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Eastern Illinois University

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ROUND ONE RECAP

The Panthers rested this weekend as part of their bye week, but Tennessee State and Jacksonville State both gained victories.
Page 8

FOOD FOR PHILANTHROPY

Charleston's Parks and Recreation department is sponsoring a food drive until Dec. 13.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | ISSUE 72

University presidents oppose pension bill

Lawmakers expected to discuss pension reform Tuesday

By **Bob Galuski**
News Editor | @BobGaluski

A letter sent from the Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors expressing "profound disappointment in and our opposition to the proposed pension legislation" was sent to Gov. Pat Quinn Monday.

President Bill Perry, along with other state university presidents and chancellors, wrote out the letter in response to the proposed pension plan being discussed Tuesday by legislators.

"The bill will be detrimental to higher education in Illinois and ultimately to the overall economy of the State of Illinois," the letter states.

The proposed plan was introduced Monday with lawmakers expected to discuss it Tuesday. The plan includes stipulations such as capping the pension earnings to be like the limit used for Social Security purposes, increasing the retirement age for anyone 45 years old or under and "pension abuse" blocks, making sure the State pays for supplementary funding.

The letter states that by capping the pensionable salaries and changing the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) there will be "a severe impact on the retirement security of faculty and staff in the state's public universities."

"They will adversely affect our collective ability to recruit and retain the people we need to educate the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs, provide health care for the state's neediest citizens and build new start-up companies and create jobs through university research," the letter continues.

The letter also urges Quinn to reconsider the proposed plan for the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) by the Illinois University Presidents and Chancellors, which they call "fiscally sound."

The proposed plan, which they have been advocating for three years, revolves around the "Six Step Six Simple Steps: Reforming the Illinois State Universities Retirement System" from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

The six steps include changing the annual COLA, changing the value of the Effective Rate of Interest, shifting contributions to colleges and universities, increasing employee contributions by an additional two percent and requiring the state to repay the current SURS unfunded liability, and provide a new "hybrid" definition of benefit and definition of contribution plan for new employees.

"We continue to believe that sensible reform is essential," the letter to Quinn states.

Perry also said the letter was sent to House Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate President John Cullerton, Senator Dick Durbin and Senator Christine Radogno.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or rggaluski@eiu.edu.



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Fans of Eastern's football team cheer in the stadium during a game against Southeast Missouri Nov. 19 at O'Brien Field. Students painted their bodies, showed off hand-made signs and waved blown up photos of players' heads to cheer them on throughout the game.

Students reinvent past spirit group

By **Marissa Muskievitz**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Blue Crew is the newly rebooted student cheer section who will sit together and support football, basketball, soccer and other Eastern athletic teams.

Reggie Thedford, a junior political science major, and Amie Hansen, a sophomore special education major, organized the newly formed Blue Crew.

Thedford said increasing school

spirit is the main purpose for Blue Crew members, with the development of organized cheers and university team support.

Hansen said Panther Nation was the original name of the student cheer section before it was formally renamed as Blue Crew.

This year, it was decided to bring back the original title as a way to carry on the history of the group as it was previously established.

Thedford said at its prime, the student-run group had 300 to 400

students involved.

Students received membership packages including matching T-shirts, hats, cups and access to road trips and away games to support Panther Athletics.

The lack of leadership in Panther Nation caused the group to fail in previous years.

"Students didn't want to take on the role of a leader," Thedford said.

This time around, the renamed Blue Crew has multiple leaders and wants to create the same spirit and

atmosphere with a little more flavor, he said.

Members of Blue Crew plan to use social networking to promote athletic events and student involvement.

Thedford said it helps that Eastern's football team is doing incredibly well this season.

The essence of the group is to develop a strong relationship between the university, athletes and students, he added.

SPIRIT, page 5

Eastern to award more than 2,000 degrees

By **Cody Delmendo**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

For some students, it might not come to a surprise that the top six degrees awarded at Eastern over the last five years are general studies, elementary education, communication studies, kinesiology and sports studies, psychology and family consumer sciences.

According to the degrees awarded report, put out each academic year by the Board of Trustees, Eastern is set to award a total of 2,837 degrees for the year of 2013. This includes 2,238 bachelor degrees, 545 master degrees, 38 specialist degrees and 16 post-bachelor degrees.

During the past five years, Eastern's annual graduation numbers have decreased, until this year, when they increased by 55

percent.

Blair Lord, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the trend in Eastern's graduation rates correlate to the university's ability to recruit transfer students.

"We had strong numbers of new transfer students until this year," he said. "The effect of these considerations has led to rather large graduating classes in recent years with individual yearly variations due to all of the factors I have mentioned in the answer to both this question and the preceding one."

Although 55 more people graduating might not seem like much, but seeing an increase in the statistics has not been a trend lately according to past reports.

In 2009, the number of students leaving Eastern with a degree was 3,018, and since then

the number has steadily dropped until this year.

In 2010, the report indicated the number dropped down to 2,990, which is not a big decrease, but it was the second straight year enrollment dropped significantly.

Lord said enrollment levels and degrees awarded have a very high correlation.

"Because we add transfer students, and some students take more time than the anticipated four years, we can get some variation across years, but in the long run the correlation between these two time series is very high," Lord said.

