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THE WEEKLY EDITION
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

October 5, 2022

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

VOL. 107 | NO. 7

Wear your colors with EIU Pride



LGBTQ+ students share experiences, pg. 3

Campus drag shows evolve over time, pg. 6

Hatfield breaks own cross country record, pg. 8

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EIU Pride: a safe space for students

By **Katja Benz**
Campus Reporter | @DEN_News

EIU Pride, an Eastern Registered Student Organization, offers a safe space for students on campus regardless of their gender or sexual identity.

“To work for the rights of the community to express their sexual and/or romantic orientation, as well as their gender identity freely and openly and to draw the community closer through education to denounce heterosexism, homophobia, transphobia and other oppressions,” is its purpose according to the RSO website.

Students, both present and prospective, find out about EIU Pride early, according to Tanya Willard, the advisor of EIU Pride, the director of new students and family programs and coordinator for the Center of Gender and Sexual Diversity.

“We start reaching out to them early and often and saying here are the resources that are available to you,” Willard said. “We talked about the [Gender and Sexual Diversity] Center, we talked about the DiBianco community and we talked about Pride, so we have access to those folks that we can reach out to early and often. When they come to campus for orientation, the GSD Center has a table set up at the [Panther-Palooza], the resource fair. We participate in Open House events through the admissions office. And so as part of the materials of the GSD table, we also include information about Pride.”

Willard said everyone is welcome to join EIU Pride regardless of their orientation or identity.

“Everyone is welcome here, regardless of your gender or sexual diversity or romantic orientation, and this is a safe space,” Willard said. “We respect each other here. If you are experiencing disrespect or harm in some kind of way, please let us know we will address it. And so it starts out by basically saying like, intolerance is not tolerated.”



BY ROB LE CATES & LUKE TAYLOR | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Theo Edwards, Lucy Ade, Killeen Reidy and Pilar Barrio Sanchez, all members of the executive board of EIU Pride, gather for a “family portrait” in Buzzard Hall.

The executive board has a president, vice president, secretary, action director, social director and publicity chair.

Pilar Barrio Sanchez, a graduate student studying strategic communication, is the president of EIU Pride.

Lucy Ade, a junior interpersonal communications major, is the vice president.

Austin Vaughn, a freshman bassoon music performance major, is the secretary.

Theo Edwards, a junior psychology major, is the action director.

Cayleigh Rath, a junior chemistry major, is the social director.

Killeen Reidy, a junior English major, is the publicity chair.

Willard said everyone on the executive board of EIU Pride really strives to make this a safe space.

“They are all really invested in making Pride the best possible experience,” Willard said. “The meetings are short, they’re about an hour, but they’re packed with a little bit of education. You get to learn a little bit about what’s going on in the GSD or LGBTQ community. Plus you get that social interaction, so you get to meet other folks on campus that maybe you wouldn’t interact with outside of those pride meetings.”

Katja Benz can be reached at 581-2812 or at kkbenz@eiu.edu.

FRONT PAGE COVER ART BY LUKE TAYLOR AND ROB LE CATES

WHAT'S HAPPENING OCT 5 - 12

<p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Mindfulness Through Yoga 4:30 p.m. - Charleston City Hall</p> <p>Rubber Lovers 5 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union</p> <p>Student Government 7 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 20px 0;">YOUR EVENT COULD GO HERE!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MONDAY</p> <p>Homecoming Week begins Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY</p> <p>Council on Academic Affairs 2 p.m. - Witters Conference Room, Booth Library</p> <p>Art Mix 3:45 p.m. - Tarble Arts Center</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 20px 0;">CONTACT US WITH DETAILS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY</p> <p>Resiliency for Beginners 3 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union</p> <p>Literary Divas 3 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union</p> <p>Art Mix 3:45 p.m. - Tarble Arts Center</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY</p> <p style="font-size: 3em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-15deg); margin: 20px 0;">FALL BREAK!</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Intro to Data Wrangling with openRefine 3:45 p.m. - Booth Library</p> <p>Student Government 7 p.m. - Arcola/Tuscola Room, MLK Jr. University Union</p>

Send your event information to dennewsdesk@gmail.com to be added to our online and print calendars!

About

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

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

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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 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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LGBTQ+ students' unique perspective

By **Kyara Morales-Rodriguez**
Campus Reporter | @DEN_News



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Kaden Howard, a junior English education major, poses for a picture Saturday afternoon in Buzzard Hall.



