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Daily Eastern News: Feburary 13, 2014

Eastern Illinois University

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KINGS OF CROONING

The Coles County Barbershop Chorus will be serenading the area for Valentine's Day.

Page 2



AND THEN THERE WERE 4

Eastern's men's basketball prepares to start its final four games in the Ohio Valley Conference against Austin Peay.

Page 8

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | NO. 100

Forum to review Strategic Enrollment Plan

Staff Report

Mary Herrington-Perry, the assistant vice president for academic affairs, will be hosting an open forum for the review of the recently released Strategic Enrollment Plan draft.

The forum will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday in the Great Hall in Pember-

ton Hall.

The plan, released last week, details the university's plans to reverse a trend of a 19.41 percent decline in students since 2005.

Herrington-Perry said the forum will act as a place where she can explain to anyone interested what the plan is for the future, and how the implementation will take place over the next

years.

"I will share the results of our strategic enrollment planning process," Herrington-Perry said. "I'll summarize the research and analysis we've done, review our enrollment action plans and examine our enrollment projections."

Herrington-Perry said the forum is open to any member of the community, and Blair

Lord, the provost and vice president for academic affairs, will be available for questioning.

"I then (also) talk about phase two of the planning process, which will include launching the subcommittees that will develop plans to increase EIU's online presence and its enrollment of non-traditional students," Herrington-Perry said.

Eastern students prepare for Valentine's Day

By Blake Warman

Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Jennie Huntoon wants a low key Valentine's Day. Cooking a meal, watching TV with her boyfriend and eating dessert is all she wants.

She doesn't want to make it a big deal, because to her it's not.

Huntoon, a first year graduate student, is continuing her tradition of making dinner for her boyfriend.

Huntoon and her boyfriend take turns every year and this year it's her turn to cook a meal and a dessert to share on Valentine's Day.

Huntoon said she generally does not spend a lot on the holiday. She said she defines her boyfriend and her relationship as a "do something special just because we feel like it" kind of couple.

Huntoon said she certainly is not going to object if she receives flowers, and she'll probably get him a little something as well, but neither of them feel that they absolutely need to celebrate the holiday.

She said Valentine's Day is just a good excuse to do what they always strive to do within their relationship anyway.

Chrissy Harmon, a junior music education major, said the amount of money spent every year depends on



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Even on the budget of a working college student, Valentine's Day gifts can be affordable. If students get personal and crafty, this Valentine's Day has the potential to be both memorable and affordable.

how long she has been with her valentine. She said if she has been dating someone for a really long time, she will go all out with something "extravagant."

However, when in a new relationship and planning on celebrating

Valentine's Day, she expressed it can be a little scary at first because she might not know what is "too much."

Some simple things to do for Valentine's Day are to have a movie night together, cook dinner together, or go explore a nearby town, she said.

Harmon said a few simple and inexpensive gifts could be homemade cards, a gift card, a framed picture of the two that has a special memory, or just giving them time and attention.

VALENTINE'S, page 5

University schedule to change for holiday

Staff Report

With the federal holiday quickly coming up giving students a three-day weekend, some changes in university schedule will occur Friday.

While classes will not take place, residential dining centers will be closed as well. The food court in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union will still be open. The dining halls will be consolidated to the Thomas Hall Dining Center on Saturday and Sunday.

The book store and Java Beanery & Bakery in the Union will be closed on Friday as well as Saturday.

The Panther shuttle will also not be running on Friday. Bus tickets to Chicago are available still and the busses will be leaving at 3 p.m. at the Eastern Union Stop. Round-trip tickets cost \$49.90.

The Student Recreational Center will also be closing earlier at 6:30 p.m.

The *Daily Eastern News* will also not be printing on Friday.

Lunchbox Voodoo to perform Valentine's Day show

Comedy group making comeback for holiday

By Seth Schroeder

Assistant Online Editor | @DEN_News

Performing skits focused on dating, sleepovers, dance competitions and love, Eastern's sketch comedy group Lunchbox Voodoo will be putting on a Valentine's Day themed show 7 p.m. Thursday in the Black Box of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

The group's president, Lindsey Finchum, a sophomore psychology major, said they have been preparing for the show for several weeks, writing scripts and rehearsing scenes.

"Right after we have a show we prepare for the next one," she said. "It's a lot of work, but everybody laughs."

One of the other group members, Alexander Jack-Haines Stamper, a senior art major, said he accidentally auditioned for Lunchbox Voodoo while looking to audition for Hello Dali, Eastern's improvisation comedy troupe.

He said he stayed with the group because he enjoys working with the other members.

"It's a lot of like-minded individuals trying to bring funny to the world," Stamper said.

Though he writes and acts for the group, Stamper said he is primarily an actor.

Out of the variety of roles he plays, he said his favorite character is Lumberjack Joe, a spokesperson for "Lumberjack Joe's Deer Piss and Sap Smell Goods."

