

2-11-2003

Daily Eastern News: February 11, 2003

Eastern Illinois University

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Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: February 11, 2003" (2003). *February*. 7.
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Kentucky fried Panthers

Second-place Eastern Kentucky
rallies in second half
to defeat Panthers by 19.

Page 12 SPORTS



Mertz's DNA a likely match

By Shauna Gustafson
SENIOR WRITER

DNA evidence showed Anthony B. Mertz as a likely match to a DNA profile found under the fingernails of Shannon McNamara.

While Mertz's profile was not guaranteed as the only match, expert witness Jennifer Lu, a scientist at the Illinois State Police forensics lab in Springfield, said there was a 1 in 1.8 billion chance among white individuals to match the profile.

Keith Laski and Brian Beavers both were able to be excluded from matching the profile, Lu testified.

Mertz is charged with first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and home invasion in the June 12, 2001, murder of McNamara.

A mix of two DNA profiles found under McNamara's fingernails, specifically on the right hand, showed one as a match to McNamara's DNA, the other as a profile from which Mertz could not be excluded as a match. Lu said 1 in 29 billion black individuals would match the profile, 1 in 1.8 billion white individuals and 1 in 1.1 billion Hispanic individuals.

Lu identified the world population as being between 6 billion to 7 billion. State's Attorney Steve Ferguson had 2000 U.S. Census information into evidence, showing in 2000 that 281,421,906 people lived in the United States, with 211,460,626 of them being white.

No two people in the world have identical



SKETCH BY GUSTAVE GERHARDT

Circuit Court Judge Dale Cini presides over the court Monday of the capital murder trial of Anthony B. Mertz. The prosecution rested its case Monday.

DNA, unless they are identical siblings, Lu said.

During cross examination, defense attorney Paula Phillips asked Lu if DNA evidence is absolute and if it was an exact science. Lu said it is an exact science and is absolute at least in the sense of excluding those who are not a match.

Phillips focused many questions on the procedures used by the lab to ensure no contamination occurs and to clarify if other potential matches could have been made.

No other person matched from the standards

SEE MERTZ ♦ Page 7

DNA strengthens many cases

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

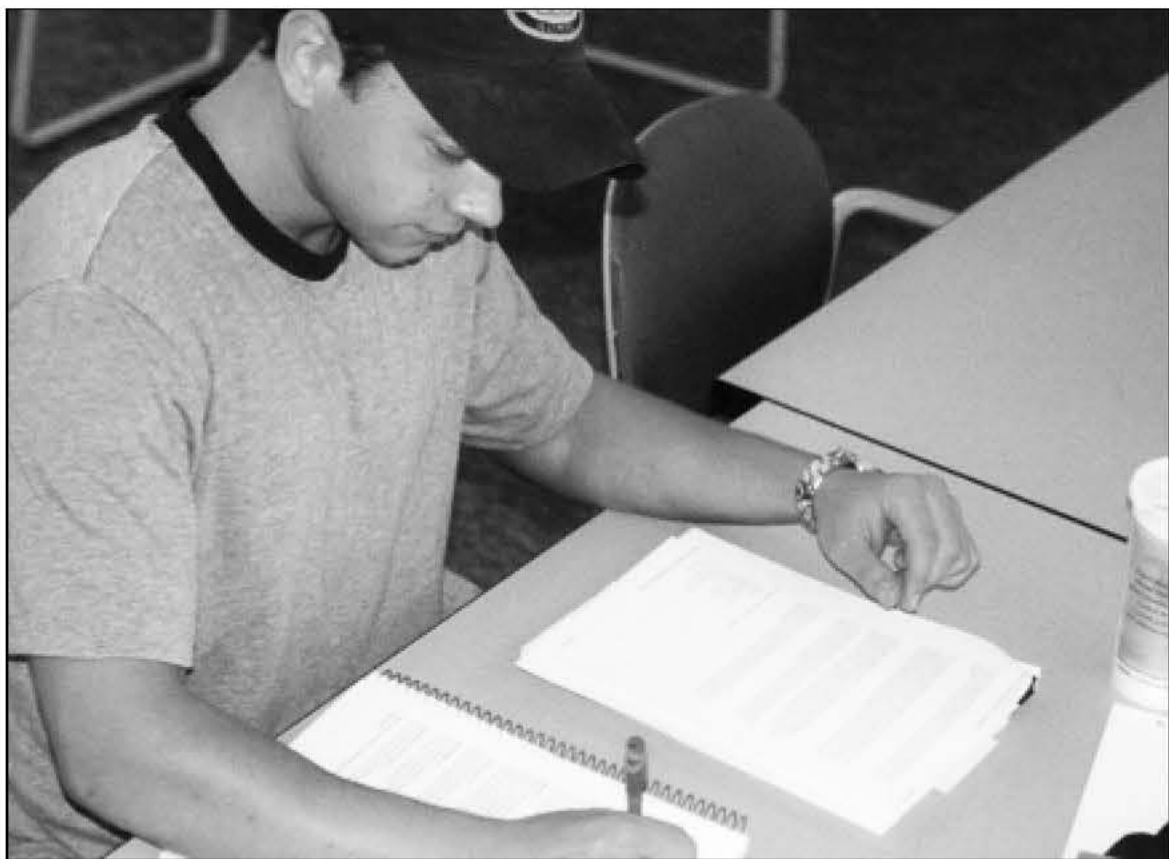
Genetic evidence is one of the many forms of evidence the prosecution holds against Anthony B. Mertz, now on trial for the murder of Shannon McNamara.

During testimony Monday, expert witness Jennifer Lu, a scientist at the Illinois State forensics lab in Springfield, said the likelihood is 1.8 billion to one that DNA from McNamara's fingernail scrapings matched Mertz's DNA.

Alan Friedman, forensic scientist for Helix Biotech Inc. of Wisconsin, described genetic evidence as transfer evidence.

"DNA is biological fluid transferred from the perpetrator to the victim or the victim's property or from the perpetrator to the perpetrator's

SEE DNA ♦ Page 7



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Jeremy Carlson, a sophomore biological sciences and pre-medicine major, studies in the 24-hour study lab in Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Monday evening. Carlson said that he is more focused than he was in his freshman year.

Average freshman GPA reaches 2.36

By Tim Martin
CAMPUS EDITOR

Many freshmen make bad first impressions on the first day of classes. Some rebound, but many don't.

And the numbers prove it.

For the fall 2002 semester, freshmen studied (or didn't) their way to a cumulative grade point average of 2.36 with sophomores earning a 2.83, a .47 point gap.

"There is no mom or dad there to wake (freshmen) up and tell them to go class — class attendance is their No. 1 killer," said Debbie Barker, an academic adviser who advises 300 to 400 freshmen a semester. "They just don't realize how much free time they actually have, and they don't know what to do with all that extra time."

Wesley Koehler, a freshman computer information systems major, said the lifestyle change from an eight-hour high school day to a condensed college class load can be a tough adjustment.

Grades around the state

	Fr.	Soph.	Jr.	Sr.
WIU	2.64	2.83	2.89	2.97
SIU	2.54	2.82	2.87	3.07
NIU	2.2	2.6	2.7	3.0
Ill. St.	2.66	2.82	2.86	2.96
EIU	2.36	2.90	3.07	3.29

Grades are calculated from Fall semester 2002.

"I'd definitely say there is too much free time (here at college)," he said. "I actually have lots of free time, and that's not necessarily a good thing — I should probably spend more of it studying."

Barker said more demanding classes are the reason for the lower freshmen grades.

"You would be surprised how many students don't know how to study," she said. "Even some honors students struggle because high

SEE GPA ♦ Page 9

Senior lands a 'Super' internship with ABC



Sarah Marten

"There was a pregame concert and the stadium was shaking. At first I thought it was a game."

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Most Eastern students were huddled around a television set with friends to watch one of the biggest spectacles of the year — the Super Bowl on Jan. 26.

But senior Sarah Marten had a slightly different perspective of the game. As an assistant for ABC television's sideline reporter, Melissa Stark, Marten was one of the rare fortunate souls watching the game in person in San Diego.

"There was a pregame concert and the stadium was shaking," Marten said. "At first I just thought it was a game,

Spotlight: People

♦ In the spotlight this week is Sarah Marten. This article is part of a series focused on events, people and organizations in our community



but when they were introducing the players, I thought about how 150 million people were watching."

Marten spent this past NFL season working the sidelines with Stark and the rest of the Monday Night Football staff, but Marten's ascent to one of the most

coveted jobs in professional sports is a story of hard work.

Marten is in her fourth year at Eastern and is working for a double degree in speech communications and journalism with a public relations minor. Needing 150 credit hours to graduate, Marten took 21 credit hours during the fall semester and is taking 21 hours again this spring. She did all of this while spending her weekends traveling to cities across the country with Monday Night Football.