BY KYARA MORALES-RODRIGUEZ | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Lucy Ade, a junior interpersonal communications major, poses for a picture Saturday afternoon in Buzzard Hall.

community here.

Howard said he was part of the group that went to the sit-ins and advocated for gender-inclusive housing.

He said they had to “jump through a lot of hoops to get there.”

“It felt really good to get to see how many people were trying to move onto that floor when housing contracts rolled around,” Howard said. “Just because it’s like ‘Oh, man, this is a need, this is something that peo-

ple want and need.”

Some Eastern students said that there is still more the university could do for the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

Graham said that when they first came to Eastern, things were not as good as they are today.

They said that the improvements that have been made over the years are “awesome, but that’s the bare minimum.”

“When you’re nonbinary or gender

fluid or any sort of other gender or identity, it’s harder because a lot of people are like, ‘Oh, you don’t identify as anything? Well, how are we going to accommodate that?’” Graham said. “It’s a process. We are living in a time where the LGBTQ+ community is constantly expanding and becoming wider, so it’s a lot for people who aren’t in it to keep up with it.”

Graham said that “it’s just a matter of keeping yourself updated, and

“When we’re not in the room, a lot of people forget about our identity, and so they kind of just push it over.”

- Mack Graham

I feel like Eastern needs to do that a little bit more.”

Ade said one of the best things available for LGBTQ+ students is being able to change one’s name through their PAWS account.

She said that her name being changed in the system means her deadname is not “floating around,” but there are times when it has been used.

A deadname is the birth name of a trans or gender nonconforming person who changed their name.

“I wish there were ways that I wouldn’t get emails with my deadname on it from financial aid or from scholarship sites,” Ade said. “It’d be great.”

Some students said that there are ways both Eastern and the surrounding community can better support LGBTQ+ students.

A way Howard said that Eastern could help students is by having gender therapists on campus as part of the counseling clinic.

“A lot of hormone replacement therapy requires a certain amount of time with a licensed gender therapist, unless you go to Planned Parenthood and get it,” Howard said. “Having somebody on campus who is dedicated to helping students who are part of the LGBTQ+ community because their experience can be so much different than other students on campus.”

Graham said that a simple way to help trans and gender nonconforming students is to correct people who misgender or deadname them.

“They would really appreciate it, even if they’re not there, if you would correct them or use their preferred pronoun and name,” Graham said. “Because a lot of the time when we’re not in the room, a lot of people forget about our identity, and so they kind of just push it over. Since we’re not in the room, we won’t know, but it’s kind of obvious to at least a few of us who is and isn’t putting in that effort.”

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or at knmorales-rodriguez@eiu.edu.

“It felt really good to get to see how many people were trying to move onto [the Doug DiBianco LLC] when housing contracts rolled around.... This is something that people want and need.”

- Kaden Howard

For Howard, that has been EIU Pride and the Doug DiBianco Community in McKinney Hall.

He said that those spaces bring LGBTQ+ students and allies together, as well as help him feel like he has a

EDITORIAL

Campus needs more all-gender bathrooms

As transgender and nonbinary identities become mainstream and people push for rights and recognition, conversations around bathroom use have gotten heated. Some public institutions have begun providing all-gender bathrooms. Eastern, too, has labeled some single-stall bathrooms as gender neutral.

We feel that these steps haven't been the best help for either students living in residence halls or for visitors to campus.

In residence halls where living floors have communal bathrooms, all-gender restrooms are only on the first floor or basement; they were originally put in place as public bathrooms for visitors.

This means that gender diverse students would have to leave their floor just to use the toilet. These buildings also only have communal showers. Rumors have gone around that buildings may be switched to "pod-style" bathrooms, where each floor gets private bathrooms like those in most houses.

These have proven successful in the few residence halls where they're in place, and we at *the News* highly approve of this move.

Unfortunately, buildings which would still be left behind include many academic buildings, as well as public ones like Lantz Arena, the Rec Center and Old Main. The MLK Jr. Union has an all-gender restroom, but it's hidden away in the student lounge.

The highest concentration of non-student visitors occurs in Lantz and the



Comic by Will Simmons

Union. If Eastern wants to put its best foot forward, providing accessible all-gender bathrooms to visitors would be a great step.