"It's only the most manly of smells," Stamper said.

For Thursday's show, he said he will play a woman named Sara, a blind and bearded man named Steve and a medic who forgot the batteries for a defibrillator.

Stamper said the show will be a



SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Cast members of Eastern's comedy group Lunchbox Voodoo, Emily Brodt and Kacie Brauer, rehearse a parody version of "The Dating Game" in preparation of their show 7 p.m. Thursday in the Black Box of The Doudna Fine Arts Center. Brodt and Brauer are performing as strangers who were pulled off the street to take part in the game show.

new stage in the group's growth.

"We've kind of been under ev-

eryone's radar," he said. "We're trying to re-establish ourselves."

Like Stamper, Kacie Brauer a junior English major and another one of Lunchbox Voodoo's members, said she auditioned for Lunchbox Voodoo on accident. She said she was meeting with Eastern's English club in 7th St. Underground when the comedy group showed up to host auditions.

Though she did not know exactly what she was auditioning for, Brauer said she decided to give it a shot.

"It was exciting," she said. "I wasn't expecting to make it."


Brauer said she works both as a writer and an actor for the group, but mostly does acting. She said she has enjoyed playing one of the two "Compliment Ladies."

"The 'Compliment Ladies' are two old, senile woman who are somewhat disgruntled. They have their own sort of fun, even if it's offensive," Brauer said. "They berate those around them. Especially the younger generation."

VOODOO, page 5


Local weather

TODAY



Sunny
High: 37°
Low: 22°

FRIDAY



Cloudy
High: 27°
Low: 8°

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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Barbershop chorus to serenade valentines

By Kylie Dawkins
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Four quartets from the Cole County Barbershop Chorus will travel around Coles County to serenade people on Valentine's Day.

Dressed in their checkered vests, ties and arm guards the quartet will raise money for the music programs at area schools.

Tom Woodall, the co-director of the barbershop chorus and a former Eastern professor, said the Singing Valentines Program is a part of the organization's fundraising projects.

"We probably raise about \$8,000 a year that we give away. It's kind of our community service," Woodall said. "We're very thankful that we can."

Woodall said the quartets will sing classics like "I Love You Truly" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

"We give them a box of candy and a special card that shows a quartet singing with all the old time barbershop singers, and then we take a picture," Woodall said.

Woodall recalled a time when he and the other members of the quartet traveled to a bank to perform.

"All the women in the other offices got up and they started crowding around," he said. "When we got done, there were women everywhere. Some of them were crying."

Woodall helped start the barbershop chorus after being hired at Eastern. When Woodall first arrived in Charleston as a professor in 1965, he had some experience with barbershop music.

He asked Ron Leathers, a friend and colleague, to help get the organization off the ground. The group endures today.

Their group was officially licensed in



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Members of the Coles County Barbershop Chorus perform "O, Holy Night" during their 38th Annual Christmas Benefit Concert Sunday at the Wesley United Methodist Church on Dec. 8, 2013. Money donated at the concert went to support the Charleston Area Churches Food Pantry and H.O.P.E. of East Central Illinois.

1970 by the former Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber-shop Quartet Singing in America.

"The society was formed around 1938, and at that time everybody was using acronyms," Woodall said. "It was kind of a spoof by some guys that decided they wanted to sing. It was just a joke."

The society was known as the SPEBS-QSA until about four years ago when they decided to change their name to the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Up until a short time ago, Woodall

was the director then his son, Tim, started helping him direct. "My son started singing with us when he was 12," said Woodall. "We both have been singing judges in the Barbershop Harmony Society, so we've traveled all over the country judging contests. He brings a great knowledge."

The co-directors have both received the Award for Barbershop Excellence from the Barbershop Harmony Society, which makes them the only father and son to both receive the award since it began in 1960.

The non-profit group is made up of men from the area. According to Tom Woodall, they are always looking for "men of good character" to join.

"We want good guys that we can count on," said Woodall.

Performances can be scheduled for \$35 by visiting the barbershop chorus' website or by calling Les Heath at 217-549-8715.

Kylie Dawkins can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk.com.

Class to teach pet emergency preparedness

By Taylor Steward
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

A pet emergency preparedness class will be available through the Charleston Parks and Recreation Department from 6-8 p.m. March 4 in the City Hall basement.

Recreation supervisor Kim Wargo said the goal of the class is to prepare pet owners in case there is an emergency with their pet and address how to handle such a situation safely.

Valerie Goodwin, a local Red Cross representative, said pets frequently get left out when people prepare for an emergency.

"We want people to feel safe in the event that anything does happen," Goodwin said. "Our goal is to make sure that your pets are included in your

emergency plans."

Goodwin also said the other primary goal of the class is to offer a sense of security to people who are uncertain about how to care for their pets in an emergency.