From 2005 to 2008, Eastern averaged more than 12,000 students, but in 2009 the average dropped below 12,000 students for the first time since 2004 and has continued to drop since that

time.

The number of undergraduate students, which is over half the enrollment at Eastern, has dropped each year significantly since 2009 as well.

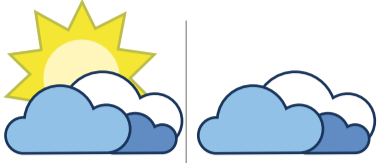
As early as last fall, enrollment dropped below 11,000 students, and undergraduates dropped below 9,000 students. According to Eastern's website, the university has not seen the undergraduate total go below 9,000 students in over 20 years.

This year the total enrollment dropped below 10,000 students down to 9,775, compared to the 10,417 in 2012. Undergraduate students equaled to the amount of 8,347 which is less than 2012 as well.

Cody Delmendo can be reached at 581-2812 or at dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

Local weather

TODAY WEDNESDAY



Partly cloudy
High: 57°
Low: 50°

Cloudy
High: 56°
Low: 32°

For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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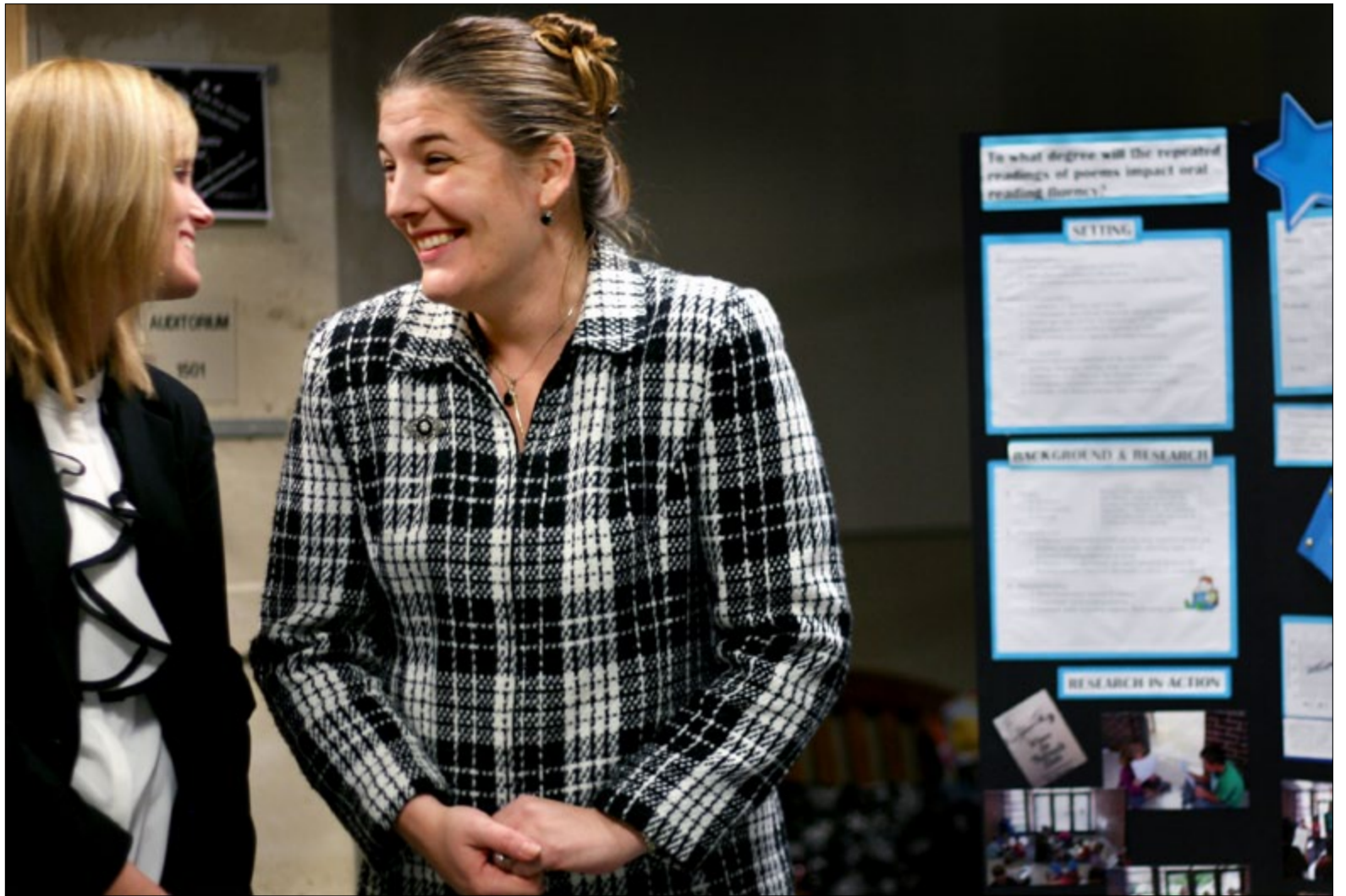
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It's elementary



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Christina Field, an elementary education graduate student, shares her research with Rebecca Tadlock-Marlo, a counseling and student development professor during an Action Research showcase Monday in the lobby of Buzzard Hall. Field's research concentrated on the reading of poetry and its affects on fluency. Kiranmayi PadPadmaraju is an elementary education professor and the coordinator of the event.