We understand that this is asking for a

lot. Construction is expensive, not to mention working around residents living in buildings or classes going on.

Still, it's important. If plans are already

being made, we'd love to hear about them.

Everyone has to use the bathroom.

We at *the Daily Eastern News* think they should be able to do so in peace.

COLUMN

The importance of LGBTQ+ representation in media

Representation in media is essential. Whether viewers are 5 years of age or 60, it is so important to see people that are just like you in the books we read, the movies we view and the television shows we watch.

My first experience with representation was when I was very young. "Akeelah and the Bee" came out when I was around 4 or 5 years old. I was always into words, and around the time this movie came out, I was in kindergarten preparing for a spelling bee.

Akeelah was played by Keke Palmer, who has graced television and movie screens for years. Seeing a little black girl be successful in a spelling bee inspired me.

I ended up winning, even though I refused to study the list of words that they asked us to spell. But, besides representation in terms of race, there are many categories of intersectionality that can and should be used to represent various groups of people in the media that we all consume.

One specific group of people is the LGBTQ+ community, for the simple fact that members of the LGBTQ+ community exist and deserve to be seen and heard.

Netflix released the three-part movie se-



Kyla Moton

ries based on the R.L. Stine books title Fear Street. One of the main characters, Deena, identifies as a lesbian and is in a relationship with another character, Sam. This was one of my first times seeing an LGBTQ+ identifying character in a show or movie.

It was an amazing movie. A lot of times, people do not see past their hatred or distaste for certain minority groups and take issue with said minorities being shown in movies and television.

The most recent example is the new "The

Little Mermaid," starring singer and actress Halle Bailey. This has been debated since it was first rumored that Bailey would be playing Ariel.

Not everyone was excited about this. People can make up whatever excuse they would like about why they feel so much hatred and disgust about it, but the underlying problem here is racism. They don't want to see an African American woman play a fictional character whose story has no cultural significance.

The same thing can be said about people who take issue to seeing LGBTQ+ members in media. In the long running children's cartoon "Arthur," Arthur's teacher, Mr. Rattburn, invited his students to his wedding where he was marrying another man.

The episode explains to Arthur, his classmates and the viewers watching that it is okay to love whoever you choose to love. There was no "agenda" being pushed.

In most children's romance movies or princess movies, a man and a woman or a boy and a girl, can kiss on screen times and it would be just fine for children to watch.

The obvious divide in what is seeming-

ly fine for children to watch when it comes to children's media and what is not can be chalked up to homophobic tendencies.

Books have been banned from schools, churches and households for mentioning or discussing the LGBTQ+ community.

In reality, these books are there to help educate children on what it means to be gay, lesbian or transgender. Instead of sheltering ourselves and our children from this topic, we should be educating them.

We're always taught to treat everyone we come across with the same respect that they give us, but we all know that this is not something that everyone abides by.

It all starts at home, yet again.

The representation of LGBTQ+ community members has increased over the years, and this increase in representation allows viewers to see that LGBTQ+ members are no different from anyone else, so it's essential for everyone to treat each other in a respectful manner.

Kyla Moton is a junior English major. She can be reached at klmoton@eiu.edu or 217-581-2812.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

HAVE YOU EVER UTILIZED RESOURCES IN THE GSD CENTER ON CAMPUS?

ANSWER THE POLL ON...

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COLUMN

Queer historical figures deserve recognition

Queer history is a topic seldom talked about today. The study of gender and sexuality in the past seemed to be a taboo subject that is not really touched on or only whispered about behind closed doors.

But, thanks to queer pioneers- people can feel free to discuss these topics and dive deep into what these themes really uncover about the human species.

People like Judith Butler have made way through these disciplines to give us theories that people can really relate to and explore even more.

According to Butler, gender is a social construct and is by no means tied to the physical body.

When others hear that other people feel this way, they are not alone. They recognize that feeling a certain way is not insane or just “made up” in their own minds.

I feel like this really speaks to our gender non-conforming or non-binary folks. They



Ellen Dooley

hear this and may feel validated and possibly empowered.

People should feel a push to talk about the taboo.

We cannot grow as a society if we just continue to push these “uncomfortable” topics in the back of our minds or in the

corner of the room.

People should feel open to talk about queer history and learn about those who trailblazed to allow others to talk without ridicule. Not just well-known people like RuPaul, Elton John, or (problematic) Ellen DeGeneres.