Christina Miller, a worker for Red Cross, will be leading the emergency preparedness classes. It will be a basic rundown of pet safety. The class will offer lessons in pet evacuation safety and what sort of supplies should go into an emergency safety kit for a pet.

Taylor Steward can be reached at 581-2812 or at tasteward2@eiu.edu.

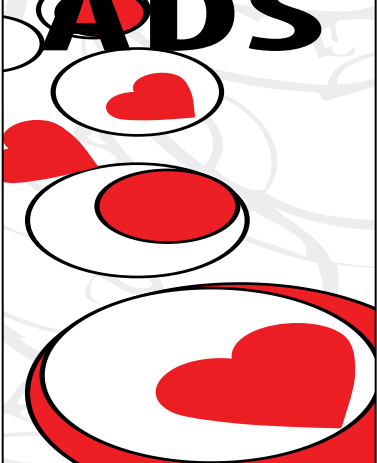
For the in-depth version of this article go to: dailyeasternnews.com



KATIE SMITH | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

A pet emergency class will take place from 6-8 p.m. March 4 in the City Hall basement. The session also plans on addressing other pet remedies such as assembling emergency kits.

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CALENDER

Monday Feb. 17th

• **Ressurrection: The Politics of 2Pac**
Hosted by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
Phipps Lecture Hall of Physical Science Building | 6:11 p.m.

Tuesday Feb. 18th

• **“Active Centralized Empowerment: Are you Ready to Be FREE”**
Presented by Dr. Janice Collins
Lumpkin Auditorium room 2030 | 7 p.m.

Wednesday Feb. 19th

• **Ladysmoth Black Mambazo**
All seats \$20 plus pre-show film
Dvorak Concert Hall | 7:30 p.m.

Thursday Feb. 20th

• **The Willie Lynch Letters**
S.T.R.O.N.G MENtoring with Dr. Derrick Brooms
Phipps Lecture Hall of Physical Science Building | 7 p.m.

Friday Feb. 21st

• **Greek Stroll-Off**
Hosted by Phi Rho Eta Fraterniy
McAfee Gym | 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Feb. 22nd

• **43rd Annual Ms. Black EIU Pageant**
Grand Ballroom of University Union | 6 p.m.

Sunday Feb. 23rd

• **2014 Annual AAHM Gospel Celebration**
Presented by Unity Gospel Choir
Grand Ballroom of University Union | 7 p.m.

Monday Feb. 24th

• **It Takes A Village**
Hosted by Africana Studies Student Association (SANKOFA)
Coleman Lecture Hall Room 1255 | 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday Feb. 25th

• **Black Girls Rock: “Because I Am A Queen”**
Hosted by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
7th Street Underground | 7:20 p.m.

Wednesday Feb. 26th

• **Trayvon Martin Tribute (Wear hoodie)**
Hosted by Black Student Union
Coleman Hall | 11 a.m. -3 p.m.

• **UnVALE-ing the Truth: Does Racial Profiling Still Exist?**
Movie (Fruitvale Station) and Forum
Hosted by Black Student Union
Phipps Lecture Hall of Physical Science Building | 6 - 9 p.m.

Thursday Feb. 27th

• **2014 ICBHE Conference - “A Commitment to Insitutional Change: African American Success in Higher Education”**
Registration Cost - Minority Affairs website
3rd floor University Union | 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

• **“Black Faces in the Classroom”**
Presented by Minority Teachers Education Association
Coleman Lecture Hall Room 1255 | 5 - 6 p.m.

• **A Celebration of African-American Music**
Featuring the Kazual (Acapella Group)
Presented by University Board
Grand Ballroom of University Union | 7 p.m.

Friday Feb. 28th

• **Univeristy Board Presents: Comedian Calise Hawkins (MTV’s Girl Code)**
Dvorak Concert Hall in Doudna | 7 p.m.

GRAPHIC BY EMILY PROVANCE

Orchestra to honor Copland

Staff Report

To kick off its first concert of the year, the Eastern Symphony Orchestra will be paying tribute to the American composer Aaron Copland. “Rodeo” will be at 4 p.m. Sunday

in the Dvorak Concert Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Originally scored as a “cowboy ballet,” Copland wrote the score for the Ballets Russe de Monte Carlo. Rebecca Johnson, a music professor, will be featured in the perfor-

mance of CPE Bach’s Concerto in D Minor. The Chamber Orchestra will also join the Eastern Symphony Orchestra, with both being conducted by Richard Rossi, a music professor. Dan Crews, the director of patron

services, said the ballet was originally written in 1942, and is one of Copland’s signature compositions. Tickets for the performance are \$12 for general audience members, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students.

