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Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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McNair Scholars program hires new director

Christina Torres-García draws from personal experience at Eastern for her latest role

BY AZARIA PODPLESKY
staff writer

An EWU student, Christina Torres-García, and now an EWU program director, proves that the TRiO and McNair Scholars programs are successful. A graduate of EWU and Washington State University, Torres-García became the Ronald E. McNair Scholars’ TRiO program director three weeks ago after her mentor, Karen McKinney, retired.

Torres-García was born in the town of Othello, Wash., to a Mexican immigrant family. When she was two years old, her family decided to return to Mexico, where they lived until she was 12. They then decided to settle in Pasco, Wash., where Torres-García now considers her hometown. Torres-García began attending Mc Loughlin Middle School and soon found that sixth grade was no problem for her.

“I told [my counselor] that it was not challenging at all, and I wanted to be, actually, in high school, ... so she provided some examinations for me to complete. I passed all of them except the English because of my inability to speak English at that particular point.” Torres-García’s counselor talked to the principal at Pasco High School, who decided that it would be too dangerous for her to attend because of her age. Once Torres-García finally reached high school, she began taking advanced courses and participating in several different clubs and organizations, such as art club and the Cinco de Mayo or-

ganization. She also played volleyball, just like she had in Mexico. During her sophomore year of high school, Torres-García attended a conference at Eastern. It was her experience at that conference that made her want to attend EWU after she graduated. Though her decision to attend Eastern shocked many of her extended family members, who thought she would attend community college with her brother, Torres-García said they eventually realized how driven she was to succeed. After beginning at EWU with what she said were “no study skills,” Torres-García was introduced to Academic

Support Services where she learned how to study and received guidance with her English classes. As a college sophomore, Sally Birch, with Academic Support Services, introduced Torres-García to McKinney, the McNair Scholars program director at the time. Soon after, Torres-García became a McNair scholar. “I just had to trust those two ladies,” said Torres-García. “I knew that they had the best interest for my life, and I followed their advice, and I am a product of this program. I am basically a walking testament of the benefits of

MCNAIR | PAGE 5



James Eik/Easterner

Jed Smock, above, was accompanied by a group of preachers, seeking to speak about the gospel. Although the visit was unannounced, a crowd quickly gathered to hear what was being said. The group’s members took time to meet one-on-one with students, some of whom had vocal dissents, and discuss their message.

Traveling evangelists preach to students

Surprise visit draws quick crowd, sparks strong reaction from students gathered to see spectacle

BY NICOLE ERICKSON
news editor

Jed Smock, known by friends as Brother Jed, stood in front of the PUB Tuesday afternoon to preach the “word of God.” Smock and his preachers, including daughter Martha Smock, who recently graduated high school, travel across the country to speak out against the sin they see on college campuses. “We are trying to get across the gospel and turn people from their sins and show that what they are doing is wrong,” said Martha. “[They are] having sex outside of marriage, lying, cheating, stealing, anything that is a sin that I am sure there are people out here doing.”

Smock brought along Sister Pat and Glenn Bledsoe, who both held signs, wore T-shirts with Bible verses and read from the Bible to strengthen the message they brought to campus. “[Smock] is demeaning about everything,” said freshman Caitlynn Brown. “None of them are saying anything about how God forgives us. They aren’t saying anything about how Jesus died on the cross for our sins so we can be forgiven.” Smock’s strong approach included calling females who partook in premarital sex “whores” and saying that “students need to turn away from all the sin and follow Christ.” He specified that the root of sin is selfishness, saying, “Drunkenness is a means to an ends, sex out of marriage, fornication,

is a means to an end. The end is self-indulgence.” Smock’s group was greeted with an anger that he said was expected, and he said he was asked by Dean of Students Al Thompson not to interact with students. “This dean of students says people who have done this before don’t interact with the students, but we are here to interact,” Smock said. Tom Barber, an EWU police officer, said that as long as Smock’s group didn’t interfere with the flow of traffic or create a safety hazard, they were free to be on campus. Administrators were unaware of the group’s campus visit. Thompson said, “They just came to campus. It’s a public university, and they were here.”

The group did not register their event, but Thompson said that registration is not required for visiting groups. In addition to preaching aloud to the student body, members of Smock’s group welcomed individual students to talk one-on-one and discuss the messages they had brought to campus. “The main reason we come here is to get the kids’ attention, but then we can talk one-on-one with them, and that’s the jewel. That’s worth the trip,” Sister Pat said. Jake Friend, a freshman on campus, took Sister Pat up on her offer and asked her to explain what their message meant for him. “She pretty

CHURCH | PAGE 5

New format for archives with aid from grant

Digital records will now be searchable online, open for student access

BY KRISTIE HSIN
senior reporter

The Orbis Cascade Alliance’s Northwest Digital Archives program received a total grant of \$137,756, allowing EWU libraries to reformat finding aids for archival collections in April. Finding aids, or documents containing detailed information about a specific collection, allow researchers from anywhere in the world to see what Eastern libraries own. Collected information will also be added to the Northwest Digital Archives. The Orbis Cascade Alliance is made up of academic libraries from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. As one of six institutions to participate in the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, EWU’s archives consist of items like photos from the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, the prominent Eastern history and women’s history in the Inland Northwest. The money does not go directly to EWU libraries, but to the Orbis Cascade Alliance, that will in turn help hire and train EWU staff members in reformatting the finding aids system using Encoded Archival Description. “[Northwest Digital Archives] is a web portal that allows libraries and other institutions with archival collections to put that information about their collection in one place so that researchers can find the collections more easily,” said Dr. Julie Miller, associate dean of libraries. Like all other archives, much of Eastern’s archives are not online, so having finding aids available online allows a student to determine if the information available is something they can use. According to EWU’s University Archivist Charles

LIBRARY | PAGE 5

Symposium presents in-depth student research

Dr. Grant Forsyth serves as keynote speaker for this year’s event

BY KRISTIE HSIN
senior reporter

Starting Tuesday, this year’s Student Research and Creative Works Symposium will present oral research and creative writing opportunities to students and faculty. Celebrating the 14th annual symposium, the two day event will focus on creative works from 135 faculty advisers and more than 400 student presenters representing disciplines from across campus. The event will also present 315 abstracts submitted by students. Represented disciplines include members from sociology, biology, chemistry and members from the creative board with music, art and more.

“Every discipline requires that you have to present or convey your research to your own community, and it’s an essential part of higher education and of the real world no matter what you go into,” coordinator Tiffany Fulkerson said. The first set of events held May 17 will surround creative works in the Art Building with registration tables opening at 4:30 p.m. Appetizers and refreshments will follow shortly after the events. Presentations will include art, visual communication design, music with film, music composition, theater presentations and creative writing pieces, and will take place from 5-9:10 p.m. “I have three projects entered in the symposium, each representing a

separate discipline,” said Tara Weldon, a post baccalaureate student. “I have submitted a communications presentation, a psychology presentation, as well as a poster, which represents a biology project.” Fulkerson said, “The ability to present one’s research to the community is essential in that aspect, and also, it’s just a great experience for people.” Wednesday’s agenda will include a welcoming speech given by keynote speaker Dr. Grant Forsyth, from the department of economics, addressing the Struggle for Research Success: Pushing the Rock of Sisyphus. This will be in Hargreaves 201 from 8-8:50 a.m.

SYMPOSIUM | PAGE 5

Sessions to see



THE
POLICE BEAT
JUST THE FACTS

May 8 - May 10

BY LAUREN JOHNSON
copy editor

Domestic Violence
5/8 11:37 a.m. – Police were called to a possible domestic violence incident. Officers heard a verbal argument at the Townhouse Apartments. A male and female were arguing, but it was only a verbal dispute.

Disorderly Conduct
5/8 12:00 p.m. – Dressler staff called police when a male was found trespassing for the second time. Police contacted the man and told him he needed to leave. He refused to

comply even after officers told him he would be removed. He resisted their efforts and police took him into custody for disorderly conduct.

Liquor Violation
5/10 1 a.m. – Officers came upon a group of people in possession of alcohol near the service roads by the Art Building. One person in the group was a minor and had half of a bottle of raspberry vodka in their possession. They failed the field sobriety test and were cited by police.



Comic by Blaine Mueller

Fire
5/8 9:55 a.m. – A fire burned in a trash bin near the loading dock behind Tawanka. The fire had an unknown cause, and there was no damage after it was put out.

Town meetings address campus climate survey

BY KYLE HARDING
staff writer

A series of town hall meetings are helping EWU administrators determine what things the university is doing right and what needs improvement.

The meetings are being conducted as a follow up to this year's campus climate survey. "The vice president of student affairs wanted as complete a picture as possible. The survey is just the beginning," Colin Ormsby, director of institutional research, demography and assessment, said. Ormsby said that a similar survey is currently being conducted with the faculty and staff.

The surveys garnered a 7 percent response from students aged 18-24 and 14 percent from those 25 and older. They were the first part in a 3-step approach by Ormsby and Director of Equal Opportunity Gayla Wright that aims to improve nearly every aspect of the university. The town hall meetings are the second step, while the final step will be Ormsby and Wright's report on the results of the survey and meetings, which will be presented to the board of trustees in October.

"Gayla and I will write up the results, and we may or may not be able to make recommendations," Ormsby said.

Wright said, "The survey showed Colin

and I that there things on campus we aren't doing so well, and things on campus we are doing well."

In the town hall meetings, Ormsby and Wright talk with students about topics including how well they think instructors teach classes, student and residential life, support services, financial aid and civility and courtesy on campus. Six town hall meetings were scheduled with the last one Wednesday at the Riverpoint campus at 4:30 p.m. So far, the meetings have been sparsely attended, with only about 10 students at the LLC lounge between Morrison and Streeter halls last Tuesday. The students there were showed positive attitudes about the survey and meetings.

"This was really helpful. It shows they're listening to us," sophomore Laura Glasgow said.

Junior Cody Thompson said, "I feel like if they are able to listen to our opinions and make changes, it will make a difference down the road."

The campus climate survey was the first of its kind conducted at EWU since 2004. According to Wright and Ormsby, it cost the university \$10,000 while the last one cost \$80,000.

"It's not about finding fault; it's about what makes us the best institution we can be," Ormsby said.

Student government needs another superior court justice

BY DYLAN COIL
senior reporter

The current Superior Court justices of the Associated Students of EWU (ASEWU) have resigned, and five new justices will be named in the coming weeks, followed by the appointment of a new chief justice.

The ASEWU Superior Court chief justice is picked out of the group of five associate justices and will be chosen when the new associate justices meet.

"All the associate justices get together and decide amongst themselves which one will be chief justice," ASEWU President Justin Terry said.

Each time a chief justice graduates, a couple of the remaining, and more qualified, associate justices members will announce their decisions to apply as chief justice. After a debate and discussion between all the Superior Court members, a chief justice will be named.

According to Terry, it is the responsibility of the chief justice to speak on behalf of the superior court. Whenever the Superior Court makes a decision, the chief justice must then report those decisions.

