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EASTERN STOPPED

The Panther's comeback attempt against Tennessee Tech falls short.

Page 7

UP & RUNNING

Textbook rental services experienced technical difficulties during Sunday's hours. However, the problem has been solved & students can now get their books.

Page 3

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | ISSUE 78

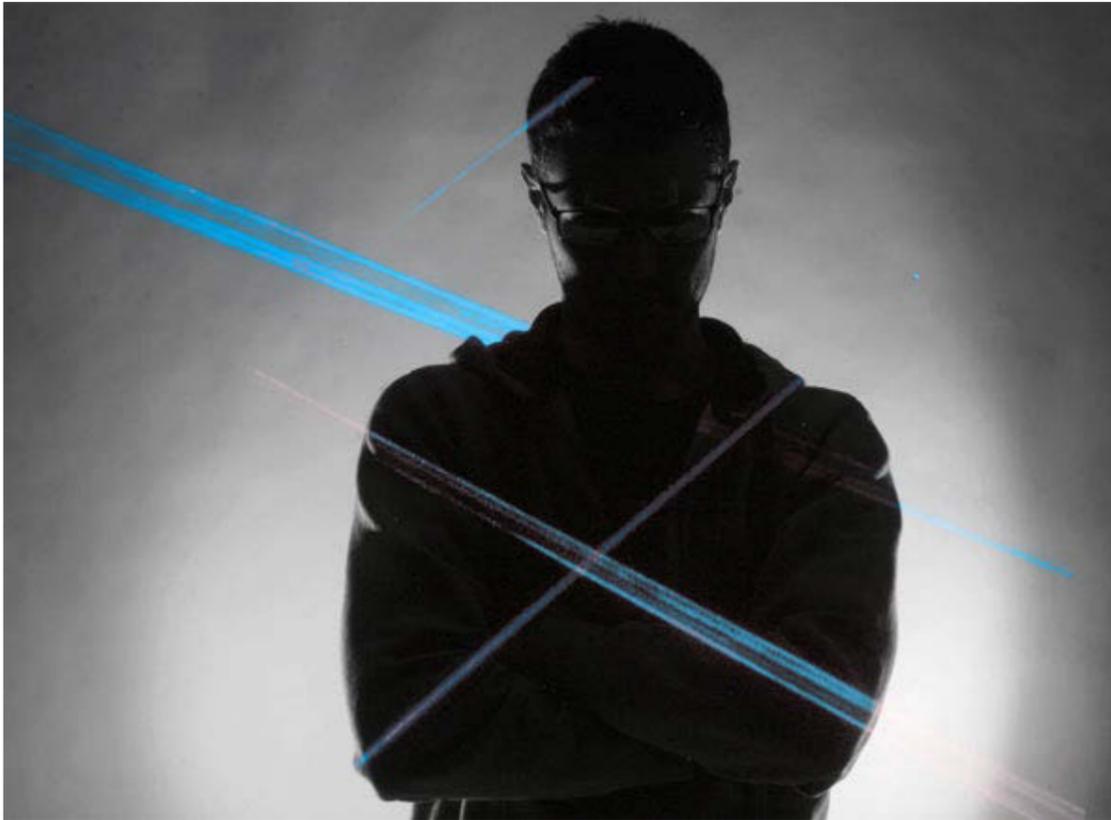


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Douglas Brandt, a physics professor, sent out an email to students Monday regarding safety precautions while handling laser pointers. He said they should be Class 2 or Class 3B.

Professor urges students to practice laser safety

By Bob Galuski
Managing Editor | @BobGaluski

As a new semester dawned, a physics professor captured this time to send out a reminder to students Monday about an issue they may not think about – the dangers of lasers in the classrooms and safety precautions.

Douglas Brandt, who is also the university's laser safety officer, sent out an email regarding laser pointer use in classrooms across campus. In his email he said there have been reports of devices that look like laser pointers being sold that omit a higher power outage than allowed.

"Laser pointers should be labeled as Class 2 or Class 3R laser devices with a label similar to either one of the two shown below," he said in an email addressed to all Eastern students. "Any device labeled as Class 3B or Class 4 has the potential to

cause damage to the eye with even a brief exposure to the laser output. State of Illinois regulations require that all Class 3B and Class 4 lasers must be registered with the State of Illinois."

"Any device labeled as Class 3B or Class 4 has the potential to cause damage to the eye with even a brief exposure to the laser output."

Douglas Brandt, university laser safety officer

Brandt said the most common injury from lasers comes in the form of burning to the retina. It can lead to scarring and a blind spot in the visual field, he said.

Brandt also said if this happens once, the brain accommodates for the blind spot and most people do not notice.

However, the more serious inju-

ries can come from the laser being continually introduced to the eye.

In the email, Brandt said the easiest way to avoid an injury is simply by not directing a laser at someone else's eye.

He also added not to use any device labeled as Class 3B or Class 4 or if the laser is missing its label.

Brandt said places outside the United States sell lookalike devices that emit a higher power outage, and, because they look like laser pointers, people treat them as such.

LASER, page 5

Local man arrested on criminal sexual assault charges

Staff Report

The Charleston Police Department arrested a suspect on charges of criminal sexual assault Friday.

Michael R. Howlett, 46, of Charleston, is accused of allegedly committing sexual acts with a female under the age of 18, according to a press release issued by the CPD.

Howlett is currently in the Coles County Safety and Detention Center pending posting of his bond.



Michael R. Howlett

Former department chair put in program to absolve record

Staff Report

The former chair of Eastern's student teaching program was placed in a one-year program to clear his record after being charged with two separate counts of felony theft.

James Kestner, the former chair of the Department of Student Teaching and Clinical Experience and professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations, appeared in court Friday. He had been charged in Douglas County with one count of felony theft of more than \$10,000 but less than \$100,000 and one count of felony theft of more than \$500.

