

**STAFF EDITORIAL**

## We expect more from Green Space

The Daily Eastern News reported on the Green Space project update between Klehm Hall and the Biological Sciences building in last Thursday's edition.

Since the announcement of the project in the spring 2011 semester as part of the Master Plan renovation we at the Daily Eastern News have seen very little progress on the project that is happening right outside of our window. So we ask you, why?

There has been mention of walkways and plants to fill out the blank space in to a recreational area for students currently occupying the former construction storage space but thus far all we have seen is soil.

Lots and lots of soil lay in the "green space." Trees, shrubs, and grass are green, dirt is not.

All we ask is some progress, or at least an update. When will the project be done or when will it be worked on next?

We will say this; the blank space is an improvement from the construction storage space or fenced off parking lot we and our predecessors had been looking at for nearly a decade.

During our latest staff meeting, however, we had tried to recall the last time we saw someone working on the project and not one of us could come up with one time in particular.

Do not misunderstand our position, we understand that there are many different projects that need to be given attention but when there is a specific project as publicized, complete with a letter to Student Government announced at a public meeting, we expect a little more follow through on the hype.

With an increased number of families and potential new students visiting the campus for tours twice a day, five days a week, students and families visiting for freshman and transfer debut, as well as all the number of high school camps that we host as a university how good do we look with a large space in the middle of our buildings filled with dirt? - Probably not very good.

This is a situation that goes beyond the current students, staff and faculty as it is a commonly-traveled path by anyone who visits our campus.

We have made several attempts to get answers as to what is happening next with our newest aesthetically pleasing addition to campus with very little to show for it so as of right now we are just hoping for some progress in the very near future.

## The DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor in Chief **Alex McNamee** News Editor **Melissa Sturtevant**

Managing Editor **Jordan Boner** Activities Editor **Ashley Hoogstraten**

Sports Editor **Joe Long** Administration Editor **Jennifer Brown**

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

**COLUMN**

## What happened to the simpler times

I had court in Shelbyville the other day. Nothing major, just a simple traffic violation. I scraped together what gas money I could pull together to make it there. Thinking nothing of it, I wore shorts. Dress shorts mind you. Upon arrival I was told that not only could I not enter the courtroom but could possibly go to jail just for wearing shorts in the courtroom.

Today, I am disgusted to live in Illinois.

Were my intentions disrespectful? No, I simply didn't catch the five-by-seven memo posted on the metal detector in the entry way.

Its a sad day when a man's character is judged by the form of clothing covering his lower half.

That is what it's all about right? I mean, obviously its not just for us bad characters to have to jump through hoops right?

Today, I am disgusted to live in Illinois.

Of course the Coles County Courthouse isn't much better. In Coles, they don't care what you wear, they just run you through like a check out counter at a superstore that's only concern is how much dough they're raking in. Is there an in-between? Nope.

Coles is just a little too big to have that small town charm and Shelbyville is just a little too



**Julian Russell**

small to realize that we don't live in the 1800's anymore.

Abraham Lincoln would be spinning in his grave if he knew what's become of our legal system.

People are poor right now and by God I know, because I am one of them. If I have money to spare for clothing its for my daughter who comes first, not me. I sure as hell managed to get there one way or the other, but that just didn't cut it.

I got home and I pulled out my old Nintendo. The damn thing still works to this day. I ran through a couple games of Mario Bros. and am reminded of a simpler time. That statement is obviously argumentative, be it a simpler time at

the start of the 90's, or a simpler time because I was a child, but nonetheless, a time when video games stuck around for years instead of being mass produced every week because they took forever to play.

A time when the Bulls were good at basketball, which we seem to have witnessed a rebirth of.

I then took a drive out in the "country" which to you city folk is what we refer to the rural area outside of town as. Every single man, woman and child I passed waved. It was amazing.

As I drove, my friend told me about the numerous fights he sees every night that he goes out to the bars. Fights based simply off of drunk people wanting to fight and yelling obscenities at one another about who is a bigger man. The bigger man is the one who has something better to do.

Today, I am disgusted to live in Illinois. It wasn't so much the hate that mystified me but rather, the absence of love.

*Julian Russell is a senior communications studies major. He can be reached at 581-7942 or at DENopinions@gmail.com.*

**FROM THE EASEL**



ALEX MCNAMEE | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

**COLUMN**

## Cicadas hike up outdoor appreciation

Thirteen-year cicadas have given people a new appreciation for Mother Nature. Swarms of these pests have taken over the outdoors, landing wherever there is space.

It's enough to give someone an anxiety attack when one flies into an undesirable location, such as a car. The cicada's unwelcoming screech puts a person on alarm when they look down and make eye-contact with its red eyes.

The news has reported there are billions of these cicadas and they will only last two weeks, which is good-right?

However, there is a good part to these flying creatures people must dodge, move away from and look out for before opening doors.

They don't bite animals or humans, which makes them better than most bugs. They just fly around in the trees and, hopefully, are eaten by the birds. However, I think the cicadas outnumber the birds to a wide margin.

The quiet outdoors has been taken over by a constant chirping. A very loud, constant chip. Days of reading a book on a picnic table bench are few now, but the noise seems to be dying down.

Does this mean they are starting to go back



**Jennifer Brown**

in the ground? Let's hope so.

It seems two things bring them out the most, and those would be heat and sunlight. While these two consistently work hand-in-hand, the cicadas are attracted to any wooden structures, including buildings.

However, it is ironic to go out to lunch and watch them from inside Subway. They fly into the door or window and fall. They then crawl on the ground and fly away.

They're strange little creatures, but they like to attack when given the chance. All they do is land on people and then fly away, but the landing part is more than enough to cause stress.

Soon they'll all be in the ground again. The outdoors will be quiet again, and the summer

can be enjoyed with lazy days reading a book on a picnic table bench.

Their big red eyes will no longer be a nuisance, and they won't look so scary when they fly. It's strange, however; they always seem to fly in packs. Just when a person shoos one away, they have to shoo away another.

They have affected many states across the Midwest, moreso in some states than in others. Some counties may not have been affected at all, but in Charleston they are vibrant in the trees.

At night, it is peaceful. The cicadas don't make much noise, which is great. Then, morning comes and they serve as an alarm clock. They're active and flying all across campus, but maybe they'll be gone soon.

They may have an annoying screech, but they're harmless. In a week, they'll be gone. Then people will have back their outdoors until the 17-year cicadas arrive.

*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.