We need to dig down deep and recognize those who fought for the rights of queer people and give them credit just like we do with celebrities.

It takes a community to come together and fight for one another.

But it also takes one person to ruin the image of a community. When these celebrities continue to be problematic, society tends to put a label on the rest of the community as problematic.

While one is responsible for one's own actions, it does reflect the community you are a part of. That is why it is so important to recognize that these actions of prob-

lematic people do not reflect the whole community.

It is extremely important to recognize the actions of the queer people who made the queer community what it is together, not just the celebrities on the surface. It is the heavy lifting on the bottom of the pyramid that keeps the community thriving and visible in our society.

We need to recognize those who helped the queer community in the past, those who are currently fighting for it, and those who will be fighting in the future for queer rights.

The battle is never over. That is why celebrating queer historical figures is so important not only during LGBTQ+ History Month, but every other month of the year.

Ellen Dooley is a sophomore special education standard major. She can be reached at emdooley@eiu.

Quote of the Week:

" Freedom is too enormous to be slipped under a closet door. "

- Harvey Milk

COLUMN

'Do Revenge' could save the 'teen girl movie' genre

I am a firm believer that “teen girl movies” are an essential viewing genre for all demographics.

We all know the hits: “Mean Girls” and “Legally Blonde” are at the top of the field for good reason, though the “Bring It On” series is a personal favorite. Those with more edgy film tastes might like “Heathers” and the musical fans always have “Grease” or “Hairspray.”

These films are at their best when championing feminist messages with a touch of revenge fantasy against any man who stands in the way. Romance is also a key element, as well as comedy.

Any movie that seems designed for a teen girl's sleepover belongs in the category, but some of my favorite memories include watching them with my dad and now with my college friends.

However, the genre really peaked in the '90s and '00s and has gone by the wayside since. The best recent example is “To All the Boys I've Loved Before,” which does have many of the key elements, but is missing the feminist through-line and falls flat on repeat viewing.

“Do Revenge,” a recent Netflix film, may be here to save the genre.

Starring Camila Mendes of “Riverdale” and Maya Hawke of “Stranger Things,” it carries the star power to bring in the audience, and it delivers the perfect amount of



Luke Taylor

drama and a rare grasp of Gen Z slang.

Drea (Mendes) had her perfectly crafted reputation destroyed when her popular boyfriend leaked her sex tape. Eleanor (Hawke), new to the school, has been an outcast since she was outed as queer and framed as a predator at a summer camp.

As they enter senior year, the two form an unlikely bond and decide they're going to, well, do revenge. Eleanor will infiltrate the popular crew, while Drea will befriend the girl who outed Eleanor, and they'll use their insider knowledge to wreak havoc.

As I explained it to friends, it's like double “Mean Girls,” but gayer.

Much of the plot plays out as expected, but there are still enough delicious and over-the-top twists and turns to keep it

original.

I have to admit that I have seen five entire seasons of “Riverdale” and thus seen a lot of Mendes' work. It was a pleasure to see her actually being allowed to play the popular mean girl she can only hint at as Veronica.

Hawke was equally enjoyable to watch as a less quirky character than she plays in “Stranger Things,” and the chemistry between the two leads carried a lot of scenes which could've otherwise been obnoxious.

Both leads were given equal time for romance, though they were much less of a focus than in many teen girl movies; still, it was nice to see Eleanor actually flirting back and forth with another girl.

Someone on the writing staff is either an actual young person or is pretty active on TikTok, because I was surprised to see Gen Z humor and slang that didn't feel forced. Calling things “cringe” and “problematic,” mashing words together and using therapy and activist language in entirely inappropriate situations- it all just felt too real.

Eleanor's lizard is named “Oscar Winner Olivia Colman.” I laughed every time it came up.

It was also fantastic to see the '90s tropes updated to a modern high school.

The cliques include “Instagram Witches” who are super into astrology and theater kids who tried to put on a mostly-white

“Hamilton” production. One of the main villains achieves social power by advertising himself as “woke” and facetiously calls upon his peers to “be allies.”

Don't worry, though; there's still a make-over scene.

All of this plays out in the most bougie looking high school where everyone wears pastel teal and purple uniforms. They're all unrealistically well-dressed, but more on the side of caution than “Euphoria.”

Eleanor delivers a potential movie thesis when she quotes her therapist's idea that “hurt people hurt people” and rebuts with “I just don't think that applies to teenage girls. I think sometimes they're just evil.”