BLOTTER

Assault, burglary in residence halls

- An assault was reported at 4:34 p.m. Monday in Stevenson Hall. This incident was referred to the Office of Student Standards.
- A residential burglary was reported at 8:51 p.m. Monday in Lincoln Hall. This incident is under investigation.

CORRECTION


The caption of the photo “Students address intolerance issues,” in Wednesday’s issue of *The Daily Eastern News*, should have read that Jeniece Mitchell said it was her previous job. *The News* regrets the error.

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Dvorak Concert Hall All Seats \$20

Box Office Information
For reservations or information, call 217.581.3110, email doudnatix@eiu.edu
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STAFF EDITORIAL

Celebrate how you want to

If Valentine’s Day isn’t for you – the cards, the baby’s breath, the poorly thought out ganache fillings disguised as milk chocolate – if the high yet entirely predictable expectations of this day are too extravagant or simply too formulated for your taste, you’re probably not alone.

Valentine’s Day generates just about every conventional idea of romance and imposes it on a demographic whose regular wardrobe consists of North Face jackets and bar crawl T-shirts. The implication that for one day, those very people will be inspired to unharass their deepest and uninhibited romantic feelings seems too contrived. Unless someone would regularly place a single rose on their partner’s pillow case, then make a quiet escape while trailing rose petals behind them to a candle-lit Jacuzzi, the whole notion is perhaps too “Hollywood” for this day and age.

It feels rare to hear a story about college-aged students in 2014 meeting one another through a series of cordial dates.

Romance isn’t dying, but it is safe to say that it is becoming more contextual.

Young couples shouldn’t feel stress because of the pressure put on them to behave romantically.

Valentine’s Day should be about celebrating the unique subtleties in your relationship that catch you off guard every day. Few romances compare to those portrayed in feel-good movies, but that isn’t to say the same sentiments don’t prevail.

If Opeth’s “Face of Melinda” is your modern-day “Lovin’ You,” then your plans should be as unique as your tastes in love songs, the way you met or how you would traditionally spend your time together.

For some, love really is rose petals, diamonds and pendants. For others it is a comfortable silence and the reflected glow of a movie you’ve both seen 20 times.

Neither is indicative of a doomed relationship or an inevitable unhappiness.

Whether or not you will be celebrating Valentine’s Day and regardless of how you do so, there is little to no significance in how your plans compare to someone else’s.

If your situation lands you the role of a Romeo or a Juliet, an Ellen or a Portia, or a Sally Albright or Harry Burns, make sure your story is one that won’t be duplicated so easily.

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

Write a letter to the editor

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

Editorial Board

Editor in Chief
Dominic Renzetti

When will it be enough?



JOSH WILLIAMS | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Valentine’s Day is just another day

At first when I heard that we did not have school on Friday, I thought the inevitable happened.

I thought that Valentine’s Day finally became relevant enough to be a holiday where school is canceled. Once I saw that it was really because of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, I could take a breath.

It really must be so convenient that Valentine’s Day is on, not just a Friday, but a day that we have no school. That means that you can look into your selective Valentine of choice’s eyes the whole day while all the single ladies out there can watch The Kardashians as they eat ice cream, convincing themselves that the only reason they are single is because they are not rich and pretty enough.

First of all, all you criers out there just need to stop because I could almost guarantee that you have at least shelved up one potential match in the friend zone for eternity.

While that guy is option number 17 on a good day, the rest of the world is looking for some big gift to give to their Valentine.

I have no idea how many times I have been asked what I have gotten my girlfriend for Valentines Day.



Kyle Daubs

Yes, I do in fact have a girlfriend, so guys there is in fact hope for all of you out there. For the first time, I am not forever alone on the love holiday. She’s been putting up with my shenanigans this long, so I’m keeping my fingers crossed.

I mean she has to stay with me at least another week because we have all ready purchased the gifts, right?

In all seriousness, I am really lucking out, and I’m not afraid to admit that, but I’m not dashing out the fine jewelry for Valentines day. Sorry babe, but the only ring you will be receiving is from those dispensers from WalMart.

There is no reason for any of you girls who have been dating your man for two weeks to

expect a colossal of gifts either. Are you kidding me?

The better question is for the guys that actually do it.

Valentine’s Day is the one day where we are supposed to recognize love, romance, and all that stuff that makes us want to throw up in our mouths a little bit.

The thing is that I do not need a specific day to show how lucky I am to have someone in my life. As she is now puking in her mouth reading this, as you all are now, the point still stands.

Every day, you should show how much you care.

I am not saying to completely disregard the day because that would be blasphemy, and you have a very likely chance of sleeping on the couch Friday night.

It’s the way you act that defines the relationship.

Candy hearts that say “you’re beautiful” only get you so far.

