

Eastern Illinois University

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November

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## Daily Eastern News:November 01, 2023

Eastern Illinois University

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

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# Intramural sports attendance is low

By Luke Brewer  
 Reporter | @DEN\_news

Intramural sports are back in action for all students, featuring 18 different sports to participate in, ranging from tennis to basketball.

"We provide a little something for everybody," said Kevin Linker, the director of intramurals.

Even though intramurals provide such a vast amount of sports, attendance has gone down this year.

With other activity options near campus such as the Mattoon YMCA or Charleston Parks and Recreation, "students are prioritizing what they want to go into," according to Linker.

No sororities have signed up for any intramurals this fall season, including Alpha Gamma Delta, who typically plays in almost every intramural.

A big intramural sport is flag football, but only upwards of 11 teams have signed up to play, excluding the fraternity Sigma Pi which is known to "like their points," according to Linker.

Points are used to score intramurals and come in two types, participation and team points.

Participation points are awarded for single and double sports like badminton and 1v1 basketball whereas team points are awarded for sports like dodgeball and soccer.

All points contribute to a house score, whether that be a Greek house or a residence hall.

The winners of an intramural story will get to pick up the trophy and have their name added on it on April 1, 2024. Last year's intramural winners were Sigma Pi, Alpha Gam-



BY TYRIQ JOHNSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Intramural teams for flag football play games at intramural fields tuesday night.

ma Delta and Ford Hall.

Champions will also receive a shirt, just like Mason Bonds, a senior engineering technology major, of the fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon.

He won last year for being the ping pong champion.

He also participated in ping pong during the fall season, but did not win.

"I will go back for it again in the spring," Bonds said regarding the spring season of intramurals.

With the low participation this year, he

has also wished more people knew about and participated in intramurals, something Linker also agreed with.

"There's some students on campus that just don't know," Linker said.

More information on joining intramurals, checking points, viewing the different teams, and contact information can be found on IM-Leagues or on Twitter and Instagram @eiu\_imsports.

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FRONT PAGE BY HARPER HANCOCK & ASHANTI THOMAS

## What's Happening November 1 - 8

<p><b>Wednesday</b>                  Construction Management Networking Fair                  3 p.m. - 5 p.m. - MLK Jr. Union</p> <p><b>Best Buddies: Basketball and Bags</b>                  4 p.m. - 5 p.m. - McAfee Gym</p>	<p><b>Saturday</b>                  Children of Eden                  7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - The Theatre, DFAC</p>	<p><b>Monday</b>                  Stress Management                  4 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Martinsville, MLK Jr. Union</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b>                  Children of Eden                  7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - The Theatre, DFAC</p>	<p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>YOUR EVENT                  COULD                  GO HERE!</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b>                  Global Culture Night                  7 p.m. - 9 p.m. - University Ballroom, MLK Jr. Union</p>
<p><b>Friday</b>                  Underground Line Dancing                  7 p.m. - 8 p.m. - McAfee Gym, Dance studio room 1140</p>		<p><b>Wednesday</b>                  2023 Camille Compo Lecture: Amber Hawk Swanson                  5 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Tarble Arts Center</p>

Send your event information to [dennewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:dennewsdesk@gmail.com) to be added to our online and print calendars!

# Childhood passion turned to college performance

By T.J. Seputis  
Reporter | @DEN\_News

Jazz is a whole lot more than just a genre of music. To many, it's a valuable means of connection and self-expression.

"I feel like I'm the best version of myself when I am playing my trumpet and listening to other people play and interacting with them," said Nathan Bell, a sophomore trumpeter majoring in music performance with a concentration in jazz studies.

Bell finds that music is a powerful way to discover a shared understanding with people, regardless of the difference that they may share.

"We all come from different places, and we all have different experiences, but, the one thing that connects us is that we can sit down and have a gig or a jam session," Bell said. "The music talks."

Bell has been playing the trumpet since fifth grade. He started nearly ten years ago and has no plans of stopping.

"Just always continuing to improve not only my knowledge of the instrument, but my ability as well," Bell said.

He has focused his efforts on jazz because he appreciates the creative freedom that it offers. Specifically, he likes to be able to take a specific jazz tune and play it in a different sub genre than that in which it was written.

"The ability to take something and make it my own is kind of what led me to enjoy and perform jazz music more than classical music," Bell said.

Bell's inspiration comes from many different musicians, but at the forefront is Wynton Marsalis, a well known trumpeter. During his time in the practice room, Bell enjoys studying the work and progression of Marsalis' trumpet playing.

"If I want to strive for any type of trumpet playing, I'm striving to play like he does," Bell said.

One day, Bell hopes to have the opportunity to perform for Marsalis.

To Jason Farias, a senior history teacher education major that plays the drums, music is an avenue of communication that does not involve traditional verbal expression. "Music for me is an outlet," Farias said. "Music is one of the few times I get to express myself, that isn't just in words, that's not just in writing. The connection and the community that comes with making music is what motivates me."

He started playing the drums in fourth grade and later picked up piano during high school. While he is passionate about it now, Farias was not always into jazz.

"I don't really know what I was into," Farias said. "I think I didn't have a lot of direction, because I didn't really have lessons or anything," Farias said regarding his early days playing the drums.

He established an appreciation for jazz music during his time participating



BY T.J. SEPUTIS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jason Farias, a senior, keeps time for the Blue Note Sextet at the jazz combo performance night.

in his high school's jazz program.

"It's really exciting music," Farias said. "Jazz has a great history, and great tradition."