"[The chief justice] relays information. He is the face. He is the one who gives reports on what the court is doing. He's one who is held accountable," Terry said.

Because the associate justices have not been named, it is not yet known when the decision for chief justice will be made, but it will happen within the next three weeks, Terry said.

When the discussion takes place about which of the five recently hired associated justices will be placed in charge, current chief justice Jared Couch will facilitate the meeting.

According to Terry, the process of choosing a chief justice is similar to ASEWU staff positions that go through hiring committees.

Once the chief justice is named, the ASEWU Superior Court will be complete and ready to hear cases in the next academic year.

ACCURACY CHECK

- In the admissions article, the deadline for freshmen and transfer applications is Fall 2011, not Fall 2012 as reported.

- In the article about the soccer scrimmage, Danielle Grant was mentioned. There is no Danielle Grant on the soccer team.

- In the bin Laden article, Jarod Cutchin was reported as being in the Army Reserve. He is actually in the National Guard.

- In the bin Laden article, Ben Moree served in Iraq, not Matt Randall.

- In the graphic for the Visual Arguments exhibit the following corrections should be noted. The picture that has Laura Rafford's name on it, is actually Lynnette Tate. The picture with Taylor Fisher's name on it, is actually Kelly Lancaster. Plus, the picture with Kelly Lancaster name on it is actually Taylor Fisher.

- If you find any errors in your paper, please contact our news editor at easterner.news@gmail.com.

GREEN DOT SPOT

commentary by victim advocate Karen Wanjico

If you want to understand violence prevention, the socio-ecological model provides a good framework. The model looks at the causes and prevention of violence across four factors, the individual's life, their relationships, their community, and their society.

For many of us who are invested in the Green Dot strategy, we focus on identifying a red dot moment in order to spring into action and do our green dots. This is a reactive measure. It's like waiting for violence to happen before we do anything about it.

Proactive green dots are all the things we do to change our culture

instead of waiting for the minute we witness potential violence. Instead of waiting, we can use the socio-ecological model as our guide for creating change before the person become violent.

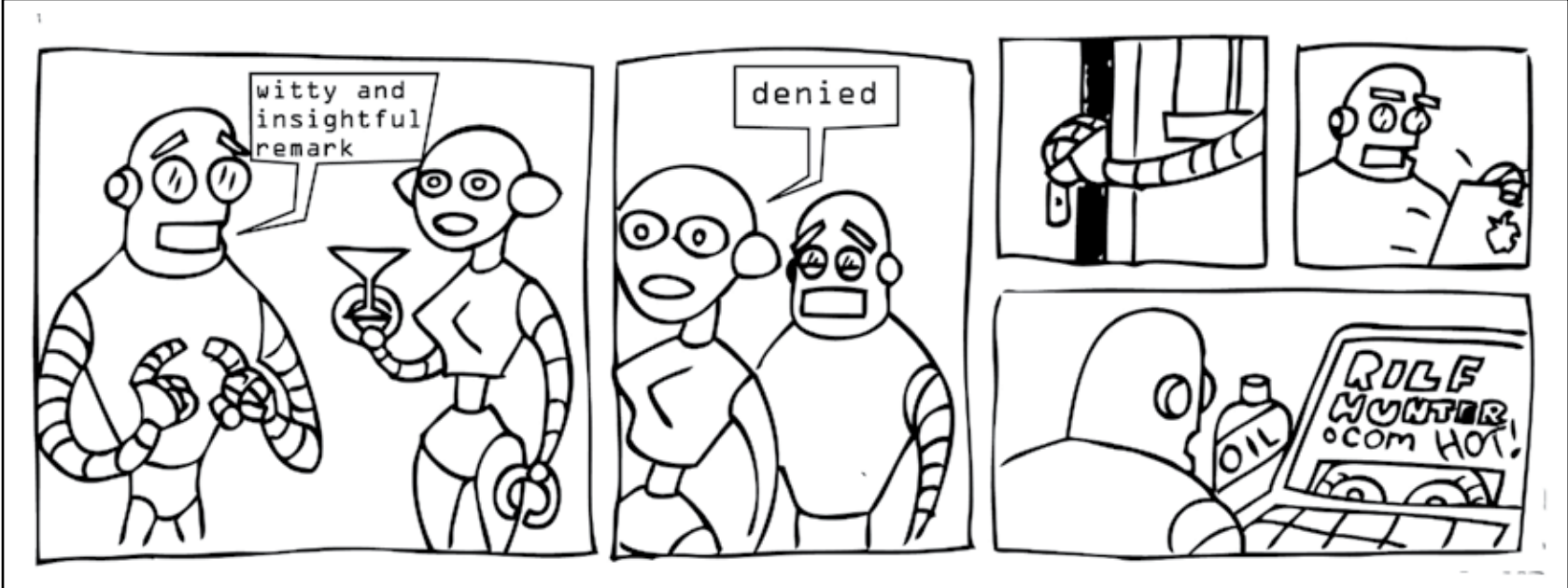
For example, the socio-ecological model would suggest that violence occurs in societies that accept violence as a means of solving disputes. To change society, we might work with little kids to teach them how to solve problems peacefully. We might stop financially supporting movies, music, or video games that objectify violence and/or demean women. We can ask our lawmakers to create laws that protect

vulnerable people and require prevention education.

Violence occurs where there is community unrest and people's needs are not met. The socio-ecological model says we can change our local communities. We can work to distribute goods equitably, to make sure resources are accessible, and to promote educational events that help us create more respectful neighborhoods. We might start asking our religious leaders to teach us how to solve problems peacefully and how to create healthy relationships. We can start grassroots organizations that teach respect. The

green dots we can do are unlimited.

We are asking you to start by learning about the causes of violence. Learn the relationship between lack of resources and increases in violence. Learn what contributes to a violent society. Learn why women are more often victims. Learn how boys and girls are socialized and how this contributes to women more often being the victims of violence. Once you know, you can use your voice to proactively do green dots that change the culture. For more on this topic, please visit the following website, http://www.edc.gov/ncipc/dvpl/social-ecological-model_DVP.htm



THE EASTERNER

Eastern Washington University's
Student Newspaper

WRITERS' MEETINGS:

The Easterner is open for any EWU student or faculty wishing to write stories that could be published in the newspaper.

Writers' meetings are Mondays at 3:30 p.m. in Isle Hall, room 102.

The newspaper is also open for anyone wishing to copy-edit. Editing nights are on Tuesdays.

NEWS LINE:

If you have an idea for a story, or are part of a campus club or organization that is holding an event, please call The Easterner tip line at (509) 359-6270.

Also, if you have a comment about a story or a suggestion for the newspaper, please feel free to voice your opinion on the tip line as well.

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All content in The Easterner is either produced or chosen by students from Eastern Washington University. Our goal as employees of The Easterner is to provide interesting and relevant information to the students, faculty, staff and residents of EWU and the surrounding community of Cheney and Spokane.

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NEWS

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COMMON SENSE



BY NICOLE ERICKSON
news editor

Dress code should address skimpy clothes

I spend roughly two hours a day, Monday through Friday, at the gym. The most disgusting, pathetic and annoying thing I witness there is people dressed in clothes that are too small, too tight or too skimpy.

Most of the perpetrators sport at least one of these four styles: short shorts, low cut shirts, sideways hats, way too cut-off shirts or simply inappropriate. None of these clothing items are appropriate, and there is no excuse for flaunting body parts while at the gym.

So please, take some consideration to the following and use some common sense next time the gym is your destination.

Short shorts

Daisy dukes should be saved for the beach or a nightclub, not a workout facility. The most disgusting thing about going to the gym is seeing girls wearing shorts so short they were probably bought in the lingerie section of some department store. Use a little common sense, ladies. If you are sitting down to do sit-ups or bending over to stretch and people can see more than your leg, it is not proper attire for the gym.

Low cut shirts

I feel pathetic even having to address something so ridiculous. Why on earth would anyone feel it is OK to wear a plunging V-neck to the gym? Cleavage may pick up a man, but it isn't something that should be flaunted at the gym. Put the twins away and focus on your workout.

Sideways hats

That's right gentlemen, you too seem to lack common sense in your gym attire by dressing as if you are a gangsta going to a fashion show. There is absolutely no reason to wear your best hat, turned sideways, to the gym to pick up ladies. Put the charm on hold for the duration of your workout and leave the hat at home.

Cut-off sleeves

I know that working out causes the body to get really hot and sweaty. However, it is completely unnecessary to cut the sleeves of your t-shirt off so low that the hole reaches the bottom of the hem. I have worn shirts to the gym with the sleeves cut off—though not quite as ridiculously cut off as these—and I was asked to change. Why aren't men asked to cover up a little too?

I want to clarify that this has absolutely nothing to do with a person's weight or appearance, and this is not a jealous attack against people who commit these faults. My problem is that I would like to enjoy a nice, intense workout without having to look at boobs and butts the entire time.

Ladies, put your pants away. Men, leave the stud-wear at home. Staff of the URC, please expand the dress code to include a clause regulating ridiculous and inappropriate attire.

The views expressed here do not directly reflect the views of The Easterner. The writer can be contacted at easterner.news@gmail.com.

Student affairs to bring back senior gift

Members of next year's ASEWU will be responsible for planning gift presentation for 2012 class

BY KYLE HARDING
staff writer

The tradition of a graduating class leaving behind a gift for the campus will most likely be returning to EWU next year.

"It's typical on campuses for a senior class to give a gift to the school," said Vice President of Student Affairs Stacey Morgan Foster. "It's a great way for students to leave something memorable behind."