Kyle Daubs is a special education major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

The ‘so’ in the new age relationships

A few weeks ago, I saw the film “That Awkward Moment” with Zac Efron and Imogen Poots. The bro-mantic comedy masquerading as a chick flick had one thing really going for it: the concept of “The So...”. This is the moment of clarity before making any brash decisions regarding relationships, a moment of self-reflection. As I started mulling over the concept, I started to remember some choice words from former girlfriends of mine:

“So... I don’t think this is going to work out.” “So... Do you even care about me?” “So... what? It’s just over?” “So... is this going somewhere?” “So... I think I’m falling for you.”

“The So...” has always been there in every relationship. It is the tipping point between a hook up, steady dating, or the last straw in an inevitable break up. Let’s be honest; nothing good ever comes from conversations starting with “the So...”.

Older people (anyone born before the 1980s) sometimes wax poetic about how our generation isn’t as romantic or responsive to relationships because of our millennial generation’s sexual liberation. Our preference for hook ups, one night stands, and friends with benefits have become mainstream. It’s part of our cul-



Sean Copeland

ture, and can be attributed to any multitude of social problems or issues, particularly our undying lust.

But the real reason is slightly more complicated, isn’t it? I’m no stranger to “the So...”, I’ve said it to girls, girls have said it back to me. It’s a never-ending cycle of confusion. The best case scenario, holy crap; you found your soulmate! She likes all the same things as you and yet there’s still so much you don’t know about each other, it’s exciting. Who knows? Maybe in a few years instead of scrolling through all the marriage and engagement notices on your Facebook wall, you’ll be getting married yourself!

Except, you won’t. Because the truth is “the So...” is actually a metaphor for our inability to commit, and our failure to connect with some-

one on that level. I have had three serious relationships in my entire college career, and every single one of them has started and ended with “the So...”. I think our generation realizes that to some extent, commitment is the death of our passion.

I don’t feel the need to be in a relationship for one really crappy, commercial holiday, made up to sell candy, cards, and condoms. I don’t want to be defined by any one thing, especially a relationship. I don’t want to feel tied to the proverbial ball and chain. I like who I am, I don’t need a co-pilot second-guessing my trajectory in life.

So, we should all speak plainly. So, I can’t be in a relationship with you, girl-I-just-met. So, I can’t be in a relationship with you, sexy, but legitimately crazy girl. I can’t be a dependable guy on which to hang all of your sorrows and disappointments. So, don’t ask me what I think about when I’m trying to sleep at three in the morning. So, when you say I love you, be prepared for the answer, “I know.”

Sean Copeland is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or denopinions@gmail.com.

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Council to review proposals from various departments

By Jack Cruikshank
Administration Editor | @JackCruik

The Council on Academic Affairs members will vote on 14 different proposals from the applied engineering and technology, elementary education, health studies, adult education and kinesiology on Thursday.

The meeting will take place 3 p.m. Thursday in the 1985 Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

There were originally 29 items to be added to the agenda for this meeting; however, the council decided to break up the proposal and review them over the next two meetings.

The proposal within the applied engineering and technology department will revise the majors, minors and concentrations.

If approved, the revisions will amend the number of credits a major will be required to take within a certain sub-category of the major.

In addition, the change eliminates certain concentrations, while instead allowing a student to adopt a “focus area of study” based on certain classes the student takes.

The council will hear requests for two new courses, one from elementary education and one from the health studies program.

The first course, ELE/MLE

4855, Exploring ESL Students through Clinical Experiences, will be part of the requirement for attaining a graduate certificate in English as a Second Language or the master’s degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in ESL Instruction.

The new health studies course, HST 4830, “will focus on theoretical and empirical approaches to understanding humor from a holistic health perspective,” according to the course proposal.

The council members will also hear a proposal to amend the Adult Education minor to allow a student to complete the minor with 18 credits as opposed to the current 19.

The council will then hear proposals to amend nine courses within the kinesiology and sports studies program.

The CAA will hear the remaining 13 amendments to the kinesiology and sports science program in a future meeting.

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



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

» VODOO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For Thursday’s show Brauer said she is performing as Marv, a hopeful, dancing extraordinaire, and a hipster who is upset she does not have anyone to love.

Brauer said this would be the first show with the group’s new executive board and they are looking to expand to a larger audience.

Stamper said they are hoping to make the organization more professional.

“We’d like it to be a standard here at Eastern for sketch comedy,” he said.

Seth Schroeder can be reached at 581-2812 or scschroeder2@eiu.edu.



SETH SCHROEDER | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Alexander Jack-Haines Stamper, a cast member of the comedy group Lunchbox Voodoo, reaches to help up Lindsey Finchum, president of Lunchbox Voodoo, after another cast member shocked her nose and knocked her over. The cast was rehearsing a parody version of “The Dating Game,” but Finchum’s fall was not part of the script. The entire cast of Lunchbox Voodoo will perform 7 p.m. Thursday in the Black Box of The Doudna Fine Arts Center.