Bell and Farias both appeared at Tuesday's evening at the EIU jazz combo performance night, when the Birdland Quartet and the Blue Note Sextet performed in Dounda's Dvorak performance hall. Each combo played four tunes. The music selection was varied and gave listeners a taste of multiple different substyles within the genre of jazz. Both combos only had several weeks to prepare the set list for this concert.

Jazz combos are different from a traditional "big band" both in size, and form.

There is typically one person per in-

strument. This enables jazz combos to be a unique experience for the musicians and the audience.

"There's much more fluidity of the structure, and more freedoms you can take with the structure of the music," Farias said.

A key element of jazz combos is a heavy emphasis on improvisation. Also known as soloing, improvisation is when a musician takes creative liberty to produce their own melody on the spot, within the confines of an existing chord progression.

During each tune at Tuesday's performance, the musicians took turns improvising, and it was during these solos that the energy emanating from them became apparent. There was a mix of smiles, grimaces and expressions of

deep concentration evident on their faces.

Eastern's Birdland Quartet is currently composed of Nathan Bell on trumpet, Jacob Ramage on guitar, Evan Irvin on bass and Alex Drews on drums. The Jazz Sextet is currently composed of August Frisby on saxophone, Daniel Torres on trombone, Seth Harshman on guitar, Vance Bollinger on piano, Race Brighton on bass and Jason Farias on drums.

In addition to the jazz combos, the EIU Jazz Program also offers two big band groups; the Jazz Lab Band and the Jazz Ensemble. Auditions for the various jazz groups are in the fall.

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## COLUMN

# 'The Strangers': a flawed film masked with empty scares

By **Drew Coffey**  
Columnist



I can assure you that after watching this film, you will never answer the door for a stranger ever again.

The film is "The Strangers" made in 2008 and was written and directed by Bryan Bertino. The film stars Liv Tyler and Scott Speedman and tells the story of a couple who are randomly terrorized by a trio of murderers at an isolated countryside home.

To start, the film starts with the couple awkwardly arriving at their home after a wedding, clearly distant and upset with each other.

We see that James, played by Speedman, had proposed to Kristen, played by Tyler, but she turns him down.

Suddenly, they hear a knock on the door from an eerie visitor. This kick starts a plethora of scary, heart-stopping thrills as the three strangers begin torturing the couple and trapping them around the house.

In terms of performances, I think Tyler and Speedman do a great job expressing the urgent and isolated feeling

of knowing they cannot do anything in the situation.

Tyler stands out as the designated scream queen of the film having many moments to show off her acting chops, a pun is sort of intended.

Also, I think the atmosphere and music within the film really help give a psychological uneasiness to certain scenes.

For example, there is one scene where Tyler's character is hiding in a bedroom trying to remain quiet.

This is already tense until one of the murderers begins playing back the note of a song on a record player.

This constant, annoying repetition makes the audience beg for it to stop, adding to the abrasive and purposefully stimulating moment.

The killers themselves are especially scary visually, with all of them wearing differently designed masks.

The way the strangers are portrayed gives them a non-human feeling almost as if you're watching an animal or alien act out rather than a human being.

I think this is due to their patience and genuine enjoyment in messing with and toying with the couple which makes the murderers so terrifying.

However, the scares of the film become rather tiresome pretty quickly.

For most of the runtime, the main couple will see the killers only for them to supernaturally disappear upon one

glance away from them.

Now, I could forgive the film if this was more of a buildup situation, but it happens in the film's tense climax which makes you feel like the story is not progressing at all.

With this, the jump scares are downright predictable and are not shocking at all when they finally pop out.

Certain elements of the plot also seem to be a disservice to the overall story.

For example, James asks for his friend to come pick him up in the morning following his emotional rollercoaster of a night with Kristen before the wedding.

However, the friend shows up at the house only hours after the killers begin their torturous fun.

This would be suspenseful, only if we didn't already see James and Kristen restlessly hiding with a shotgun pointed at the doorway waiting for any sign of movement.

I'm sure we all know where this is going.

My biggest problem with this is the emotional and shocking response from James after he, well, accidentally puts his find to permanent sleep.

As a viewer, I feel no sympathy for the friend as I have never seen him before or better yet seen him with one of our main protagonists beforehand.

Had they built their relationship up

before the masked lunatics arrived, I would have felt some care or suspense for the outcome of this minor character.

To my final point, the ending.

It stands as one of the most iconic horror movie endings of all time.

Not because of bloody buckets of blood, broken limbs, or even a jump scare.

It's simply the fear of random deviance.

The couple wakes up in the morning tied up and understandably confused as to why the three figures have been pursuing them all night. So, they ask why.

And, eerily, one of the killers then responds simply with, "Because you were home."

This quote not only signifies the spontaneous, murderous act but also taps into a fear that nobody is safe. While watching horror films, we like to tell ourselves, "Oh, this would never happen to me."

However, "The Strangers" hammers home that sometimes crimes can happen to anyone for no rhyme or reason, ending the film on a depressingly grim but horrifically effective note for the audience.

My overall rating: 3/5

**Drew Coffey can be reached at [akcoffey@eiu.edu](mailto:akcoffey@eiu.edu) or 217-581-2812.**

## COLUMN

# 'Psycho' a step outside the box

By **Cam'ron Hardy**  
News Editor



Dubbed as one of the greatest horror movies of all time, "Psycho" definitely holds its weight for deserving the title.

Directed by the "master of suspense," Alfred Hitchcock, "Psycho" introduces viewers to Marion Crane (Janet Leigh), a secretary at a real estate firm. After being told to put \$40,000 in the bank by her employer, she decides to steal the money and go on the run without telling anyone.