The program he was placed in is called the Offender Initiative Program, which, according to the Illinois General Assembly's website, "promotes public safety, conserves valuable resources and reduces recidivism by defendants who can lead productive lives."

After completing the program, Kestner's record will be cleared. If he fails to complete the program, the case will go back to trial.

Kestner did not enter into a guilty plea Friday, nor was he found guilty of the charges of felony theft.

Kestner was served an arrest warrant on Sept. 25.



James Kestner

A temporary order of prohibition signed by Secretary of State Jesse White on March 22 ordered Kestner to stop selling securities to people to fund a documentary film titled "These Kids Today" because Kestner is not registered to sell securities with the secretary of state's office.

Illinois law requires that people engaged in offering and selling securities be registered with the Illinois Securities Department, which falls under the secretary of state's office. The secretary of state's office is in charge of regulating securities in Illinois.

The temporary order also stated Kestner allegedly provided potential investors with a "film prospectus," which described the film's plot, storyline, budget and purpose.

The order also stated that investors would receive their investment back, as well as 20 percent interest in six months.

Housing pipe repairs ongoing, expected to finish soon

Staff Report

While the Greek Court sprinkler system piping has been repaired and running, the South Quad sprinkler system is still down and under repair.

Mark Hudson, the director of Housing and Dining Services, said the sprinkler system should be up and running "within the next few days."

Even though most of the repairs have been completed, re-energizing the system takes time.

Exposed pipes burst on Tuesday because of the below freezing temperatures, which swept through Charleston, flooding portions of Thomas Hall, Stevenson Hall, Douglas Hall and Greek Court.

The cost to repair the pipes has to-

REPAIRS TOTALED:

\$15,000

taled \$15,000.

The flooding damage costs, which include the price of repairs, are still being assessed. Hudson added a lot of the cost might be covered under in-

surance.

"Other totals are being looked at," Hudson said.

Hudson said while the sprinkler system is down in South Quad, there are still plenty of safety measures in case of fires.

"There are still a lot of safeguards built in," Hudson said. "There are fire systems throughout the building."

Hudson added the fire alarms and smoke detectors are still on and functioning. There are also fire extinguishers available throughout the buildings in case there is a fire.

Most of the repairs were completed on Friday and Saturday, but Hudson said they hope to get it completely finished soon.

Local weather

TODAY

WEDNESDAY



Rainy/Snow
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Low: 20°



Partly Cloudy
High: 25°
Low: 19°

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

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1802 Buzzard Hall.

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FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kelly Knox, a former Eastern English major, performs the monologue "The Woman Who Loved To Make Vaginas Happy" as a part of "The Vagina Monologues" Saturday Feb. 11, 2012 in the atrium of the Tarble Arts Center. The monologues were a part of V-Day, a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls.

Auditions open for 'Vagina Monologues'

Staff Report

As part of a campaign to spread awareness and education on changing attitudes on violence against women, members of the Women's Resource Center will be having open auditions for the upcoming performance, "The Vagina Monologues."

The auditions will be from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Women's Resource Center.

"The Vagina Monologues" performers will be reading excerpts from Eve Ensler's production, first performed in 1996.

Ensler's play features various monologues performed by various people. Each of the monologues centers on dif-

ferent issues facing women.

In conjunction with V-Day, a worldwide benefit to address, educate and bring awareness to change attitudes on violence against women, the production itself will be performed at 7 p.m. Feb. 6-8 in the Tarble Arts Center Atrium. A silent auction will occur at 6:30 p.m. the nights of the performance.

All benefits will go to the Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service, as well as HOPE of Eastern Central Illinois. HOPE is a private non-profit agency that serves survivors of domestic violence through housing, outreach, prevention and education.

City Council approves \$6,000 settlement

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | tmskeeper

The City Council approved a resolution regarding a \$6,000 settlement between the city and B.F. McClerren and Dorothy McClerren at their meeting on Jan. 7.

The McClerrens initially sued the city in 2010 because of an alleged failure to respond to requests to have a sidewalk removed from their property on Nursery Road in the Woodland Hills subdivision.

"There was a dispute over a sidewalk that was installed by the original developer almost 20 years ago," Charleston City Manager Scott Smith said.

The city had accepted the public

rights away when the development was completed and later McClerren discovered that some of the sidewalk overlapped with the land he owned.

The council had previously approved the attorney's request to enter into settlement negotiations and the Jan. 7 resolution authorized the signing of the agreement.

All such court settlements must come to the council for approval.

"It was a settlement agreement reached between Mr. McClerren and the city of Charleston, previously," Smith said. "Also, settlement agreements must come to (the city) council. The council had previously authorized the attorney to settle with Mr. McClerren and his attorney."

The settlement is meant to cover all

court fees and compensation for the case. The matter was settled in court.

"The original developer installed the sidewalk," Smith said. "When they turned over the public streets and sidewalks it was later determined by Mr. McClerren that a sliver of that sidewalk that's adjacent to his property was installed incorrectly on his property."

The McClerrens were required to forfeit the deed for a portion of property that the city required to service the sidewalk in question.

"(McClerren) deeded over a portion of the property that the sidewalk currently sits on and little beyond that so the city could properly maintain the sidewalk and make future repairs as necessary without trespassing on

Mr. McClerren," Smith said.

The council also addressed an overage in the Motor Fuel Tax funds for 2012. The council was required to pass the resolution in order to acknowledge the additional expenses. However, the money had already been allotted.

Additionally, a \$2,000 tourism fund was approved for Eastern's participation in the NCAA playoffs.

A proclamation was also enacted that acknowledges Jan. 15 as the 110th anniversary of the Charleston Carnegie Public Library

The council will meet again on Jan. 21.

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

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Textbook rental computer issues solved

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | @trmskeeper

The textbook rental service solved its computer system issues after an hour and a half Sunday as lines grew to capacity and wait times stretched to several times longer than usual.