Marten said after working on Saturdays she would go back to the hotel and spend four hours studying.

To travel with Monday Night

Football, Marten had to miss Friday and Monday classes, but she was able to rearrange her schedule so she would only miss one class each day.

"When I found out I got the Monday Night Football job, I e-mailed all my professors and told them, 'Here is my situation. I'm going to be missing a lot of classes,' and then I began rescheduling classes," Marten said.

It didn't take long for Marten to get a job with ABC. After working for WEIU-TV for two years, Marten decided she wanted something different.

"I had been talking to (Mike Bradd,

SEE ABC ♦ Page 7

COMING UP

UPI teams up with Fair Trade Coalition

By Jennifer Chiariello
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Students and faculty will discuss issues related to education, fair working conditions and justice in Charleston and abroad tonight at a coffeehouse discussion.

Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois will team up with the Fair Trade Coalition, the student chapter of the Illinois Federation of Teachers and the Newman Catholic Center to present the discussion.

"This started out because a lot of students were concerned about negotiations and what issues are here at Eastern. The genesis of it is to have a student moderated discussion and overall build communication," said David Radavich, UPI president. Keith Taylor, a political science major, will be the moderator for

the event.

"The Newman Center has been very gracious to provide a place where we could have this discussion," Radavich said.

"Coffee growers get Fair Trade prices on coffee beans to make a living and have adequate working conditions. Coffee is the most traded commodity. If the growers don't get a fair price, they are driven into poverty. This ties into Eastern because we are concerned about providing good working conditions and building community.

"We are hoping to include the student department of the Illinois Federation of Teachers as well as other groups, so it should be an exciting event."

The coffee house discussion will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Newman Catholic Center. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be available.

Bucket Brigade set for April

By Holly Frejlich
STAFF WRITER

This April, some chosen Charleston residents' homes will receive a fresh coat of paint.

Bucket Brigade, a community service project initiated by Student Body President Alison Mormino, will take place April 12 to assist residents with painting their homes.

The community service project was created in 1988 in Mormino's hometown of Alton, by Dale Neudecker, a State Farm Insurance agent, Mormino said.

Mormino is currently looking for volunteers for the project, in addition to home nominations, which are available at the Student Government office in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union and in the *Times-Courier* of Charleston. Citizens are also encouraged to partake in the project through financial donations.

Since the event began in Alton, it has grown to more than 50 volunteer teams and more than 800 homes, Mormino said.

On the morning of April 12, led by Mormino, students and citizens are being asked to form "brigade teams," to assist the community. These "brigade teams," will then travel throughout Charleston painting the homes.

Of those chosen, most will be citizens who have applied for grant funding or low-interest home improvement loans through the city. However, applicants are not limited to these criterion, Mormino said.

Mormino hopes to see a strong showing from student organizations and the student body as a whole.

"Because this project was started in my hometown, it is one that means a great deal to me. I hope that the students and community will help to make this project a success," Mormino said.

After the events of the day, there will be a picnic lunch at Morton Park to honor volunteers, as well as allow homeowners the opportunity to socialize with the people who helped support the event.



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Hi tech

Keith Andrew shows how technology for lighting cities and the world has improved around us in the "Technology and Us" symposium, Monday evening in the Arcola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Faculty Senate looks to develop new subcommittee

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

With one subcommittee on computer privacy already in existence, on Tuesday the Faculty Senate will look toward developing others to focus on issues surrounding academic freedom.

The senate organized a faculty forum last month and discussed such issues as freedom in research and options in shared governance.

The senate will pool results of the forum Tuesday to see what recommendations can be made in the future, along with what committees can be formed to discuss them, said chair Anne Zahlan.

The subcommittee on computer privacy was formed last semester after the issue of privacy was brought to the senate by English professor John Kilgore.

The policy draft includes provisions ensuring the university recognize a faculty or staff's inherent right to the operation of computers provided to them and information stored on them.

"All you can do with a privacy policy is agree on a principle," Kilgore said at the faculty forum.

The Faculty Senate will also

hear a proposal to amend its constitution's wording.

The senate helps select membership for university committees filled by elected members, such as the Council on Teacher Education, but the senate's constitution is in conflict with other committee's bylaws.

With the exception of the Council on Academic Affairs, the committees or councils are in the practice of specifying membership selection from university colleges, while the senate constitution says members are elected at large, Zahlan said.

The proposed change Tuesday will bring the senate wording into "agreement with current practice," said Doug Brandt, chair of the senate elections committee.

If the senate accepts the proposed revision, the faculty must pass it by a two-thirds vote following a two-week period. Voting will likely be by mail ballots or through polling stations Feb. 27, Brandt said.

Senate bylaw changes do not need a faculty vote, but the two-week period for constitutional amendments allows the proposal to be distributed among faculty.

The senate's proposed revision was brought to the attention of the elections committee because the CAA is in the process of revising its bylaws to select two members from each college and one at-large, Zahlan said.

The senate also will hear a report on the state of intercollegiate athletics at Eastern from Gail Richard, chair of the intercollegiate athletics board.

Richard is also the NCAA athletics faculty representative.

Richard said she will offer the senate a "thumbnail sketch of student athletics," and touch on issues such as diversity and graduate rates.

The senate also will hear discussion on appropriated and external funds in the athletics department, something that could be a primary concern for senate members, Richard said.

Appropriated funds originate mostly from tax revenues and tuition spent within a fiscal year.

"The appropriated dollars are pretty minimal compared to the overall budget," she said.

The Faculty Senate will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

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The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and twice weekly during the summer term except during school vacations or examinations. Subscription price:

\$38 per semester, \$16 for summer, \$68 all year. The Daily

Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is

entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this paper.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT:
Charleston, IL 61920
ISSN 0894-1599

PRINTED BY:
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
The Daily Eastern News
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End of faculty strike threat relieves campus

By Kevin Sampier
ADMINISTRATION REPORTER

Students no longer need to worry about a faculty strike now that a tentative contract agreement was accepted Thursday by the negotiating team.

The talk of a strike during faculty contract negotiations had students wondering whether a strike would interfere with their classes or grades. Now that there will be no strike, students can breathe a sigh of relief.

"I think it's great that they're not going to strike," said junior sociology major Blaine Touchette.

"I heard before they would have administrators standing in. I don't think students would have gotten the same education from someone just going over a lesson plan compared with someone that actually knows the subject," Touchette said.

"I think it's better for students, and they'll get a better education."

Lost tuition was a concern for many students before the agreement was made between the University Professionals of Illinois teachers union and Eastern's administration.

"I didn't want the money I'm paying Eastern to go to waste if they went on strike," said sophomore social science major Jamie Conachen.

Senior special education major Bethany Hill felt the same way.

"I really don't think we should pay to not go to class," she said.

The worries a strike would have on academic performance are now over for junior pre-med major Ryan Cox.

"I think that's great. I wouldn't want the semester to have been disrupted," Cox said. "I'm doing well in my classes and that would break up the flow of the semester."

Sophomore psychology major Kerry Curran can make plans for the summer now that a tentative agreement has been reached.

"I was worried if we would have classes or not, we would have to make it up in the summer," Curran said. "I'm studying abroad this summer and that would have really conflicted with my plans."

Both UPI members and non members are happy to see the possibility of a strike avoided by the tentative agreement.

"I'm glad a settlement has been reached," said David Carwell, assistant professor of political science. He also said he is still skeptical of the future.


"I'm just concerned. It took 11 months to get this, and that bothers me. It doesn't bode well," Carwell said. "The last few faculty contract negotiations have lasted longer and longer," Carwell said. He has been a union member for about eight years.

"Until the union voted on a strike authorization, the administration didn't seem too interested in settling. It seems like you have to beat the administration over the head before they will deal with you," Carwell said.

Bob Wayland, director of employee and labor relations, did not think that was the case.


"I would disagree," Wayland said. "We weren't dragging our feet. Both parties had some issues they weren't willing to move on."

"I think the important thing is that we did resolve it, and it's something both parties are happy with."




Josh Beverlin

"I think it's a good idea. I don't want to quit classes for a few weeks."




Ashley Hendricks

"I think it's good. I don't want to not have classes."




Megan Morettes

"I'm happy that they aren't striking. I don't have to worry about classes being canceled and worrying about making up lost hours."



Sophie Morgan

"I think it's good. I don't want to have to stay longer."



Elise Whitlatch

"It's definitely good for students. They don't have to miss classes. It will create less trouble."

Senate researching possibility of on-campus dentist

By Dustin White
STAFF WRITER

The lack of a dentist on campus can cause a lot of problems for students, and that is why the Student Senate has proposed the idea of bringing a dentist to campus.