While driving, she is halted by a thunderstorm and is forced to stay the night at the Bates Motel, where she meets Norman Bates (Anthony Perkins), the proprietor of the motel, who takes up unusual hobbies such as taxidermy.

The entire film makes audience members to feel uncomfortable. We are introduced to Crane and her boyfriend Sam (John Gavin) who meet in private. While Crane is deciding to take the money, there are back and forth shots of the money and Crane which causes tension

because it goes on for a decent amount of time.

The pace of the film fits the theme as well and adds onto the uncomfortable feel as well. While it moves at a slow pace, the conflicts reel the audience in enough to look forward to what is going to happen next.

The only scene that felt like it dragged was when Crane and Bates were talking and eating. There was nothing special about the camera movement or dialogue to keep me interested. The camera work is low-key but impressive if paid attention to. There are numerous long takes which are not that noticeable for the most part since the dialogue is immersive.

The acting and plot are the main factors which make the movie what it is. The awkwardness and uncertainty of Bates makes the character that much more interesting.

Overall, the acting is not too outlandish. Nothing was too outstanding, but that does not mean that it was bad. A stupendous type of performance would have been unfitting for this type of movie. It played well with the suspense factor of the film.

With that type of acting, it always feels as though something is missing or that we, the audience, are missing a

piece of information, and we do not find out until the end.

With the film being shot in black and white, that also adds to the suspense element of the movie. According to screen.com, Hitchcock shot the film in black and white due to not being able to obtain funding, and it was cheaper in black and white.

Additionally, the infamous shower scene may have been too graphic for a general audience for that time, so shooting it in black and white would have been better the better choice. The ending is one of the dividing factors on if someone liked this movie or not.

In the end, audience members are given an explanation of everything that happens and given all the answers that we were once lacking. We are spoon-fed every piece of information in a very short time span, and this type of genre does not typically call for that.

Understandably, it could have felt like a waste of time being told everything at the end, but the lack of clarity could also feel like a waste to some.

I think once we see that Bates was in his mother's clothes killing everyone, it is kind of explained then what is happening, and we did not need an entire breakdown of everything.

This did not ruin the film, however. I

think this is just a minor fault, but both sides of the situation is justified.

"Psycho" meshed the suspense and horror genre beautifully and makes itself known with the famous shower scene.

I did not find it that superb, possibly because the horror genre took gore to another level and going to extreme lengths with violence, especially the Saw franchise, but that franchise could have been a result of Psycho.

With a budget of \$806,947, the lowest budget movie Hitchcock created, he wanted the film to have the same aura as a cheap drive in theatre, according to [www.filminquiry.com](http://www.filminquiry.com). The film made approximately \$50M at the box office.

I think it does well with having that type of feeling and the aspect ratio adds onto that as well as it being in black and white. It has a 1.85:1 ratio which cuts off the top and the bottom of the screen.

I can only imagine what it was like watching this in theaters. It holds up to that best horror film of all time and was an interesting watch.

Rate: 4/5

**Cam'ron Hardy can be reached at [cahardy@eiu.edu](mailto:cahardy@eiu.edu) or 217-581-2812.**



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Fraternity members compete in a race to be crowned as champion for the "Race for Roman" Greek Kart race.

# More than just a race

**By Anna Hagan**  
Reporter | @DEN\_News

The crisp evening air was filled with sounds of cheering, laughter and the rickety wheels on the road.

These are the typical sounds of the annual Greek Kart event. However, this year it was different.

This year, Greek Kart was directed by Hunter Kidwell with hopes of fundraising money for sophomore student, Michael Roman, who was diagnosed with cancer.

This event hit home for director Kidwell.

Roman used to be a member of the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity and when Kidwell (who is in the Sigma Nu fraternity) heard of what was happening with him he decided to host Greek Kart in his honor.

Kidwell, in addition to raising money for Roman's battle, wanted to raise awareness.

"The Greek community hasn't been as connected in the past," Kidwell said. "This is a way for everyone to come together for a common cause."

The event reached more students than just those in Greek life. The women's basketball team was in attendance as well as community members and



BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Michael Roman, a sophomore corporate communication major, does an interview reflecting on the "Race for Roman" Greek Kart race that was done in support for him and his fight with brain cancer.

other students.

Roman was very grateful when Kidwell reached out to him to tell him the event was being done in his honor.

Roman said, "It put a smile on my face."

Roman was diagnosed with brain cancer this past summer.

"One day out of nowhere, I wasn't feeling too great," Roman said. "I had a

terrible headache, which ended up turning into a seizure."

Shortly after the seizure, there was a discovery of a tumor which led to the discovery of Astrocytoma, brain cancer.

Though scary at times, Roman said, "There's not much in your control, but you can control your attitude. If you stay positive, that's something no one can take away."

He also expressed his gratitude for Greek life at Eastern.

"Everyone has been very supportive and it gives me a lot of hope."

Kat Maxson, a current member of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and girlfriend of Roman, felt that the outpour of support from the event was sweet.

"He knows there's still people thinking of him and caring about him," Maxson said.

She also touched on although there is no ignoring the hardships or how difficult the situation is, "You're not going through anything alone."

Phi Kappa Theta member Elijah Harden said, "The amount of people who came out to show support was great. Most of the chapters came out and even the girl's basketball team came out, just a lot of support today."

Kidwell was more than satisfied with the event.

He said, "It was amazing to meet Michael's parents and just see the impact it had on them and him."