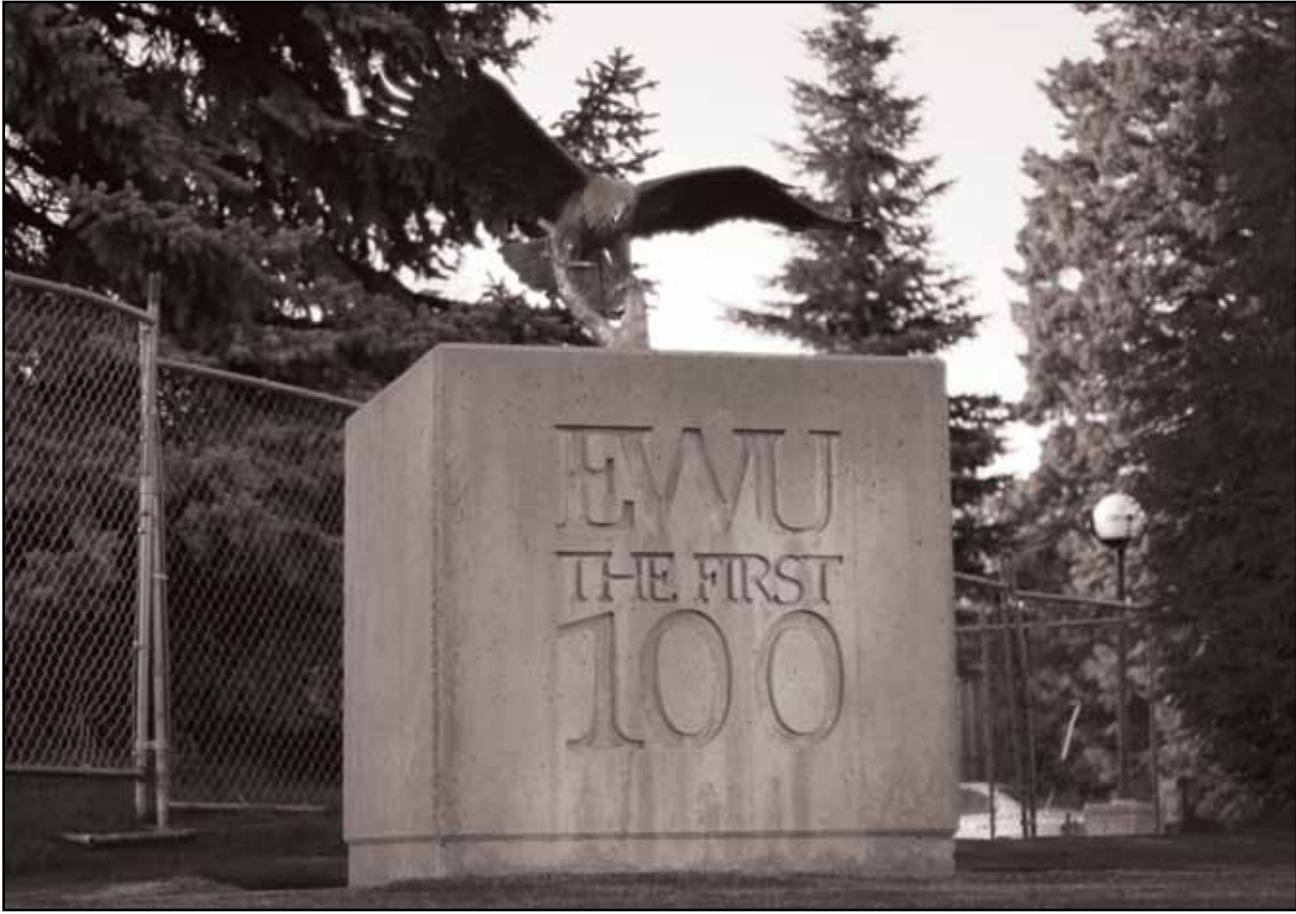
According to Associated Students of EWU (ASEWU) President Justin Terry, graduating seniors as well as others will be given the opportunity to donate to a fund that will be used to purchase a gift that will be given to the university in the name of the graduating class. ASEWU decided not to push for the class of 2011 to give a gift because they felt it was too late in the year to organize.

"Typically, how this would work, you would come up with an idea range," Terry said, explaining that organizers of the fundraiser would pick out different gift possibilities at three different price ranges. They would then purchase whichever gift corresponds with the amount of money raised. Tentative price ranges are listed at \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000.

"It's entirely up to the senior class how much they want to donate," Terry said.

For now, every ASEWU council member is tasked with coming up with ideas for gifts by looking at other universities.

One possibility Terry raised was that the gift could be combined between



One of the senior presents located in front of Monroe Hall.

Aaron Malmoe/Easterner

three or more graduating classes in order to purchase a more expensive gift.

According to a 2007 Easterner article by Simon McDowell, a class gift was first given at Eastern by the class of 1915, who donated The Herculean Pillars that stand in front of Showalter Hall. The tradition soon fell by the wayside until the graduating class of 2002

presented the campus with a bench that sits in front of the Cheney Normal School Heritage Center. Gifts were given for the next two years, but not in the years since.

One noteworthy gift given in the past is the statue of Sacajawea that stands in the lobby of Showalter Hall. Presented to Eastern by the class of

1916, the statue was replaced in 1960. The replacement statue was not popular among students and faculty and was stolen in 1997. The original was put back in place in 2001.

According to Terry, members of next year's ASEWU will start planning for next year's gift in their training period at the end of this year.

Banned Books Week at JFK Library this fall

Required by Congress, week-long showcase to expose varying views and controversies in multiple texts used at universities

BY RYAN BURKEY
columnist

It's months away, but the annual Banned Books Week is meant to serve as a reminder to students and staff that all information is not always accessible on campus.

Every September, the American Library Association and other groups celebrate Banned Books Week as a way to highlight academic freedom in the U.S. The week-long event often coincides with Constitution Day, held Sept. 17, each year. Congress requires libraries that receive federal funding to observe this holiday, which was established in 2004.

Both Banned Books Week and Constitution Day are recognized at EWU, where staff of the JFK Library acknowledge

the importance of free flowing information in academia.

"The freedom to read is fundamental to higher education," said Dr. Julie Miller, associate dean of libraries. "It's really important for us to offer multiple perspectives on a topic."

Miller, who has been at EWU for about six years, can't remember having any complaints about books at JFK. But she said at her previous job at a different institution, an old children's book was challenged for depicting an African-American child with monkey-like features.

Books with similarly controversial content are regularly opposed and marked for banning. "Almost 50 percent is parents," said Miller of all complaints. "And it comes from all over the political spectrum."

Miller added that more right-wing and religious groups opposing books for sexually explicit or magic/mysticism material and more left-wing groups oppose books for not being politically correct.

The issue of banning material goes beyond actual books. It also involves access to information on the Internet, something that has proven to be a serious legal issue. Miller cited a current legal case involving the North Central Regional Library in Okanogan, Wash., where a patron sued the library district because of its Internet filtering system.

In May 2010, a 6-3 ruling in the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that libraries can use filtering systems, with justices disagreeing on whether the filters should be re-

moved if an adult patron makes such a request. The case is now in federal court.

At EWU, JFK faculty use creative ways to bring attention to banned books.

Last year, the library wrapped several controversial books in paper bags and then wrote descriptions about each book and why it was banned. Library representatives said it was eye-opening for many students and staff with one teacher telling Miller he was surprised that so many of his favorite books growing up are now under fire.

As for JFK, Miller said the library's collection is comprised mainly with curriculum

in mind, and many books are chosen by faculty.

"We will not censor on the basis of point of view or affiliation," said Miller. "Our collection supports the curriculum. It supports faculty research."

She also mentioned the library "really tries" to foster an environment where all information is accessible by students and staff.

This year's banned books event will be held Sept. 24 through Oct. 1.

Students and faculty can find more information at the American Library Association's website, <http://www.ala.org> or the Eastern library website, <http://www.ewu.edu/libraries>.

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Voter turnout at 2011 election remains low

Student president proposes longer voting session as one possible solution to the continued lack of participation

BY DYLAN COIL
senior reporter

With a total of 680 votes in the 2011 Associated Students of EWU (ASEWU) elections, voter turnout continues to follow recent trends, and the lack of student involvement on Eastern's campus has been exposed further.

Of more than 10,000 students at Eastern, 9,648 are eligible to vote by way of paying for the Student Services and Activities fee with a portion of each student's tuition. Despite efforts from the university to inspire voter involvement, only 7.05 percent of the eligible student population participated in this year's ASEWU elections.

"[The 2011 election] went good but bad. It's good in the sense that we didn't completely plummet, and it was something showing that the trend continued," said ASEWU Director of Elections Parker Hemingway. "We know that there are issues that need to be addressed."

Hemingway said that he was disappointed by the turnout because he had a personal goal of 1,000 votes. His efforts to reach that goal included handing out more than 600 flyers and hiring the Spokane Shock dance team to advertise voting on campus during the day of the election.

Hemingway added that it is the job of the ASEWU Director of Elections to entice students to vote, and it is tough to realize that students just don't care.

In past years, voter turnout has spiked due to factors such as voting on the construction of the URC, making it a difficult task to compare previous voting trends.

According to Hemingway, one of the main reasons students don't vote is because they aren't aware of the ASEWU and their responsibilities.

It is hard to say if this is because Eastern has a large number of nontraditional students, with

many students commuting each day and spending minimal time involved with campus activities, or if the low turnout is because the ASEWU isn't effectively reaching out to enough students.

According to current ASEWU President Justin Terry, there was not a lack of effort coming from the ASEWU trying to entice voters.

"People just don't vote, and I don't think it's for a lack of effort on our side," said Terry. "I'm proud, and I think the candidates and our team did a good job. I just feel like somewhere there is a disconnect between why it is important to vote and what [the ASEWU] is doing."

Terry's ideas to improve voter turnout include ensuring multiple candidates run for each position and extending the time students have to vote from one day to one week.

According to Terry, students may choose not to vote for a position that boasts only one candidate because it seems pointless.

He adds that extending the polling period to a week would give students more time to learn about candidates and make an informed decision.

"At other schools, they give students an entire week to vote. So for a much longer period of time, students are allowed to login, vote. If they can't do it that day, they can do it tomorrow, and so you can really have time for people to understand what they're doing," Terry said.

According to Terry, extending the polling period is something the ASEWU has looked into, but for this change to take place, it requires a vote by the eligible student population and for that vote to count, a considerably larger turnout would be needed.

In upcoming years, important changes to Eastern will be put to a vote, including the PUB renovation, and 10 percent of the student population must vote in order to implement any change as a result of the ballot.

Percentage of voter turnout %

2006	10%
2007	13.6%
2008	11.3%
2009	7.1%
2010	6%
2011	7.1%

Easterner Graphics

Groups discuss controversial sex column

BY KRISTIE HSIN AND KYLE HARDING
the easterner

On May 4, The Easterner staff agreed to disagree with offended readers concerning a sex column written by senior reporter Dylan Coil.

According to some readers, Coil's original article, "False advertising leads to power-based relationships," condoned rape.

"Our intention was to say this is a problem," said Sara Jo Barrett, chief copy editor for The Easterner. "Not condone rape."

Readers were also offended by the clarification, which Barrett wrote in collaboration with Coil, that was printed a week after the original article. This clarification was meant to elaborate the intent of Coil's article and repair misunderstandings from the original.

In attendance were women's and gender studies director Sally Winkle, women's and gender studies professors Mimi Marinucci, Kelly Coogan-Gehr, and six female students who represented Victims and Allies, women's studies and themselves as individual women. All six felt that the original article was offensive and did not have relevance to Eastern Washington University's community.

"He gave no examples of how to appropriately communicate," senior Amanda Peck said of the first article.

The women also felt that if a woman had wrote the article or if there had been a different choice of words, the outcome would still be the same.

The meeting solidified a settlement between the two groups by hearing each other out in a respectable and controlled environment.



Students Olga Kulinich (left) and Stephanie Nave (right) voice their opinions about Dylan Coil's sex column.

"I thought it was a really helpful communication. It has the power to transform the dialogue," Jamie Neely, journalism professor and adviser for The Easterner, said.

"I think it went a lot better than I originally thought. I think they did a very good job listening to us, and we listened to them," Dustin Toms, managing and sports editor at The Easterner, said.

As the weeks progressed after the original publication of the column, many letters to the editor and derogatory Facebook posts and comments online poured in.