Meanwhile, staff members were forced to manually enter the four-digit serial number on the cover of each student's books.

Susan Allen, an administrative assistant with textbook services, said they were not aware of the problem until just minutes before the building was scheduled to open at 1 p.m.

"One of my fellow co-workers went out to try the book-drop and it wasn't working," Allen said. "So he shut the conveyer down and brought it back up, but it still wouldn't work. I came out and tried the scanning and it wouldn't work."

Additionally, the service was already understaffed for the day, Allen said.

The problem originated at the data center based out of the student services building. A disc in one of the servers that is directly connected to the textbook rental process was inoperative.

"The issue was back at the main data center here at student services," said Brian Murphy, the director of Information Technology Services for Eastern. "It basically had to do with the disc used for one of the servers involved in the textbook rental process."

Kyle Robinson, a sophomore civics major, said he arrived a half hour before the building opened for the day and it took him nearly 40 minutes to collect his books and check out his textbooks for the semester.

"Usually, it's about less than 10 minutes," Robinson said. "The line was backed up all the way to the back wall which was pretty crazy."

The day before the spring semester is typically a busy one, Allen said. Last year, 1,500 students came through textbook rental on the Sunday before classes began. Normal services have since resumed and textbook rental was not forced to stop serving students.

The Louis Grado Building will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Friday as scheduled.

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



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior elementary education major Ryne Kitzman searches through shelves of books Sunday to find one of six textbooks required for his courses this semester. Textbook rental will be open for textbook distribution Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Library prepares for 'Muslim Journeys' series

By Jack Cruikshank
Administration Editor | @DEN_News

Booth Library will be hosting, "Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys," a series of academic events from book discussions to film screenings and more.

This is one of the many series, which have taken place every semester. Last semester, the library hosted discussions on "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Gilman.

Reference Librarians Kirstin Duffin, Janice Derr and Pam Ortega united to write the grant for "Muslim Journeys," which is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

The series allows students, faculty and community members the ability to participate in various events surrounding the Muslim way of life.

"The grant has allowed us to bring scholar-led lectures to gain a more in-depth knowledge and understanding as well as our own discussions if there are any misconceptions or uncertainties that we have about various aspects of the Is-

lamic culture and faith," Duffin said.

Brian Mann, assistant history professor, will present the opening program keynote speech at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29 in the Booth Library West Reading Room. For Mann, the series brings about an opportunity to bring a different culture to Central Illinois.

"Unfortunately, the vast majority of the depictions of Islam and Muslims to which we are exposed are biased and driven by politics, and therefore are rife with fallacies and distortions," Mann said. "If people were provided with accurate information, they would find that their own religious tradition shares a lot with Islam, and that Muslims around the world live and think just like they do."

Mann said he hopes students will come away with a different outlook on the Islam faith.

"I'd wager that not many non-Muslims know that Moses is the most referenced prophet in the Qur'an, that Mary is mentioned more times in the Qur'an than she is in the New Testament, that Muslims believe in the virgin birth, or

that the Torah and Gospels are considered holy books in the Islamic tradition," Mann said.

Mann said any resident of Illinois should learn more about this topic in order to become a more well rounded individual. He also pointed out that Illinois is the state with the highest percentage of Muslims citizens.

"Many of our fellow citizens and neighbors are Muslim. Instead of focusing on our differences, and yes, there are differences, I believe for the benefit of our state and our society at large, we should be learning from and about one another — let's focus on what we have in common and not on how we are different," Mann said.

As well as lectures and discussions, Booth Library has different exhibitions planned for around the topic. These displays will range from Islamic authors, art, science, geography, fashion, nutrition and history of Muslims in Spain.

Duffin, the project director, originally saw the grant for the Charleston community as well students.

To Pam Ortega, even though her ac-

ademic background is in foreign languages and Spanish, this experience has helped her gain an even greater knowledge of Muslims.

"I've learned so much from when we started doing research on this," Ortega said. "I knew Spain had been under Islamic rule for 800 years, but I didn't know what life was like at that time. I had a great time researching that and learning about Islam and how the three cultures (Jews, Christians and Muslims) lived together pretty well without too many problems."

The series will include four book discussions including "The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," "Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction," "The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life" and "A Rumi Anthology." Mann said he would prefer attendees to read the books beforehand, but it is not a reason to not attend.

"A student who attends a book discussion without reading the book will definitely come away with something -- no doubt about that," Mann said. "I

will be giving a brief lecture/talk to start each discussion before attendees break up into groups for discussion. However, it's kind of like a class. The more you put into it, the more you get out of it."

Duffin said she hopes to have involvement from students who are currently taking relevant courses.

Mann is asking his students to attend some of the events, and other various professors will be doing the same.

"Part of the university's overall mission is to promote diversity so students will have a global outlook and we certainly take very seriously the fact that we share part of that educational mission," Ortega said.

In preparation for the book discussions, the library is giving away a limited number of complementary books. All events are free and open to the public.

Those interested in signing for the events and for more information can go to the Booth Library website.

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

ONLINE | BLOGS



Check out Assistant Online Editor Seth Schroeder's art blog as he develops his independent study at chameleoncharisma.wordpress.com.