"I want to bring a dentist to campus because it will benefit all of the students and eliminate inconveniences that may arise from a lack of dental care," said Amanda Sartore, chair of the Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee.

Sartore presented a recommendation for an on-campus dentist at last week's senate meeting.

Students who need dental treatment have to leave campus to find it, which can mean missing classes or other important functions, she said. Also, students who have no dental insurance may not be able to afford the services of an off-campus dentist.

Eastern has never had a certified dentist on campus, although Sartore said a dental hygienist used to make weekly visits but does not anymore. However, while that service did not meet all of the dental needs that a student may have, a full-time dentist would have the capabilities to fulfill all of them.

Sartore said this first resolution is mainly "just for information." It says dental hygiene is an important

factor in the health and well-being of every student; and that an on-campus dentist is a service from which every student would benefit.

Sartore has taken charge of the topic, presenting it to the Student Senate last Wednesday. She said she hasn't done much research yet, but she feels strongly about the subject and looks forward to seeing it materialize.

A lot of details need to be worked out, and Sartore has not had the opportunity to contact any University officials on the subject.

She did mention the idea to Vice President of Student Affairs Shirley Stewart, but Stewart said, "We spoke only in passing on the subject." Stewart said she advised

Sartore to contact Lynette Drake, director of Health Services, on the subject.

Sartore said the most important issue would be the cost of an on-campus dentist. A decision would have to be made as to how students would pay for the service. Sartore thinks the costs could be tied into the existing fees paid by students for current health services.

"This would likely mean a rise in student fees," Sartore said. "Not all students would support this action."

For the most part, however, Sartore has not had the opportunity to take an in-depth look at those details.

"Student support is very impor-

tant to the passing of this resolution," Sartore said.

She said many students she has spoken to would be in favor of an on-campus dentist.

"With enough student support, the resolution will have a chance to pass, and the topic will be presented to the Health Service Advisory Board," Sartore said. "That is where the real decision will be made."

Sartore is very confident that an on-campus dentist is a realistic goal for Eastern. She believes that with some work, it can be done.

While it appears that she still has some work to do, Sartore seems determined to do all she can to see the resolution through.



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EDITORIAL

Keeping students in mind

Residents on a couple of floors in the south tower of Taylor Hall can now breathe a little easier.

Students residing in Taylor Hall wanted to have the cigarette smoke from some of the floors there — and the Residence Hall Association listened.

The RHA voted to add two non-smoking floors in the south tower of Taylor Hall, giving many of the residents what they wanted.

Many non-smoking residents complained about cigarette smoke and wished to live on a non-smoking floor.

It's in instances like these the RHA proves its worth. The group represents the interests of students who live on campus and can act as a watchdog organization for residents.

But what has happened at Eastern isn't anything new. Many other universities around the country are looking into becoming smoke-free.

Other universities are not giving students a choice in the matter, but Eastern takes its residents' input into consideration. It is of nice of Housing and Dining Services to accommodate its students and listen to their preferences.

Mark Hudson, director of Housing and Dining Services, said the trend at Eastern has moved toward fewer smoking areas in recent years.

"We're really just following what the students want," Hudson said.

Last year Lawson Hall went smoke free, and next year more smoke-free floors will be added if that's what students desire.

The Center for Disease Control stated that on a national level, smoking is on the decline for young people. The organization cited several factors that may have contributed to the decline in smoking.

The price in cigarettes has increased 70 percent since 1997, putting a vice grip on the wallets of college student smokers.

Eastern is on its way to becoming completely smoke free in its residence halls; however, this could alienate those who smoke and be a deterrent to potential students.

The RHA should continue to look out for issues in residence halls like smoking. While the group can champion the reduction of smoking floors, it needs to continue to focus on the issues on-campus residents face.

Just as a national campaign has worked to stop youth from smoking, the RHA must continue its campaign to make sure on-campus residents aren't slighted.

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

At issue

RHA making two floors on in the south tower of Taylor Hall smoke free

Our stance

RHA represents interests of students and it is good they are satisfying resident wants.

OPINION

Reality TV quite pretentious



Jessica Danielewicz
 Associate news editor and bi-weekly columnist for The Daily Eastern News

Danielewicz also is a senior journalism major.

She can be reached at 581-2812 or jdanielewicz@eiu.edu

They come from all over. Random people are thrown together for the common task of winning extravagant prizes. They are whisked away to some exotic location or a fancy home where they compete to win the parents' affection or to stay standing the longest.

Is this reality? Well, it's the reality the television industry has established. It all started 10 years ago with MTV's "Road Rules" and "The Real World." It was further cemented into people's lives with the first "Survivor." Since then, such shows as "Big Brother," "Fear Factor," "Meet My Folks," "American Idol" and "The Osbournes" have infiltrated the airwaves and become the obsession of many.

But how is this reality? It may look that way from the outside, but it is impossible to capture reality on television when it involves shoving a TV camera into people's private lives.

On "Survivor," participants have to live in a primitive setting and complete various tasks to avoid being voted off the island. Yeah, that's real. In reality, people get stranded on a desert island by chance, not by choice, and they don't get voted off. And in reality, they don't have a camera following them around.

Reality shows do not show a real sector of society. Take "Meet My Folks" for example. Three guys or three girls go to the home of a member of the opposite sex and stay for the weekend, competing to win the parents' approval, and in turn, a

"Only the rich and the good looking will do. So why do these people need help finding a mate?"

trip to Hawaii with the bachelor/bachelorette.

These shows take place in large resort homes where people never have to leave and they have fax machines in all of the rooms. Only the rich and good looking will do. So why do these people need help finding a mate?

Segments throughout the show reveal dirty little secrets of the competitors and the parents choose to eliminate one and put the other two through a lie detector test.

Reality doesn't work that way.

In reality, a guy meets a girl, and they date for a while. Maybe the couple breaks up, or perhaps they get married, but they don't go on a show where three prospective mates are intensely interviewed by their parents for a weekend. Parents rarely have any input these days.

What about "Fear Factor?" Participants in this show are asked to perform horrific tasks that may harm them or at least test their bravery.

How can a television show really ask a contestant to do something that might seriously

harm them?

And in reality, people don't do horrific and death-defying stunts on a regular basis, if at all.

Cameras do a nice job of editing and making it look like something is happening that in reality is not.

The people who participate in these shows also are not reality. They are typically people in their mid to late 20s, who are good looking and physically fit. That is not very representative of the vast majority of society.

Maybe the only one with a more diverse age group is "Survivor" because they have to get the token older and younger competitors.

Maybe they are interesting shows, maybe they are fun and people like them, but why are they dubbed "reality" shows?

And of course, another new fad is "The Osbournes," which peeks into the messed up lives of an old rock star's family. Who comes up with these shows? How about peeking into the lives of a normal middle-class family? That would be reality.

And it doesn't end there. Reality TV Web sites have links to dozens and dozens of various reality shows.

What is really hard to understand is how television of this nature has become all the rage.

But for whatever reason, reality television has found an audience, and new "reality" shows keep coming at a sickening rate. And America's TV-loving population is biting.

Cartoon by Derek Clem and Aaron Ganci



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Residents: exercise voice by writing

When the electoral rotation system begins in 2005, all Charleston citizens should believe they have representation, therefore, I would like to see many qualified citizens run for those seats to bring new solutions to the City Council.

Charleston has unlimited potential to progress, but we need to strengthen our relationship with Eastern.

I urge all citizens to realize their participation and their votes do and will make a difference.

The citizens of Charleston should not except or tolerate anything less than professional and quality performance from our public servants, businesses and community.

Do not be afraid to voice your opinion to your friends, neighbors and politicians.

I strongly encourage the citizens of Charleston to exercise their voice by writing letters to the editor of both the *Times Courier* and the *Journal Gazette*.

Lelia Tate-Ferguson
 Charleston resident

No rational reason for war to occur

Everyone ask yourself, why the push to war? Why do our representatives in Congress want to rush to war?

What is the real, underlying reason for the rush?

If it isn't a lack of inspections and it isn't a visible operational program for weapons of mass destruction, then what is it? What is the real reason the White House has to rush into war?

Is it that we have bigger, faster, "smarter" weapons that just have to be live fired?

Is it because we (the military) are "there anyway, so we may as well" go ahead and "just do it?"

Is it to impress the world that "we are the greatest," by acting like the meanest?

There is no rational reason.

Don't let the White House unilaterally push you into war! Step up for once.

Call or write your congressman and the White House.

All you need say is "no Iraq war." But do it now. The finger in the Oval Office is just itching to pull the trigger.

Bryan Miller
 Associate professor for biological sciences

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to The Daily Eastern News at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu

Franklin School fifth graders learn the art of writing

◆ *Fifth-graders write, research and cite at Booth Library with student volunteers*

By Matt McCarthy
STAFF WRITER

Mattoon fifth graders learned how to write, publish and cite sources while creating their own special stories Monday at Booth Library.