Supporting the women's studies' letter to the editor were 350 signatures that were sent in but not published due to space and miscommunication. Toms, who was handed the petition, said, "We were unaware of what [the

petition] meant. We just thought it was 350 people who agreed with you."

Many of the six women felt that had last week's apology come sooner, the situation would've died out.

"When dealing with something so sensitive, you have to be sensitive about it," senior Olga Kulinich said.

Peck added, "There's no excuse for thinking no means yes. That's not the men's choice, it's mine."

Later, the article titled "Humpday Quickie Article Clarified" written by Coil and Barrett further explained and defended Coil's original article. In that same issue, many more letters to the editor were published — all of which were against Coil's article.

Many from the meeting believed the article's mention of sadomasochism was backpedaling and made matters worse.

Editor-in-chief James Eik said, "I think that The Easterner has the ability to keep going and to learn from certain things and certain experiences, and I think it will move forward from there."

The origin of the article idea came from Twiss, who said the idea streamed from her women's studies' class. According to her, The Easterner received a letter that defended Coil, but did not publish them because they were not able to verify the legitimacy of the writer.

"This experience really showed me the power of my words," said Coil. "I will definitely take this in account the next time I consider writing something like this."

Toms said after, "Dylan handled it really well. ... He did a good job. He apologized. He said that's not what I meant, I meant this. I mean, they accepted it."

Everyone in attendance agreed that it was difficult to make a clear point when limited to 400 words.

"I think I definitely bit off more than I can chew," Coil said of the article.

Senior Linda Khoury said, "We know we're not going to change anyone's mind. We just wanted a public apology, and we got it."

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NEWS

your campus, your voice, your news

SYMPOSIUM

from front page

Wednesday will bring a gathering of oral and research presenters. The presentations will be held in Senior Hall with informational and registration decks starting at 8:30 a.m. President Rodolfo Arévalo will give an opening speech.

According to Fulkerson, the event expects many students and administration members to be in attendance.

“It’s one of those things where if you don’t have that kind of experience, it can be a disadvantage really ... because that’s that kind of experience that’s required,” Fulkerson said.

This year’s symposium will also bring 18 running start students from North Central

High School in Spokane who will present their projects in their separate biology session.

Spokane Teachers Credit Union, EWU Offices of the Provost, Graduate and Education Research, Undergraduate Studies, Grant and Research Development and McNair Scholars are sponsoring this year’s symposium.

“The symposium seems important to EWU because it provides a common forum where creativity and research can be showcased from each part of the university,” Weldon said.

For additional information, students and faculty can contact Tiffany Fulkerson at (509) 359-6826.

MCNAIR

from front page

this program and that TRiO programs do work.”

After graduating from EWU with bachelor’s degrees in both finance and management information systems, Torres-García earned her Ph.D. in cultural studies and social thought from WSU.

Torres-García then moved back to EWU and began working as an academic counselor in the McNair Scholars office while simultaneously teaching in the Chicano Education department. Once the program director position opened, she applied with lots of encouragement from several members of the faculty.

As program director, Torres-García has many responsibilities, but she considers working with students as the most important one.

“The most important piece of running a program like this

is building a strong relationship with your students and your mentors,” said Torres-García.

“We work on building the self-esteem of the students and the mentors help me tremendously with building that relationship,” she added.

After only 3 weeks as program director, Torres-García is still trying to find her own style, though she is confident about the future of the McNair Scholars Program.

“I want to continue having more McNair scholars graduating with their Ph.D.s and being professors in universities,” she said.

“My main goal is to bring those McNair scholars back to Eastern and have more scholars that were the products of this program so that they can then influence other students and have the ripple effect.”

LIBRARY

from front page

Mutschler, this is the sort of thing that all universities are doing with their libraries.

“I think this is a good thing,” said Mutschler. “It’s going to allow us to get some of our finding aids into a digital format that will make them more visible. ... I think students benefit from being able to find what the archives have and whether or not that will be useful for their classes.”

In the long run, the grant raises visibility of those special collections that EWU has so that historians, student researchers and other researchers will be able to use those collections.

“What the grant will do is provide some training and some funding to help staff that we have get up to speed with these coding protocols, but also to provide us with the ability to outsource and just

do quality control of what we outsource,” Miller said.

According to Miller, EWU is in the process of digitizing, and in the mean time, each archival collections have finding aids. The grant will help EWU libraries transfer finding aids from hard copy to online.

The purpose and goal, according to Miller, is for Eastern to be able to place finding aids for archival collections online in the Northwest Digital Archives portal so that researchers can find information.

“It’s kind of in the nature of archives to own things that are unique to the institutions or to the history of the region,” Miller said.

“The main reason for our archives is to keep institutional documents that will always be kept,” Miller continued.

Data collections include papers of the president, 1974 World Expo that created Riverfront Park, catalogs for every year and the board of trustees’ minutes.

“That collection is one of the 16 collections we’ve identified to put that finding aid on the web portal,” Miller said of EWU’s current database.

Mutschler said, “We are working with a student population which is increasingly comfortable with accessing information online, so it makes sense we should encourage them to find out what we have and plan to use it.”

For additional information, students and faculty can contact Orbis Cascade Alliance at jodiab@uoregon.edu or contact Dr. Julie Miller personally at jmiller7@ewu.edu.

CHURCH

from front page

much just said that if you don’t believe what she does, you’re going to hell,” Friend said of his discussion with Sister Pat. “I am bisexual, and I talked to her about that, and she said that’s probably because my parents didn’t love me, and they support it because they don’t love me.”

Sister Pat was happy with her discussion with Friend and said that answering his questions and reading him scripture was beneficial.

Throughout the afternoon, students spoke out against the group, feeling distraught by the messages the group was spreading.

Nathan Lewis, a senior on campus who was vocal at the event, said, “I get frustrated because they come out here and they repeat the same thing. So they will preach a scripture about fire and brimstone and you’re going to hell, but they fail to read the scripture.”

Lewis stated at the event that he has read the Bible, and said, “God never condemned anyone to hell. Jesus never said you’re going to hell. ... His perception of me is not important, only God’s perception [is important].”

Though some students were stirred by the strength of Smock’s messages, some students thought it was important that this word be heard.

“He is out trying to engage students to preach the gospel because he’s under the belief that most people that are coming to the university haven’t really been exposed to a fundamental preaching of what the gospel is,” senior Matthew Bruce said.

It is this believed lack of fundamental knowledge which brought Smock’s group to campus. Sister Pat said that though the group conveys a strong sense of beliefs that they share with students, this group has no affiliation with the Westboro Baptist

Church, a controversial religious organization that protested near campus last October.

“You’ve got extremists in all religions,” said Sister Pat of Smock’s group’s lack of affiliation with Westboro. “We’re not doing a religion. We are doing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It’s a shame there are people out there in Christianity who do things [like Westboro], but that’s the devil; that’s just the way things go.”

The event lasted more than three hours, with both sides expressing their very passionate beliefs on the subject of sin and damnation.

“These people are making a mockery of the Christian faith. They shouldn’t be out here speaking,” said sophomore Matthew Bruce. “What this guy is teaching is wrong. I don’t agree with it. It’s not biblical, and he’s offending people and verbally assaulting people, and I don’t think of Christ.”

Did you attend Brother Jed’s event?

Let us know what you thought at [Facebook.com/TheEasterner](https://www.facebook.com/TheEasterner).

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You can also pick up an application in Isle Hall, room 102.

No courtesy on the basketball court

NBA players catch unfair criticism and punishment, showing hypersensitivity of society and the sports world

BY BRIAN BEAUDRY
multimedia editor

This year's NBA season has taught that people expect an incredible amount of decorum out of high school graduates. Kevin Garnett was vilified for saying Charlie Villanueva, who suffers from alopecia, looked like a "cancer patient." Kobe Bryant was fined \$100,000 for calling a referee a homosexual slur while on the bench.

Now that the playoffs have begun, reporters have caught another NBA player saying something "offensive" as an aside in a manner not actually directed at anyone. LeBron James is under fire for calling a question "retarded," though he intended to inspire an inflammatory response from teammate Dwyane Wade.

Of course, the vast majority of the holier-than-thou media swarmed to decry James' use of the word, saying it is demeaning and hurtful for those who are mentally handicapped/differently abled/differently developed/whatever the English gatekeepers say is the proper term for those formerly described as "retarded." The clarification offered the next day, saying he felt the question was stupid, drew similar criticism.

I get that using the term toward those actually considered to be developmentally disabled is offensive. As Michael Scott, the culturally insensitive manager from NBC's "The Office," said,

"You don't call retarded people retards. It's bad taste. You call your friends retards when they are acting retarded."

I'll admit to being ignorant here: Why is calling a stupid question "retarded" so offensive? The question itself can't be offended; after all, it's a question, not a person.

The person who asked the question can be offended; however, she was in the room and had an opportunity to call him out for the remark; however, it was a stupid question, so she probably didn't want to call attention to herself. No matter how often your mom told you otherwise, there are stupid questions.

It must, therefore, follow that the media members upset about this are upset on behalf of the differently abled people who might have heard the comment.

First of all, the NBA has a pretty limited audience anyway. Secondly, press conferences have an even more limited audience, especially when they take place while another game is going on. Finally, can we actually verify that people are offended before we write stories about the offensiveness of things? Most stories about the subject never cite an actual offended member of that community.

Of course, the media coverage of the whole situation means that James using the phrase has now been broadcast to an exponentially larger audience, meaning that those "protecting" the

"When someone says something that might offend people, let someone actually get offended before getting offended on their behalf."

- Brian Beaudry

offended have now created a situation wherein more and more people can be offended.

Who is more offensive?

Here's a pretty easy solution that seemed to work for dozens of years before the prevalence of Twitter, YouTube and invasive camerawork: Use some discretion when you decide what should be a story and where you put your camera.

For incidents that take place on the court, know enough about the sport to realize that the court, field, ice or diamond are places with their own morality.

A foul in basketball is battery in the regular world — we don't need to go and claim everyone is a criminal for that action. Similarly, we don't need to attempt to criminalize trash talk. Insults are a way to get into someone's head and throw them off their game — if you take it personally, you're an idiot.

I apologize in advance to all the idiots offended by my use of the word "idiot."

For incidents like Kobe's that take place on a bench, camera operators and producers shouldn't feel a need to zoom in on someone who has just been given a technical foul and is obviously angry at the referee.

For a group of people that got so upset about a woman's breast popping out on TV and fear another controversy on that level, networks seem to not have a problem with trying to get athletes at their angriest when they're likely to say some stupid things.