Council to review audit, levy, contracts

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @tmskeeper

The Charleston City Council will tackle a full agenda Tuesday, including the approval of three separate collective bargaining agreements, the property tax levy for the next fiscal year and a review of the city's annual audit.

Three of the city's four public employee unions have reached a collective bargaining agreement regarding labor contracts that were set to expire in April 2014. City operating engineers, electrical workers and police department employees have extended their unionized labor contracts through April 2017.

The renegotiated contracts include a 3 percent wage increase per year in addition to the city's agreement to supply more capital for healthcare costs, which are projected to rise for state employees in the coming months.

"We went through that process be-

cause there was going to be a significant increase in the cost of insurance and we felt that we needed to find a way to help the employees prevent them from seeing such a large increase in their portion of it," said Mayor Larry Rennels before Tuesday's meeting.

The fourth public employee union for the city representing the Charleston Fire Department did not agree to the new contract and will be forced to renegotiate in the spring.

The council must approve the new contracts in the form of three separate resolutions before the agreement becomes official.

In addition to the collective bargaining agreements, the city will also examine the property tax levy for the fiscal year of May 1 to April 30, 2015.

The levy the city has proposed is worth \$3.7 million, a \$100,000 increase from last year. It is an increase that Rennels said is relatively small. The

city generates its total request based on a set of market indicators that legally determine how much money can be solicited in the form of property taxes.

"Part of our responsibility in running the city is to be as frugal as we can, so we strive to keep the property taxes as low as we can," Rennels said.

In order to complete the levy, the council must approve the request at Tuesday's meeting before sending it for review by the County. Rennels said the city will receive a sum equal to, or less than their \$3.7 million request.

The total approved by the county will be the amount collected by the city from the Charleston taxpayers. While Rennels said the amount of money brought in by property taxes is a relatively small sum, it is still important.

"Every piece of tax money is important," Rennels said.

The council will conclude the meeting by hearing a presentation of the

Annual City Audit Review, which has been prepared by the accounting firm of Gilbert, Metzger & Madigan. The audit indicates that the city is in good financial standing and that the balance sheets have been well kept, something Rennels said has not always been the case.

"It hasn't always been that Charleston has been in as good shape as they are financially but in the last several years, really ever since we went to the city manager form of government, we've been fortunate enough to manage our finances in a way that we are not in a deficit," Rennels said. "This is just a reflection of the fact that that's continuing."

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall in uptown Charleston.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or at tmspencer2@eiu.edu.

Housing, Dining staff receive 5 awards

By Jarad Jarmon
Student Governance Editor | @JarmonReporter

Housing and Dining Services staff won five awards at the Great Lake Association of College and University Housing Offices, which set an Eastern single year record for awards.

At the annual association conference on Nov. 17 through Nov. 19 in Indianapolis, Matt Brown, the Housing and Dining associate director of facilities, won the outstanding facilities manager award. Michael King, Taylor Hall associate resident director, won the outstanding graduate student award for the state of Illinois.

They also competed and won the two association conference case studies with their full-time professional team including Lisa Walker, the area director of Thomas and Andrews Hall, and Kayla Dalton who originally was an associate resident director at Eastern. She now works as a resident

hall director at Ball State University.

The graduate student team including Shane Thomas, a graduate in the College of Student Affairs major, and Kelsey Brandt, a graduate in the College of Student Affairs major won the graduate case study competition.

Jody Stone, the Housing and Dining associate director of resident life,

"There was a lot of competition so I was surprised, but I was very pleased,"

-Lisa Walker, director of Thomas and Andrews Hall

said in these case studies, teams are given a scenario or problem and are given 45 minutes to handle the situation. They are then judged on their solutions to the problem and how they handled it. The scenarios dealt with organizational advisement.

Eastern competed with thousands of other schools in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

Walker, who sent out the letters to have King and Brown nominated, said she was surprised but overall proud of their accomplishments.

"There was a lot of competition so I was surprised, but I was very pleased," Walker said.

Walker said she believed Brown would be a good candidate because

he went above and beyond his duties. In many cases, he has gone out of his office to check on facility complaints in the residence halls personally. She said he was working closely with the building service workers and others from Facilities Planning and Management.

Walker thought King would also be a good candidate for the graduate

award because of his "inclusive personality."

"He is very relatable to students and is able to help them out. He does a good job reaching out to the students," Walker said.

Housing and Dining Services or more specifically the residence halls, won the outstanding commitment to academics awards with the Homework Heroes program, which was started up by students in the residents halls to help students with specific subjects.

Stone said many officials from other schools were asking him and others from Eastern on how to implement this type of program.

Stone added he is proud of the awards his department received, but they need to stay modest because there were still things Housing and Dining needs to work on.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu.

Holiday food drive collecting donations

By Jack Cruikshank
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Charleston Parks and Recreation Department is currently sponsoring a food drive to assist winter approaches.

"When you have food on the table, you have many problems," said Jim Hires, the director of the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. "However, when you have no food, you only have one problem: finding your next meal."

