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Features, B1



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# Student arrested for terroristic threatening



ROB MCDANIEL/PROGRESS

Police tape blocked off entrances to Palmer Hall on Monday, Dec. 3. In addition, Park Drive was shut down while the Lexington Bomb Squad, Kentucky State Police and K-9 unit investigated the suspicious item.

By KYLE WOOSLEY

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Eastern freshman Jacob Walker, of Middletown was arrested after a suspicious item was found in Palmer Hall Monday afternoon.

Walker, a major in fire protection, engineering and technology is being charged with first-degree terroristic threatening, a Class C felony.

At approximately 4 p.m. Monday, an emergency safety alert was sent to the campus community stating a suspicious item was found inside the residence hall.

"A residence hall-sized refrigerator was found," Marc Whitt, Associate Vice President of Public Relations said. "It had been duct taped and had a note strapped to it."

Whitt said the contents of the note and location of the refrigerator inside the residence hall are not being divulged because the investigation is still ongoing.

"The note was serious enough to make the RHC [residence hall coordinator] think it was necessary to evacuate," Whitt said.

The Kentucky State Police, Lexington Bomb Squad and a K-9 unit were called in to investigate the refrigerator. However, Whitt said the only content in the refrigerator was "rotten food."

Laura Snelling, 19, criminal justice major, from Erlanger, explained she was under the impression they were being evacuated for a fire

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## Men's rugby team hazing appeal denied

THE TEAM HAS BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FALL 2014 FOR HAZING

By KRISTIE HAMON

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The appeal submitted by the ECU Men's Rugby team to lift its suspension for hazing has been denied.

Tyler Farrell, a previous president and veteran member of the team, said the team received a letter from the vice president of Student Affairs on Friday saying their appeal had been denied.

"They said that they refuse to believe that what we were doing wasn't initiation for the new members of the team," Farrell said.

Farrell said the letter said the petition they submitted wasn't relevant because it was information the hazing committee could have figured out if they wanted to.

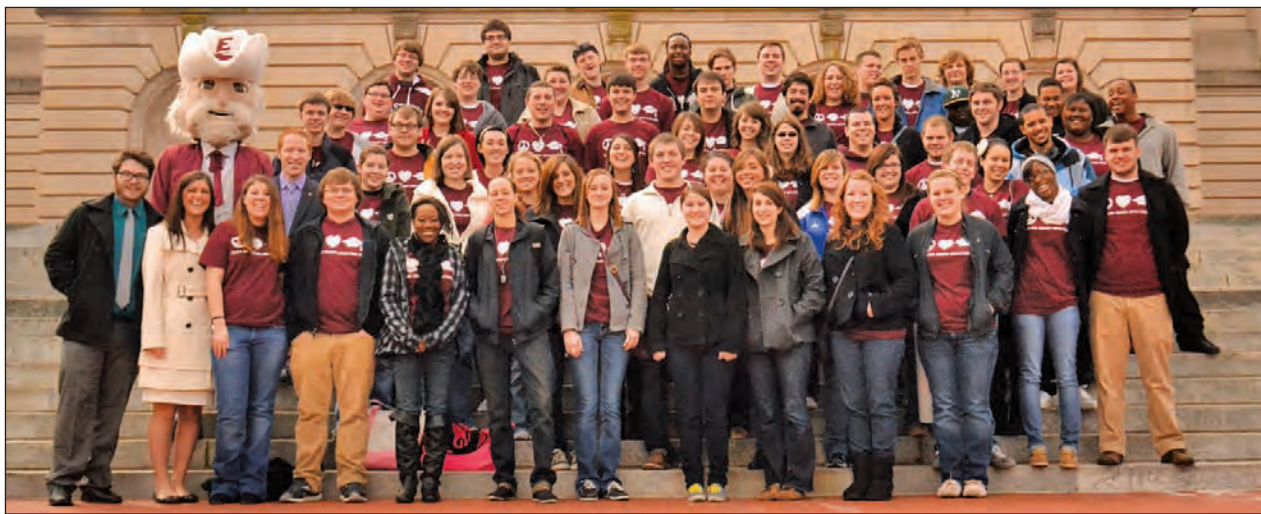
Additionally, Farrell said

even though they had a statement from the "hazed" member saying he wanted to do it, the appeal was denied because the university still considers it hazing when consent is given.