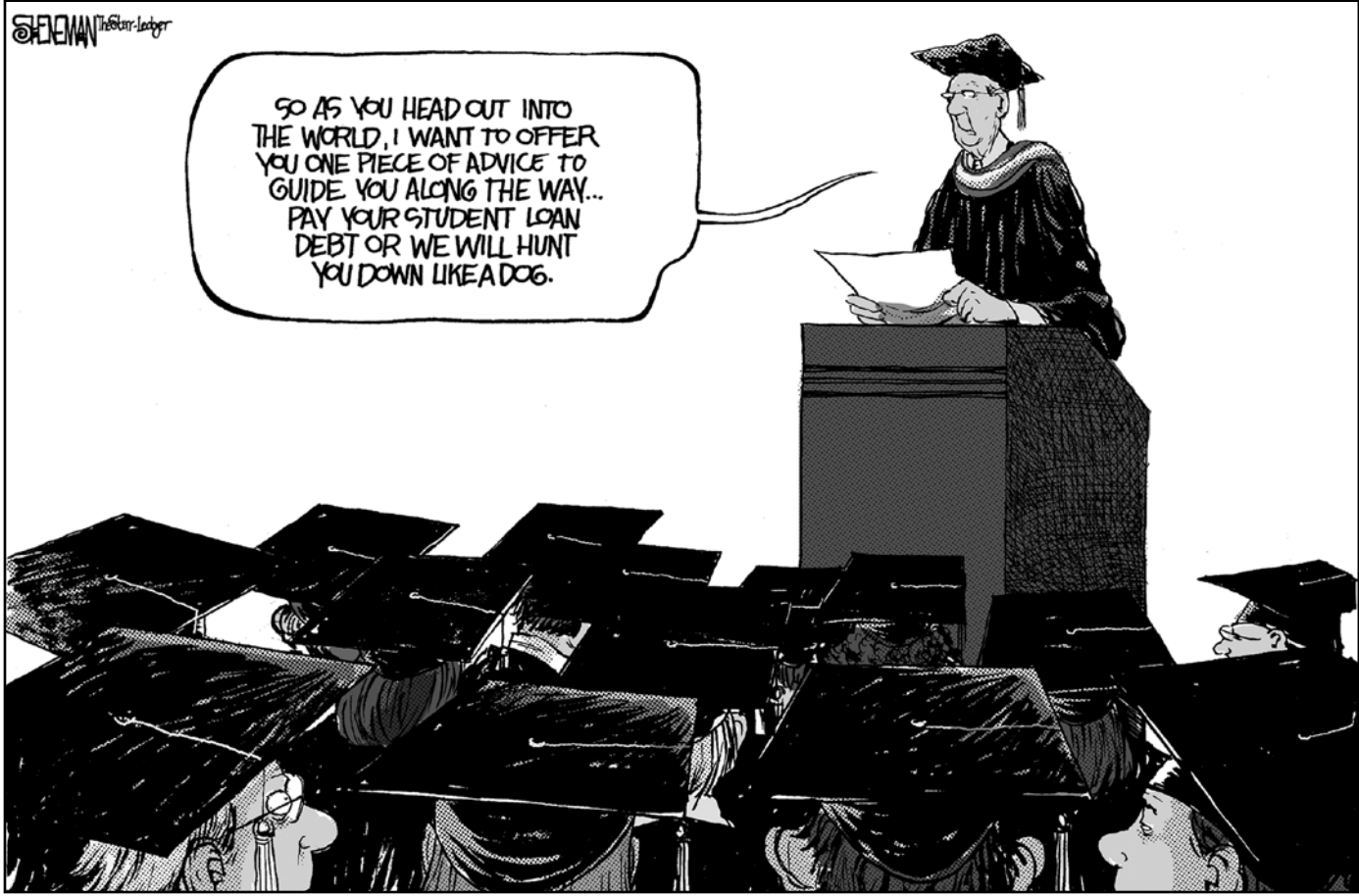
I remember watching as a kid and laughing when players got caught with the camera while swearing, but it happens so often now that it's not even worth mentioning.

Finally, when someone says something that might offend people, let someone actually be offended before getting offended on their behalf. Save your rage for those who are intentionally cruel, rather than working yourself into a lather over simple insensitivity during a moment of frustration.

Besides, if we no longer use the word "retarded" to refer to the differently abled because it's offensive to them, then why do people decide that when others use the word "retarded," they're referring to that population? Stop using linguistic differences to make you feel morally superior to someone.

Using poor word choice to claim you're better than someone else makes you something worse than retarded: an elitist snob.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



2012 election: a new hope

BY DYLAN COIL
senior reporter

Every four years, the presidential elections drop further into a lapse of reason, using strategies to capture American voters that wouldn't work on a fifth grader.

"South Park" created an accurate analogy of presidential elections during the episode in which the boys had to choose a new school mascot. The character Stan refused to vote because his options for mascot consisted of a giant douche and a turd sandwich. Subsequently, Stan was completely alienated from society.

That is what elections have become, though. When exercising the right the vote, Americans really do have to decide between a turd sandwich and a giant douche. The decision is ultimately made when a person realizes which of the two they would least mind running the country.

The political shenanigans of 2012 will be no different than past elections. In fact, things might possibly get worse.

One huge flashing red light signifying the demise of the U.S. political system is Donald Trump's announcement that he is trying to get a bid as the Republican candidate in the 2012 election.

In an interview with NBC New York, in reference to campaign spending, Trump said, "I have a lot, and I would spend a lot if I needed to do that."

During the 2008 election, Obama spent more money on his campaign than Clinton and McCain combined, making campaign spending a huge factor during elections, and Trump's nomination for the Republican candidacy an all-too-real possibility.

Personally, the idea of "The Apprentice" host running our country is extremely unsettling, and it almost inspires support for Sarah Palin, former Alaskan governor.

What's even more unsettling than Trump's attempt at politics is the fact that he has more support than Palin.

In a recent poll conducted by CNN from April 29 through May 1, 2011, 1,034 Americans from across the country were interviewed over the phone, and asked to share their opinions about the 2012 presidential candidates. Of the people interviewed in the poll who identified themselves as Republicans, 14 percent approved of Trump as the Republican nominee with 11 percent backing Palin.

How is it that, among Republicans, a woman who nearly became our country's vice president has less support than a man with no political experience and a questionable haircut? At least Palin's hair looks nice while she's blabbering about tax cuts.

Despite the minor advantage Trump may have over Palin, when the poll took into consideration views from all sides of the political spectrum, it found that 59

percent of Americans dislike Palin and 64 percent have a "negative view" of Trump.

This poll provides a small glimmer of hope in the lack of support for both Palin and Trump and also by shows the huge support for Ron Paul, a Texas congressman.

According to the poll, Paul has the best chance of any Republican candidate to beat Obama in the 2012 election, with the poll stating Paul trails Obama in approval by a mere seven points. This is a significant figure when compared to Trump and Palin's support lagging behind Obama by nearly 20 points.

Paul was a one-time Libertarian party member with huge support from the Tea Party. He advocates state's rights and a free-market economy.

As one of the few remaining honest politicians in the U.S., Paul has extensive knowledge of our country's constitution.

Some of the most radical policies that Paul advocates are the abolition of the Federal Reserve and the decriminalization of narcotics. It is not hard to comprehend that these changes would be beneficial to our country in the long term if they are executed well.

Despite the inefficient mess that is American politics, Paul represents a change that we can actually believe in. If Paul can claim the Republican nomination for the 2012 election, at least one candidate won't be a giant douche or a turd sandwich.

through the EAGLE'S EYE EDITORIAL

According to a letter from the Council of Presidents, which was cited in The Easterner last week, budget cuts have forced students at public universities in Washington to provide nearly 70 percent of the cost of their education. With the state deficit at a devastating high and cuts continuing to plague state funded universities, Eastern is facing the difficult task of further thinning the staff.

Currently in special session, Governor Gregoire and House and Senate representatives are attempting to figure out which components of the three proposed budget plans will best serve state funded institutions while helping Washington lessen the deficit.

The governor's budget, which was proposed Dec. 15, 2010, suggests a cut of \$9.6 million for the next budget biennium. This is the lowest of the three, with the House and Senate proposing cuts of \$11.1 million and \$10.1 million, respectively.

We are approaching the 70 percent mark for self supported education. When public universities were first founded in the U.S., they were predominately funded by the state, which is what made public universities appealing. Now, even though Eastern is the most affordable four year university in Washington, we are approaching what could be looked at as a private university financial state.

This is a difficult economic time for everyone in the country, making it especially hard on struggling college students who are seeing scholarship and grant numbers dwindle, both in amount of scholarship money awarded by the university and amount of aid given by the state.

With continued cuts in the 2011-13 biennium, students will see larger class sizes and fewer class options as Eastern attempts to combat the immense cuts. We will once again attempt to combat faculty cuts, but the entire university will feel the deficit's effect.

"The president is 100 percent against cutting faculty," said Dave Meany, media relations, in an interview for last week's budget update article.

As long as the economy is in a state of disarray, Eastern will experience budget woes that may hinder its ability to provide the solid education it prides itself on.

The numbers referenced in this editorial were obtained from the State of Washington's office of financial management.

MASTHEAD

The Easterner strives to provide EWU students and staff with the opportunity to comment or express their opinions and/or views on any topic relevant to our readers. We encourage the campus community to submit letters and opinion pieces that conform to the requirements listed below. Opinion articles and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Easterner, its staff members or Eastern Washington University.

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- Letters should be 300 words or less, and typed or hand-written legibly.
- Include your full name, signature, telephone number and e-mail address for verification.
- We reserve the right not to publish letters; furthermore, all letters are subject to editing.
- Letters must be received by no later than Monday at 3 p.m. in order to be considered for publication the following Wednesday.
- If your letter is in response to a specific article, please list the title and date of the article.

a grand finale

“Ruthless,” first musical production in four years, will star all female characters



From left to right: Buddy Todd, Lexie Hoffpauir and Abbey Crawford in “Ruthless.”



Crawford, Hoffpauir and Todd rehearse a scene for the spring play.

STORY BY JAMES EIK | PHOTOS BY AARON MALMOE AND JAMES

Eastern’s theater department will end the school year with the musical “Ruthless.”

In stark contrast to the male-dominant winter play “The Things They Carried,” this show features all female roles. Women fill all of the spots, with the exception of alumnus Buddy Todd, who returns to Eastern’s stage to choreograph and portray Sylvia St. Croix.

Describing the experience as a journey, Todd said that taking part in this production has been memorable.

“I’ve never actually realized how truly manly I am,” said Todd. Walking to look like a woman, the dressing procedures and methods on how to speak in certain ways are all part of Todd’s transformation before he joins the cast.

The first musical to hit Eastern in four years, “Ruthless” centers on the 8-year-old and not-so-innocent child Tina Denmark. After relegated to being the understudy for the role of Pippi Longstocking in the third-grade play at her school, Denmark seeks her time in the limelight and murders the show’s star.

Making it all look easy is the tough part. “You’ve got a lot of plates in the air,” said Todd. Faith Mitchell, who plays Louise Lerman, followed up on his remark, saying, “You have to get them all spinning at the same time.”

With parts lovingly ripped off from “The Bad Seed” and “All About Eve,” this production features a cast that is largely new to the stage.

Director Jeff Sanders, who calls “The Bad Seed” a black comedy gem, said that there will be many surprises in the production, including an EWU faculty member taking the stage.

Bill Youngs, of the history department, will join the cast for the production’s first weekend run. The role was auctioned off as part of the Octoberfest event held at JFK Library.