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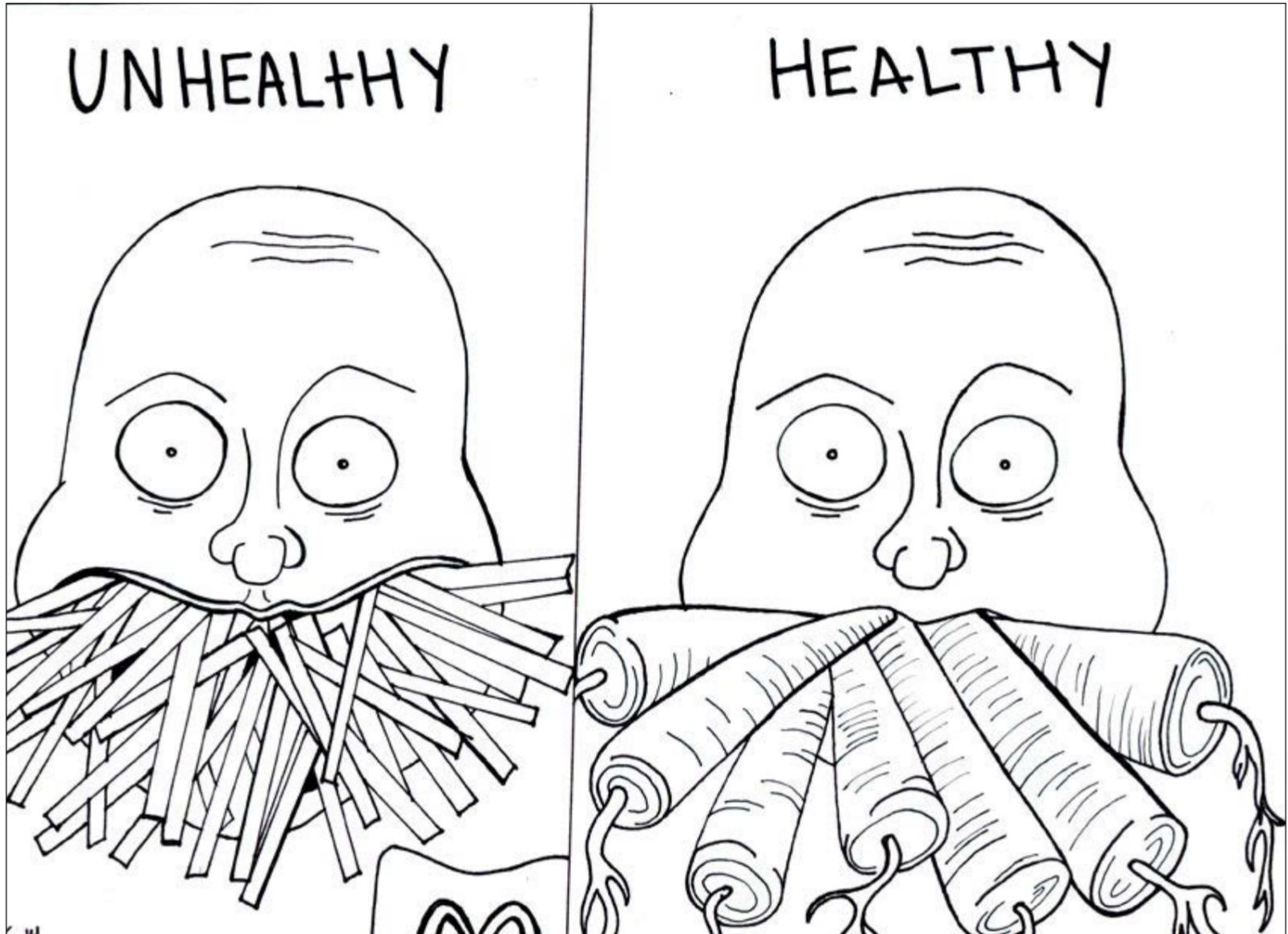
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For extended letters and forums for all content visit dailyeasternnews.com

Today's quote:

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

- Gandhi

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Healthy eating key to students success

In college, the temptation of unhealthy living is endless and detrimental to our health.

After a night of heavy drinking, it's too easy to eat an entire order of Chubby's cheese sticks to yourself at 2 a.m. (come on, you know you've done it at least once).

Running on nothing but caffeine and Kit-Kats to pull an all-nighter might seem like the best choice. It's easy to go to that syllabus week party instead of going to the gym tonight.

While one option is certainly more pleasurable, being healthy is not a decision we can choose to act on if it is convenient for us - it is an obligation.

Everyone has heard of the "Freshman 15," the 15 pounds incoming students often gain in college from drinking a lot of alcohol, eating greasy dorm food and sleeping very little.

However, this myth has been debunked countless times. Many research studies have shown that the supposed freshman weight gain is usually under five pounds.

Nonetheless, health seems to be a problem in college that few people really care about.

Blame it on the heavy workload, but we give our bodies hell. What for?

There seems to be two kinds of stereotypes on campus: those who dedicate themselves to the gym and eating right every day, and those who have no regard to their health whatsoever.

There actually is a medium between the two, but most people believe that if they aren't awake at the crack of dawn and heading to the gym with a protein shake in hand, then they are not being healthy and they might as well not try anymore.

Even though our bodies might be able to bounce back from last weekend's incredible hangover, that should not be treated as an accomplishment.

Just because we are young does not give us an excuse to abuse our bodies with cheap food, cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs every weekend.

Sorry, but "we are young" is just as stupid of an excuse as "YOLO."

We have an obligation to ourselves. Eating right, exercising and sleeping goes a long way. Treating our bodies right means fewer illnesses, fewer injuries and better moods.

The obesity rate in America is through the roof, and it is our responsibility to help make changes for future generations.

Adding a green salad to your meal every day might mean you don't get the flu, and adding a few days of exercise to your week might give you better health in the long run.

Everyone has their "cheat" days, but it is a shame to let a capable body go to waste.

It will be worth it when you're 50.

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

When news happens, we will be there

I'm incredibly excited to be the editor-in-chief of *The Daily Eastern News* for this spring semester. It's something I had hoped to do since my first day on campus my freshman year.

It's a tremendous honor to be delivering you the news each day, and I hope you're looking forward to it as much as I am.

Whether it's campus, student government, sports or city news, I want this paper to be your go-to source.

Pick us up everyday. Follow us on Twitter. If something happens, I can promise you that we will be there. We want to keep you



Dominic Renzetti

informed, keep you up to date, give you the information that you need to know.