The need to help feed the less fortunate around the holiday season is prevalent even here in Coles County, he said.

Because of this need, Kandy Sager, the business manager for the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department said the third-annual food drive is a great opportunity to help those in need.

"Especially with the rough economic times, there are many needs throughout the community," Sager said. "As well, the Charleston Food Bank is struggling and we want to do



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

City Hall is currently collecting non-perishable food donations Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 13. Donations can be brought to the second floor.

all we can to help it."

Sager said from the outset there

was not a formal goal as to how much

food to collect, but to collect "as

much as possible."

Anyone who donates will be en-

tered into the Dec. grand prize drawing of a Family Pool Pass for four at the Rotary Community Aquatic Center in Charleston.

The prize is valued at \$170 and will be valid for the 2014 pool season.

There will also be seven winners of 2014 Pool Punch Cards and One-Day Pool Passes.

Anytime someone donates at City Hall they will earn one entry in the drawing, regardless of how many times they've provided goods for the food drive.

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting any non-perishable food donations Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. between now and Dec. 13 on the second floor of City Hall.

"As long as we can continue to help the food pantry, we hope to continue this annual event," Sager said.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

Faculty to discuss tax system, pension reform

Staff Report

Eastern's Faculty Senate will discuss possible options regarding the ongoing state pension program at their meeting Tuesday.

As legislators in Springfield meet in a special session this week to consider amendments to the Illinois pension program, the Senate will examine other avenues through which the state could reform its current system.

According to a Nov. 18 draft pertaining to pension resolution, Illinois is now spending 23 percent less on education, health care, public services and safety than it was in 2000 as a result of the state's ongoing fiscal problems, and some lawmakers are calling for the elimination or reduction of pension benefits to compensate for other budgetary holes.

The reform, as proposed by the Faculty Senate, is calling for the adoption

of a progressive tax system as a way to avoid cutting benefits for public employees.

House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment- HJCRA0033, proposed by Rep. Naomi Jakobsson earlier this year, would increase income taxes for the highest bracket of Illinoisans, while lowering taxes the lowest brackets.

According to Jakobsson, those making over \$196,000 would see a .9 percent increase in their tax rate. Those

making over \$500,000 would see a 2.2 percent raise in income taxes, whereas the top one-percent of earners in Illinois—those making over 2 million dollars a year—would see their tax rates increase by 3.5 percent.

"We, as state employees, have made an irrevocable commitment to our retirement benefit plans and it is unconstitutional to diminish and impair those benefits," the Senate's resolutions states. "We have seen only one credi-

bly proposed resolution that truly addresses, in a responsible way, the long term financing issues that our state is facing. We strongly support the adoption of the 'Fair Tax.'"

The Senate will also hear a presentation from Bill Weber, the vice president of business affairs, on the university's ongoing program analysis.

The Senate will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the conference room of Booth Library.

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We Want to Hear What You Want to Read

**Check out the Sports section for all the latest
in Panthers coverage!**

BLOTTER

Man arrested and charged Sunday

- On Sunday at 9:59 p.m., Donald Johnson, 27, of 406 Eighth St., Charleston, was arrested at 726 18th St. He was charged with driving while license revoked and released at 11:23 p.m. after posting 10 percent of \$1,500 bond.

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ISSUES ON TAP:

Cigarette receptacles

The Daily Eastern News discusses the amount of cigarette receptacles on campus and if they are effective.

Student Senate

The News discusses how the student senate elections went and our opinion on the turnout.

Enrollment

The News discusses how students should be deciding to come to Eastern for academics and not just for financial perks.

PAWS UP/PAWS DOWN



FOOTBALL: Eastern will be hosting a playoff game Saturday and the first 2000 students will get in for free.



FINALS: The semester is almost over and it's almost time for the pesky finals. Study hard for the last two weeks and do well on them.



BREAK: Winter break starts in less than two weeks. Keep the energy up and push through.

Become a DEN columnist

If you have an idea for a column, run it by EMILY in the newsroom and she'll give you more details of how the columns work.

Call 581-2812

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You have something to say. Knowing this, *The Daily Eastern News* provides a place for you to say it every day.

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For extended letters and forums for all content visit dailyeasternnews.com

Today's quote:

"Build your own dreams, or someone else will hire you to build theirs."