Ann Brownson, 27, student helpers and Franklin fifth-grade teachers taught students how to use the Illinet Online catalog and then how to use Microsoft Powerpoint for the actual construction of their books.

But students also learned something more than writing skills.

"I love it (at Booth)," David Neal, a fifth grader at Franklin, said. "I learned they have automatic toilets — that was the coolest thing."

After the fifth-grade students finished researching and writing their books, they saved them to a disk where Brownson, a Booth Library employee, will print them and send them to a binding company.

"I'm having fun here," fifth-grader Jeremy Sparks said.

"Hey, it's better than being in school."

Brownson coordinated the event with Lenore Aebischer, a teacher at Franklin Elementary School, since the summer of 2002.

Brownson completed much of the behind-the-scenes work, applying for the Library Services and Technology Act grant.

Aebischer said the program would benefit student writing skills.

"Yes, this whole experience has been very motivating for the kids," she said. "It will give them work on their writing, grammar and sentence structure, which will prepare them for middle school."

The fifth-grade students, many of whom were visiting Booth for the first time, said they had a great time being away from class.

Savanah Drew, a fifth-grader who wrote about bottle-nosed dolphins, said she had a great time at Booth.

"I've learned such a lot today!" she said. "I even learned the scientific name for a dolphin!"



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Katie Quinn, a junior elementary education major, helps out a Franklin Elementary fifth grader with her project Monday morning in the E-Room of Booth Library.

Stefani Atkinson, who also wrote about dolphins, said she had never been to a library this awesome, and that she was glad to learn about books.

"I've had a lot of fun today learning how to make and publish

books," Jared Dosten, a fifth-grader, said.

Brownson said she thought the experience was worthwhile for the fifth graders.

"I think they got a great deal out of it; at least I hope so," she

said. "The kids were very, very mature and task-oriented."

Brownson's grant money will host four more fifth-grade classes in the next month. Fifth-grade classes will return Feb. 17, Feb. 21, Feb. 24 and Feb. 28.

Second suspect in four New Year's killings charged

CHICAGO (AP) — An 18-year-old Chicago man was charged Monday with murdering four people at a New Year's party — less than a day after his alleged accomplice shot and killed himself during a standoff with police.

Authorities contend the two men killed three adults and a 2-year-old boy during a home invasion robbery in which they were looking for an Uzi submachine gun.

"The home invasion went bad and they ended up killing three people and a child," said Philip Cline, the department's chief of detectives, who said there could be more arrests.

Jason Johnson was ordered held without bond during a hearing in Cook County Circuit Court after he was charged with four counts of first-degree murder and four counts of home invasion. Judge Neil Linehan ordered Johnson to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Feb. 28.

Johnson was charged hours after 18-year-old Immanuel Phillips — wanted for questioning in the four killings, and the killings of his father and another woman — took his own life in a hotel room on Chicago's South Side, police said. The shooting came nearly seven hours after a standoff began dur-

ing which police outside tried to persuade him to surrender.

After Phillips' death, Chicago police said they had identified a second suspect in the deaths of the four people whose bodies were discovered Jan. 3.

On Monday, police said both Phillips and Johnson were interviewed by detectives after those killings, but they were only considered potential witnesses at the time.

That changed, police said, Thursday when the body of Roosevelt Phillips, 52, was found shot to death in the family home, located next door to the home

where the January slayings had occurred. Police said they found a note linking Immanuel Phillips to his father's death and possibly to the January slayings.

Detective Cmdr. Walter Green said Phillips allegedly shot his father because "it appears there was some, perhaps, dispute over insurance or he just didn't like him."

On Friday, Phillips allegedly shot and killed 18-year-old Kanise Sherod and critically wounded her boyfriend on the city's North Side. Police Cmdr. Michael Chasen said Johnson and Sherod had a "falling out over property and because of

that falling out" Phillips killed her.

Sherod's boyfriend, Mario Klyce, 21, was upgraded Monday from critical to serious condition, said Diana Argudo, an Illinois Masonic Medical Center spokeswoman.

Authorities would not discuss the evidence linking Phillips and Johnson to the Jan. 1 slayings, or who pulled the trigger. But Cook County Chief Deputy State's Attorney Robert Milan said both men were "equally accountable."

Authorities say there is evidence there was an Uzi in the home at the time, but said the weapon had not been recovered.

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COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Josh Alford, Tami Garner, a junior sociology major, and John Wondergem, a senior elementary education major, show off the map they will follow on their bike ride Monday afternoon. The bike ride is tentatively set for May 12-17.

Teen REACH seeks sponsors

By Laura Kenny
STAFF WRITER

Three members of Charleston's Teen REACH Program are searching for more volunteers and sponsors for an upcoming fundraiser.

The three, John Wondergem, a senior elementary education major; volunteer Tami Garner, a senior sociology major and part-time staff member Joshua Alford, will be bicycling from New Orleans back to Charleston as a fundraiser.

The fundraiser is being held to gain community support for the center.

Wondergem, who also is a full-time Teen REACH employee, said American Ace Hardware and the

T-Shirt Factory have already agreed to help, but more support is needed.

Donations from Charleston area businesses and citizens should help any interested riders to go for free.

Currently, the Teen REACH center lacks supplies and funds for renovations. Wondergem thinks a more visually attractive center would "promote learning and growth among young people and make kids want to be there," so they would be "off the streets and out of trouble."

The center is the only one in the Charleston area, and it works with 50 to 75 kids daily.

Wondergem, who has been involved with Teen REACH since September 2002, came up with the

idea. He previously lived in New Orleans and thinks the ride will be a "wild and crazy" way to help the children of Charleston.

Alford added that the ride will be "an interesting way to get the community involved."

Wondergem hopes to start the trip in New Orleans on May 12. The six-day trip will cover almost 700 miles up U.S. Highway 51.

The group hopes to sleep in churches along the way to keep costs down and will be accompanied by a van with supplies. The ride will end back in Charleston on May 18.

Wondergem can be reached at Teen REACH, 345-8005, for those interested in volunteering or donating.

Ryan knew of shredding, witness says

CHICAGO (AP) — An aide to former Gov. George Ryan testified Monday that he called Ryan after directing the shredding of documents at Ryan's secretary of state offices in Chicago to tell him the task was complete.

William Mack, Ryan's scheduler when he was secretary of state, testified for a second day at the racketeering trial of Ryan's campaign committee and his former chief of staff, Scott Fawell. Fawell and the committee are charged with diverting state workers and resources to the campaigns of Ryan and his allies going back to the early 1990s. The former governor has not been charged.

Mack said that in September 1998, just weeks before Ryan won the election for governor, Mack and other workers shredded several 55-gallon bags worth of campaign documents found at the secretary of state's government offices because they were concerned about a possible raid by federal investigators.

A few days later, Mack said, he talked to Ryan on the telephone about the shredding of documents taken from the secretary of state's offices on the fifth floor of the James R. Thompson Center.

"I let him know the fifth floor was all cleaned up," Mack said.

Mack's testimony, along with earlier statements he made in court about Ryan being present when Fawell ordered the shredding, marks the first time jurors have heard that the former governor was aware of the destruction of documents.

Prosecutors have said the shredding took place soon after federal investigators raided the secretary of state drivers license facility in Melrose Park and arrested a number of state work-

ers.

The raid was the first public hint of the government's Operation Safe Road investigation, which began as a probe into the trading of drivers licenses for bribes. Fifty-nine state workers and others have been charged and 53 convicted in the investigation.

Under questioning from Edward Benson, an attorney for Fawell, Mack said none of the documents he shredded were related to campaign fund raising. Mack also said he did not believe a subpoena had ever been issued for the documents.

Fawell's attorneys have argued that his actions were normal in Illinois politics, and that he could not help it if a few state workers had crossed the fuzzy line between government and campaign work.

Also Monday, Mack testified about Fawell's efforts to get a job in the secretary of state's office for Roger Stanley, a former state lawmaker who also has been charged in the federal investigation.

Mack said Fawell told him that Donald Udstuen, a longtime Ryan adviser and influential lobbyist, had been after him to hire Stanley for a job that could boost his state pension. Udstuen has pleaded guilty to tax fraud as part of the Safe Road investigation and is expected to be a witness later in the trial.

Fawell had Mack set up a meeting between Stanley and Ryan, saying that "Roger needed to know that George, Mr. Ryan, would not just hire him and that Roger would have to come in and kiss the ring," Mack testified.

Stanley did eventually get a short-term job in the office that increased his pension.

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ABC:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marten's adviser) during the first semester junior year about how I wasn't happy doing local TV," Marten said. "I told him I liked doing TV; I just wanted to do national."

