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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TENT CITY TO HIGHLIGHT HOMECOMING '95

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University has added a new twist to Homecoming weekend activities Oct. 27-29.

An "Alumni Tent City" will be raised from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the campus pond south of Lantz building.

Alumni, students, members of the university community and the public are invited to visit the tents representing academic departments in Eastern's four colleges, the School of Adult and Continuing Education, the Masters in Business Administration Program and Military Science.

"Tent City" will replace the departmental coffee hours held in Old Main and the University Union in past years.

Char Anderson, assistant director of alumni relations, said the alumni office wanted to try something new this year. "We envisioned a tent city alumni reunion as something particularly appealing to families. An event at the campus pond also is closer to O'Brien Stadium where the Homecoming game against Illinois State University will be played. We hope to attract students and community members, as

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well as alumni," Anderson said.

Anderson said about a dozen tents will be set up near the campus pond. The EIU Panther mascot will welcome visitors and lead them to the departmental tents, as well as those of the EIU Alumni Association and the president's office. The University Union bookstore will sell EIU memorabilia. Alumni relations staff will make a current EIU alumni directory available to those wishing to locate fellow classmates.

"The departments have flexibility in setting up their tents. Some may have informational items, such as brochures or catalogs, while others may have displays or food give-aways. We want them to be creative," Anderson said.

About a half dozen food booths will be set up and music will be provided.

"'Tent City' is designed for alumni who want to visit with former faculty and friends and for students and the community-at-large to see what Eastern has to offer, while enjoying good food and entertainment," Anderson said.

"We invite people going to the Homecoming parade on Saturday morning to come by 'Tent City' when the parade is over. They can come-and-go as they please or stay until the football game begins at 2 p.m. We just want people to come out and have a good time," Anderson added.

If "Tent City" is a success, Anderson said it could become an annual event at Homecoming.