Sanders notes that directing a musical has been a different experience in com-

parison to other shows. His role, he said, is more like a triage unit. Instead of being directly involved with the choreography and musical aspects of the show, he has taken a step back.

“I’m kind of like the uncle cheering the kids on,” he said.

Another faculty member, Carolyn Jess from the music department, offers her services as musical director for the production.

“[The musicians] are not even one step behind her,” said Todd. “We’re very lucky music will be one of the stronger parts of the show.”

In a show where “an element of everything is on steroids,” according to Sanders, expect the unexpected, prepare to laugh and enjoy a night with some of the finest talent on campus. “Ruthless” the musical is not to be missed.

When to see it

May 13, 14, 20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m.

May 15 at 2:00 p.m.

May 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Cast

Faith Mitchell as Louise Lerman

Abbey Crawford as Judy Denmark

Lexie Hoffpauir as Tina Denmark

Melissa Gren as Lita Encore

Emily Wakeman as Myrna Thorn

Buddy Todd as Sylvia St. Croix (also choreographer)

Learning portion control: How to save money and stay healthy

BY CHELSEA TWISS
columnist

I try to maintain a particular mentality to get me through the tough days of college poverty. One such example of this occurred to me the other day when my friend Natasha and I decided to grab lunch off campus during our few free hours before heading to our next obligations.

The first order of business regarding lunch was deciding where we should feast. The dining options in Cheney aren’t exactly plentiful, so we concluded that we would make El Rodeo our destination due to its relatively close location to campus and, most importantly, it’s inexpensive menu accompanied by complementary chips, salsa and that delicious spicy coleslaw-looking stuff.

Once seated at the restaurant, I began to gaze over the menu with a glazed-over look in my deprived, starving eyes, imagining all of the delicious appetizers and entrees I could select to quell my raging appetite. Luckily, Natasha snapped me back to reality by com-

menting on how her eyes are always bigger than her stomach when it comes to ordering food at restaurants and that I should probably reconsider my extremely hefty order.

Her comment made me remember all of the times that I have ordered much more than my fill when attending restaurants hungry — an unfortunate circumstance that never leads to a happy ending. Either I end up frustrated with myself for spending so much money on unwanted food (although Mexican does make for amazing leftovers), or I eat too much out of guilt and end up regretting that decision even more than the first alternative.

This brings me to portion control, a concept most Americans struggle with. A “Supersize Me” mentality doesn’t exactly sit well when it comes to making healthy choices, and if anyone is as ravenously hungry as I am after a long day of school and work, these kinds of healthy choices can be difficult to make on a consistent basis.

According to WebMD, Americans underestimate how many calories they consume daily by as much as

25 percent. I’m sure most of the platters at restaurants like El Rodeo serve up a hefty portion of an individual’s daily caloric intake within just one meal. While I don’t condone obsessive calorie counting, it is astounding to think that a typical serving size is about the size of a fist! Maybe that visual will help put a healthy portion into perspective.

With that taken into account, it can be very difficult when eating out to stick to these guidelines for healthy portions.

Natasha and I decided to split chicken fajitas, and we still couldn’t finish the entire plate. Not only did we save money by sharing the meal, but we also left the restaurant satisfied rather than stuffed.

I like to think that I’m being healthy and smart rather than cheap when I share meals with friends at a restaurant.

Making these kinds of small choices consistently and not allowing your eyes to dictate the amount of food your stomach can accommodate can lead to bigger positive results. No meal is as satisfying to me as saving money and staying healthy.

Alumnus forgoes engineering to pursue music

Eastern grad finds passion at Spokane’s Clear Channel Radio, taking on the role of program producer

BY AZARIA PODPLESKY
staff writer

As a child, EWU alumnus Matt Loi was not focused on things most kids care about. Loi was concerned with becoming an electrical engineer, the career he thought would get him into music.

His love of music began at an early age when he listened to the radio and his parents’ records. While attending Kamiakin High School, Loi taught himself to play the bass guitar.

After graduating, he went to Columbia Basin College. A year of engineering classes later, Loi began to question his major.

“I really called things into question, and I figured maybe I need to take another avenue to get into music,” he said.



Loi

“On a whim, I took a music theory class.” The theory class clicked, and Loi decided to stick with music, transferring to Eastern in 2004. Loi spent the next few years completing the “12-hour-a-day gig” of a music major.

At EWU Loi played the upright bass and was involved in several projects, including VPnet, a program between the music and computer science departments.

Loi also played the role of sound guy, recording concerts and recitals, then taking those recordings home and mastering them.

“I always wanted to get into audio, so I took one extreme engineering, and I took the other creative extreme in music, then finally they’ve kind of hooked up now,” he said.

Loi got his first taste of radio at EWU, working with several shows on Eastern’s jazz radio station, KEWU 89.5. After graduating in 2007, Loi worked in promotions at Clear Channel Radio. Six months later, the producer of 103.1 KCDA’s Local Lounge, which spotlights local bands, moved away. Loi soon took over as the show’s producer.

“When I started, what I really wanted to do was get away from real basic interviews and ... try to capture the best possible sound,” he said.

“With my show, I can branch out from [pop-rock] quite a bit and basi-

cally bring in anything local, original and that musically, has a melodic core to it somehow.”

Aside from recording and producing each show, Loi also photographs and takes video of each set. He also handles the public relations side of the job.

After years on the scene, many people would have already made the leap to cities like Seattle or Portland. Loi, however, is here to stay, saying the new talent that pops up keeps him inspired.

He also believes that on a professional level, it’s best for him to stay in Spokane.

“The more time I spend here, the deeper the roots grow in town, so it makes me want to keep staying here,” he said. “Despite the crappy winters and the potholes, I kind of like it here.”

A MODEST PROPOSAL



How to prepare yourself for a job after graduation

Spring quarter is well underway, and for many, the impending dread of finals is superseded by the exhilaration of graduation and the panic of entering the work field.

Though stress is a common side effect of adulthood, finding a job doesn’t have to be dreadful. By taking the time to ask yourself some important questions and formulating a strategy, you can increase your chances of landing a job.

The following are key questions you should ask yourself before applying for a position.

What do I have to offer?

One of the first things an interviewer will consider is what skills you have to offer the company. Try thinking about your recent accomplishments and what they say about you. Not only will thinking about all the things you do well boost your self confidence, but it also helps you hone in on your the best assets.

Once you know how you want to portray yourself, try finding three adjectives to describe how you want people to view you. Then, work those into the conversation during an interview.

How can I be an asset?

A smart strategy is to do a little detective work on the company and look into their goals. Having this information will help you select the specific skills the company is looking for and emphasize them in the interview.

To avoid being outshined by other applicants, forgo the bland résumé description of your skills and use specific situations where you used a particular skill that they are interested in. This way of highlighting your assets can be more effective in leaving a strong impression with interviewers.

What’s new in my field?

It’s important to take note on what changes have been made in the field. By keeping on top of things, you give yourself an edge over other applicants.

Whether it’s learning a new computer program or how to effectively use social media tools, having these skills shows you are willing to invest the time to stay current. Remember, many companies are downsizing to save money, so offering numerous skills is enticing.

What’s my online presence?

Today’s generation is full of social media users, but it’s important to remember that your online presence speaks volumes.

From boozy pictures to distasteful comments, what you do on online can come back to haunt you. Thanks to the site <http://www.socio-clean.com>, you can obtain a free profile scan that looks for potentially troublesome photos, posts or tags and gives you a detailed list of offending items to remove.

The views expressed here do not directly reflect the views of The Easterner. The writer can be contacted at easterner.eaglelife@gmail.com.



Cinco de Mayo event advocates rights and education

Chicano Education Program sponsors celebration, promoting Chicano voting rights and social justice



Perla Tapatia dance group from Quincy, Wash., performs a traditional Chicano dance on campus.

Amy Meyer/Easterner

BY AMY MEYER
staff writer

The weeklong Cinco de Mayo celebration on campus last week brought in students and prospective students. The theme was Chicanas/os in the 21st Century: Education, Voting Rights, and Social Justice. Chicano Education Program sponsored the event. Jerry Garcia said, “Cinco de Mayo is our major event for the whole year. It’s where we bring out everything to show about our culture, our history and to educate our communities and recruit.” On Monday, guest Ricardo Sanchez introduced the week’s theme, lecturing on Latino education in the 21st century. Jessica Llama, a medical student, spoke Tuesday about the difficulties fac-

ing Latino women as a double minority, encouraging high goals and advising students about applying to medical school. Wednesday’s events included the Chicano Education Program’s student-parent conference with 270 students and 50 parents from 10 high schools and middle schools from around Washington. The program used the week to break down the mystery of higher education to Latino students. They encouraged high schoolers to go to college and invited them to come to Eastern. After the conference, guests mingled in the campus mall, accompanied by the lively music of Los Vigiles, warm sunshine and Eastern students and staff at the Cinco de Mayo party. Several campus organizations set up tables. The

visiting students were given passports that they took from table to table. Lucy Vazquez performed a dance with her instructor, Ricardo Mendoza. When she finished, she rejoined her organization Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan. “We stand up for the oppressed people. We fight for civil rights, equal rights. I’m with them here,” Vazquez said. She explained that the holiday was celebrated more widely in the U.S. than in Mexico. “It’s basically battle of Puebla, where the natives and the Pubelanos fought the French and defeated them,” Vazquez said. “To me, it just means being together united as one, whether it’s the Chicano or the Mexican culture or Caucasian culture, the Anglo culture.”

The Gamma Alpha Omega sorority, established April 15, 2011, publicized themselves at the party. They focus on mentoring high school and middle school students while encouraging them to pursue secondary education. Ana Zapien, one of the sorority’s leaders, explained that it was difficult for students who leave the cultures of their hometown behind to come to college, and that Cinco de Mayo celebration at EWU was important to battling those difficulties. “When you come to things like this, like you actually do see all the cultures coming together. Like we’re not alone,” Zapien said. “It’s good, too, to have all the Greeks out here, the organizations, the other people from the community, as well. It’s kind of showing how the country is turning into a melting pot,” she added. Pedro Lopez, also celebrating, agreed. “They’re not even Mexicans — Arabs, Asians, all sorts of people come out to see how Mexicans do their thing.” Thursday’s guest speaker was Joaquin Avila, a law professor from Seattle University, who presented “Cinco de Mayo — An Enduring Legacy.” The week-long festivities concluded with Community-to-Community executive director Rosalinda Guillen’s lecture titled “Food Sovereignty and Farm Workers.” Garcia said that all these topics are important to the Eastern’s celebration. “This idea of unity is really the theme that we celebrate as people of Mexican descent here in the United States. ... The important battle that brought the nation of Mexico together and into the modern period is the idea that we use to unite our communities, whether it’s our Chicano community or our Eastern Washington University community,” Garcia said. “We use it, then, as an educational tool. And to educate our communities about issues that are facing, not just Chicanos, but everybody.”