The team was suspended for hazing after hazing allegations were reported Oct. 23 and an investigation lead the Hazing Investigation Committee to report that a freshman member was paddled with a 2-by-4 wooden board to the point that blood was found in his room.

Farrell said though they will be suspended from campus until the fall of 2014, they will still find their own ways to keep the sport a part of their lives.

"They're not going to stop us from playing the sport we love," Farrell said. "I guess we're going to be suspended or kicked off campus for the next three seasons but they can't stop us from touching a rugby ball."



FILE PHOTO/PROGRESS

Pictured above is last year's Eastern representation at the Rally for Higher Education in Frankfort at the capitol. The rally will not take place this year because of a decision made by the Board of Student Body Presidents (BSBP).

## Rally for Higher Education canceled

By ELISE SVOBODA

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After nearly a decade of rallying at Frankfort, the Board of Student Body Presidents (BSBP) is taking a new approach to Rally for Higher Education.

On Nov. 10, the board voted to end the Rally in Frankfort, Eastern's Student Government Association (SGA) President Madelyn Street said the change was well accepted by the other presidents within the board.

"Rally for Higher Education has slowly become something that within the capitol is not taken seriously," Street said. "They see it more as a bunch of students coming to scream at them and we don't really get a clear message across. They would much rather us take a professional approach to the situation."

Alex Carson, chief of staff, who has gone to Rally

before, said the change should prove beneficial to students.

"When we go to the Rotunda, not much comes out of it," Carson said. "In fact, legislators close their doors for the day because we are disturbing. I found it to be a good thing because we can now focus on individuals to make a relationship between us and the legislators instead of just going there and yelling about what we want."

Nichole Arbino, executive vice president, said she was surprised when she heard the Rally would not be happening this year because of how it is a big thing.

"Like the BSBP meetings I have gone to have been a main focus like what are we going to do for Rally this year, and what's our theme going to be: this has always been a constant thing and then it was like oh yeah we

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## Students given choice to share certain personal information for directory

By ZEYNAB DAY

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Student Government Association (SGA) offers a new method for students to choose what personal information appears in the Student Directory.

The option can be accessed through ECU Direct under "Student Services and Financial Aid" and "SGA Directory Information."

The change offers radio buttons where students can check a box for the information they would like to appear in the directory. The choices are; address, phone

and email. There is also a button located below the radio buttons labeled, "Remove my Phone and Address from the SGA Printed Directory."

The SGA and Eastern's IT department implemented the changes on Nov. 29 as a preliminary trial to check for any issues prior to next academic year and will be utilized for future publications of the SGA Student



CARSON

➤ SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE A3

## Nontraditional student population shows significant growth across the nation

By WESLEY ROBINSON

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College campuses are seeing more and more Van Wilders, but it isn't because they are afraid to graduate.

Non-traditional students like the title character from *National Lampoon's Van Wilder*, are becoming far more prevalent on college campuses around the country. While more students are taking "victory laps," not graduating in the traditional four years, many students are starting school later in life, or returning to gain more education.

Of the 17.6 million current college students, 38 percent are age 25 and older, according to a study by the National Center for Education Statistics. Additionally, the report says 25 percent are more than 30 years old.

Lisa Cox, director of the student outreach and transition office, said there has been a 5.5-percent increase in non-traditional students from fall 2008 to fall 2011 when her office last gathered the data on non-traditional students.

"We've always ran at 25 percent [non-tradition-

al students] for undergrad only," Cox said. "That's notable when the undergraduate enrollment is decreasing [at Eastern]."

Cox said the only measure the university has for determining a non-traditional student is age and classification, but the campus' non-traditional student group, Older Wiser Learners (OWLS) accepts all students who self-identify as non-traditional students. This can include age, marital status, whether a student has children, how long since a student has graduated high school, whether a student is a veteran, a transfer student and many other self-identified characteristics.

The university is assessing methods to handle the evolving landscape in higher education including at her office, Cox said. Her office may become a central location for incoming students because by 2019 the number of non-traditional students is expected to increase by 20 percent.