Bradd began to look for outlets into the national media and found one at Eastern. Academic adviser Julie Sterling and her husband, former Eastern history professor Bob Sterling, both work with ABC on the Indy Racing League. Bob Sterling has worked with ABC for

nearly 30 years and has written for National Speed Sport News, a weekly newspaper devoted to motor racing.

"Since I had this contact, I figured I had to get something set up with a major outlet," Julie Sterling said.

Marten and WEIU sports anchor Mitch Brehm each received internships with ABC at the Indianapolis 500.

For the three weeks leading up to the race, the interns were asked to perform various tasks the producers asked them to do.

Along with the various tasks Marten was asked to do, she also

helped producer Ross Molloy create a three-minute tease for the race.

Marten said she spent about 125 hours working on the tease along with Molloy and one other staff member.

They reenacted the ending of the 1992 Indy 500 between Scott Goodyear and Al Unser Jr. The staff was able to get the original cars on the track at night and used smoke and other special effects.

The tease also required some casting, and Marten had a large part of it.

She needed to find four actors

for the reenactment and went to local talent agencies to find actors for the tease.

"I saw about 100 people in one day," Marten said. "It was one of the longest days in my life because they all said the same thing over and over again."

Marten said she earned the reputation of a hard worker while she was working on the Indianapolis 500. Because of her work ethic, ABC asked her to continue working with them during the summer.

While covering the Indy Racing League, Marten met Jeff Dufine, one of the producers of Monday

Night Football.

"I contacted him about Monday Night Football," Marten said. "He told me about a job with Monday Night Football and said I would be helping on the sidelines. When he told me, I thought I would just be a go-for on the sideline."

Dufine told Marten to call in to a weekly conference call.

"It was just a conference call," Marten said. "Every sport ABC does has one every week, so I didn't think anything of it."

During the conference call, Marten spoke with Monday Night Football announcers Al Michaels and John Madden along with Stark.

DNA:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

property," he said.

During a hearing last year, Coles County Circuit Judge Dale Cini approved the prosecution's use of genetic evidence for the Mertz case.

Both fingernail scrapings and a knife containing what appeared to be blood could be used in attaining DNA and therefore possibly finding a match.

When a piece of evidence like a bloody knife is found, Friedman said, the blood is identified as human blood and then profiled to see if it matches with the victim. Then, if evidence of the perpetrator can be found on the knife as

well, through fingerprints or the perpetrator's own blood, or the knife is found on the suspect's property, the evidence against the suspect is stronger.

In the Mertz case, the prosecution has put greater focus on using the genetic evidence found in fingernail scrapings than evidence found on the knife.

"Often, in the course of an assault, the victim will scratch the perpetrator, resulting in dermal tissue or blood being embedded under the victim's fingernails," Friedman said.

In these cases, he said, it is very likely the victim's genetic profile will be found as well as the perpetrator's.

Either the nails will be clipped or the tissue will be scraped from

beneath the nails.

Once the sample is taken, the lab analyst will extract DNA from the sample.

"This is done through a widespread Polymerase Chain Reaction," Friedman said. "It acts as a molecular photocopy machine."

This "machine" then works over again, doubling each time for approximately 30 cycles, forming over 1 billion copies.

Analysts then examine regions of the genetic profile, comparing the 13 regions that vary greatest between people.

"The likelihood of finding the same profile in different people is much less than one in a trillion," Friedman said.

Once a match is determined, it

becomes a reliable information source in trial because of that one in more than one trillion chance.

The lab analyst is generally the one to testify in trial.

"A lab analyst is considered qualified as an expert witness," Friedman said.

The analyst testifies answering basic questions.

"They'll ask the analyst if he or she received the items, recognize the evidence, found a successful DNA profile, compared the reference samples, and if a conclusion was determined," Friedman said.

DNA doesn't tell guilt or innocence, Friedman said.

In the Mertz case, evidence of blood was found on items in McNamara and Mertz's apartments as well as in a dumpster

near Mertz's apartment complex. Blood found on the handle of a box cutter and a shoe box from Mertz's apartment has been admitted to evidence. The bloody knife and paper bag found in the dumpster were also admitted Friday.

These samples were all positively identified as human blood and submitted for DNA testing. The evidence will be used by the prosecution.

"The attorneys must still see how the genetic evidence fits into the puzzle," he added.

The prosecution must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

"Like all physical evidence, DNA evidence is circumstantial," Friedman said. "It can tell you who it came from but not where or when."

Mertz:
Defense offered no opening statements
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lu received from Mertz, McNamara, Laski and Beavers.

Lu testified her findings were reviewed by two other people in the lab, including her supervisor, for correctness.

In tests of bloodstains from McNamara's apartment, Mertz's, Laski's and Beavers' DNA was able to be excluded from a piece of latex glove, a piece of wall, the handle of a box cutter and the blade of a knife that was found in a dumpster near Mertz's apartment.

McNamara's DNA was evident on each of these items.

A fluid sample taken off of McNamara's leg was found to contain her DNA, and Laski's could not be ruled out, Lu testified. However, the kind of cells found could be placed simply by touching or by sharing towels, sheets or clothes. Three profiles were found in the sample, one matching McNamara, one potentially matching Laski, one unidentified.

In two blood stains found on a pair of underwear, Lu found a mixture of three DNA profiles. One matched McNamara; Mertz and Laski could not be excluded. The same was found on a second stain. However, the stains were not conclusive, as one in 14 black people would match the profile, one in

seven white people and one in eight Hispanic people.

Outside the presence of the jury, Ferguson motioned to amend the wording of charges involving the aggravated criminal sexual assault charges, following testimony that was slightly different than the charges read and was granted the amendment.

Phillips motioned to have a directed verdict made on all sexual assault charges, as well as the home invasion charges. Coles County Circuit Court Judge Dale Cini denied all motions to change or drop charges.

After the motions finished, the prosecution ended their portion of the case, and the defense began their case.

Phillips offered no opening

statements, instead immediately calling her first witness. Clifford Baugh, an inmate in the Illinois Department of Corrections, serving time for forgery, bank robbery, theft and residential burglary, testified he had spoken with Mark Stabler, another inmate and witness for the prosecution, who told Baugh he planned on making a deal and fabricating information in regards to the Mertz case.

Baugh also said he had spoken with Michael Jordan, another inmate and prosecution witness who also said he had made a deal. Baugh said he wrote a letter to public defender Lonnie Lutz to try to let someone know what he had heard.

During cross examination, Baugh was confused as to when he

had been in the Coles County Jail, and when he had spoken with Stabler and Jordan. He said Stabler told him he had "beat down" Mertz.

Phillips also called Ken Baker, the director of the Student Recreation Center. Baker testified that Mertz did not work for the Rec Center and that McNamara had worked in the Rec.

An earlier witness, Roger Hudson, a building service worker in Lantz Arena, testified again Monday, saying Mertz had worked June 4-6 and on June 11-13, 2001, according to payroll sheets. Mertz was arrested in the early morning hours of June 13.

The trial will continue at 9 a.m. today in Courtroom 1 of the Coles County Courthouse.



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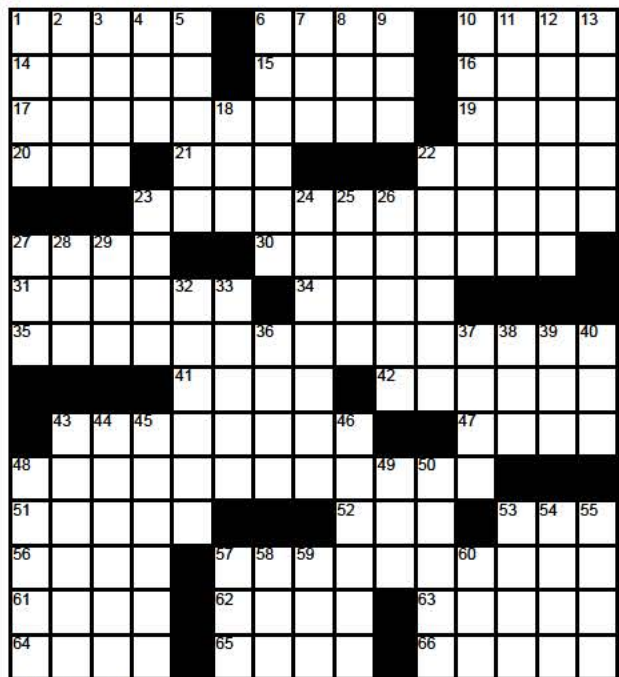
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1231