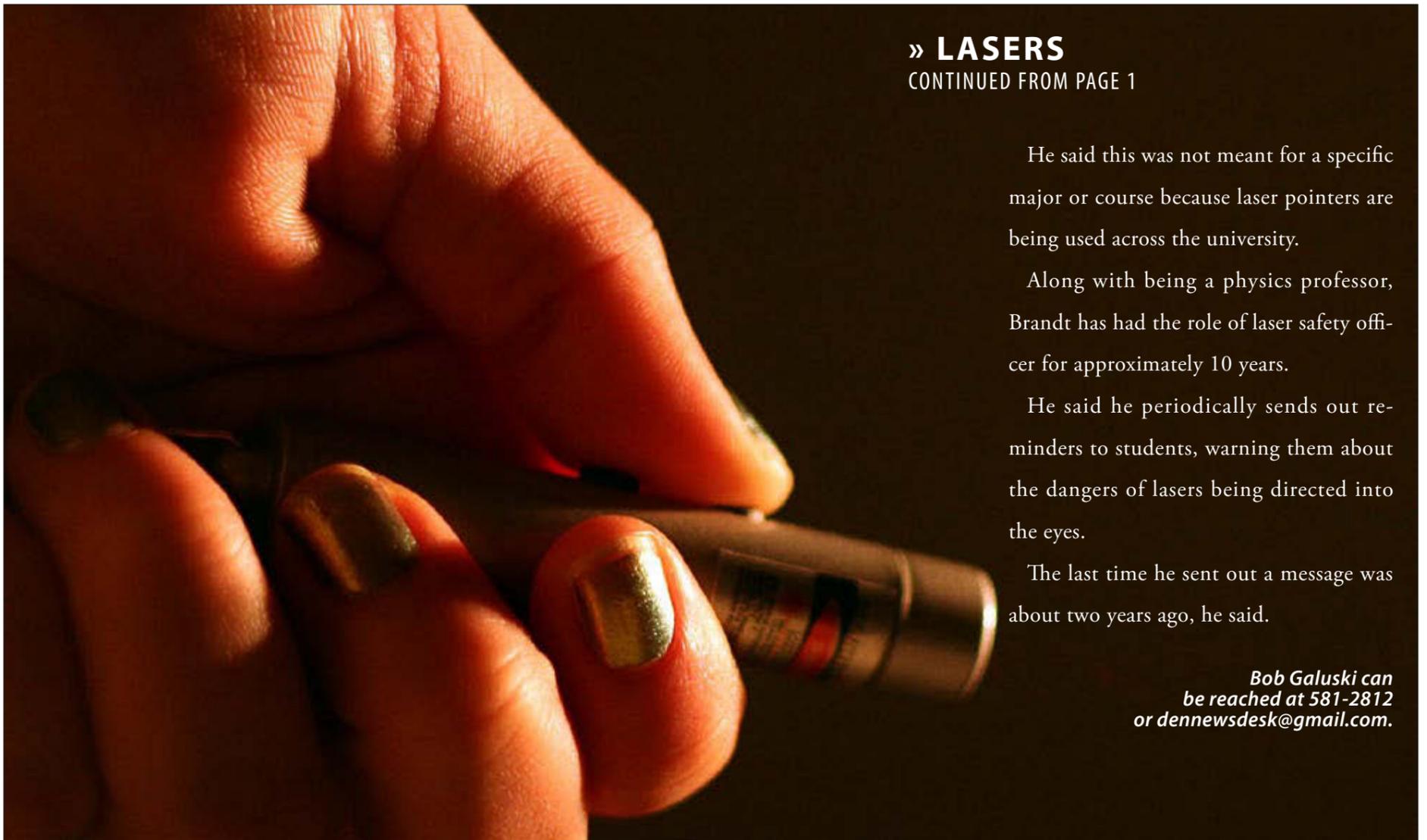
You won't find a group of harder working, more dedicated students than the staff we have here at *The News*. We wake up early, we

stay up late, all to strive to give you the best paper possible when you wake up each morning.

We're students, so we're still learning new things every day, still figuring out how all this works, but each day, we promise to be a little bit better than we were the day before.

Keep your eyes out for us. There's a lot going on.

Dominic Renzetti is a senior family and consumer sciences major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.



» **LASERS**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said this was not meant for a specific major or course because laser pointers are being used across the university.

Along with being a physics professor, Brandt has had the role of laser safety officer for approximately 10 years.

He said he periodically sends out reminders to students, warning them about the dangers of lasers being directed into the eyes.

The last time he sent out a message was about two years ago, he said.

Bob Galuski can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

According to Brandt's email, "laser pointers output enough power that sustained exposure to the eye can cause damage to the retina." For this reason he advises students to never intentionally point a laser pointer device at the face of a person.

Faculty Senate to convene first meeting of semester

Staff Report

Faculty Senate will meet for the first time this semester Tuesday, and the meeting should go quickly according to Grant Sterling, the chairman of Faculty Senate.

Sterling said there is no new business on the meeting's agenda for the first meeting.

Senate members will be reviewing communications between various people.

One such communication involves Chris Mitchell, a theatre arts

professor, explaining his sabbatical for Spring 2014 and the need to find a replacement from The College of Arts and Humanities to take his place as a representative to the Council on University Planning and Budgeting.

"Upon further reflection, and chatting with a few other colleagues, I think it may be best to appoint a CAH substitute for me for the entire semester I am on sabbatical (spring 14)," Mitchell said in an email to Sterling.

Mitchell said although he will

"I think what's going on with this budget cut is too complex and scary for me to re-enter this process in March."

Chris Mitchell, theatre arts professor

not be on sabbatical for the whole semester, he prefers a permanent replacement to absorb his responsibilities for the entire semester.

"I think what's going on with this budget cut is too complex and scary

for me to re-enter this process in March," Mitchell said in the email. "CAH needs a full-time rep there the entire semester who can be a stalwart fighter for our programs."