"The Council on Postsecondary Education is refocusing its efforts on non-trad students," Cox said. "Freshmen coming to school straight from high school and graduating in four years ... that's not the reality of today's world."

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# FAFSA now available to students

By ALIXZANDRA DOYLE  
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Every year students fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to receive financial assistance needed to attend the college.

Beverly Wilks, a financial aid counselor, said students are encouraged to apply for financial assistance as quickly as they can.

“The priority deadline was established to encourage students to complete their FAFSA as early as possible so that they can receive maximum aid,” Wilks said.

Certain grants run out early due to limited funds, some state grants ran out as early as Jan. 31. Students can fill out their FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Students can fill out a PDF version of the FAFSA or you can request a paper copy by calling Federal Student Aid.

The PDF version of the FAFSA can be printed

and filled out manually before being sent in.

Jonathan Young, 18, English major from Williamsburg, said he didn’t waste any time filling out his FAFSA.

“After break ended and classes started up again I feel as if I have no time to sit down and actually fill out my FAFSA for next year,” Young said.

On the other hand, some students are unsure of how to fill out a FAFSA application altogether.

“My High School college adviser actually filled most of my FAFSA out for me,” said Beth Dixon, 20, history and music industry major. “When it came to filling out the FAFSA this year I had no idea how to fill it out at all.”

Help is available in the Financial Aid Office in the Student Success Building (SSB) for those students who need assistance in filling out their FAFSA.

For more information you can contact Eastern’s Financial Aid Office at 622-2361.

# CONSTITUTION

CONTINUED FROM A1

“I think it’s a great thing, especially since we worked on them so hard and early enough to have them presented at the next Advisory Board meeting,” Street said.

Though the exact date of the next Board of Regents meeting has yet to be determined, Tretina said these changes could potentially impact the upcoming student government elections.

Though Street said the constitution does not need to be changed every time it’s reviewed, she thinks it’s a good habit to review it regularly.

“I don’t think they really need to

be changed every year,” Street said. “Things are constantly changing and they need to be assessed based on the current times.”

If the changes do not pass the Advisory Board, it is possible they will have to restart the entire process Tretina said.

However, if approved by the Advisory Board the constitutional revisions will be presented for approval by Eastern’s Board of Regents at their next meeting in April.

*(Editor’s Note: Cari Tretina serves as copy editor of our publication. However, she will not be permitted to read stories involving the constitutional revisions to prevent bias.)*

# REALLOCATIONS

CONTINUED FROM A1

“Ultimately, this could result in some layoffs, which we’ve been fortunate to be perhaps the only institution in the state to avoid those at this point,” Whitlock said. “But to use a phrase that you hear in Washington a lot, we may have kicked the can as far down the road as we can.”

Bethany Miller, director of Institutional Research, said the student to faculty ratio in the 2011-2012 year at Eastern was 15.7-to-1, which improved from 16.8-to-1 from the 2010-2011 year.

“You want as few students to one faculty member as possible,” Miller said.

Janna Vice, university provost, said the university is currently collecting data on different departments.

“Right now, we’re in the process of finding data to look at the effectiveness of departments and a lot of things have to be taken into account,” Vice said. “We’re looking for programs that do not have as much student interest as they once did or don’t have as much faculty to run the programs as they once did.”

Any program that does not meet the requirements, Vice said, would still allow current students to complete their degree.

“The immediate impact on the students should not be severe,” Vice said.

Although the university would have less majors to offer after the possible cuts, Vice said she thinks it will be beneficial to Eastern’s overall future.

Malcolm Frisbie, faculty chair on the Board of Regents, said he sees the layoffs as inevitable but necessary for the university.

“That’s a hard reality,” Frisbie said. “Personnel costs make a large portion of the university’s costs in our overall budgets. If you do any kind of sizable

budget reallocation, it is going to impact personnel somehow.”

Whitlock said some portion of the overall budget could also be achieved through early retirement programs.

“Hopefully, to the largest degree possible, that [\$23 million] can be achieved through retirements, perhaps some incentive programs to cause people to retire earlier than they might,” Whitlock said.

In a statement released to the university, Whitlock said he is committed to make the process as fair and humane as possible.