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pat Boone's "Love"
 - 6 Symbol of redness
 - 10 Norway's patron saint
 - 14 Cranberry product
 - 15 Brand for Bowser
 - 16 Place to stack money
 - 17 35-Across, from 1955-61
 - 19 Finish line, perhaps
 - 20 Windy City trains
 - 21 Gist
 - 22 Hindu royal: Var.
 - 23 35-Across in 1964
 - 27 Syndicate head
 - 30 Program airing
 - 31 One who opens a can of worms?
 - 34 Hospitalized patient's state
 - 35 See 17-, 23-, 48- and 57-Across
 - 41 Otherwise
 - 42 City opposite Ciudad Juárez
 - 43 Issues in paperback, perhaps
 - 47 Barely managed, with "out"
 - 48 35-Across in 1994
 - 51 Carroll girl
 - 52 Spawner in the Sargasso Sea
 - 53 One way to the WWW
 - 56 Actor Moranis
 - 57 35-Across in 1946
 - 61 Allot, with "out"
 - 62 "The Morning Watch" author
 - 63 Ear or tube preceder
 - 64 Gofer: Abbr.
 - 65 Marquand's Mr.
 - 66 Approaches
- DOWN**
- 1 Court great Arthur
 - 2 One of the Fab Four
 - 3 Hairpieces, slangily
 - 4 " bin ein Berliner"
 - 5 Hotelier Helmsley
 - 6 Its stakes may be a beer
 - 7 Inventor Whitney
 - 8 It rates m.p.g.
 - 9 Whole bunch
 - 10 Chief Pontiac, e.g.
 - 11 Tropical vines
 - 12 Trumpeter Herb
 - 13 Admiral's force
 - 18 Bowery

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O S P L E E S T E
R E A V L P L P L A T I A M
W A O C E L T G N Y
I S V C E L E T E O P O
I R V M E I S S E M V J
E E N V R B U N S T E
E J V I N V I R B O H G N H
T T I L O P T V E C N N S
L O L A F E I B E T I R I



Puzzle by Gene Newman

- 22 Carmaker's woe
- 23 Finger-in-the-socket consequence
- 24 Spies seek them
- 25 Swill
- 26 Fiesta Bowl site
- 27 Crow's sound
- 28 " number can play"
- 29 Links org.
- 32 Forever, poetically
- 33 Vestige
- 36 "It comes surprise"
- 37 Mimicker
- 38 Talk, talk, talk
- 39 Cleveland-to-Baltimore dir.
- 40 Serling of "The Twilight Zone"
- 43 Depends (on)
- 44 Forces out
- 45 Striker, often
- 46 Sound system
- 48 Destiny
- 49 Napoleonic marshal
- 50 Spritelike
- 53 Visitor to Siam
- 54 German border river
- 55 Unseen "Mary Tyler Moore Show" character
- 57 and Swiss
- 58 Swelled head
- 59 Court divider
- 60 Common lunchtime

GPA:
Many factors
contribute to low
freshman grades

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school came to them so easily, and they didn't have to study. When the freshmen come to the university, they don't really know what to expect."

But Eastern is not the only public university in Illinois that experiences such a discrepancy between their first and second-year students.

Northern Illinois University freshmen received a 2.2 grade point average with sophomores at 2.6, Western Illinois University (2.65-2.83), Illinois State University (2.66-2.82) and Southern Illinois University (2.54-2.82) all reported significant gaps.

Bob Wheeler, vice provost at

Northern, offers one possible explanation for the grades gap.

"One factor, and it is a sad one, unfortunately, is the group of students that have to leave the university after their freshman year," he said. "Those who remain are the more able group."

However, the school-by-school grade comparisons are subjective, said Mary Ann Hanner, the dean of college of sciences.

"There are so many factors, such as who is teaching those classes," she said. "There is not one individual variable - there are so many things."

Although Eastern has the second-lowest freshman grades of the five state universities, Blair Lord, vice president for academic affairs, agreed with Hanner, and said the freshman grades are not an accurate reflection of the caliber of students Eastern has.

"Other information, like ACT scores and class rank, suggest our students are among the best when compared to other student institu-

"There are so many factors such as who is teaching those classes."

—Mary Ann Hanner

tions," he said. "The external validations suggest our students are at the very least comparable, if not better than, our peers."

The junior and senior year grades, however, support Lord's theory that Eastern students are competitive with those attending state universities. Eastern juniors earned a 2.90 grade point average and seniors earned a 3.07, both tops in the state for the fall 2002 semester.

Lord said Eastern's small class sizes help in the later years of study.

"We know from experience at Eastern the number of small class-

es change the nature of classes," he said. "And as a result, there is a different nature of student."

Dana Ringuette, English chair, said prerequisite knowledge is the main difference.

"For the students that have been working on their majors for three years, they should be more adept and in-tune," he said. "Well, God, wouldn't it be scary if it were otherwise? I hope there would be improvement."

Western had the second highest junior grade point average, with 2.89 with Southern tying Eastern's senior mark (3.07).

"I'm always interested in these types of things," Lord said. "Why are we different from a Western or a Southern?"

Hanner said once students finish their general education classes and begin classes for their major, the level of interest jumps.

"As they go through school, they will be going to more classes they are interested in, and as a result they will be more serious," she

said.

Delena Natoli, a junior elementary education major, said she became more studious once her general education classes were finished.

"I actually read my textbooks now," she said. "I study more, and I'm more motivated, but the gen ed classes were so boring."

The large size of the fall 2002 freshmen class — the 2,751 freshmen stands as Eastern's biggest ever — coupled with admission requirements that have not changed for years even as test scores have risen, suggests freshmen could be encountering a hurdle before they ever step on campus.

But the grades from previous years state otherwise: fall 2001 freshmen earned a 2.38 gpa, fall 2000 freshmen 2.36 and fall 1999 freshmen earned 2.33.

"It's not a surprise to me," Lord said. "I'd be surprised if the grades were otherwise — out two-year data pointed out there was not much movement."

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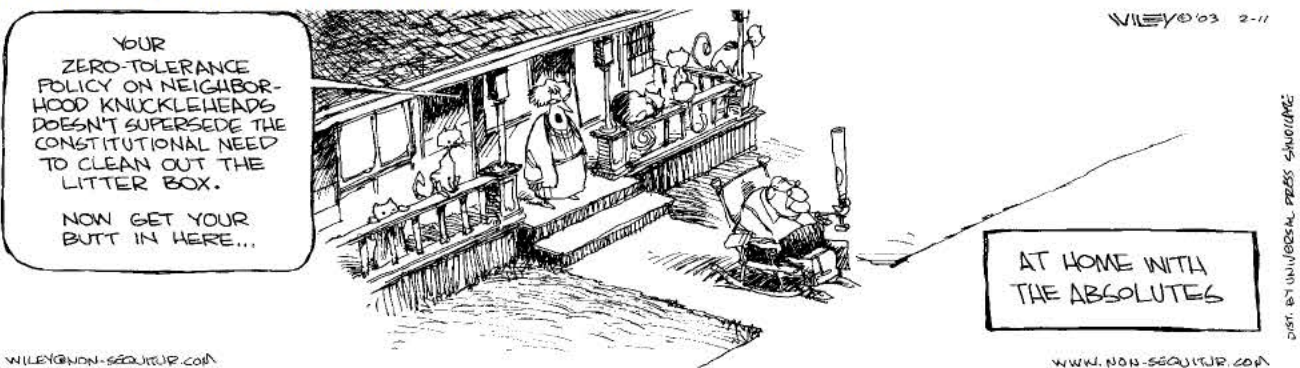
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SOFTBALL

Softball team chosen fifth in conference



Senior pitcher Kristen Becker will lead one of the more experienced pitching staffs in the conference.

By Aaron Seidlitz
STAFF WRITER

After a 2002 season that saw Eastern softball drop to sixth in the conference after regular season play only to rebound and place third in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, the Panthers were disappointed to see the good play in the tournament go unnoticed.

The release of the 2003 preseason rankings proved this, as Eastern was raised only one spot from their regular season finish last year, being picked to finish fifth this year in the OVC.

"We don't take too much stock in the preseason rankings, but it is definitely something that we can use for motivation," Eastern head coach Lloydene Searle said.

"It was a little disappointing to see teams such as Tennessee Martin higher up in the rankings after we were able to beat them in the conference tournament."

Also taking into account that the Panthers are returning many important players from last year's team, they should be able play at the same level as the end of last year.

Leadership for the team will come from senior outfielder Carrie Ninness and junior infielder Kristen Lovering. Both players were elected to the second team All-OVC last season and hope to improve this year. This could be dif-

ficult for Lovering, who led the team in runs scored and triples last year while posting 10 doubles and 21 RBI.

Eastern also brings back two experienced pitchers in senior Kristen Becker and junior Trish Sanders.

Becker was named Honorable Mention All-OVC and is second among Eastern's career strike-out leaders, with 285 while Sanders proved to be a dependable second option for Searle.