He was hoping to raise \$500 for Roman and later stated that the event exceeded that.

**Anna Hagan can be reached at 581-2812 or at [dennewsdesk@gmail.com](mailto:dennewsdesk@gmail.com).**

EDITORIAL

# Local, student activism matters



To give a voice to people halfway across the globe, especially some who aren't able to speak for themselves, is brave and inspiring.

We at *The News* support the students who participated in the National Student Walkout on campus Wednesday afternoon.

The Mixed Identity Student Organization condemned what it said was a genocide and a breach of basic human rights.

The group garnered around 20 to 30 students, alumni and locals as they campaigned throughout campus promoting their stance.

Earlier Wednesday, Columbia University students conducted an "End Jew Hate" to protest that colleges are not doing enough to protect Jewish students, reported on by Spectrum News.

Israel declared war on Hamas on Oct. 7 following the Hamas group's surprise attack killing at least 1,400 Israeli people, according to Reuters.

Israel retaliated with many airstrikes killing at least 5,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to the United Nations, and it imposed a siege on Gaza and blocked the transport of goods.

The fatalities are expected to continue climbing.

Eastern University President Jay Gatrell released a statement on Oct. 10 saying Eastern remains dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where people, no matter their backgrounds, can coexist.

Those protesting Wednesday on campus showed that no matter how big or small, how close, or how far an issue is, students should come together as one to fight for causes they believe in.

Some might ask what does this conflict have to do with Eastern or say that no one cares, and that participating in the protest will have zero influence.

Supporting issues that directly impact you or not is something every single person should be doing.

Doing so brings awareness and can create ripples for change.

When people walk by and wonder what and why they are protesting for, that is the perfect opportunity to educate someone.

They are leaders for what many people are afraid to do, which is to fight out loud for change.

They are working toward the difference they want to see. Having passion for others is a human instinct.

Follow that instinct and stand up for what you believe to be true and good for humanity.

When was the last time you stood up for something you believe in?

**The Editorial Board can be reached at 581-2812 or [deneic@gmail.com](mailto:deneic@gmail.com).**

## COLUMN

# The only shots you should be taking this Friday- a flu shot

By Ellen Dooley  
Opinions Editor

I had the pleasure of going to visit the flu shot clinic in the MLK Jr. Union University Ballroom. Coming out of the COVID-19 age, I was interested in how many people were coming out to voluntarily get a vaccine.



The event started at 10:00 in the morning and when I came in around 2 p.m. I still saw a good handful of people.

I, myself, have always gotten the flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

Even before the pandemic, I knew that preparing my body for the cold season was extremely important, so that is why I wanted to see if other students were thinking the same thing.

I got to talk to Dr. Drew Kirkley, who is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing. Dr. Kirkley is also a Doc-

tor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).

He said that there had been about 200 people who had attended the clinic put on the Health Education Resource Center, Sarah Bush Lincoln Student Medical Clinic, and of course the School of Nursing.

I asked Dr. Kirkley all the why's. Why is it important to get this flu shot?

He said that it is for the body to recognize the virus.

It is almost like a study guide for your body. So when that fateful day comes, your body knows how to fight off the virus and get your back on your feet faster.

I asked why it was especially important for college students. He said the flu symptoms include coughing and close contact, so it is important for those living in close communities.

That is exactly the point. I could not have said it better than Dr. Kirkley.

Have you ever lived in the residence halls? That is about 40 people sharing the same common spaces like toilets,

showers, and kitchen.

I love the res halls, but I am going to admit, it is not always rainbows and sunshine.

People are so messy and ignore hygiene habits like washing their hands and cleaning up after themselves.

People sneeze with no effort to try and cover it. Like no effort... at least try!

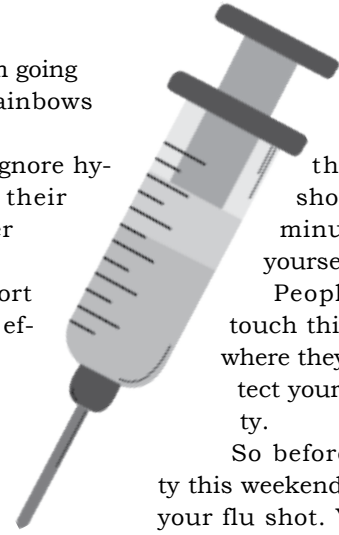
Also, the dining halls? You know how many people touch the same serving spoons or tongs?

I know it is the most efficient way to serve, but you never know what the person in front of you touched.

This may be the post-COVID-19 talking, but I am even more conscious of dirty door handles and used pens.

Especially us education majors- you never know what could be going around on your practicum site.

It takes one kid to cough in your direction for you to be knocked on your feet for one to two weeks. The same



event will be hosted on October 25 from 10-4 p.m.

So I urge you, get out there and get your flu shot. It takes less than 10 minutes for you to prepare yourself for this flu season.

People cough, sneeze, and touch things everyday no matter where they are; so it is vital to protect yourself and your community.

So before you go out and party this weekend, go think about getting your flu shot. You see it every day on Yik Yak. "Hey, I went to this party this weekend, now me and my friends are throwing our guts up and we feel like crap."

You never know when the first wave of sickness is going to happen. The famed "frat flu" can strike at anytime. So instead of popping shots out of a glass, get the one that matters- your flu shot.

**Ellen Dooley can be reached at [emdooley@eiu.edu](mailto:emdooley@eiu.edu) or 217-581-2812.**

## COLUMN

# The perfect Netflix series that feature serial killers

By Brie Coder  
Columnist

According to the Oxford Dictionary, a 'Serial Killer' is "a person who commits a series of murders, often with no apparent motive and typically following a characteristic, predictable behavior pattern."