- Farrah Gray

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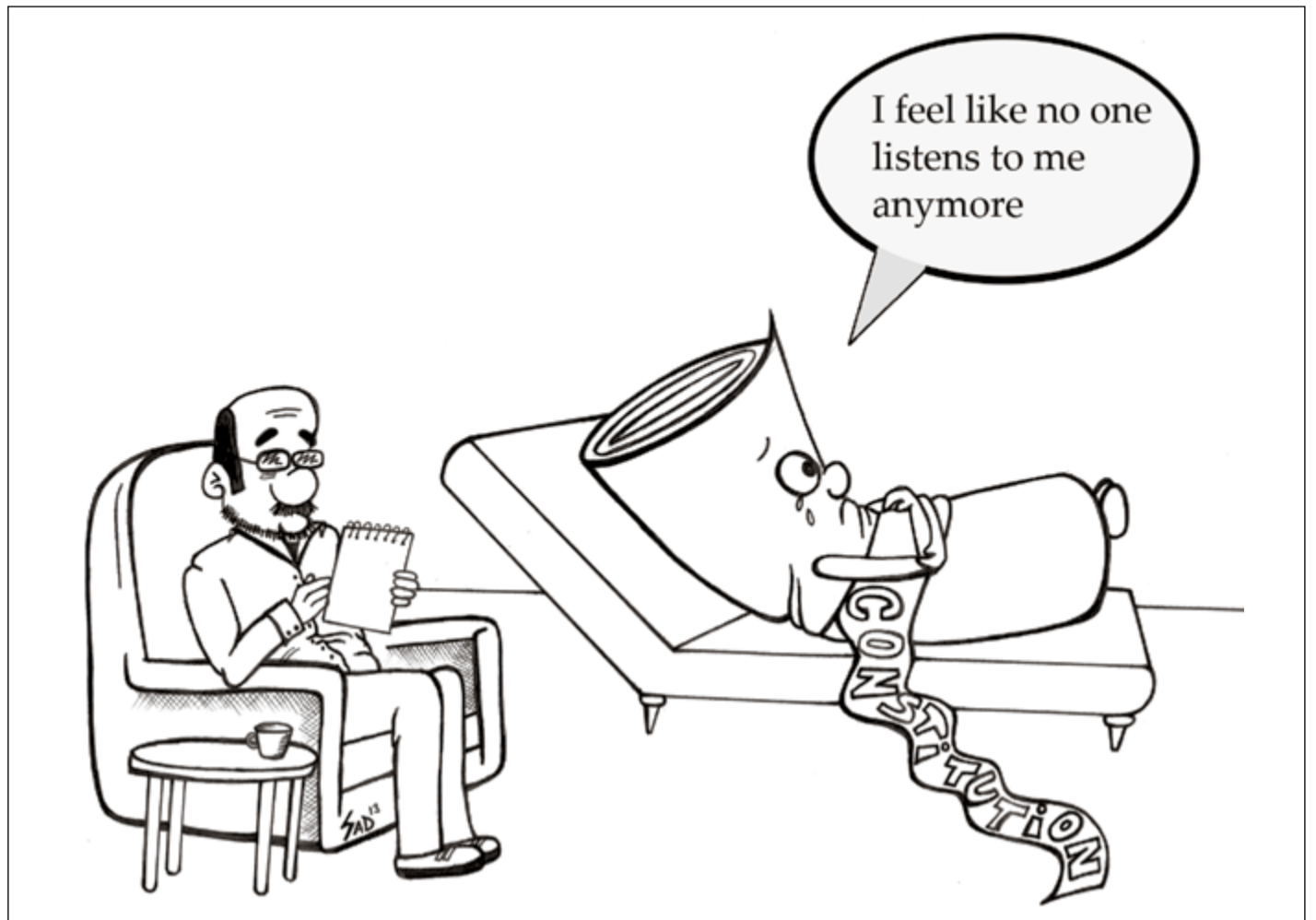
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SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Long-run savings might not be best option

While initiatives sweeping across campus focusing on "going green" gives Eastern a big boost in the eco-friendly arena, the money being put into it may not be best spent for the present time.

With the economy circling the recession drain, Eastern has been periodically losing money.

In the article "Green initiatives to save money," Ryan Siegel, the campus energy and sustainability coordinator, said since 1995, more than \$100 million dollars have been spent on energy-conserving resources. The annual savings of these resources amount to roughly \$4 million.

However, Eastern also faces a detrimental problem: low enrollment. With enrollment numbers decreasing, Eastern has had to play with the hand they are dealt.

For this current semester, 17 faculty positions were left unfilled because of low enrollment, as detailed in the article "Eastern to cut faculty workforce," published on February 13.

While the cut in workforce was handled by attrition – spots left vacant because of retirement or faculty leaving were left unfilled – it still speaks volumes for what our money should be working toward.

In the long run Eastern will be saving money on these green initiatives, but for now the university continues to lose money.

A new biological sciences building also floats on Eastern's radar – a project that could potentially cost \$30 million.

By spending money on initiatives that only save the university money down the road, Eastern misses out on improving for the then and now. With the low enrollment, Eastern could use this money to work on advertising and recruitment strategies that could hopefully start bringing in students.

Instead, faculty member positions are being left unfilled. And it is the students who suffer the most.

It is admirable Eastern is trying to move into the eco-centric world of today, but at the same time they are missing opportunities to change the internal problems of the university. With these funds – even a fraction of it – Eastern could start working on improvements needed for both students and faculty members.

Although having an environmentally conscious mind reaps its own benefits, the fact of the matter remains: money is being put into projects that do not produce benefits fast enough. \$4million in almost 10 years is not a good number, not if the university has sunk \$100 million into the project.

Re-budgeting and re-planning can help modify these problems by looking into what actually saves Eastern money and what does not

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

There's two weeks left, make the most of them

Looking at the calendar today, I panicked. It is officially December. There are 28 days left in 2013. There are 12 days until I turn 22 (I know seamless ploy). There are two weeks of the semester left, five days of class and one week-end. Then that's it, no more 2013. And there is still so much to do before it is all over.