The Panthers are in the middle of the pack because of teams like Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee Tech.

Eastern Kentucky gained seven of the eight first-place votes, and finished with a total of 49 points in the voting. Tennessee Tech finished second from the ballot with 43 points and one first-place vote.

"We had such a strong finish with this team last year, and it seems to be going unnoticed," Searle said. "But if we're placed in the middle of the pack, we should be able to surprise some people."

The Colonels separated themselves from the rest of the OVC pack last year, finishing first at the end of the regular season and winning the OVC tournament.

"Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee Tech returned a lot of their players too," Searle said. "Our goal is to stay competitive with



Softball Preseason Rankings

TEAMS	VOTES
1. Eastern Kentucky	49
2. Tennessee Tech	43
3. Tennessee-Martin	36
4. Southeast Missouri	29
5. Eastern Illinois	27
6. Austin Peay	20
7. Morehead State	12
8. Tennessee State	8

those two and win other games that we know we can win.

After Tennessee Tech, Tennessee Martin was picked to finish third and Southeast Missouri placed fourth. SEMO finished with 29 points, two ahead of Eastern, who gathered 27 points from the voters.

Not only was Searle disappointed that the team may have been slighted in the preseason rankings, she was also concerned that some players were not nominated for individual awards last season.

"I don't understand how (Carrie) Ninness didn't get a mention for Academic All-American," Searle said.

"She does everything in the classroom that a coach would ask of her players. We just have had some players who got lost in the shuffle."

WRESTLING

Wrestlers had a tough weekend away from home

By Patrick Wimp
STAFF WRITER

The wear and tear caused by vast amounts of time on the road has long been the enemy of athletic teams visiting other schools and arenas. In many cases, extended and frequent travel times can be more tiring on a group than the athletic competitions themselves.

This weekend, long distances and a large amount of travel led to a frustrating set of matches for Eastern's Wrestling team. After traveling to Northern Illinois on Friday, the Panther wrestling squad headed to Northern Iowa for a triangular meet also featuring Wyoming.

In one of their poorest showings of the year, Eastern fell 42-3 to

Northern Illinois, with Matt Veach claiming a singles victory, the team moved on to Northern Iowa, losing 39-0.

"It was a frustrating weekend," Eastern assistant coach Tony Vaughn said. "We have about a week and a half to train and refocus on basics."

The team has only one meet remaining, a dual meet at Purdue

held on Feb. 22. After this last bit of traveling, the Panthers will try to get excited and concentrate on their Regional NCAA Qualifier to be held at Eastern March 8. The home qualifying meet is a welcome change from the large amount of traveling the Panthers have done as of late.

"We've got to get our game plan set," Vaughn said. "We're going to try to pump the team up to finish

strong and hopefully reach our peak in time for the regional."

After traveling to Purdue, the team will have about 10 to 12 days to focus for the qualifier. They will try to ignite their emotions after an aggravating and at times disappointing season to perform at the highest level. The Panthers hope to get a boost from hosting the Regionals.

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SWIMMING

Swimmers end regular season on sour note

◆ *Men and women fall to Saint Louis on Senior Recognition Night*

By Michael Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern men's and women's swim teams ended their regular season on down notes by losing to Saint Louis last Saturday at the Lantz Natatorium.

The men's team (6-3-1) could not continue its hot streak and win a fourth consecutive meet, as the Panthers lost a close race to the Billikens 125-112. Eastern did not have any male divers and started the match down 32 points because of points lost during the diving portion of the meet.

Even though the men lost the regular-season finale, assistant head coach Bill Yanney was pleased with the Panthers performance and determination to try overcome the 32-points lost in the diving events.

"We swam well," Yanney said. "The final was 13 points and, without having divers, we gave up 32 points so it was very competitive."

The Panthers outswam the Billikens for much of the meet. Rich Wahlgren and Josh Kercheval had strong performances helping the Panthers cut 19 points off the 32-point deficit.

"Rich Wahlgren won the 50-freestyle in 21.54 and he also finished first in the 100-freestyle," Yanney said.

Wahlgren's time of 21.54 was his fastest in the 50-freestyle all season. His previous best was 21.73 set Jan. 25, against Valparaiso.

Kercheval, a senior from Sullivan, Ill., had another impressive meet, winning the 1000-freestyle and 200-freestyle. With the two victories against St. Louis, Kercheval has won 21 different races this year.

"Rich and Josh swam great; they were our only two-time winners on the day," Yanney said.

It was a very emotional day for the seniors. Not only was head coach Ray Padovan back from a brief illness, but it was also Senior Recognition Day.

"There was a lot of emotion for our seniors today on Senior Recognition Day and with Coach Padovan returning," Yanney said. "They swam hard and battled back."

The Panther women also saw their three meet winning streak come to a halt. The Billikens defeated the Panthers 140-107. The Eastern women finished the regular season 7-3.

"The women had good swims but had trouble finishing the races," Yanney said. "Saint Louis had better swims than we did."

Allison Kenny was the lone two-time winner for the Panthers. The senior from Elmhurst, Ill. won both the 50-freestyle and 100-freestyle.

Jenny Curry and Claire Garvey, Eastern's talented freshmen duo, struggled for the first time in recent weeks. Curry placed second in both the 50-freestyle and 100-freestyle. Garvey, however, finished a disappointing fifth in the 200-freestyle.

"Claire will definitely benefit from a few weeks off before the Midwest Classic Championships," Yanney said.

The Midwest Classic Championships, as Yanney was alluding to, will begin Feb. 20 and run through Feb. 22 in Indianapolis.

In two weeks at the Championships, Yanney is expecting a much stronger showing from the Panthers.

"We're going to have to swim more aggressive," Yanney said. "There will be tough competition (in Indianapolis)."

The men will be counting on its senior leaders Kercheval and Nic Cheviron to put them over the top. Eastern Michigan is bringing a very deep team, and the Panthers will need Kercheval and Cheviron to be at their best.

On the women's side, look for junior Jordan Sherbrooke to have a breakthrough meet.

"Jordan will step up," Yanney said. "We don't know what she'll be racing, but she will pick up points wherever we put her."

The Panthers will head into the Midwest Classic Championship without any significant injuries.

"We're very healthy, and everyone has been swimming since last Wednesday," Yanney said. "Our goal is to have light practices and stay healthy."

Cooked:
Panthers have another second half collapse in loss

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The Panthers were the victims of poor shooting in the second half. They made 30.3 percent from the field.

"Unfriendly? (The rim) wasn't very kind at all," Eastern head coach Linda Wunder said. "It isn't supposed to be that way at home."

Junior center Allison Collins blamed Eastern's poor shooting on bad shot selection.

"A lot of the time we panic in the second half," Collins said. "We rush our shots and take whatever we can get."

Eastern Kentucky's two leading scorers, junior guard Katie Kelly and sophomore center Miranda Eckerle provided the team with 41 points. Kelly scored 22 points, most coming from the free throw line. Kelly was sent to the line for 11 attempts converting on 10 of them.

Eckerle controlled the game inside, making 7-of-12 from the field and all five of her free throw attempts for 19 points.

"They have such strong players inside," junior center Allison Collins said. "It was difficult tonight."

Eastern's starting lineup combined for 33 points, with Sparks leading the way with 13. Sparks made Eastern's only two three-pointers in the game.

Collins came off the bench to score 11 points. Sophomore Rachel Karos gave Eastern some of its few highlights of the game when she came in off the bench. Karos made four steals and scored 11 points as well.


Despite losing Monday, Eastern remains a game out of fourth place after Morehead State and Tennessee-Martin lost. With four games left on its schedule, Eastern has a legitimate chance of finishing in the top four in

Williams:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

I guess it is a good idea to get them upset with the home team. Let's face it, an official isn't always going to be objective if you desire to yell in his or her ear every time they make their way down the court.

They will remember when it comes

		
Women's Basketball Standings		
	OVC	OVERALL
Austin Peay	10-0	17-3
Eastern Kentucky	8-2	16-6
Southeast Missouri	8-3	14-7
Morehead State	5-6	12-10
Tennessee-Martin	5-6	8-14
Tennessee Tech	4-6	9-12
Eastern Illinois	4-7	5-17
Tennessee State	2-8	4-16
Murray State	1-9	5-16
Monday's Results		
Eastern Kentucky 78, Eastern 59		
Tennessee State 85, Tennessee-Martin 82		
Southeast Missouri 78, Morehead 64		
Tennessee Tech 69, Murray State 55		

the OVC and earning a home game for the OVC Tournament.

The schedule is not easy for the Panthers, who have not won a road game this season.

"Three of our last four games are on the road," Wunder said. "Of these teams (Tennessee-Martin, Murray State and Tennessee State) we play on the road, we have beaten at home."

Wunder stressed the importance of being able to win on the road.