Female sexuality: Understanding the female orgasm

BY CHELSEA TWISS
columnist

While the topic of female orgasm may be considered taboo and perhaps even redundant to some — considering that a lot of women read Cosmopolitan magazine religiously — I believe it to be a topic that should be addressed openly and logically. There are still far too many women who have never had the pleasure of experiencing an orgasm. Some have even given up on the idea of ever reaching ecstasy neither during sex nor on their own time. However, I believe an orgasm is something that can be attained by any woman with the correct mentality. For a woman, possessing a reasonable level of comfort with her own sexuality is imperative and sets a solid foundation for being able to reach orgasm. It seems the female species tends to be either holed up in the closet sexually or exhibiting it in an excessive flaunting manner. There is a healthy balance to the acceptance and understanding of one’s own sexuality somewhere between a life in a convent and Coyote Ugly. Women shouldn’t feel that they have to conform to fit either extreme. The goal is to be comfortable in your own skin.

While I believe every woman is capable of achieving orgasm, I also believe it to be an incredibly personal experience. Everyone has different buttons they like pushed — or not — but I would like to point out a few fairly universal tips that may apply to every woman regarding orgasm. Trust and communication with your partner is key. While this may not be necessary for everyone in any situation, if you’re someone who has never experienced an orgasm, you will most likely be able to do this if you are having sex with someone you can trust and talk to openly about your sexual needs. It may seem embarrassing to talk about these things with a partner, but it will ultimately benefit your relationship both inside and outside the bedroom. This leads me to my next point. One huge difficulty a lot of women face during sex is misguided attention. Think of sex as the one opportunity to turn off all other thoughts and focus on the purely physical experience of a sensual act. If you have to think about anything, think only about what you are feeling in the moment and how great the sensation is. The final aspect of attention means focusing solely on yourself. It is very tempting to worry constantly about whether or not your partner is having a good time. Try to tear yourself away from this habit. This is your chance to be selfish. Besides, if you have sexual chemistry with someone, then there isn’t any need to worry; the mutual enjoyment will come naturally without having to try.

The views expressed here do not directly reflect the views of The Easterner. The writer can be contacted at easterner.eaglelife@gmail.com.

Local indie band releases self-titled EP, gains campus following

Crickets of Cascadia prevail after winning Battle of the Bands

BY DYLAN COIL
senior reporter

After more than two years of song writing and developing a distinct sound, Spokane based indie rock group Crickets of Cascadia released a six track EP. Currently available as a digital download from iTunes and out in hard copy May 27, the self-titled EP was recorded independently in a friend of the band’s basement in Spokane. Crickets of Cascadia have a solid local following, winning Eastern’s Battle of the Bands last year and a schedule to play at a whole list of local venues, including Elkfest, Spokane’s free festival June 4 at The Elk in Browne’s Addition. The first 20 Eastern students to attend Elkfest will receive free copies of the new Crickets of Cascadia EP upon entering the venue and presenting the band with a valid Eagle ID. Scott Tarbutton, bassist for Crickets of Cascadia, is currently majoring in geology at Eastern and started the band with his brother Mark. Both brothers have a long history with music and have been playing guitar since their youth.

“We both started playing guitar and then recently I decided to start playing bass just to kind of round out the band. We would just jam, the two of us, and then we brought in two other guys to fill it out,” Scott said. Crickets of Cascadia consists of a drummer, Sean Burgett, lead guitar, played by Mark, bass by Scott and Andy Millward alternates between keyboards and guitar. Scott and Mark have known their keyboardist and backup guitarist Millward before starting a band, and picked up a new drummer a few months ago by advertising. The band members decided on the name Crickets of Cascadia because they wanted to represent where they came from, the Pacific Northwest. Scott, being a geology student, came across the term Cascadia as a reference to the Northwest in class and liked the sound and what it stood for. Scott and Mark come from a singer and songwriter background, but then combined that with an electronic aspect brought to the band by its keyboardist. Some of the band’s influences include Local Native,

The National, Animal Collective and Minus the Bear. “I think if we planned what we play, it wouldn’t come off very good. I think we’re lucky in the fact that since we’re doing this for fun, we’re able to choose what we want to play. We’re not going to choose something that may potentially give us more exposure,” said Mark. “If we wanted that, we would just go play metal in Spokane.” According to the Tarbutton brothers, Crickets of Cascadia has been experimenting with some new sounds, including more electronic ideas such as dubstep style beats. They said that even though that may be the progression of music, they still try to stay true to their sound. “I think we have the advantage of being able to play what we enjoy playing, and it happens to be that there are people out there who like the same stuff we like,” Mark said. The Tarbutton’s said that even though their ultimate goal is to get signed, that is not their sole reason. “It’s definitely been an organic process,” said Scott. “We just play and if we like what it sounds like. We’ll keep it going.”



Brothers and bandmates Scott and Mark Tarbutton from Crickets of Cascadia.

Dylan Coil/Easterner

Northwest Boulevard party to feature artists

BY DOUG AULT
staff writer

Live readings and performances by local bands will highlight the release party for Northwest Boulevard, EWU’s literary journal, Friday, May 13. The release reading and benefit show takes place at Neato Burrito, which is located at 827 W 1st Ave. in Spokane. The event will be the first opportunity for community members to pick up the 2011 edition of Northwest Boulevard. The annually published compilation features 37 of the best poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, art and photogra-

phy pieces submitted by EWU students. The pieces that made the journal were described as “the cream of the crop,” by Northwest Boulevard Editor-in-chief Olivia Croom. “We had a record number of submissions in all categories this year. Usually we can publish 20 to 25 percent of the entries, but this year, it was about 12.5 percent of the 295 submissions,” Croom said. Before making it into the journal, each piece was blind-edited by category editors and general staff readers who gave their feeling on each work. The blind-editing process stripped the liter-

ary piece of all personally identifying material before it made its way into the hands of readers and insured that each piece was reviewed at least four times before the decision making process began. Former EWU student Christian Rose founded Northwest Boulevard and published its first issue in 1993. Rose received his bachelor’s degree in English from EWU in 1992 and his master’s of fine arts degree in 1994. “I’m very pleased to see that you and other students/writer have kept it going for so long,” said Rose in a comment on Northwest Boulevard’s website. This year’s release reading and benefit show will feature musical performances by the Terrible Buttons, Mark Ward, Stephanie Hatzinikolis and Liz Rognes. The show is free with a suggested \$5 donation toward the nonprofit

undergraduate journal. Scheduled readers for the event are Gerard Duncan Jr., Molly Fitzpatrick, Courtney Harler, Jill Herrera, Paul Lee, Kayla McAllister, Teresa Vanairsdale, Lindsay Williams-Sinalu and Janice Wright. “It’s a celebration for a product that was a year in the making,” Croom said. The 2011 edition Northwest Boulevard EWU’s undergraduate literary journal, will be available for the first time at the release event and subsequently in the group’s office in PUB 219. Free to faculty and staff members, a hard copy of the journal will also be available on the bookshelves in the PUB Lounge. Anyone interested in picking up a copy of the journal or finding out more about Northwest Boulevard may visit their office during the hours of 11:45-12:45 p.m. and 2-2:45 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday.



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EWU Red rocks Bloomsday for 21st career win

BY KRISTIE HSIN
senior reporter

For the past 15 years, EWU Red team has proven their strengths and dedication, taking home the Bloomsday Corporate Cup year after year.

With 21 overall wins over the years, team members include Grant Smith, English professor and team captain; Dr. Jeff Corkill, chemistry professor; Carl Coombs, IT specialist; Dave Millet, director of college advancement; and Dr. Jeffrey Rahn, chemistry professor.

Smith and Corkill have both participated in every EWU Red Corporate Cup competition. Coombs has been on the team since 1997 and due to ineligibility, Millet took the place of Scott Melville.

"They're all great runners who have been doing it for a long, long time, so I'm hoping I can do the same," Millet said.

The EWU Red Team scored a total of 2,971 points, placing them in first place overall in the 600-1,299 employees division. The Corporate Cup is scored by dividing each Corporate Cup runner's time into the winning time for the runner's age bracket. The three highest scores on each team are added together to determine the winning team.

Of the many teams that competed in the Corporate Cup, seven other teams representing EWU placed in the top 30 Corporate Cup Teams.

"Other corporate teams have been gunning to beat the Eastern team for over 15 years," Millet said.

The Corporate Cup is a competi-

tion within Bloomsday in which each 5-member team competes against other teams of the same size in the same divisions, encouraging healthy lifestyles and fitness.

"It's broken down by how large your corporation is, but we've always been the overall winner regardless of the size of corporation," Millet said.

Having seen friends win the Corporate Cup back in 1982, Smith and his team decided to enter the next year.

"A bunch of us guys were standing around, and we didn't know anything about Corporate Cup, and when the award was [presented], we saw that we should've entered," said Smith. "So the next year we entered, and we won."

The team has won many events since, contributing not only their time but their efforts to Bloomsday.

"Our team in 1997 had the fastest time that any team had ever had," said Smith. "We have not only the best point scores, but we have the records for the shortest time that a team has ever completed in Bloomsday."

According to Millet, team members don't work collectively as a group, as they each run at their own, individual paces and have different schedules. However, all five members encourage and communicate with each other.

"It's fun having an extra sort of thing to run for, which is that we've done pretty well over the last few years," said Corkill. "It gives me an extra interest in Bloomsday."

Smith's total finish time was 1 hour 47 seconds, with a pace of 8:08 per mile. Smith, 73, placed first among 96 people the same age.

Millet had a total finish time of



Top, from left to right: Jim Hanegan, Grant Smith, Jeffrey Corkill, Bill Horner and Scott Mabey. Bottom, from left to right: Grant Smith, Jeff Rahn, Dave Millet and Carl Combs hold the trophy. Photos courtesy of Grant Smith and Carl Combs

45:43, running a pace of 6:07 per mile. Millet, 48, placed second among 872 people the same age.

Corkill, 67, ran a pace of 6:50 per mile ending with a total finish of 50:59. He was first among 268 people in the same age group.

Coombs, 45, the youngest member, placed first among other 800 people the same age with 41:00 as his total finish time.

Jeffrey Rahn, 52, had a total time of 46:59, running at a pace of 6:17 per mile. Rahn placed second among the 756 people the same age.

"It's a celebration of wellness, and that is a very wholesome ideal and value for our community to have. You don't need to be on a team to run Bloomsday," said Smith. "Anybody can run, anybody can walk, anyone can participate, and it's the participation

and the celebration of wellness that is so neat. I feel lucky to be a part of this and to show that Eastern as a university is a part of this community."

Corkill said, "The one thing that makes our team click is that we're spread out into different age groups, so we're not really competing with each other for points, [but] we are this year because Dave and Carl are in the same age group."

Cheney and EWU gear up for 23rd triathlon

BY KRISTIE HSIN
senior reporter

EWU's Campus Recreation Department will host its 23rd annual EWU Iron Eagle Triathlon May 29.

Officially classified as a sprint triathlon, participants will check in at 7 a.m. at the EWU Pool. They will complete a 200-meter free-style swim followed by a 10-mile bike ride starting by the PHASE's field house and then by a 3.1 mile run around Cheney.