Before you cancel your Netflix subscriptions, there is some content to feast your eyes on before officially saying goodbye to your Netflix and chill routine.

If you are looking for some spine-chilling, riddling and captivating true crime shows to watch this weekend, let me recommend the trilogy series, "Conversations with a Killer."

These stories are recalled by none other than the evil trinity themselves: Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer and John Wayne Gacy.

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

All answers may or may not reveal themselves when these serial killers take the microphones.

This show explores how three men went from "average" American citizens to the most diabolical murderers of the 20th century.

Each docuseries has three to four episodes ranging from 45 to 74 minutes.

Entering first into the fray is "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes." Known as "The Handsome Devil," Bundy was notorious for committing and confessing to luring and murdering 30 young women and other unspeakable acts across the country between 1974 and 1978.

Reporters Stephen Michaud and Hugh Aynesworth visited Bundy on death row and recorded up to 100 hours of interviews before his execution at the Florida State Prison in 1989.

It said a lot about Bundy's character when hundreds of people celebrated his execution to the point of dancing, singing and launching fireworks.

Next in this unnerving trilogy is the "John Wayne Gacy Tapes." Thanks to Gacy's antics, it's hard to trust clowns. Wait, did anyone ever trust those obnoxious fools? I digress.

Beginning in 1968, Gacy's crime spree started with a sexual assault charge against a minor. During his sentencing, the Psychiatric Department of The University of Iowa recognized and recorded the disturbing nature behind

Gacy's tendencies, which his documentary acknowledges for the first time.

Some of the university's notes include; "The most striking aspect of the test results is the patient's total denial of responsibility for everything that has happened to him."

He presents himself as a victim of circumstances and blames other people who are out to get him... the patient attempts to assure a sympathetic response by depicting himself as being at the mercy of a hostile environment."

Despite U of I's red alert warning to the Anamosa State Penitentiary of how Gacy would remain a repeat offender if not convicted of a lengthy sentence or suggested treatment, with ignorance, the prison released Gacy after only serving 18 months out of 10 years due to good behavior.

Never taking responsibility for his first sexual assault, Gacy would return to the general population, Pogo persona and all, to stalk the streets and prey upon young, vigorous men for the next decade. Gacy's record made the United States legal history books (and not in a good way) by having an overall conviction of 33 murders (26 victims buried in the crawl space of his house, three buried elsewhere on Gacy's property and four discarded in the Des Plaines River).

Still, to this day, more victims are be-

ing found.

Lastly is the most gruesome and unforgiving of all three killers, "The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes." Comparing herself to Clarice Starling from "Silence of the Lambs," Wendy Patrickus,

defense attorney, conducted hours of interviews with the "Milwaukee Cannibal." And to think this was her first assigned case after passing the bar.

Describing himself as an emotionless human being, Dahmer invited jaw-dropping gasps from everyone nationwide in 1991 when he was exposed for a string of unimaginable crimes on 17 innocent men and boys, including murder, necrophilia and cannibalism.

Not only does the documentary recount the horrifying incidents that occurred at his family home in Ohio, his grandmother's house and his apartment 213 in Milwaukee, but it also examines the failings made by the Milwaukee Police Department, who were called numerous times on the matter, yet did nothing to intervene and save these victims.

If true crime meets the criteria on your definition of Halloween, you're in for an indescribable ride told by the three faces of evil.

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# Students rally for change during national walk out

*Pro-Palestine protest circles around campus Wednesday*



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Jason Farias, a senior history education major, leads a group throughout campus during a student walkout demanding a free Palestine at the Mellin Steps in protest of the Israel genocide on Palestinian civilians.

**By Chandler Smith**  
Reporter | @DEN\_News

Unrest in Israel and Palestine in Gaza has led to a national walk out around college campuses and on Eastern's campus on Wednesday.

"There have been over 100 student groups who supported Palestinian Liberation who have called for a national student walkout today," Jason Farias a history education major said. "Like I said, there is 100 groups, the National Muslim Association, Anak bayan, which is a Filipino activist, group, student activist group. Several students where Palestinian justice is really a large number of student groups from Harvard to Champaign, UIC, North Carolina, Colorado, UC, UC Berkeley, it is happening across the country right now."

As the organizer of the protest, Farias became interested in this topic for a while now. Also, he thinks that it is important to make aware to the communities, he said that this is wrong and a humanitarian issue that the U.S. should be aware of.

Activist leader Silver Damsen knows it is important for Israel and Palestine to get along and the U.S. is not helping the humanitarian crisis.

"Israel and Palestine are a tough situation going on since 1947, 1948," Damsen said. "It was horrible what hap-

pened to the Jews with Hitler and the Holocaust and that there is no excuse for that it is a crime against humanity. It is something that everyone should be outraged about. However, that does not mean that because that happened to the Jews, that now 75 years later, they should practice genocide on Muslims. It is just not acceptable. It is like genocide is wrong no matter who is doing genocide. And the situation in Palestine is genocide."

Farias led a bunch of students in chanting as they marched down the sidewalk next to the library heading towards the south quad.

Some suggested to stop helping Israel and that if they were helping lead the U.S. government that they should consider other steps that students and community members think should be taken.

"I would call for a ceasefire immediately, under siege on Gaza," Farias said. "Cease all funding to Israel until they end their practices of apartheid. When South Africa was during apartheid, the entire international community banded together we ended boycotts, divestments, and sanctions against them. We need the same thing against Israel until they end apartheid and occupation of Palestine."