"You can't go into the OVC tournament expecting to do anything if you can't win on the road."

time to decide whether an Eastern player should be called for charging or the opponent should be called for blocking.

I hope all of this is a reminder of what the Blue Crew is really intended for. When you were given your own section in the stands and matching blue t-shirts, you should back that up with a little respect toward the university and the other people attending the game.

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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

TUESDAY	M/W track at Illinois Quad	All day
THURSDAY	M basketball at Murray State	7:30 p.m. Murray, Ky.
SATURDAY	W basketball at Tenn.-Martin	4 p.m. Martin, Tenn.
	M basketball at Tenn.-Martin	6 p.m. Martin, Tenn.

OVERTIME



Matt Williams
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Blue Crew needs lesson on respect

A home crowd can be a blessing at times.

When fans crowd into Lantz Arena, it can bring a boost to the Eastern basketball teams in ways that nothing else can.

On most nights the Panther faithful could be considered the sixth man. That is, if freshman guard Josh Gomes doesn't go off for 18 points against the No. 1 team in the conference every night (See future issues of *The Daily Eastern News* because it will happen again).

Nearly 5,000 fans showed up to see the Panther men bring down Morehead State on Saturday, and if you ask any of the players, they will tell you the crowd had something to do with it.

Part of the crowd that sticks out above the rest is the cluster of blue-clad students located in the northeast part of the student section. The Blue Crew is the most distinct group of fans, and overall, I like the idea of having them around.

The problem is that a select few of its members don't truly understand the entire purpose or the privilege that they have been given by the university.

The point of this organization is to show support for their teams in a tasteful way that can provide a spark or an advantage for Eastern.

Distracting opposing players while they are at the free throw line, jumping up and down after an Eastern player makes a good play or turning their backs while the away team is being introduced are all acceptable ways of showing team spirit.

Everything is fine and dandy until they cross that line. People who shout racial expletives at the other team or harass officials about calls that are usually right in the first place might as well just stay home because that is not the type of representation the Panthers need.

On two occasions I have heard members of the Blue Crew shout racial remarks toward opposing players. I was happy to see that during the women's game against Tennessee State, an official came over and threatened to have them thrown out if it continued, but in the men's game against Aurora, nothing was done to stop them.

After the fan was stopped during the women's game, I heard him say, "That's all I had for the game."

If the only thing that you can think of is racial comments, then please locate the gym exit and find a different activity for yourself.

Another common thing among fans is to constantly get in the official's ear about a call they didn't like. Tell me how yelling at an official is going to help the Panthers' cause.

SEE WILLIAMS ♦ Page 11

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers get home-cooked

♦ *Shooting and turnovers doom Panthers in 78-59 loss to Eastern Kentucky*

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panthers might feel like they are reliving the same horrible dream over and over.

After trailing the second-place team in the Ohio Valley Conference, Eastern Kentucky (16-6, 8-2), by three points at half-time Monday, Eastern (5-17, 4-7) suffered another second-half collapse resulting in a 78-59 loss.

Eastern
Kentucky
78

Eastern
Panthers
59

"Coming in, this could have been a huge game for us," freshman guard Megan Sparks said. "Coming in, we knew what they were going to do, and they knew what we were going to do. It was just a matter of who played smarter."

Eastern scored five points in the first eight minutes of the second half, allowing the Colonels to build a 16-point lead early in the second half.

The Panthers led the Colonels for much of the first half. Their lead never grew beyond eight points. For most of the first 16 minutes of the game, Eastern led with the exception of six ties and a pair of one-point Eastern Kentucky leads.

The Colonels stifled the Panthers with a smothering full-court press, creating 24 turnovers in the game. The Colonels' press created 12 points off turnovers and eight fast break points.



MATT MEINHEIT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior guard Katie Meyers looks for an open teammate in Monday night's 78-59 loss to Eastern Kentucky at Lantz Arena. Meyers had six points, four rebounds and five assists in the losing effort.

SEE COOKED ♦ Page 11

MEN'S TENNIS

Tennis team riding early success

♦ *Panthers obtain large victory over tough Marquette team*

By Jason Blasco
STAFF WRITER

Eastern learned its lesson in the third match of the season against Butler, losing 7-0 Jan. 28.

Shortly after the early season loss, coach Brian Holzgrafe had a talk with his team about their potential and what he felt they could do better.

"We didn't play very well, or fight very hard (against Butler)," Holzgrafe said. "I told the kids the only thing that sets these kids apart from the top is themselves. When I first took the job, I said I am an easy-going guy. I demand your attitude and effort."

The discussion Holzgrafe had with his team paid off in a big way, serving as a catalyst for one of the biggest victories in Panther's tennis history against Marquette Jan. 31.

"Marquette was quoted as 'having their best team they had in 28 years'" Holzgrafe said. "I can tell that they have always had a very good team. After getting a little timing and getting their confidence, it was probably one of the biggest wins, which shows the potential of the team."

Junior C.J. Weber said the loss against Butler opened their eyes a little bit, and they responded with

a better showing in their next match.

"(The loss against Butler) was a wakeup call," Weber said. "We have the potential to beat teams like that. But I think (the loss) is what helped us out in the weekend game when we played Green Bay (Wisconsin) and Marquette."

Weber, who was fighting cramps, found himself trailing against his opponent Eigntas Vendrickas 5-4 with Vendrickas serving for the match and team victory.

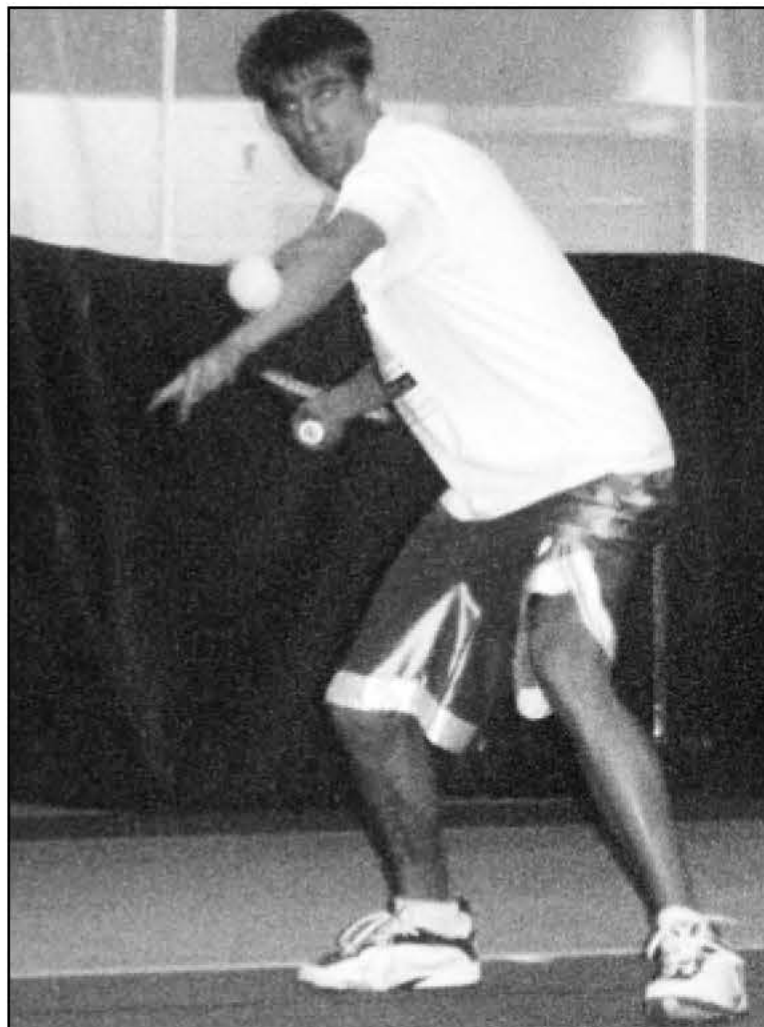
"One thing that my coach said about this guy is when he gets in pressure stations, he doesn't handle them well," Weber said. "If he needed a point to win a match, he would play a little more conservative and that is exactly what happened. I had a feeling that the match was riding on my match. When we won the match, that was the first big step for the team."

Eastern is beginning its season with several returning players and a young lineup consisting of only three seniors: Lucas Pluta, Jeff Rhodes and Matt Sadler.

Rounding out the rest of Eastern's young team are juniors Brandon Blankenbaker, Jason Girardin, Eric Stuertz and Weber and freshmen Andrew Meyer and Colin Priestner.

The Panther's next match will be at Cleveland State Feb. 20.

"From top to bottom I have great kids, and that is a luxury in this day and age," Holzgrafe said.



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Junior C.J. Weber returns a serve in practice Monday. Weber has been a key point to the Panthers' success.