For some it will be their last semester on campus, and for others, the completion of their first. For all of us, these two weeks are going to mean a lot and we need to make the most of them.

Yes classes are coming to a close and that means scrambling to get everything done and earn the grades we want, but that doesn't mean they have to be a stressful sprint. These two weeks are actually some of my favorite on campus. Yes there is a large workload, but it is also a time to reflect on how far we've come this semester. When you are feeling down with all the studying that faces all of us, think about what you have accomplished this semester and



Amy Wywialowski

in 2013 as a whole.

For many freshmen and transfers that means leaving home and making a new home in Charleston. For others it may mean getting a new job on campus, joining a club or preparing for the next step after graduation. It is a time of celebration before we go home to celebrate the holidays.

Make sure you take the time to spend some time with you friends and the campus community. Check out the holiday lights that adorn Old Main each night. Go inside to check out the holiday tree. Go to the playoff football

game on Saturday. Play in the snow (if we get some, I hope). Make a nice meal with friends. Drive around Charleston and check out all the neighborhood lights. These are all easy ways to take a break for the stress, and most of them are free or cost very little money.

Think about what else you want to accomplish in 2013 and go for it. Just because there isn't much time left doesn't mean it is over yet. Take a chance; try something new, it can't hurt right?

Before I sign off on what may be my last column this semester, I have one final piece of advice. Thank the professors and wish them happy holidays before they head home in two weeks. They have worked just as hard as we have this semester and deserve to hear that we appreciate them. Thanks for reading and good luck.

Amy Wywialowski is a senior history major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

» **SPIRIT** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Fans of Eastern's football team cheer in the stadium during a game against Southeast Missouri Nov. 19 at O'Brien Field. Students painted their bodies, showed off hand-made signs and waved blown up photos of players' heads to cheer them on throughout the game.

Thedford said it could increase future enrollment as well. A visible student bond could attract prospective students, Thedford said.

He added for those who are looking at colleges, they love to see student enthusiasm and support for the university and its athletics.

"Athletes tend to feed off your energy, they want to win for you guys," Thedford said.

Supporting athletes and their pas-

sion for the game demonstrates love for Eastern, he added.

"We want to exemplify EIU and what we stand for as a university," Hansen said.

Hansen and Thedford also plan to encourage students to wear blue every Friday to support their Panthers.

"We want to be the face of the student body," Hansen said.

Members of Blue Crew will plan meetings where they will over-

view upcoming games and planned events.

During these meetings, they will also practice existing cheers and develop new cheers for athletic events.

"Eastern's Pep Band and Blue Crew are working together to create cheers," Hansen said.

Hansen and other members of Blue Crew made up one chant already: the B.L.U.E. chant.

These practices are planned to

take place bi-weekly, starting during the spring semester.

Thedford and Hansen said they would like the majority of students to sign up for membership.

There are all-inclusive dues, ranging from around \$10 to \$15, Thedford said.

Costs will cover T-shirts, hats, cups and trips to away games.

The first potential game for Blue Crew to attend will be the upcoming

football game Saturday.

Those interested in becoming a member of Blue Crew are encouraged to contact Thedford or Hansen's email.

Hansen said she hopes students are encouraged to "Be loud and proud and silly."

Marissa Muskievicz can be reached at 581-2812 or mmmuskievicz@eiu.edu.

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Erica Brown, a freshman forward, shoots a free throw against Western Illinois University during a match Nov. 25 in Lantz Arena.

AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Freshmen give Panthers spark

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

Despite losing both games in the Plaza Lights Classic tournament in Kansas City, Mo. during the weekend, Eastern women's basketball coach Debbie Black said she was excited about the freshmen that stepped up for the Panthers.

Freshman Georgia Danos provided seven assists and did not commit any turnovers, and Kaycee Kallenberger scored six points and pulled down five rebounds in 10 minutes of play. Black also said Erica Brown gave Eastern energy off the bench, picking up five rebounds in 13 minutes of play.

"Those things I think we can build on," Black said. "I can't really talk about the first game this weekend because it was awful. In the second game, we bounced back, but we were also down 17. I think in the past with this team, we would have lost by 30. We actually had a chance to win the game. I thought our young kids stepped up, that was what I was most proud of."

Eastern lost 79-46 to the University of Alabama at Birmingham on Friday and then lost by seven to the University of Missouri-Kansas City the following day. Foul trouble was a problem again for the Panthers, which is why the freshmen were in the game, Black said. At one point in the first half on Friday, Black had four freshmen on the court along with senior Katlyn Payne.

Eastern's Sabina Oroszova picked up her third foul at the 19:05 mark of the second half in the game on Saturday against Missouri-Kansas City, which caused Black to sit the junior forward on the bench about two minutes later.

Oroszova has fouled out in two of the first seven games, and has had four fouls in four of the seven games, which has made Black limit her minutes. Black said Oroszova, who still leads the team in scoring at 15.1 points a game, is too important to the team for her to constantly get in foul trouble.

"She needs to figure out how to stay in the game," Black said. "We almost have to start to think she is not going to be in there. We have tried a lot of things. We try to start in zone. We try to start in man. We try to give her the least aggressive offensive player."

Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or rjreynolds@eiu.edu



For the in-depth version of this article go to:

dailyeasternnews.com

Northern all hype, no bite in bowl game expectations

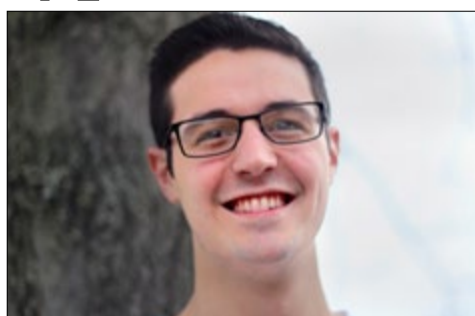
By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

The Northern Illinois football team is once again in the Mid-American Conference championship and is ranked No. 14 in the BCS, whoop-dee-freaking-doo.

Such praise for the Huskies is overrated and undeserved. Quarterback Jordan Lynch is a monster — the brute of a defensive end combined with the attack of a running back. He simply runs over and through opponents. He did so against Eastern with ease for 189 yards on the ground behind an 8.2 average.

Lynch is Northern's offense. But can he do anything other than run? In his two record-setting games for rushing yards by a quarterback — 316 against Central Michigan and more recently 321 against Western Michigan on Nov. 26 — Lynch threw for an average of less than 100 yards per game.

Lynch was a combined 25-of-47 for 194 yards, two touchdowns and an interception against Central Michigan and Western Michigan, and average of 4.1 yards per pass attempt. In addition, it is easy to have such record-set-



Anthony Catezone
@AnthonyCatz

ting performances against mediocre MAC opponents. Outside of Northern's 12-0 overall record, the remaining 12 MAC teams are 16-32 in their non-conference schedule, a .333 win percentage. To be fair, Northern did not become the country's fourth best rushing offense (319 yards per game) and ninth best scoring offense (43 points per game) solely based on strength of schedule. But put Northern in the Big 10 Conference and such success would not be replicated. Northern beat Iowa in the first week of the season 30-27 off a game-winning field goal

with four seconds left, but Lynch was held to 56 rushing yards on 22 attempts (2.5 yards per rush). That same Iowa team beat Western Michigan by 56 points. The Huskies beat the Broncos by 19. Also, Bowling Green, a team Northern will play for the MAC championship, lost to Indiana 42-10 this season. Indiana finished eighth in the Big 10, while Bowling Green managed to score just 10 points on the nation's 117th ranked scoring defense.

It is no question that Northern's recent success is largely because of the lack of competition in the MAC. To take it one step further, Eastern's football team could contend just as equally as a MAC team, if it were to leave the FCS for the FBS. Aside from Iowa, which beat Northern by three points, Eastern's 43-39 loss to Northern is the Huskies' closest game marginally. Eastern led that game 20-0 with less than eight minutes into the game and Panthers' coach Dino Babers clearly outsmarted coach Rod Carey of the Huskies, especially in the first quarter, along with the cojones to go for it on several fourth down attempts and two-point conversions.

Panthers' quarterback Jimmy Garoppo-

lo outshined Lynch passing for 450 yards and six touchdowns with two interceptions. As for Lynch, he threw for 235 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Northern won the game, but Eastern made its case that it could contend with the No. 14 ranked team in the country, a ranking that is mainly credited because it plays in a dull conference.

Which is why Northern fans should quit pouting about how the Huskies deserve more recognition and Jordan Lynch is the greatest player to ever step onto a football field. Northern is getting recognized for more than it should. Enjoy it. But even if they win the MAC, the Huskies and their fans can have fun getting walloped in a second straight BCS bowl game. Meanwhile, Eastern will make its run in the FCS playoffs as the No. 2 seed. It's an easy choice which has the better possible outcome.

Hey, at least the Huskies still have the "Kick the cat" flyers from their four-point win over the Panthers on Sept. 21.

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or ajcatezone@eiu.edu

OVC rolls through 1st round of playoffs

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Ohio Valley Conference entered the 2013 FCS playoffs with three teams in the postseason tournament and after the opening round the number remains the same.

Eastern earned its automatic berth with its second straight OVC title and had Tennessee State and Jacksonville State joins it in the playoffs.

Successful 1st round for OVC

As the Panthers rested during the weekend, having received a first-round bye, Jacksonville State and Tennessee State both had convincing wins.

The Tigers went on the road and played Butler in Indianapolis, Ind., and shutout the Bulldogs 31-0. That was Tennessee State's first shutout since Nov. 11, 2006, against Southeast Missouri.

Tennessee State had junior quarterback Michael German return from a shoulder injury after missing the team's last five games. German threw two touchdown passes and led the Tigers to their first playoff win since 1986.

Eastern will host the Tigers at 1 p.m. Saturday at O'Brien Field. This will be the second time both teams play each other, with the first meeting ending in a 34-16 Eastern win in Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 26.

Jacksonville State also advanced to the second round after a re-sounding 55-14 win at home over Samford. The Gamecocks scored early and often, jumping out to a 17-0 lead after the first quarter and heading into halftime they were up 38-0.

Jacksonville State scored five rushing touchdowns, led by DeMarcus James, who scored two. James carried the ball 22 times and rushed for 124 yards.

