

STAFF EDITORIAL

Smoking zones should be enforced

A person has the right to clean air, however, a person also has the right to dirty his or her lungs with the sweet sensation of nicotine in a cigarette.

It is because of these rights that the smoking perimeters on Eastern's campus should be more strictly enforced.

Students who do not smoke should be able to walk out of Coleman Hall without gobs of smoke blowing in their faces because people with cigarettes are standing closer than 15 feet to the door. It is important to remember, as well, that there are people with asthma or people who are allergic to the smoke produced by lighting a cigarette. These people should not be forced to walk through clouds of smoke on their way to and from classes.

Students also have the right to smoke these cigarettes as well. Smoking is something that many students do and because of this, they should be allowed to have clean, comfortable areas to do this activity in. Just because a person can't say no to the call of a pack of Camels doesn't mean that he or she should be forced outside when it is raining or snowing with no cover overhead.

It is because of these things that we support the enforcement of the smoking areas on campus, with the condition that the designated smoking areas on campus are looked into.

More effort needs to be put into making sure that students who smoke regularly can do so in a place in which they do not feel like they are being punished for doing so.

Being forced into an outside area away from other people that is entirely exposed to the elements may feel just like punishment. On the other side, it may feel like punishment to the students who wish to breathe in big gulps of clean air without worrying about whether or not they will choke on smoke.

On April 27, the last meeting of the year, the Student Government passed a resolution showing the support of the student body for the enforcement of the smoking areas on campus. The resolution came about because of the realization that there is little to no enforcement of the designated smoking areas and, therefore, not many students follow those rules.

It is important for university officials to enforce the designated smoking perimeters carefully. Both students who smoke and those who do not should be able to have the freedom to breathe in whatever they want. No one should be made to feel like an outsider, stand outside in bad weather, or have unwanted inhalation of smoke.

It is up to the university officials responsible for enforcing these smoking areas to make sure that all students are being represented and that everyone is treated fairly according to their wants and needs.

The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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

COLUMN

Working for us has benefits

You may call me the new kid in town, formally known as The Daily Eastern News' editor in chief for the summer and fall semesters.

As editor in chief, I hope to accomplish a few things, which you, the reader, will hopefully enjoy.

First, I want the newspaper to turn into a more visually appealing publication featuring more graphics, sidebars and dominant art. I want you to pick up the newspaper everyday because you notice something different, interesting or unique about it.

Second, I want to see better stories in the newspaper. I'm just like the next guy who wants to be more intrigued by the stories in the newspaper.

Both of these goals will take time, but I hope you begin to see the progression of these goals throughout the summer and into the fall semester.

One thing that will help me accomplish both goals is a bigger staff. For now, you'll be seeing a select few names writing stories in the newspaper because we are a tad short staffed.

I encourage anyone who is interested in being a part of something this summer – writing, taking photographs, designing pages, or copy editing – to give the DEN a call and let us know you're



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interested.

You don't have to be a journalism major or communication studies major to work for us. If you have an interest in doing anything I've listed above, call us or email me.

We've had a variety of different majors in the newsroom for as long as I've been here. I've met students from political science, English, history, theatre arts, and graphic design to name just a few.

Working for the DEN will not only offer valuable work experience with writing, photographing, editing and designing, but it will allow you to be a part of a fun group of students.

I've met almost all of my friends in the newsroom and having worked at the DEN for two

years now, I have many great memories of current and former staff members.

Believe it or not, it is fun to work here.

As a reporter, you might have the opportunity to talk to some of the elite members of this university, community and nation.