This was an important topic for students and individuals. These people are



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Around 20 to 30 students, alumni and locals rallied to the Mellin Steps outside the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

protesting for what they say are basic humanitarian rights and to make people aware.

"It is just like a war that started like back in history, but like we are presenting for the people who are being damaged or like filling up their homes during this time," Muhammad Ibrahim, a graduate student studying art, said. "And we are just here to support

basic humanity rights and just to bring awareness."

The national movement started at 12 p.m. and ended at 2 p.m. and the hope was that there would be a change in decision making in the government.

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# EIU football current national, conference rankings

By Zaria Flippin  
Sports Editor | @DEN\_News

Eastern's football team has a current overall record of 5-3.

Although the Panthers lost their first two conference games, the team went into their bye week with an overtime win over the Bryant Bulldogs.

Eastern's next game will be against the Lindenwood Lions in St. Charles, MO.

Multiple Panthers are ranked not just in the Big South-Ohio Valley Conference, but some Panthers are also ranked nationally.

Redshirt junior quarterback Pierce Holley is ranked first in the Big South-OVC conference in the passing category. Throughout eight games, Holley is 188 of 299 for 2,149 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Holley is also ranked nationally in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in multiple categories:

- Fifth in passing yards (188 of 299 for 2,149 yards)
- Sixth in completions per game (23.50 per game)
- 11th in passing yards per game (268.62 per game)
- 21st in passing touchdowns (13)
- 40th in completion percentage (.629)

Four receivers from the Panthers are ranked in receiving yards in the Big South-OVC Conference: junior Eli Mirza (5), graduate Justin Thomas (7), sophomore Justin Bowick (8) and junior DeAirious Smith (11).

Throughout eight games, Mirza has recorded 493 receiving yards and one touchdown, Bowick recorded 431 receiving yards and five touchdowns, and Smith recorded 386 receiving yards and one touchdown.

Thomas recorded 339 receiving yards and four touchdowns in a span of six games with the Panthers this season.

Both Bowick and Mirza are ranked on the national level in the FCS. Bowick is ranked 15th for receiving touchdowns (5 touchdowns) and Mirza is ranked 30th for total receiving yards (493 yards).

Redshirt freshman MJ Flowers and redshirt sophomore Kevin Daniels are both ranked in the Big South-OVC Conference.

Flowers is ranked sixth in the conference in rushing yards as he recorded 437 yard and two touchdowns.

Daniels is ranked 14th and recorded 297 yards and two touchdowns.

Eastern football is also ranked in the Big South-OVC Conference in multiple categories on the defensive side.

Redshirt junior defensive lineman Joel Barrows is ranked 11th in the FCS in the forced fumbles category.

Barrows has recorded three forced fumbles within the eight games he has played in for the Panthers.

Barrows also averages .38 forced fumbles per game. Barrows is also ranked third in the Big South-OVC Conference in forced fumbles.

Redshirt sophomore safety Blake Ruffin is ranked 23rd in the FCS for inter-



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Panthers are ranked seventh in the Big South-OVC Conference of their 1-2 conference record.

ceptions per game.

Ruffin has recorded three interceptions within the first eight games of the 2023 season. Ruffin averages .4 interceptions per game.

In the Big South-OVC Conference, Ruffin is ranked first for his three interceptions throughout the eight games.

Ruffin is also ranked seventh in the Big South-OVC in the tackling category. Ruffin recorded 38 solo tackles and 36 assisted tackles.

Ruffin is also ranked tenth in the conference in passes defended as he recorded three pass break ups and three interceptions.

Fifth-year defensive back Russell Dandy is ranked fourth in the FCS in passes defended so far in the 2023 season. Within the eight games played so far, Dandy recorded 13 pass break ups and one interception. Dandy averages 1.8 defended passes per game.

In the Big South-OVC Conference, Dandy is ranked first in the passes defended category for his 13 pass break ups throughout the eight games.

Junior defensive lineman Nicholas Oliveria-Chace and redshirt sophomore safety Kaelin Drakeford are both ranked in the conference in the fumbles recovered category.

Oliveria-Chace is ranked first with three fumbles recovered in eight games, and Drakeford is ranked second with two fumbles recovered in seven games.

Junior linebacker Elijahwah Tolbert is ranked fourth in the Big South-OVC Conference in the tackling category. Tolbert recorded 29 solo tackles and 36 assisted tackles.

Tolbert is also ranked fifth in the conference for forced fumbles.

Tolbert has recorded 2 forced fumbles throughout the eight games he played so far in the season.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Pierce Holley is ranked first in the Big South-OVC conference in the passing category. Throughout eight games, Holley is 188 of 299 for 2,149 yards and 13 touchdowns.

The Panthers have scored 186 points within the last eight games, and they average 23.25 points per game.

Eastern currently has 25 touchdowns in the season; two defensive touchdowns made by junior defensive back Tyrus Harvey and sophomore safety Nijhay Burt, 10 rushing touchdowns and 13 passing touchdowns.

Throughout the season, one of the biggest struggles the team spends time improving on is third down conversions.

Eastern is currently 47 of 119 for third down conversions, which is a little less than 40 percent.

The Panthers are also 10 of 21 for their fourth down conversions, which is about 48 percent.

Currently, the Panthers are ranked

seventh in the Big South-OVC Conference of their 1-2 conference record.

The Panthers lost two straight conference games against University of Tennessee-Martin and Southeast Missouri.