Eli Jenkins also rushed for more than 100 yards, as the quarterback had 12 carries for 115 yards. Jenkins also scored a touchdown for the Gamecocks.

Telvin Brown and Miles Jones also scored a touchdown apiece and added 80 and 32 rushing yards, respectively. The Gamecocks rushed for 367 total yards on 60 attempts, averaging 6.1 yards per carry.

Samford scored a touchdown in the third and fourth quarters, but struggled to maintain any consistency on offense, converting 2-of-14 third-down conversions. Jacksonville State was able to contain the Samford running game, allowing 93 yards on 35 carries, averag-

ing 2.7 yards per attempt. Samford only had 201 total yards on offense.

The Gamecocks will now be on the road Saturday and will play McNeese State at 6 p.m. in Lake Charles, La., in Cowboy Stadium.

McNeese State is ranked No. 6 in the FCS Coaches Poll and in the Sports Network Top-25 Poll.

Winners and losers

The other six matchups in the first round of the playoffs had four home teams win, while Furman and South Dakota State both won on the road.

Furman defeated South Carolina State 30-20 in Oliver C. Dawson Bulldog Stadium, Orangeburg, S.C. The Paladins managed to extend their 13-10 halftime lead to 27-13, after two third-quarter touchdowns. South Carolina State scored a touchdown with 13:22 remaining in the fourth quarter that made it 27-20, but could not get any closer. Furman added a late field goal to put the game away.

Furman will now play against North Dakota State, which is the No. 1 ranked team in the FCS and has the No. 1 overall seed in the playoffs. South Dakota State traveled to Flagstaff, Ariz., and beat Northern Arizona 26-7.

The Jackrabbits allowed a touchdown in the second quarter with 9:56 left in the half and then responded with 26 unanswered points to advance to the second half.

Zach Zenner led South Dakota State with 249 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

Reggie Gandy added to the Jackrabbits' running game with 51 yards on 11 carries and one touchdown. South Dakota State will play Eastern Washington at 3 p.m. Saturday in Roos Field.

New Hampshire, Fordham, Coastal Carolina and Sam Houston State all won their first-round games at home.

Those four teams won their games by average margin of 25.8 points, with Sam Houston State, New Hampshire and Coastal Carolina all winning by at least 24 points.



Fordham, which won 37-27 over Sacred Heart, will play at Towson at noon on Saturday.

New Hampshire will play Maine at 1 p.m. and Coastal Carolina will play on the road as well against Montana.

Sam Houston State will play at 7 p.m. against Southern Louisiana, which received the No. 4 overall seed in the playoffs.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.

FCS SCORES

	45 - 7	
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	30 - 20	
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	37 - 27	
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	48 - 24	
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	31 - 0	
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	51 - 20	
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	26 - 7	
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	55 - 14	
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Offensive woes haunt Panthers Basketball

By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

The Eastern men's basketball team is second to last in the Ohio Valley Conference in points per game.

The Panthers most recently lost to Western Kentucky 68-53, which after jumping out to a 16-7 lead, were outscored 61-37 by the Hilltoppers in the last 32 minutes of the game.

Eastern has scored more than 55 points just twice against its five Division I opponents. Eastern beat NAIA schools Roosevelt University and Olivet Nazarene 89-67 and 67-60. Eastern

is also shooting 44.5 percent this season, ninth in the OVC. The Panthers have shot 40 percent or less than in four of their seven games this season.

Players of the week

Morehead State guard Angelo Warner earned Ohio Valley Conference co-Offensive Player of the Week, after averaging 22.0 points, 5.5 rebounds, three assists and 2.5 steals per game while making 18-of-28 shots (64.3 percent) in two games at the Las Vegas Invitational.

Warner had a team-high 22 points in each game, including a 10-of-12-shooting-performance (83.3 per-

cent) for the Eagles' Thanksgiving Day victory over Chattanooga.

He capped the week by hitting 8-of-16 (50 percent) shots while also pulling down eight rebounds, dishing out three assists and recording three steals in an overtime loss to Gardner-Webb. He currently ranks sixth in the OVC in scoring (17.3 points per game) and leads the OVC and ranks 29th nationally in steals (2.56 per game).

Senior guard Lucas Nutt of Southeast Missouri shared OVC co-Offensive Player of the Week. He averaged 15.3 points, five assists and two rebounds per game while making 14-of-20 (70 percent) from the field, 5-of-7

from 3-point range and 13-of-16 from the free throw line.

The Redhawks won three games to capture the championship at the Cure UCD Classic in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The senior scored a season-high 21 points off 6-of-6 shooting in the Redhawks' win over Northern Kentucky to open the event. He followed that with seven points, five assists and two steals in a 30-point victory over Tulane.

He then capped the event by hitting 6-of-8 shots and scoring 18 points in a victory over Texas State; in that contest he dished out seven assists and grabbed six rebounds. Nutt ranks eighth in the

nation in with 6.5 assists per game.

Fellow Redhawk Jarekious Bradley, a transfer from East Mississippi Community College, earned the Newcomer of the Week award for the third time this season after averaging 16.7 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game.

Anthony Catezone can be reached at 581-2812 or ajcatezone@eiu.edu.

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