The possibility of a new repre-

sentative will be brought before the Senate.

As well as the various communications, the Senate will review the schedule of the semester's meetings.

The meetings will occur Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 18, April 1, April 15 and April 29.

The Faculty Senate will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Booth Library Conference Room, room 4440.



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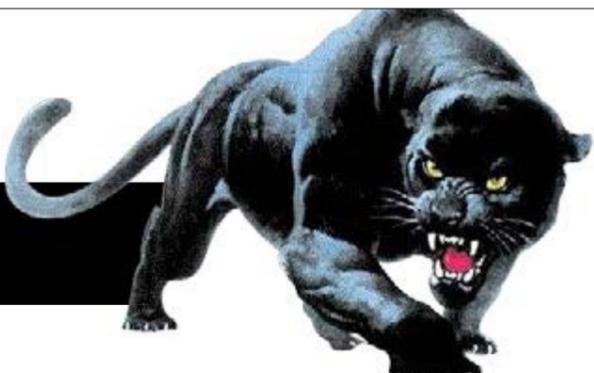


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Eastern's comeback attempt falls short

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @BobReynoldsDEN

The Eastern women's basketball team lost its second-straight Ohio Valley Conference game in a 64-54 loss to Tennessee Tech Monday night in Cookeville, Tenn.

With the game tied at 18 midway through the first half, the Golden Eagles would go on a 14-3 run to take a 32-21 lead capped off by a T'keyah Williams layup.

With the Panthers trailing by 13 early in the second half, they started to make a comeback attempt for the second straight game.

Eastern went on a 9-0 run in about four minutes with the help of Arnisha Thomas, who made two baskets and a free throw.

Thomas provided a spark off the bench for the Panthers, scoring seven points on 3-of-3 shooting and Eastern coach Debbie Black said she was impressed with the way Thomas played.

"That is the player I need her to be, a spark off the bench," Black said in her postgame interview. "They couldn't really guard her with her wings. We tried to exploit that a little bit. I thought she did a very good job."

After the run by Eastern ended on a lay-up by Hannah Goosby, the Panthers cut the lead back down to two with 12:37 remaining in the half.

Goosby finished the game with 18 points on 5-of-11 shooting and 4-of-4 from the 3-point line.

That was as close as the Panthers would get, as Tennessee Tech pushed its lead back up to 11 with 5:54 to go in the second half, capped off by a Diamond Henderson made shot, but Black was proud of the way her team fought at the end of the game.

"That is the team I want to coach out there," she said. "They played the way I want them to



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM DILLON | TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY

Sabina Oroszova, a junior forward, fights for possession against Tennessee Tech University junior forward T'Keyah Williams during Monday's game at Tennessee Tech.

Eastern Illinois vs. Tennessee Tech

54

7-9, 2-3 (OVC)

Eblen Center
Cookeville, Tenn.

Attendance: 782

64

6-11, 3-1 (OVC)

play tonight. We did some fundamental things wrong. We didn't rebound as well as I would have like to down the stretch."

Henderson scored 22 points, making 8-of-12 field goals and made 6-of-8 free throws.

During the comeback, Eastern guard Katlyn Payne said the Panthers made it tough on the Golden Eagles by driving to the basket and getting fast-break points.

Payne finished the game with three points on 1-of-10 shooting, including 1-of-5 from the 3-point

line.

She said it was nice to see other people score, including Thomas, but that she is going to be in the gym bright and early tomorrow practicing her shooting.

Sabina Oroszova finished the game with her seventh straight double-double on 7-of-18 shooting and 1-of-2 from the 3-point line, scoring 17 points and bringing down 11 rebounds.

Jordyne Crunk also scored 17 on 4-of-10 shooting from the field and 3-of-6 from the 3-point line.

After the game, Payne said Black told the team "winning and losing does not matter, what matters is how hard we are willing to fight and our effort"

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

Babers doesn't settle; departs from Eastern



Anthony Catezone
@AnthonyCatz

Everyone knew it was coming, but that didn't make it any easier.

The success of the Eastern football team under former coach Dino Babers was almost too good to be true; it was too good to be anything other than temporary.

Babers brought the program back-to-back Ohio Valley Conference titles, two straight playoff appearances, its first postsea-

son win in more than two decades, all while winning several coach of the year awards and grooming the 2013 Walter Payton Award winner in Jimmy Garoppolo.

Yeah, there was no way Babers was going to see out his three-year contract at Eastern.

Bowling Green was the next stepping stone in Babers' coaching career.

It was his best option, and for that reason, it was his only option.

Going from a top five FCS team to a conference champion at the FBS level, as Babers did, is about as far as a catapult a coach can take in the coaching carousel.

But that doesn't make his departure any less hard of a pill to swallow.

It was so off-putting to see Ba-

bers wearing Bowling Green's neon orange at his introductory press conference. It didn't seem right. After all, just two years ago he was in the same position only in Panther Blue.

The 52-year-old coach stood firm at the podium on Dec. 19, 2013, emitting the same confidence, leadership and integrity that had won over the pride of Eastern.

The anticipation in the room built with every word he spoke, to the point where it became monumental, just as it did at Eastern.

Babers' Bowling Green press conference was like reliving history.

Until he uttered one phrase.

"If you want to know one thing about me: I don't settle," Babers said.

That's it. That sums up his entire

career at Eastern. He was not going to settle for anything less than an OVC championship, and he never did.

But more importantly, he was not going to settle for Eastern.

He said it without saying it.

Babers manufactured Eastern's offense into the best in the country, but still at the FCS level. That is settling right there.

"Why in the heck would we want to settle, anyway?" Babers continued to ask.

There is no answer to that question. Had Babers remained at Eastern, he would have been settling.