Those two teams are currently undefeated in conference play.

Eastern secured a win over Bryant to get their first conference win of the season.

The Panthers' next game will be Nov. 4 against the Lindenwood Lions. The Lions are also 1-2 in the conference, but they have a 3-4 overall record.

Kickoff is scheduled at 2 p.m. in St. Charles, MO.

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# How does player eligibility work in collegiate athletics?

By **Luther Yoder**  
Assistant Sports Editor | @DEN\_News

for McCormick. In 2018 he got a season-ending injury that required surgery and he wasn't able to play again until 2021.

During this time, he was granted two more years of eligibility from the NCAA.

Then in 2021 he tore his Achilles tendon, and the NCAA granted him another year of eligibility.

In 2022 he played his first full season since 2017.

This year he is playing for the Miami Hurricanes as a redshirt senior tight end.

He still has another year in 2024 because in 2020 the NCAA gave athletes competing in spring, fall, and winter sports an extra year of eligibility because of COVID-19.

Adding all of those years up gets you to nine years: four from being in college, three from medical redshirts granted by the NCAA, one from being redshirted, and one due to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 rule was the reason that Stetson Bennett and many other athletes were able to get six years of playing in college.

The way that Bennett did it was redshirting his freshman year at Georgia in 2017.

He then transferred to Jones College, a two-year school in Mississippi.

After his time there, Bennett transferred back to Georgia in 2019 to finish his college career.

Overall, he gained one year because of a redshirt and another year because of COVID-19.



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Justin Thomas, a graduate wide receiver, is one of the many players in college football that has been able to take advantage of NCAA eligibility rule regarding COVID-19.

This is the way that a majority of athletes were able to get six years of eligibility without a medical redshirt.

An athlete at Eastern that has done this is graduate wide receiver Justin Thomas who played four years at Albion College before transferring to Eastern for his fifth year which he has be-

cause of the COVID rule.

He then redshirted his first year at Eastern after playing four games then injuring his hip labrum. Now he is in his sixth season.

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## COLUMN

# The cheer team deserves more support from Eastern

By **Aidan Cusack**  
Sports Reporter



need constant repair. Uniforms, mind you, that have been in circulation for almost four years.

Our cheerleaders are out every home game. Whether it be rain, snow, sleet, or hail, the cheer team is performing and making sure the fans stay into the game.

They go to events on campus, and even events in the town of Charleston.

Their dedication is very much seen and appreciated by me and most of my fellow fans.

It disturbed me deeply when I heard about the state of the team's gear.

It is so vital that this team gets the funding they deserve. New pom-poms would cost roughly 17 dollars per athlete.

New uniforms would be pricier, coming in around 300 to 500 dollars. Regardless, 22 uniforms of the highest quality would cost around 11,000 dollars.

Given that Eastern just received

500,000 dollars from the state of Illinois, this should be an easy purchase.

Cheer doesn't receive the same funding as other sports teams because of the NCAA.

The NCAA does not consider cheerleading a sanctioned sport, as result of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

While these amendments strive for equality between genders in academic institutions, it removes the chance of a sanctioned cheer team.

This is because if a school has a women's team, they must have a men's team.

In other words, there can be no co-ed sports at the university level.

This is problematic because enough NCAA schools would need to field a men's cheer team as well as a women's team for the sport to become sanctioned.

There are exceptions to this rule of course, football teams have had female

players.

Football fans may remember Vanderbilt's place kicker Sarah Fuller. While she was only in for one game, there was an exception made for her. I don't think it's too far of a stretch to make an exception for cheerleading.

Being sanctioned would give the team a huge influx of money.

The NCAA gives 600 million dollars annually to all Division I teams and conferences.

Cheer would be getting some of this NCAA money instead of the funds given by our school.

Of course, we could just get Eastern to give the team more funding, instead of going through the near impossible process of making cheer a sport. There is clearly a need for money, it's just a matter of getting it to them.

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# Thomas continues building onto volleyball's success

**By Cameron Thomas**  
Sports Reporter | @DEN\_News

In Head Coach Sara Thomas' career at Eastern she has improved every year. Thomas took over as Eastern's Volleyball coach in 2019.

Thomas' first season came during the shortened pandemic in 2020.

During this season the Panthers played 16 games and finished with a record of 2-14 in the Ohio Valley Conference. Thomas got her first win as the Panthers Head Coach in a 3-0 sweep against the Tennessee State Tigers.

The 2021 season was a sign of improvement for Thomas and her squad.

The Panthers posted an overall record of 11-18 and 4-14 record in OVC play.

The Panthers were the best team statistically in service aces in the OVC conference.

The team also improved in the digs category, opponent hitting percentage, and in blocks.

In Thomas' third season the Panthers went 16-16 and finished 4th in the OVC with a 10-8 record.

The Panthers made it into the OVC conference tournament but lost their first match to Southeast Missouri 3-2.

The team led the OVC in points, hitting percentage, assists, kills, digs and opponent hitting percentage, opponent kills, and opponent service aces.

In the 2023 season Thomas has her team off to the second-best start in Eastern history with a record of 17-2.

The team sits in 1st place in the OVC and leads in points, hitting percentage, service aces, opponent hitting percentage, opponent assists, opponent kills, opponent blocks, and opponent digs.

The biggest contributors to the 2023 Volleyball team.