» VALENTINE’S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some couples like Jacob Deters, a first year graduate student, and his boyfriend Jaime Escatel, a sophomore music education major, who have been dating for nine months are doing something different and staying in this Valentine’s Day.

Deters said they are not exchanging gifts this year. The reason why is not because of the expense, but because they both don’t really like the holiday and see it as a too commercialized.

Jacob said it’s a great day to spend quality time with each other and enjoy the company of his loved one. Jacob also said how making dinner seems like a better alternative than going out to

packed restaurants during this holiday.

Allison Wilber, an Eastern alumna, said she believes the amount of money spent on a boyfriend or girlfriend depends on how long the couple has been together.

However, she said she is currently going the extra mile this year by starting Valentine’s Day early.

Wilber also said people use social media and other websites for Valentine’s Day ideas.

Other couples are continuing ongoing traditions with this upcoming Valentine’s Day approaching.

Although there are many people who plan on enjoying the holiday with that

special someone, there are also some who enjoy the holiday with a different twist.

Gracie Hohlbauch, a junior music education major, along with some close friends celebrate every Valentine’s Day with a “forever alone party.” They celebrate by eating baked cupcakes, junk food, doing each other’s nails and watching cheesy romantic comedies the whole night in celebration of the holiday. Hohlbauch said it’s a great, positive alternative to just sitting home alone.

Blake Warman can be reached at 581-2812 or brwarman@eiu.edu.

RSO Visitation Initiative to replace SOC

By Jarad Jarmon
Associate News Editor | @JJarmonReporter

Student Senate reviewed the new Registered Student Organization Visitation Initiative, which will replace the Student Organization Cabinet system.

Darnell Tyms, the student vice president for Student Affairs, explained the new system, to be enacted from February forward, at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday.

Tyms said he had problems with the cabinet and how it was set-up, adding it was difficult to get RSO’s members to attend the meetings.

“We are going to go to them rather than having these (SOC) meetings with the RSOs,” Tyms said.

In this initiative, senate members must attend two RSO meetings or events every month. They must attend meetings from a minimum of four RSOs of different constituents each semester. Tyms said senate members should be going to very different RSOs.

“All of those RSO must be of different constituents that meaning, academic, social service, honorary, multicultural, political and religious,” Tyms said. “Reason being, I want (senate members) to broaden your horizon.”

The senate members will not be assigned to any specific RSO and more than one senator can visit one, but there will be a tally sheet keeping track of how many visits were made to each RSO.

Tyms said he will probably put a provision in the bylaw change, which will be presented to the senate at the next meeting, limiting the amount of visits allotted to each organization. He said he wants to make sure a wide range is represented.

Student Body President Kaylia Eskew also presented the 2015 fiscal year budget request, which she will propose

the apportionment board at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, to the senate to make sure they know what she is requesting.

Eskew will be requesting the same amount of money received last year, \$43,735. While she has not factored in any cuts, she has rearranged the budget to be more organized and efficient. Instead of the committee chairmen taking money from the “Other Contractual” line item, the will instead have a specific amount of money budgeted each semester.

Eskew said she hopes this might en-

courage the committees to co-sponsor with other committees and organizations.

She has also removed the webmaster and public relations and marketing positions and replaced them with one singular position, Social Media Marketer.

The senate will meet again at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Arcola-Tuscola Room in the Union.

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

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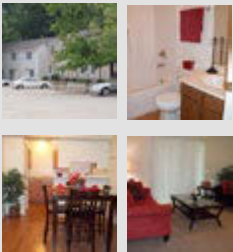
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Senior outfielder Morgan Biel prepares for a pitch in a game on Sept. 27, 2013 at Williams Field. The Panthers swept Danville Area Community in both games 5-2 and 4-0. **JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS**

Eastern travels to play in Mardi Gras Classic

By Kaz Darzinskis
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

While Williams Field remains covered in snow the Eastern softball team will be traveling to Monroe, La., to play in the Mardi Gras Classic, which has the Panthers playing five games in three days.

Eastern senior pitcher Hanna Mennenga said traveling as much as the Panthers have to do early in the season is not difficult.

“I think we have had some pretty fun bus rides within the last few years,” she said. “I wouldn’t say it’s hard to be away from home.”

Eastern coach Angie Nicholson said the Panthers had a solid performance overall during their five-game weekend tournament in Rosemont that ended Sunday. Offensively, Eastern averaged five runs per game in its season-opening weekend, finishing at 2-3.

“I thought our hitting was stronger than I expected,” she said. “We put the ball in play hard and that was nice to see. We ran the bases very well and aggressively. Our defense also did a nice job.”

In the Panthers’ two wins over IUPUI, they scored a combined 17 runs.

However, the Panthers’ pitching was not at its best. Mennenga, who had an Ohio Valley Conference best 1.32 ERA last season, appeared in three games in Rosemont, starting one and allowed 11 runs (nine earned) resulting in a 6.10 ERA.