That's the point of “Mean Girls,” though. “Do Revenge” takes it a step further, examining how the patriarchy allows teen boys to escape that trap.

In the end, though, it's not all that deep. There's drama, a good script, fun music and nice visuals.

Watch it with your besties (or your dad) and decide which quotes are going to become part of your vocabulary.

The school headmistress says, “You're never more alive than when you're 17 years old.” Revel in that feeling, just for a bit.

Luke Taylor is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at lr-taylor@eiu.edu or at 581-2812.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

WE ASKED STUDENTS IF THEY THINK EASTERN DOES ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE LATINX STUDENTS OUTSIDE OF LATINX HERITAGE MONTH.

RESULTS WERE SPLIT: 50% SAID YES, 50% SAID NO



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Ms. Traci Dalton performs during the Divas 2003 Drag Show, which was the first drag show held at Eastern.



BY D'AJANAÉ JACKSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Nezha sings "Everybody Dies" by Kim Petras at the 2021 drag show hosted by EIU Pride.

Drag show highlights royalty on campus

By **Kyara Morales-Rodriguez**
Campus Reporter | @kyaranainette

EIU Pride's Drag Show has been a part of Eastern for nearly 20 years, with its first ever drag show happening on Dec. 1, 2003.

Since its inception, the drag show has had many names, but its first one was DIVA 2003. Eastern's first drag show brought five professional drag performers from Indiana to the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union's Grand Ballroom, according to a Daily Eastern News article from Dec. 2, 2003. The show's lineup featured drag queens from the Zim Marss Nightclub in Terre Haute, Ind.: Brittany Sebastian, Staci Stevens, Traci Dalton, Tiara Diamond and Anastacia DeMoore.

The show was put on by EIU Pride to support AIDS World Day, with a large portion of the proceeds going towards AIDS research. Close to 700 people attended the show, with both members of the Eastern community and students from nearby universities attending to "show support for the cause and for Pride."

In fact, the show's audience was so big that "within the half hour, the place was packed. People stood along the walls, volunteers lugged in extra chairs..." according to a Daily Eastern News opinion piece from Dec. 4, 2003 detailing a student's ex-

perience at the event.

"People got up and danced or gyrated in their chairs, they sang, they screamed and they leapt to the foot of the stage, extending dollar bills to the queens' manicured hands," said the column. "And I heard never a giggle—people were awestruck by what they saw on stage."

This show kicked off a tradition, one that set out to achieve two things: raise funds for important causes and bring the Eastern community together. In past years, EIU Pride has split the drag show's proceeds between its organization and various causes, many of which supported the LGBTQ+ community.

EIU Pride has used the drag show to raise awareness and money for AIDS research; the Lazarus House, an AIDS and HIV shelter in New Orleans that was affected by Hurricane Katrina; the National Center for Transgender Equality; SACIS and more.

Between 2003 and 2005, the drag queens that became known as the Zimm Marss "Dream Team" came back to Eastern to perform at every drag show.

Then in 2006, the drag show saw some major changes, according to a Daily Eastern News article from Nov. 27, 2006. EIU Pride's fourth annual drag show featured two drag kings, changing the name "from

the 'DIVA' drag show, to the more gender inclusive 'Saddle Up.'"

The "Saddle Up!" Drag Show featured a new set of faces, with "professional queens from Bloomington, Champaign, Decatur and Tuscola" who took their place alongside drag kings, Lance Lixalot and J-Dizzle. Both drag kings were Eastern students who performed professionally.

In its first few years, the drag show's performers included professional drag artists from local nightclubs and bars, as well as students from other universities.

Then in March 2017, EIU Pride hosted its first Student Drag Show, according to a Daily Eastern News article from Mar. 21, 2017. The night saw performances from student drag queens such as Lady Save the Bees, Danny Long Legs and Plain Jane Lane Berglain. It was held in preparation for that year's DIVA Drag Show that happened later that same night.

Soon after, EIU Pride began hosting drag shows only with student performers. Gone were the days when EIU Pride hired professional performers, instead the stars of the night were found right on Eastern's campus.

Over the years, the drag show saw other changes, including the decision to have two drag shows per school year, one for every semester.