- Senior defensive specialist/libero Christina Martinez Mundo. Martinez Mundo has 70 sets under her belt this season and has 390 digs, and 25 service aces on the season. She is fifth in the nation in digs per set with 5.57. In 2022 she was named 2nd team All-OVC.
- Graduate outside/opposite hitter Natalie Mitchem. She has played in 67 sets and has 248 kills on the year. She is 67th in kills per set with 3.70.
- Sophomore setter Catalina Rochaix. She has played in 67 sets and has



Volleyball Head Coach Sara Thomas has improved in every season she has been at Eastern.

FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

- 704 assists and 119 digs. She is 25th in the nation in assists per set with 10.51.
- Senior outside hitter Giovana Larregui Lopez. Giovana has 243 kills, 167 digs, and 20 Block assists. She is sixth in the nation in aces per set with 0.61 and 46th in points per set with 4.43. In 2022 Giovana was 1st Team All-OVC, OVC Player of the Year and was a Honorable Mention for All-Region and All-American. She has 67 sets.

- Sophomore setter Sylvia Hasz. She has played in 66 sets and has 26 service aces.
- Junior libero/defensive specialist Laura Paniagua. Laura has played in 63 sets this season with 124 digs and 20 service aces and 14 assists.
- Junior outside hitter Kaitlyn Flynn. She has played in 63 sets and has 151 kills, 43 digs and 19 block assists this year. Flynn was also named 1st team All-OVC in 2022.
- Freshmen middle blocker Julia

- Stanev. She has played in 60 sets and currently has 50 Kills, 59 block assists and 12 solo blocks on the year. Stanev is 71st in the nation in blocks per set with 1.18.
- Sophomore middle blocker Kate Dean. She has played in 57 sets and has 107 kills, 23 digs, and 31 block assists this season.

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## Athletes of the Issue

### CHAD SMITH



Junior goalkeeper Chad Smith had another shutout for the season after the 1-0 win against the Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles Thursday.

Smith recorded four saves in net throughout the game, and this was also his fourth shutout game of the season.

This was also the team's fourth clean sheet in the 2023 season.

### MAXWELL ALLEN



Fifth-year defender Maxwell Allen scored the lone goal to give the Panthers a win over the Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles Thursday afternoon at Lakeside Field.

Allen took a shot with four minutes remaining, and the ball found the net to give the Panthers the late lead.

This was Allen's second goal of the 2023 season and last game as a Panther.



*“Everyone loves Cheeto”*

- Owner, Emily Wilcox

# Cheeto the Cat: Power of the pillow

**By Zaria Flippin**  
Sports Editor | @zariaflippin

Eastern’s volleyball team has been explosive on the court as they are currently 19-2 for the season.

Along with this success, the Panthers found a way to confuse color commentators during a live broadcast on ESPN+.

During the second set of a Panther win against University of Tennessee-Martin, sophomore middle blocker Kate Dean held the pillow of five-month-old Cheeto above her head, swinging it around to the rhythm of the music.

“We gotta get the cat story,” one of the color commentators said.

Five-month-old Cheeto is senior outside hitter Emily Wilcox’s kitten.

Wilcox explained that she adopted Cheeto from a Decatur animal shelter in June 2023. Cheeto was a barn cat that got abandoned by his mother.

“I knew that I wanted to get a cat,” Wilcox said. “The apartment that I lived in this summer, there was some lady that was trying to offer me her cat, but it was already old.”

Wilcox decided to look for kittens on Facebook and picked Cheeto out of a selection of six kittens.

“I thought he was the cutest,” Wilcox said. “He’s a nice cat. I feel like you hear about cats being mean and hiding and sleeping all the time, but he’s always around. He wakes me up every morning.”

One day, Wilcox’s mom, Michelle, surprised her daughter by sending a cat shaped pillow with Cheeto on it.

“I took [the pillow] into the locker room one day, and [the team]



**BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS**

The pillow version of Cheeto is held up and has attended almost every volleyball game this semester.

thought it was the funniest thing, and I put him on the bench too,” Wilcox said. “The whole team, even people that don’t like cats, I don’t know if they’re lying to me, but everyone loves Cheeto.”

Wilcox said the initial comments from the UTM game prompted her to continue bringing the pillow to the volleyball games.

“I kinda wanted it to be anonymous because it’s a public account and there are weirdos, but it’s like, the ESPN people started talking about it too,” Wilcox said. “I think it’s just a running joke because he’s just a cat, but all of my teammates comment on his posts and my coaches

even repost it.”

Wilcox also lives with three of her teammates; sophomore setter Catalina Rochaix, junior outside hitter Kaitlyn Flynn and senior outside hitter Giovana Larregui López.

Wilcox admitted that Cheeto isn’t a big hassle when it comes to living with a kitten and three roommates.

“He doesn’t make much noise or much of a mess,” Wilcox said.

Wilcox also said that students on campus will offer to watch Cheeto while the volleyball team travels for their away games.

“I’m not even exaggerating, a lot of people when we go on our travel trips ask to watch him,” Wilcox said. “If I take him to the vet, it’s like 15 dollars a day, and I haven’t had to do that yet. Some of the soccer girls will

watch him, and some of the baseball boys will watch him.”

Wilcox started an Instagram account for Cheeto when she first got him.

“I started an Instagram for him and just started posting reels and some of them blew up,” Wilcox said.

A reel posted on June 19 of a seven-week-old Cheeto received over 46,000 likes which attracted a large number of followers.

Under the username cheeto.cat20, Cheeto now has over 5,000 followers on Instagram.

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**BY ASHANTI THOMAS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS**

Top: Wilcox’s cat, Cheeto, lays on the floor next to one of her toys.

Bottom: Cheeto’s fame has not stopped with just the volleyball team. Fans and sports commentators have taken interest.