season for the men's team and the season opener for the women. By the end of the evening, multiple athletes from both the men's and women's teams picked up first place finishes.

The day started with the field events, and Eastern athletes littered the top of the final leaderboard for the hammer throw.

On the women's side, Jenna Grzesko-wiak, Clayre Shaver and Taylor Iver-son placed first, second and third respectively. For the men, Bradley Oly-sav placed first and Bo Braunecker took second.

In the women's triple jump, Taryn Tarquin placed first while Ramsey Hunt took first in the men's long jump, setting a new career high with a jump of 24 feet 11.5 inches.

In the track events, the men's and

women's teams combined for nine first-place finishes.

Both the men's and women's 4x100 relay teams placed first, with the women's team consisting of Vivica Coleman, Danielle Frank, Zakiya Johnson and Akiya Kollore and the men's team consisting of Sean Hopkins, Jahleel Perrin, Brailyn Johnson and Ricky Johnson.

Kollore also placed first in the women's 100 meter hurdles with Shaniya Stinson placing second. Stinson would then win the women's 400 meter hurdles. Riley Baker won the men's 400 meter hurdles.

The Panthers swept the 800 meters, with Katie Springer winning on the women's side and Franky Romano placing first for the men.

Josh Whitaker placed first in the men's 1,500 meter run. Lindsey Carlson placed second in the women's 5,000 meter run but set a new school record with a time of 16:34.50.

Both teams will take a short trip to Terre Haute this weekend to compete in the Indiana State Gibson Invite, which will take place on April 8 and 9.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or atumino@eiu.edu.

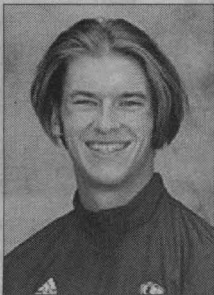


BY ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern freshman Drew Smith (left) speaks with Eastern's Director of Track and Field Keith Roberts after competing in the men's triple jump at the EIU Big Blue Classic held at O'Brien Field on April, 1.

Athletes of the Issue

RAMSEY HUNT



The Eastern men's track and field team was successful as the hosts of the EIU Big Blue Classic on April 1, and sophomore Ramsey Hunt played a part in that.

Hunt set a new career high in the men's long jump, placing first with a jump of 24 feet 11.5 inches, breaking his previous best of 23 feet 8.75 inches set at the OVC Outdoor Championships last season.

LINDSEY CARLSON



The EIU Big Blue Classic on April 1 was the setting for numerous standout performances for members of the Eastern women's track and field team.

Lindsey Carlson has built on the success of her historic cross country season in 2021, setting a new school record in the women's 5,000 meter run with a time of 16:34.50, placing second in the event.

Wilkerson takes field as coach for spring practices

By Autumn Schulz

Assistant Sports Editor | @autschulz

The Eastern football team is entering their second week of spring practices for the 2022 season. For Chris Wilkerson, stepping on O'Brien Field as a head coach for the first time in 20 plus years has been a humbling experience.

"It is exciting every single day. It is humbling," Wilkerson said. "It's just an amazing opportunity and like you said, I was here as a player, I was here as an assistant coach, and now coming back as the head coach, it's extremely humbling."

Wilkerson is certainly familiar with the ins and outs of being a student athlete here at Eastern.

He not only played defensive tackle for the Panthers from 1991-94, but he also earned his degree from EIU in 1995. He said that his deep connection to Eastern as both a coach and a player has given him a nice advantage when it comes to building relationships with his players.

"I would certainly say I do have a pretty good idea about what it's like to be a student athlete here at Eastern Illinois and what it is like to walk in their shoes," Wilkerson said. "You know whether it's walking from Old Main down to Coleman or whether it's going to Lumpkin or whether it's going to eat at Stevenson dining hall, I have a pretty good idea of kind of what they go through on a day-to-day basis. I would say it's a very, very nice advantage."

Of course, one of the first things that Wilkerson accomplished as head coach was building a staff of people that shared the same outlook. As the Panthers enter their second week, Wilkerson said that they have done a phenomenal job of surrounding the players with good people.

"The coaches have been amazing. We've really done a phenomenal job surrounding the players with good people," Wilkerson said. "First and foremost, they're outstanding football coaches, but they are amazing people. They are great mentors and motivators and have done a phenomenal job connecting with our players so far. So, I am really excited about the staff."



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the Eastern defensive line runs and gets warmed up during the afternoon practice Sunday afternoon at O'Brien Field. It was the second week of spring practices for the Panthers under new head coach Chris Wilkerson.

In a recent interview with WAND, Wilkerson revealed that the team will be implementing an air raid offense during the upcoming season. Despite the system being new to a lot of the players, Wilkerson said that they are focusing more on the process of getting better day by day.

"We are certainly, right now, focused more on the process and trying to improve on something every single day," Wilkerson said. "But we are spending the time to put in our base offense and defense and special teams philosophies, evaluate tal-

ent, build team chemistry, but the most important thing is the connection to our players. That's the foundation of everything that we're going to do."

These next few weeks will give the Panthers a taste of what the regular season will hold for them this fall. Wilkerson said that above all, there are some main takeaways that he wants his players to gather from the spring practices.

"I think for us, it's that we have some non-negotiables and that is that the players will communicate, will give great effort,

and play with great enthusiasm," Wilkerson said. "Those are the three things that we're going to talk to them about every single day before we get on the field. If they do that, they connect with each other and trust each other and they trust the coaching staff, we're going to have an opportunity to certainly be successful. But it's more about focusing on the process right now than it is the end results."

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Defensive lineman Elijah Elmore participates in a walkthrough during practice at O'Brien Field Sunday during the second week of spring practices for the Panthers.



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Kicker William Orth kicks the ball as head coach Chris Wilkerson looks on during practice on Sunday afternoon at O'Brien Field.