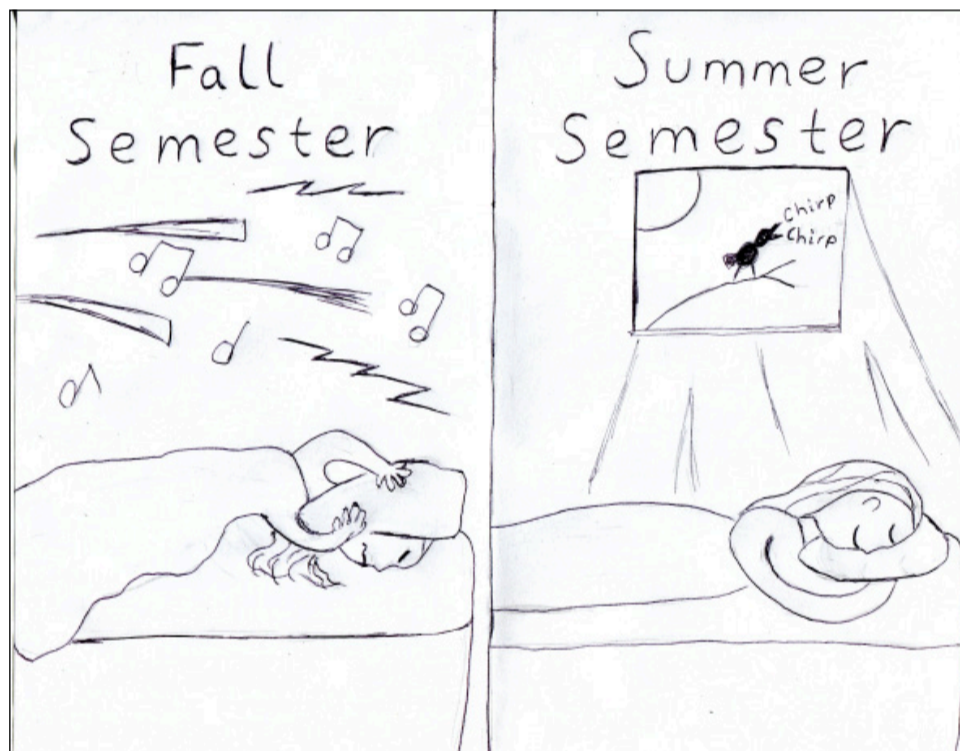
In my experience, I have been able to talk to people such as Gary Reed, this spring's Daily Eastern News Person of the Year; Bob Spoo, the football team's head coach; Sean Payton, the NFL's New Orleans Saints' head coach; Barbara Burke, Eastern's athletic director; Adrian Clayborn, former defensive end for the Iowa Hawkeys and the 20th pick in this April's NFL Draft; and Brady Sallee, the women's basketball head coach.

If you're not interested in reporting, photographing, designing or editing, maybe you're interested in voicing your opinion. Our opinions section would be for you. If you have an opinion on something, come to us and you could turn into a columnist for the newspaper.

There are many opportunities in working for the DEN and I hope you take advantage of them. See you soon.

Alex McNamee is a junior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

FROM THE EASEL



ALESHA BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

COLUMN

Animal rescue RSO pairs with C.A.R.E.

Eastern students find that having a pet at school brings a sense of home to their college life. It brings the warmth and happiness, and a playmate that is always going to greet you at the door.

When school ends, however, many of these animals are put to the street to fend for themselves. Abandoned by their owners who can't take them home, their pet's safety is not a priority.

This may not have to be the case much longer, thanks to Floyd Trapp who began a new campus RSO for animal safety. While it wasn't of much interest to students in the spring semester, that is not a reason to leave "man's best friend" to fight for food with the raccoons.

Instead, the future of the RSO wants to find loving families who will take your unwanted pet. Their goal is to take in animals that have been abandoned. These animals won't have to hunt for their food, and they won't be starved for love or affection.

This RSO is going to benefit the campus and its students. For many students who are looking for volunteer experience, there will be opportu-



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nities for leadership. It's also going to benefit the animals who have gone from not being loved to now being loved too much.

The County Animal Rescue & Education Center located in Charleston will work hand-in-hand with the animal rescue and care RSO on campus. C.A.R.E. is an organization that puts animals up for adoption to those families who will give them the affection and love they deserve.

This is a better solution than putting your pet out in the rain and snow. According to the ASPCA website, most strays are lost pets that are not cared for in the right way. In fact, it is estimated by ASPCA that 20 percent of cats are strays.

This may not seem like a large amount to some, but ASPCA estimates there may be as many as 70 million stray animals in the United States. Isn't that alarming? Having this said, it is estimated that the 20 percent of stray cats account for 14 million of stray animals in the United States.

It makes you stop and think when you see a fragile animal walking the street. It may be that they have run away from their owner. They may have been dumped along the side of the road. Animal shelters and the new animal safety RSO coming to Eastern's campus want to help prevent this.

Animals deserve a home, too. If you're going to abandon your animal, take them to the shelter where they may get a better home. Sending a dog or cat into the cold could teach them survival, but these domesticated animals need human care. Do the right thing, and give them human compassion.

Jennifer Brown is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.