The triathlon is open to the public, bringing together Eastern and Cheney community members in a fun-filled sporting event. For liability reasons, the event requires participants be 17 or older and provide estimated swim times.

Age groups include 20 and under, 21-30, 31-40 and 41-50. This year, the triathlon also added an additional age group, one for 50 and older.

"What we're seeing is a lot more 50-year-old and older [participants]," said Mike Campitelli, race director. "So we actually changed the age group a little to add a 51 and older division. ...

You could have a 60-year-old swimming next to a freshman from college. ... It's a cool dynamic out there."

Depending on how many people sign up, the event typically has five to eight heats, holding 16 people at a time in the pool. According to Campitelli, the sprint triathlon is a popular event for first-timers.

"The distances are short enough where you don't have to be a triathlon trained person to come in and do OK, and that's what's the best thing about this is," said Campitelli. "Everybody who starts always finishes."

Club Sports Coordinator Rick Scott said, "Most of the people, they come here and they do this because it's a lot of fun and it's a sprint triathlon, so it's shorter and it's more manageable for a lot of people."

Freshman Victoria Valles said, "I have a lot of respect for people who do that."

Snacks and refreshments will be provided at every turnaround point. Where and when participants start the triathlon depends on their age group and division.

"We have one class that is devoted to a triathlon class here at Eastern," said Scott. "We also have a team entry form where one person can do the swim, one person does the bike and one person does the run."

According to Scott, many family members choose to participate in the team forum.

"I think it's a huge accomplishment just to finish," said freshman Nate Johnston. "It doesn't matter the size of it."

People can sign up prior to the event day or at the door. Those who sign up before May 20 are guaranteed a T-shirt. General admission is \$25 and EWU students and faculty pay \$15.

"What I think mostly about it is it brings people from all different levels — campus students, faculty, staff, administrators — to an event where they compete with and against each other, which doesn't happen all that often around campus," said Campitelli. "This is our favorite [event] because it's just one where nobody loses."


For additional information and registration, visit <http://www.ewu.edu/campusrec> or call Campitelli at (509) 359-4836.


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A GOOD OBSESSION



Boston to blame when it comes to Miami's trio

When watching the NBA Playoffs, every fan seems to have one common enemy — the Miami Heat.

The Heat have a bulls-eye on their back after last summer when LeBron James and Chris Bosh decided to leave their teams in free agency to join forces with Dwayne Wade in South Beach.

But my question is, why didn't anyone freak out when the Boston Celtics traded for Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett? Those two joined up with Paul Pierce to form their own triumvirate.

Well, James spilled the beans last night during an interview with ESPN as to why he went to Miami.

"They set the blueprint for us when they decided to make the trade for [Kevin Garnett] and for Ray [Allen]," said James. "Seeing guys make sacrifices to come together and play as one. They set the blueprint and went out there and did it. They won a championship. They competed every year."

In James' final two years in Cleveland, his team sported the best regular season record but lost to Boston in the playoffs back-to-back. Wade shared the same feelings about James' decision to form what is now called an NBA Superteam.

"With LeBron losing to Boston in Cleveland in the playoffs, he felt like, 'I gotta do more, I need to be around more to contend for a championship,'" said Wade. "Me feeling the same way going into the summer, saying that I needed more, it was because of Boston."

So far the plan has been working out in favor for James, Wade and Bosh. They currently hold a 3-1 lead in the Eastern Conference Semifinals over the Celtics, the team they so desperately want to beat and mimic.

The Celtics faced no adversity when they formed their trio, and they are now being faced with the blame for the much hated Heat trio.

Now there are more rumors across the NBA about other superteams forming. In New York, both Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudamire have teamed up and are hoping for Chris Paul to join them. With an early playoff exit from the Orlando Magic and the Los Angeles Lakers, rumors have begun swirling about Dwight Howard and Kobe Bryant hooking up.

Fans are ranting about how these players are ruining the game, but in all reality, it is making it better. Could you imagine a 7-game series with eight all-stars on the court at the same time? It would be great basketball and something that hasn't happened since Michael Jordan retired for the final time.

Who doesn't want to see that?

Views expressed in this column do not reflect the views of The Easterner to contact the writer e-mail easterner.sports@gmail.com.



Krystal Deyo currently holds Eastern's school record in the long jump.

goeags.com

Deyo's final leg

Star senior approaching her final Big Sky Conference Championship

BY AMY MEYER
staff writer

Senior Krystal Deyo broke the Pueller Invitational record for the 100-meter on Friday, April 29 — the record she set herself in 2009.

"I've changed a lot of things in my mechanics and my technique over the past couple years. That was the race where things finally fell together," she said.

Deyo has been running track since 7th grade. "I've done the same four events all throughout my career. I think that's why I've succeeded in those events — because I've never had to stray. I've been a student of my events," Deyo said.

As a student of her events, she takes her homework seriously. Between weights in the morning and practice in the evening, Deyo trains a total four hours a day.

She sprints the 100-meter, 4x100-meter relay and the 200-meter and competes in the long jump. Even specializing on these four events has been too broad for

Deyo. Narrowing in like a laser beam, she cut back on the 200-meter to specialize in the 100-meter and long jump.

And laser-beam focus is a prerequisite for a race that Deyo can complete in 10.97 seconds.

"You have to be very focused when you're in a sport that is all about the individual because you don't have your team to depend on — unless of course you're in a relay," said Deyo. "When you succeed, you get all the success. When you fail, all the failure is on your shoulders too."

Deyo said she is a little sad that this is her last season. "I'm struggling because I'd like to do well. There's a lot of pressure to do well in your last conference, especially when you've had success in the past."

But Deyo sees that success in her future.

"I know I have a lot more in the tank. I know that I still have a long ways to go, but I only have two weeks to do that. Hopefully I can put everything together when it comes for the finals, the championship."

Ranked fourth in the Big Sky Conference, Deyo knows that her technique, mechanics and diligence will give her the advantage in the conference championships in Sacramento, Calif.

"I have yet to show my true potential. And I think when I do, it's going to be a really good race," Deyo said.

Off the track, Deyo works with the team at Eastern's sports information office, a job that requires the knowledge she continues to gain from her journalism and public relations classes.

"I compete, and then I go write about it right afterward. It's a fun scenario, but it's kind of awkward at the same time," Deyo said.

She enjoys the work environment, she's juggled the job with track and school to improve her resume. "It's given me a lot of skills and time management, and it really showed me what the work force is like," she said. "I don't say no to anything, and I always want to be the best at everything I do. I think that's why I've succeeded."

Shannon Invitational qualifies more Eagles

BY AMY MEYER
staff writer

Pole vault competitors freshman Robin Taylor and sophomore Chloe Hall have both qualified for the Big Sky Conference Championship with jumps of 11-10 3/4 feet Saturday at the Ken Shannon Invitational at the Husky Stadium in Seattle.

Steeplechase runner sophomore Simon Sorenson will join Hall and Taylor in the Sacramento meet this coming week after qualifying in the event with a time of 9 minutes, 34.51 seconds.

Angelica Rodriguez picked up an additional event in the 400-meter at the last chance meet with a time of 57.14.

Taylor Walker, javelin thrower, moved up into the top 14 slot of the Big Sky Conference, qualifying for the championship.

Men's Head Coach Stan Kerr said that it had been a good weekend in Seattle.

"Relays had the weekend off. They're all sitting in guaranteed positions, so now we'll get our rehearsals in this week. And then Saturday we run both 4x100 and 4x400," Kerr said.

He stated that the team will fly down Thursday and warm up for the preliminaries on Friday. Shot and disc events will also be held Friday, while the hammer and javelin events will be Saturday.

Kerr is advising the athletes to continue to do what they've been doing to be successful and hydrate in preparation for the upper 70s and lower 80s temperatures the Eagles will enjoy in California.

"If you're well rested, your performance is going to show. That includes nutrition, staying with a diet. ... You don't all of a sudden want to go to a protein-rich or carbohydrate-rich diet. Stay the course. You can celebrate afterwards if you want to binge out on carbos," he said.

"Fill your water bottle, don't touch the knob," he added. "Don't get sick this week."

Kerr described the event as "18 division one schools, all in one venue. The athletes kind of know who's in that event. They know who they can beat."

Women's Head Coach Marcia Mecklenburg said, "For some of the athletes, this is their final meet, so it's kind of bittersweet. It's going to be hard to see them go, but they're ready to perform well, and I'm excited to watch them perform."

Kerr agreed, saying, "I love conference championship in particular for seniors. We want to send them out on as high and a positive note as possible. They're the ones that have invested more to this point than the rest of their teammates. ... They know it's a cool thing to get there, but it's not just to get there. It's to get there and be on top of the podium."

NATURE IS CALLING



Flight through mountains offer perspectives

While warm weather and clear skies have been few and far between in the Pacific Northwest, those who wish to spend time outside must become more creative in organizing weekend excursions, which should come as no surprise to the inhabitants of a region notorious for high precipitation rates and weather patterns that can change on a dime.

Thankfully, the geography of Washington is just about as diverse as the weather it receives, allowing for all kinds of recreation possibilities. As I made plans for last weekend's adventures, I could have been more careful to take all of this into account.

One of those adventures included locating an abandoned mine, known as the Hole in the Wall, which has been forgotten for more than 100 years. Located high in North Cascades, Hole in the Wall is said to be visible only from the air or the top of a few of the surrounding peaks. I learned of a group that claimed to have visited it awhile back, but refused to release its location.

After two years of pouring over old mining journals and geology books, I was ready to begin a search. So my brother and I joined a friend who is applying for his pilot's license, drove to Seattle, hopped in a Cessna and headed for the mountains.

The sky was a patchwork of foreboding clouds hovering around 4,000 feet. My friend had to stay below the cloud deck and didn't know if we could get high enough above the peaks, but we'd try it anyway.

As the plane took off and began to rise, I realized just how vulnerable small planes are to the effects of weather. It dipped and ducked against changes in air pressure and shuddered against the wind, but the views were worth it.

Snow-covered rock crags and peaks that towered above the valleys below and surrounded by clouds offered vistas that remain unseen by the masses. Hawks circled rivers and streams not far below us, and every now and then, one of us would spot a heard of elk in the hills.

While gazing out the window, we approached an eagle soaring no further than 40 feet from the plane; it turned sharply and glided away before we got any closer. Traveling at about 120 mph, we were able to cover more terrain than we could on foot or by car.

Much to my dismay, however, the cloud deck wasn't high enough for us to fly above the supposed location of the mine. We were able to look up the valley containing it and mark a few waypoints for a future flight or hike in, but the weather just wasn't willing to cooperate.

I guess the hunt for the Hole in the Wall will have to be postponed for a later date, but it wasn't all for naught. The opportunity to fly over the mountains in a small aircraft is one I'd recommend to anyone who hasn't already done so.

Views expressed in this column do not reflect the views of The Easterner to contact the writer e-mail easterner.sports@gmail.com.