The biannual drag shows saw many student performers: Mother Natwhore, Fantasia Blackheart and Lady Deviant—just to name a few. Every semester, the drag show saw a huge audience with hundreds of Eastern students and community members. Then in spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, and EIU Pride had to temporarily put an end to its annual tradition of hosting the drag show.

EIU Pride was planning on hosting a drag show in Nov. 2020, "but, unfortunately, it was canceled due to concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic," according to a Daily Eastern News article from Nov. 6, 2020.

EIU Pride did not host a drag show again until October 2021. Its first drag show since the start of the pandemic saw a lineup of eight student performers: Apollo Device, Nexha, Izack D. Storm, Roxy Flare, Chanel Lanaé, Papa Cock, Mid-West Queen and Lady Lexapro.

In its nearly twenty-year history, the Student Drag Show has seen many changes, but one thing stays the same: it remains a space to bring together members of the community who want to support LGBTQ+ students while enjoying performances.

Kyara Morales-Rodriguez can be reached at 581-2812 or at knmorales-rodriguez@eiu.edu.

Doug DiBianco LLC beneficial for LGBTQ+ students

By **Kay Reno**
Campus Reporter | @DEN_News

This coming Oct. 24 will mark the one-year anniversary of the creation of the Doug DiBianco Living Learning Community in McKinney Hall. After a push from LGBTQ+ students and allies for gender-inclusive housing it was finally awarded in 2021, marking a positive change at Eastern for LGBTQ+ students.

The Doug DiBianco LLC is a safe housing option for LGBTQ+ students at Eastern.

The new floor allows LGBTQ+ residents to have an environment where they feel safe expressing themselves authentically while carrying on the legacy of Doug DiBianco, a former music professor at Eastern.

DiBianco was the founder of what today is known as and referred to as EIU Pride. Back at the time of its creation it was called the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Allies Union, or LGBAU for short.

Alix Kennedy, a freshman psychology major who acts as the spirit chair for McKinney Hall, talked about his experiences liv-



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Doug DiBianco floor will celebrate its one year anniversary of being founded Friday, Oct. 21, 2022.

ing there this semester.

"Living in the DDB housing has given me the opportunity to have community and safety on campus," Kennedy said. "Getting to know other members of DDB living has been wonderful, because I now have a huge community of friends behind me."

The Doug DiBianco LLC allows LGBTQ+ students to meet and mingle without the likelihood of backlash to their identities.

"I absolutely feel safer living with other

queer people," Kennedy said. "That was the main reason I chose to live here, my safety and the safety of others. There is an extra layer of comfort when living among others with the same kind of marginalized identity. None of them will judge that identity and many will help defend it. That mentality has been part of Doug DiBianco living even during its creation."

Last year, students protested to fight for the name itself by holding a sit-in where

students stayed in front of Old Main until the name was approved. The name Doug DiBianco didn't fit certain standards involved in the current way of naming dormitories at Eastern, leading to its initial rejection. Today, Eastern strongly follows philanthropy and donations to the university as a way to choose a name.

At this semester's State of the University Address, Glassman mentioned the success of the Doug DiBianco floor and the new additional second floor added for this fall.

"The Doug DiBianco Community opened in Fall 2021 in McKinney Hall as the university's first gender-inclusive residential community," Glassman said. "It was met with such interest and enthusiasm by our LGBTQ+ community, the space was expanded to the second floor of McKinney this fall."

Students today are still thankful for the headway of change DiBianco laid out for LGBTQ+ students.

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OVC women's soccer race remains close

By Kate Stevens

Assistant Sports Editor | katestevens25



BY HAN BYER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Number 20 Ella Onstott (center), a freshman midfielder fights for ball control with Southeast Missouri player Number 27, Natalie Jackson, a senior defender, during the September 22, 2022, soccer game against the Redhawks at Lakeside Field. The Panthers lost 2-1 to the Redhawks.

As Ohio Valley Conference play dwindles down in October, the race for first place remains close.

Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville leads the OVC 3-0-1 (4-4-2) as of Sunday. They have defeated Southeast Missouri and Lindenwood on the road and Eastern Illinois at home and they tied with Southern Indiana last Sunday afternoon. In OVC play, they have scored five goals and have only given up one. In the coming weeks, they will take on Tennessee Tech, Little Rock, UT Martin, and Morehead State.

