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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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OCT 26 1989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AREA STUDENT WITH "MARCHING PANTHERS"

CHARLESTON, IL--Denise Bedrosian, whose mother Joanne Bedrosian lives in Palatine, is a proud member of Eastern Illinois University's Panther Marching Band. The freshman Music Education major plays the flute for the band.

There are 153 Eastern Students who devote five hours a week to march rehearsal and two hours a week to music rehearsal to bring music and spirit to Eastern's football games, as well as other sporting events and campus activities. Band Director Tom Brawner said he is proud of their hard work to bring entertainment and excitement to Eastern.

Brawner said Eastern's band performs a different half-time show every football game instead of the same show every week. "This takes a great deal of effort, but results in a show that we have a great deal of pride in."

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The band members also have to memorize their music and do not use published music, only arranged. Brawner said he writes about a third of what they use. Al Horney, head of Eastern's Jazz Studies, writes a third, and Brawner receives a third from various sources.

"By using arranged music, the band gets a more distinctive and authentic sound. This is more educational and entertaining, and is a challenge for students to perform different music and drills each week," Brawner said.

The band does not just perform on Eastern's football field but have played for the opening day game at the Chicago Bears Football Team at Chicago's Soldier Field.

"This is a challenge for us. It makes us work hard because we perform in front of 65,000 people," said Brawner.

Eastern's Marching Band also hosts an annual high school band competition. All the members help with the competition which involves 25 area high school bands and give a performance at the end of the competition.

Eastern's band program gives students an opportunity to continue their music education they began in high school.