Also, Mennenga had two strikeouts and two walks in her three appearances during the weekend, following a 2013 season, when she had five times the strikeouts as she did walks.

Entering the Mardi Gras Class, the focus has shifted to improving the pitching, Nicholson said.

“Our focus this week will be our

pitching and trying to get ahead in the counts and working more efficiently,” she said. “I am also looking to see a lot more energy from start to finish.”

Eastern’s weekend in Louisiana will feature two games against the host Louisiana-Monroe, two games against Grambling State and finally will close out the trip against Houston Baptist.

Nicholson said she simply wants to see better play from Eastern, beginning Friday.

“At the end of the day it’s not about who we face it’s about how we play,” Nicholson said. “I am just hop-

ing we play to our ability and see the improvements that we need to see.”

Eastern will play back-to-back double-headers on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

First, the Panthers start at 5:30 p.m. Friday against Louisiana-Monroe, followed by a 7:30 p.m. start against Grambling State. Saturday’s games start at the same times against the same teams.

Eastern finishes the trip at 10 a.m. Sunday against Houston Baptist.

Kaz Darzinskis can be reached at 581-2812 or kcdarzinskis@eiu.edu.

Panthers hit road once again against Purple Aces

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The Eastern women’s team is off to its best start since 2008.

At 3-0, with wins against Illinois State, Saint Francis and Southern Illinois-Carbondale, the women have an opportunity to match their best start to a season in six years, as they travel to Evansville to play the Purple Aces on Friday.

Following a sweep of Saint Francis on Feb. 2, Eastern defeated Southern for the first time in program history with a 4-3 win.

Although the Panthers are on a three-match winning streak, East-

ern coach John Blackburn said there is room for improvement.

“As a team we played well in some big spots (Friday), but I see so much room for improvement, which is exciting but also a challenge for us,” Blackburn said in a press release.

Eastern’s opponent Friday, in Evansville, has started in the opposite direction.

The Purple Aces have faced Middle Tennessee-Tennessee, Lipscomb, Chattanooga and Louisville this season, losing all four matches.

Evansville suffered 4-3 losses against Middle-Tennessee and Lipscomb to start its season, but has

lost 7-0 and 6-1, to Chattanooga and Louisville, respectively.

Last season, Eastern began the year playing Evansville, defeating the Purple Aces 4-3.

The Eastern men’s tennis team has a chance to win its second straight match after its 9-0 win against Saint Francis on Sunday.

The men are 2-2 on the season and have a 1 p.m. scheduled start time against Dayton on Sunday.

Prior to its win against Saint Francis, Eastern lost 6-1 the previous day against Ball State.

Men’s tennis coach Eric Stark said the team had chances to win doubles matches against Ball State.

Eastern won one doubles match against the Cardinals, but lost the other two by scores of 8-5 and 8-7, respectively.

Sunday’s match against Dayton pits the Panthers against a 1-4 team.

The Flyers began their season losing three straight matches before a 4-1 win against Chicago State on Feb. 8.

Dayton then played Valparaiso Sunday and lost 5-0.

Eastern has played two matches in its last two weekends, but will only have its one match against Dayton Sunday.

The Flyers on the other hand

will play Toledo on the road Friday before taking on the Panthers.

While the projected temperatures are expected to be 29 and 37 degrees in Dayton, Ohio and Evansville, Ind., respectively, Eastern will avoid the temperatures playing indoors.

The women’s team starts at 7 p.m. Friday in the Tri-State Athletic Club and the men’s team will begin their play at 1 p.m. Sunday in the Five Seasons Tennis Center.

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

» BASEBALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

“These are the key things that we are saying and if we do that this weekend we’ll have a chance of succeeding, but if we don’t my guys know my speech,” he said. “It doesn’t matter who you play if you don’t do that you don’t have a good chance of winning.”

Schmitz said that following the game plan would let him know how his team responds to pressure.

“It’s so easy to get away from

your game plan, so I want to see how quickly we respond to pressure will say how good we are,” he said. “If we get away from our game plan then that says that the team doesn’t feel strong about it.”

Eastern’s first game starts at 6 p.m. Friday in Lafayette, La.

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

» ROAD STRETCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The Governors pummeled the Panthers for 36 points in the paint — more than half of Aunstin Peay’s points and the second most Eastern has surrendered all season.

Forwards Chris Horton and Will Triggs combined for 28 points on 11-of-19 shooting with 15 rebounds for Austin Peay.

Horton and Triggs are two of three Governors who average double-digit points this season with 13.8 and 12.5 points per game, respectively. Horton

also averages 10 rebounds per game while Triggs is averaging 5.4.

The third Governor to average in double figures is guard Travis Betran, who scores 13.4 points per game.