Morehead State is right behind SIUE as they are also 3-0-1 (6-4-2) as of Sunday. They have scored a total of six goals and have given up one goal in OVC play. They have defeated USI, UT Martin, and Little Rock. They tied their game with EIU. As the season comes near the end, they will head on the road for their next three matches at SEMO, Lindenwood, and Tennessee Tech. They will play their final game at home against SIUE.

Tennessee Tech is in third place with a 2-0-2 (4-4-4) record. They have scored a total of seven goals and have given up two in OVC play. They went 2-0 on the road to begin the OVC season as they defeated EIU and USI. They tied their OVC home opener with Lindenwood and tied their match at UT Martin last Sunday afternoon. They will play at home for their next three matches hosting SIUE, SEMO, and Morehead State. They will play their final game on the road at Little Rock.

OVC newcomer Little Rock is currently 2-2 (5-5-2) as they are the only team without a tie so far. In OVC play, they have scored a total of three goals and have given up four. They have defeated UT Martin on the road as well as USI and they have lost to Lindenwood and Morehead

State. In the coming weeks they will play three home games hosting SEMO, EIU, and Tennessee Tech and one on the road at SIUE.

The other OVC newcomer Lindenwood is behind Little Rock at 1-1-2 (4-6-3). In OVC play, they have scored two goals and have allowed two. They defeated Little Rock and lost to SIUE. They have tied their last two games 0-0 against Tennessee Tech as well as SEMO. They will face UT Martin and EIU on the road and host USI and Morehead State in the closing weeks of OVC play.

SEMO is in sixth place with a 1-1-1 (5-5-1) record. They have scored two goals and have allowed three in OVC play. They dropped their first OVC home

game to SIUE, then went on to beat EIU on the road. On Sunday, they tied with Lindenwood. They will face Little Rock, Morehead State, Tennessee Tech, Southern Indiana, and UT Martin in the closing weeks of OVC play.

EIU is in seventh place with a 0-3-1 (2-5-5) and is one of three teams who remain winless in OVC play. In OVC play, they have scored one goal and have allowed four.

They have lost to Tennessee Tech, SEMO, and SIUE. They tied in their match with Morehead State. They will play UT Martin, Little Rock, Lindenwood, and USI as the season comes to an end.

Behind EIU is USI who also has a 0-3-1 (3-5-3) OVC record. They are yet

to score a goal and have given up six. They have lost to Morehead State, Tennessee Tech, and Little Rock, and tied with SIUE. They will face Lindenwood, UT Martin, SEMO, and EIU as they close the season. They will also have a non-conference home game with Chicago State on Oct. 6.

In last place is UT Martin with a 0-2-1 (2-6-3) record. They have scored four goals in OVC play and have given up seven.

They have lost to Little Rock, Morehead State, and have tied with Tennessee Tech. They will face Lindenwood, EIU, USI, SIUE, and SEMO in the coming weeks.

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COLUMN

The Chicago Bears need to make a change soon

I love my Chicago Bears, but they took an unforgivable loss in the garbage fest with the Giants.

The team that played the 49ers and the team that played the Giants simply cannot be the same.

First of all, the Bears had four chances in the red zone and were not able to score a touchdown in any of them.

The field goals just did not cut it.

Second of all, what was that defense? It was non-existent after the Giant's first drive.

They let Saquon Barkley and Daniel Jones run all over them, which is just embarrassing.

The two of them combined for 214 rushing yards Sunday, which is more than triple the amount of total passing yards they had.

Third of all, they have got to let Justin Fields throw more.

There weren't many open targets for



Kate Stevens

him Sunday, but the passes he did have were great.

He went 11/22 and 174 yards, which is not too terrible.

That Fields to Mooney connection sure is beautiful.

I'm so glad we got to see more of that on Sunday. I'm hoping to see

more as the season goes on.

Another good thing about Sunday was the Eddie Jackson interception. Prime Eddie is back, and I am here for it. I hope he continues to keep it up.

In my opinion, we're not ready to head up to Minnesota next week. Things have got to change in order to put up a fight against them.

Minnesota has been pretty decent so far this season.

We can't be letting slow quarterbacks run all over us, we can't be letting Fields get smacked, we can't be dropping passes, and we can't be dropping punts.

I realize we are in a rebuild season, but it is tough to see these guys lose season after season.

My last hope was the 2018 team. I hope we will look like that, and keep it up, in the next few years.

The last few years have just been

sad. We blame coaches and quarterbacks year after year, but what is it now?