He shouldn't have settled. He couldn't have settled. And that is why Eastern fans cannot blame Babers no matter how fresh the wound still is. He did what he had to do.

"We're not here long enough to be average," Babers said. "Be Special. Be different. Be Bowling Green."

The program's 18th head coach then abruptly strutted away from the podium knowing he said all he needed to say.

Now, he is at the FBS level and he won't have to settle in manufacturing Bowling Green's offense into the best in the country.

And Falcon fans, note this: it is going to be the fastest thing you have ever seen.

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

» STEVENS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Dameron promised at his press conference Saturday that under his tenure Eastern would continue to have an up-tempo offense, which was a staple under former coach Dino Babers during his two years with the Panthers.

Stevens was the offensive coordi-

nator for three years at Southeastern Louisiana, starting in 2011. Before that Stevens was the offensive coordinator at Delta State for two seasons.

Prior to his coordinator position at Delta State, Stevens spent four seasons (2005-08) working with wide receivers at Utah State.

Eastern has both of its leading running backs slated to return next season in Shepard Little and Tay-

lor Duncan. Wide receivers Adam Drake, Jeff LePak and Keiondre Gober all return from last season's receiving corps.

But absent from next year's roster will be wide receiver Erik Lora, who is the Ohio Valley Conference all-time leading receiver and quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo — winner of the 2013 Walter Payton Award.

"We're losing a great player — a couple of great players obvious-

ly," Dameron said. "You don't win a Walter Payton Award if you're not a great player. Job one is to find who to give the keys to the Ferrari, but we plan on having a Ferrari."

Stevens was also the quarterbacks coach at Southeastern Louisiana. In 2013, Oregon transfer Bryan Bennett, threw 21 touchdowns. The dual-threat quarterback also scored 16 rushing touchdowns, while rushing for 1,046 yards.

With Garoppolo heading to the NFL, Eastern's current roster features Ben Krol, Austin Green, Andrew Manley and Addison Brooks as possible quarterback candidates for next season.

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

Dameron endures spotty defense

By Aldo Soto | @AldoSoto21
Assistant Sports Editor

Eastern football coach Kim Dameron made it clear Saturday during his introductory press conference that he would be heavily involved with the defense as the head coach, bringing 28 years of defensive coaching experience with him.

Dameron has been a defensive coordinator for seven different teams since 1993, at both the FCS and FBS levels. Saturday afternoon, Kane Wommack announced through his Twitter account that he had accepted the defensive coordinator position on Dameron's coaching staff.

Wommack, who was at Ole Miss for the previous two years, served as a defensive graduate assistant. Wommack earned his undergraduate degree from Southern Mississippi in 2009, is going to be a defensive coordinator for the first in his career.

Dameron said once he hires an offensive coordinator, who will be Greg Stevens, he would let him focus on that part of the team, while he focused on the defense and leading his roster as one unit.

Dameron's arrival at Eastern is now his third appearance in the Ohio Valley Conference and his second stint with the Panthers. In 2000, following a year coaching in the Canadian Football League with the Toronto Argonauts, Dameron was hired as defensive coordinator under Bob Spoo at Eastern.

Dameron lifted Eastern's defense, which finished the previous season ranked 115th in total defense, allowing an average of 484.4 yards per game, to No. 27 in the FCS in 2000. The Panthers' defense allowed 291.9 yards per game under Dameron.

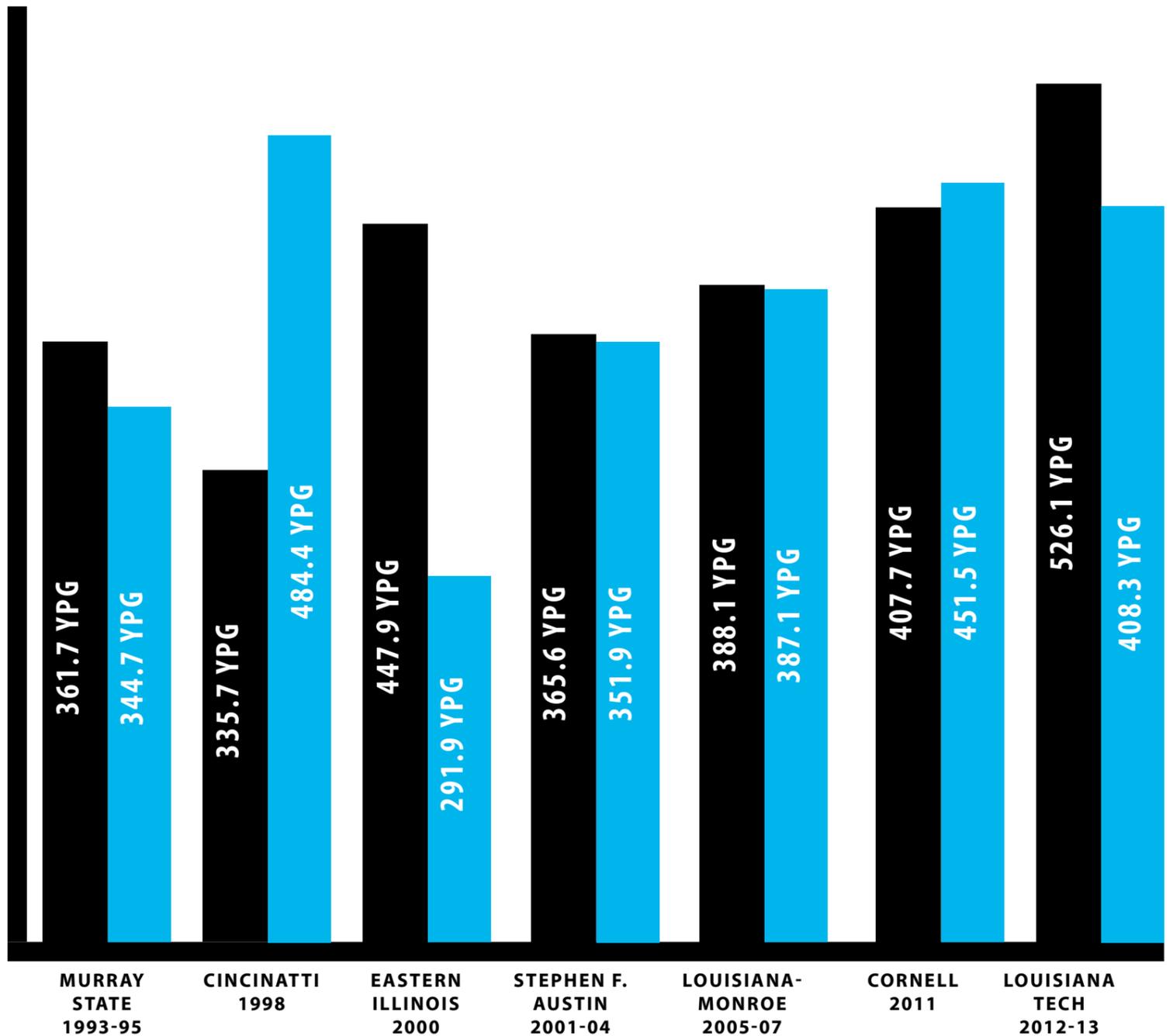
With Spoo as the head coach and Dameron as the defensive coordinator, Eastern won the OVC title and made an appearance in the FCS playoffs after the Panthers finished with a 2-10 record in 1999.