Betran shot 3-of-9 from 3-point range in an 11-point scoring effort earlier this season against the Panthers. Two of Betran’s 3-pointers came late in the second half to tie the game for the Governors.

“He’s a good outside shooter who is able to weaken the defense at the basket

because he requires more attention on the perimeter,” Spoonhour said.

The double threat of Horton and Triggs inside and Betran from the perimeter allowed the Governors to run their offense “too well” the first time the two teams played this season.

The Governors will host the Panthers at 7 p.m. Thursday in Clarksville, Tenn.

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



DOMINIC BAIMA | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Reggie Smith, a red-shirt junior guard drives the ball in Saturday's game against Southeast Missouri at Lantz Arena. The Panthers lost to the Redhawks 68 - 74. The Panthers will take on the first of its final four Ohio Valley Conference games against Austin Peay at 7 p.m. Thursday in Clarksville, Tenn.

Eastern begins road stretch

By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

The Eastern men's basketball team starts the first of its final four Ohio Valley Conference games Thursday.

Eastern, 6-6 in the OVC, begins with Austin Peay, 4-6 in the OVC, before visiting both Murray State and Belmont, which have a combined 19-4 conference record.

"We don't look at it as a group of games, even though it's pretty obvious that's what it is," said Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour. "If

you look at it as a group, then you forget about just the one game."

Coaches are allowed to look at a group of games. But as for his players, Spoonhour said he wants to simplify it even more than one game at a time.

"It's too hard to even think about one game," Spoonhour said. "They need to break it down to two or three possessions a game and try to string a run together."

Spoonhour said he doesn't hold Thursday's game at Austin Peay of any more importance because it is against an easier op-

ponent.

"Every game is worth the same amount of wins," he said.

Just like the Panthers' recorded one win against Austin Peay six games ago, 67-64, on Jan. 18 at Lantz Arena, where Spoonhour learned firsthand the troubles the Governors can cause in the paint.

"They did the best job of anyone against us just ripping us inside at the basket," Spoonhour said.

ROAD STRETCH, page 7

Panthers to clash with Ragin' Cajuns

By Aldo Soto
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The 2013-14 winter has been the worst during Eastern baseball coach Jim Schmitz's 20 years in Charleston.

Since the fall, practices and scrimmages have been strictly exercised in the Lantz Fieldhouse, giving the Panthers' outfield, which features three players that have never played next to each other, no time to practice outdoors.

On Friday, Eastern begins its season on the road, playing four games against No. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette.

Schmitz said although Eastern has the disadvantage of having to practice inside, while the Ragin' Cajuns have the luxury of playing in the South, where they can practice outside, the Panthers do not view the first series of the season as unfair.

"Is it fair that we're going down South," Schmitz said. "It's fair because we open up on the same day. It was unfair when we would open up against Arkansas and they would be 5-1 and we're 0-0. That's unfair."

Louisiana-Lafayette enters the season ranked No. 14 by Baseball America.

It also has a No. 24 ranking by the College Baseball Writers of America.

Last season, the Ragin' Cajuns finished with the fourth best run total at 478, which was an average of 7.6 per game.

They also have right-handed pitcher Austin Robichaux back this season as a junior, following a 9-2 season, where he had a 3.02 ERA in 16 starts with a WHIP of 1.08.

Schmitz said it would be a challenge for the Eastern pitching staff, but that it will be ready for potent Louisiana-Lafayette offense.

"They're going to score a lot of runs and we have a good pitching staff, so I think it's going to be a good test," Schmitz said.

Part of Eastern's pitching staff includes two returning starters in Troy Barton and Christian Slazinik.

Both pitchers essentially missed all of last season, as Barton had Tommy John surgery four days before the start of the season, while Slazinik threw one pitch in Eastern's fourth game of the season — his last of 2013.

Schmitz said Barton has made great progress from the surgery, having no setbacks since the surgery last year to his elbow.

On Monday, Schmitz said Barton did suffer a minor incident during one of the weekends, when he slipped on the mound causing a spasm in his back. Barton is still scheduled to start as of Wednesday, but Schmitz said he would be cautious with the situation.

"I told him that we're going to be cautious because he has pitched outstanding, so sometimes when your knee or ankle or something isn't feeling well you tend to compensate, which could put stress on the arm," he said.

During Barton's first three starts, he will be limited to around 75 pitches, Schmitz said, in preparation to the Ohio Valley Conference portion of the Eastern schedule.

While the pitching is the strongest aspect for Eastern, Schmitz said, the four-game series in Louisiana would be a strong barometer to see how well the Panther hitters follow the game plan.

Schmitz said he and the rest of the coaching staff have stressed all offseason that batters have to avoid taking fastballs with runners in scoring position and not taking fastballs with two strikes, while also focusing on running hard on the bases.

BASEBALL, page 7