Although no official decisions have been made, Whitlock said the university will stick with its core mission, which is to provide Eastern’s students with high quality instruction and service.

Whitlock has created a Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force in hopes of finding options to reach this goal.

“I’ve asked them to look at everything that’s on the table, to look at how we can achieve that \$23 million figure,” Whitlock said. “When they’ve come up with their list of possibilities, then I’m going to ask the Strategic Planning and Finance Council to look at it, evaluate it and give me their recommendations.”

The task force is comprised of the Dean’s Council, the President’s cabinet and representatives from Budgeting, Faculty Senate, Fiscal Management and the Strategic Planning and Finance Council.

“This effort will touch us all so everyone needs to have involvement,” Whitlock said.

Though reallocation is a tough situation to deal with, Frisbie said the process would be more beneficial to Eastern in the long run.

“It’s going to be difficult to do this but we can do it together,” Frisbie said. “The university will be in a much more strategic position when we get it done.”

# FITNESS

CONTINUED FROM A1

past. Street hopes to improve communication between the SGA and student body and encourages students to voice their opinions on sub-

jects of importance to them, which would in turn enable SGA to better serve the student body.

Street said the SGA is currently examining future considerations regarding the Phase II expansion of the Fitness and Wellness Center as it is an on-going process.

## Members of the Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force

### Deans Council      President’s Cabinet

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Allen Ault<br>Betina Gardner<br>Charles Hickox<br>Bill Phillips<br>Jerry Pogatshnik<br>Robert Rogow<br>John Wade<br>Deborah Whitehouse<br>Sara Zeigler | Skip Daugherty<br>Claire Good<br>David McFaddin<br>Barry Poynter<br>Mark Sandy<br>James Street<br>Virginia Underwood<br>Janna Vice<br>Libby Wachtel |
|--|---|

### Additional members:

- James Clark  
Director of Fiscal Management  
Karen Neubauer  
Exec. Director of Budgeting  
Sheila Pressley  
Faculty Senate Chair  
Pam Schlomann  
Chair of the Strategic & Financial Planning Council

# ONLINE

CONTINUED FROM A1

the cost of online classes is higher than traditional classes because the university has to invest heavily in technology and other support services to maintain the online courses.

Robert Brubaker, chair of the Department of Psychology, said he has taught on campus and online classes and finds value in both.

“The only difference I can think of is the class composition,” Brubaker said. “That diversity among the E-Campus students brings a certain richness and variety of perspectives to class discussions that might not be there in non-E-Campus classes made up of traditional students.”

Wanju Huang works as an instructional designer for online classes and said she works as a bridge between instructors and students to make sure all learning outcomes are achieved. She said technology is constantly evolving and it’s the job of instructional designers to figure out how to adapt it to online classes.

“If you provide something that’s going to help students learn they will use it, you just have to show them why,” Huang said.

Huang has taught in classrooms an online and said she works to ensure the instructor is teaching clearly so that students are learning as if they are in the classroom.

“It’s all about the quality of learning experience and how we can best serve the students,” Huang said.

He said within the psychology department

the quality standards are the same as with E-Campus.

Scotty Dunlap, an assistant professor in the college of Justice and Safety uses discussion board dialogue in Blackboard, video lectures filmed and edited by E-Campus Instructional Designers, video conferences for group projects, dialogue in the virtual office hours, augmented reality videos to depict three-dimensional models of things covered in class, and standard communication through e-mail to communicate with students.

“Each of these tools have helped to lessen the “technological divide” that was an issue in online education in past years,” Dunlap said.

Lowell Hanson, 52, from Buffalo recently graduated from Eastern’s E-Campus program and is looking to pursue a master’s degree in the future from the university. Hanson said

technology was something he struggled with, but the quality of courses and instructors has helped him improve his learning after starting classes in 2008.

“They would take time and talk to you online or on the phone or over email,” Hanson said. “They wanted you to understand what was going on and actually learn.”

More than the personal attention in the classroom, Hanson said he really was touched in his online learning experience after his son was killed in Afghanistan while serving the U.S. Armed Forces.

“I was at the funeral home and I looked up and there was staff from the college that [were at the services],” Hanson said. “It meant a lot. I was pretty impressed.”

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