Dameron's first coordinator job came at Murray State in 1993, when Houston Nutt, who became the head coach during the same year, hired Dameron.

In the 1995 season, Dameron's defense allowed an average of 253.3 yards per game, which was No. 6 in the FCS. Murray State finished 11-1 that season and had an 8-0 conference record.

Nutt said Eastern made a great decision in making Dameron the new head coach.

MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT



The black represents the season prior to Kim Dameron's arrival as the defensive coordinator at each respective school, while the blue represents the average yards allowed during his rein. Out of Dameron's seven defensive coordinator jobs, he has improved the average yards allowed in five of those stops.

GRAPHIC BY DOMINIC RENZETTI

"He brings so much passion for the game with him and the players within the program are going to love him," Nutt said. "I think Eastern Illinois has hit a home run with their hiring of Kim Dameron."

But it was not always smooth sailing for Dameron at Murray State.

In Dameron's first year at Murray State, the Racers' defense was ranked 64th in the nation. In his second year, Dameron's defense fell to 110th in the FCS in total defense.

Despite the downfall from his first year to his second, Dameron should get the credit for improving his 110th-ranked defense to No. 6 in the country in 1995.

Dameron's next coaching stop

brought him to Cincinnati in 1996. He spent two seasons as the secondary coach before being promoted to defensive coordinator in 1998.

The Bearcats did not have a successful 1998 season, finishing 2-9 overall. Dameron's first stint as a defensive coordinator in the FBS was underwhelming as Cincinnati's defense finished last in the nation in scoring defense (112th) and allowed the second-most yards (484.4). The previous year, Cincinnati ranked 33rd in total defense.

The meteoric fall of the Bearcats' defense from 1997 to 1998, led to Dameron's departure from Cincinnati.

After Eastern, Dameron spent four

seasons with Stephen F. Austin and three with Louisiana Monroe. During those two reins as defensive coordinator, Dameron improved the teams' defenses in the second year of his tenure.

Dameron's next defensive coordinator job landed him in the Ivy League with Cornell in 2011. Dameron only lasted one season as The Big Red defense went from 97th in total defense in 2010 to 108th under Dameron.

Despite his shortcomings, Dameron has been lauded for his performance at Louisiana Tech last season.

Dameron became defensive coordinator at Louisiana Tech, taking over the worst defense in the FBS during the 2012 season, when the Bulldogs

allowed 526.1 yards per game, which was 120th in the FBS.

In 2013, Louisiana Tech finished as the No. 69 ranked defense in the country, allowing 408.3 yards per game. It was the fourth most-improved defense in the FBS last season.

Eastern finished ranked No. 53 in total defense last year in the FCS, allowing an average of 374.1 yards per game. The last time the Panthers were on the field they allowed 587 yards — 472 coming on the ground in the 49-39 Eastern defeat in the playoffs.

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Stevens to be new offensive coordinator

By Aldo Soto | @AldoSoto21
Assistant Sports Editor

Former Southeastern Louisiana offensive coordinator Greg Stevens will be the next offensive coordinator for Eastern with the official announcement coming within the next few days.

Rich Moser, Eastern's associate athletic director, and head of media and public relations for the athletic department, said Stevens is the of-

fensive coordinator, pending final details.

"We are still doing some paperwork, so probably will be another day or two before the announcement," Moser said in an email Monday.



GREG STEVENS

On Friday, footballscoop.com reported that Stevens would be leaving Southeastern Louisiana, hours after the hiring of new Eastern head coach Kim Dameron was announced. Stevens' new destination was also reported on Friday by coachingsearch.com.

Stevens was at the helm of Southeastern Louisiana's offense that finished 10th in the FCS in 2013. The Lions improved from a 5-6 record in 2012, to 11-3 and a

playoff appearance last season.

Southeastern Louisiana averaged 483.3 yards last season and averaged 38.4 points per game, which was 12th in the FCS.

Stevens will take over an offense at Eastern that was the best in the nation in 2013, in both yards (589.5 yards per game) and points per game (48.2).

Dameron said his new offensive coordinator would have full control of the offense because his

background is primarily on the defensive side of the ball.

"I'm going to be involved with the defense and hire an offensive coordinator and let him go to work," Dameron said. "I'm not going to try to do something that is not my expertise. I'm going to lead this football team as a team and I'm going to make sure that offensively we're going to be exciting to watch."

STEVENS, page 7