The offensive line needs some work, and the defense needs to be steady in how it performs.

How do you go from being so well one drive to looking like a whole different team the next?

It is honestly just pure pain and torture at this point.

It is so frustrating as a Bears fan, but I remain hopeful as it is still early in the season.

They just need to figure some things out before it is too late because there could be tough consequences.

While it gets tougher and tougher, I will defend the Bears until the end of time.

Maybe next week. Bear Down!

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Hatfield breaks own record at Louisville Classic

By Dylan Meek
Cross Country Reporter |@DEN_Sports



BY TIM DOYLE | EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Number 584 Dustin Hatfield, a redshirt senior, runs in the NCAA Cross Country Championship last year, Nov. 20, 2021, in Apalachee State Park in Tallahassee, Flor. Hatfield ran the 10K and placed 77 with a time of 29:59.9, where he became the second highest Eastern finisher in school history.

Sarah Carr finished 146th with a time of 18:24, a personal record.

Katie Springer finished 157th with a time of 18:28, also a personal record for her.

Mackenzie Aldridge and Sam Mabry rounded the top five for Eastern finishing 185th and 213th with times of 18:37 and 18:53 personal records for both.

As a team, the women had seven runners with new personal records.

As a team, Eastern finished 26th out of 41 teams with 708 points.

Ceili McCabe of West Virginia won the meet for the second straight year with a time of 16:23 winning by 13 seconds over Bethany Graham of Furman at 16:36, followed by Carmen Riano of Miami Ohio at 16:42, fourth place

Mikaela Lucki of West Virginia had a time of 16:50, and Abigail Robertson of Furman finished in the top

five at a time of 16:52.

For the teams Furman won the meet with 44 points, followed by West Virginia with 92, and Grand Valley State with 132 points.

Up next Eastern will try to continue their success from this meet with a trip to Peoria for the Bradley Pink Invite on Oct. 14.

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COLUMN

High energy at volleyball games needs to be at every sport

Cheering fans, loud music, and hyped-up players are all things that one can experience if they come to Lantz Arena for an Eastern volleyball game. The Panthers set a great example of what a sporting event on campus should look and sound like and it is time that it is replicated at other games, too.

It is no secret that women's sports are under appreciated by sports fans and under covered by various media outlets.

As a woman in sports who has already faced issues for simply being a woman, this irritates me deeply.

The women's sports here at Eastern deserve much more support, there is no denying it. But why can't we make the support even across all sports?

As a former athlete who played basketball and softball in high school, I got firsthand experience of what it was like to not have fans filling the stands and cheering us on because my high school was all about our boys' basketball team.

The only times the stands would be filled with fans would be during



Autumn Schulz

special events like raising money for breast cancer awareness or a special ceremony to send off senior players.

So, I would enjoy those games the most because it felt like people truly wanted to be there.

Although I think that is fantastic, the energy needed to be at all the games, not just a few, and that applies to the collegiate athletics here at Eastern as well.

It is so refreshing to know that when I go to cover a Panther volley-

ball game, good energy will be surrounding a women's team.

I cannot tell you how much enjoyment I get from seeing the fan tunnel kick off the match, the loud music and clapping that fills the arena when the players are introduced, and how the fans erupt when the Panthers get a point.

I commend coach Sara Thomas, her staff, and the volleyball players for creating an environment that fans are thriving in.

As a journalist, I am not allowed to cheer for Eastern's athletic teams. Therefore, I live vicariously through the fans at the games.

I think that each team should take after the volleyball team.

They should do their best to keep a good vibe throughout the entire game or match. I know that is easier said than done sometimes.

Therefore, it should not be all up to the team to have good energy, it is also on the fans to show up and cheer during the right moments.

Do not cheer just when the team is doing well, cheer when things do not

seem to be in favor of the Panthers, because that is when they need it most.

There are other sports on campus that would love to have the same energy from fans and quite frankly, they deserve it.

It makes me sad to think that there are sports on campus and athletes that do not get the support they deserve from fans and others because they choose to only support one sport on campus rather than branching out and supporting other sports.

I get it, sports like football here on campus is a sport that people find easy to watch and cheer for.

However, I can only imagine what each game here at Eastern would look like if the same energy was brought as they are in other sports.

The intense cheering from Lantz Arena and the loud fireworks at O'Brien Field need to be heard and felt by all teams, regardless of what jersey they are wearing.

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