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Looking back at fall 03

The Daily Eastern News
photographers showcase their
best photos from the semester.

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U.S. finds an ace in a hole

♦ *U.S. forces capture Saddam in cramped hide-out, raising hopes insurgency might weaken*

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) – Cornered alone in a cramped hole near one of his sumptuous palaces, a weary, disheveled Saddam Hussein was seized by U.S. troops and displayed on television screens worldwide Sunday, a humiliating fate for one of history's most brutal dictators.

The man who waged and lost two wars against the United States and its allies was armed with a pistol when captured in a Styrofoam-covered underground hide-out, but did not resist, the U.S. military said. In images broadcast Sunday across Iraq and the world, he resembled a desperate fugitive, not an all-powerful president.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we got him," U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer told a news conference. "The tyrant is a prisoner."

"He was just caught like a rat," Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno said. "When you're in the bottom of a hole you can't fight back."

The former dictator, who could face trial before a new Iraqi tribunal for war crimes, was defiant when top Iraqi officials visited him in captivity hours later — people at the meeting said he refused to admit to human rights abuses.

Saddam will now "face the justice he denied to millions," said President Bush, whose troops and intelligence agents had been searching in vain for Saddam since April. "In the history of Iraq, a dark and painful era is over."



U.S. officials declined to specify Saddam's whereabouts on Sunday, but made clear he faces intensive interrogation — foremost, what he knows about the ongoing insurgency against the U.S.-led occupation, and later about his regime's unconventional weapons programs.

SEE SADDAM ♦ Page 2

♦ *Members of Eastern community express excitement over capture*

By John Chambers
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A head of state was captured Saturday afternoon, but many in Eastern's community agreed with President George Bush's recent words.

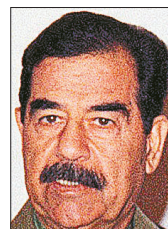
"The capture of Saddam Hussein does not mean the end of violence in Iraq," Bush said in a presidential address following Saddam's placement in custody.

Students and faculty expressed initial excitement as news sources reported celebration in the streets of Iraq. The Eastern community questioned what comes next.

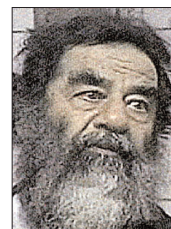
Saddam was captured just outside of Tikrit, ending efforts to detain him stretching back to 1990.

"It's truly a historic day," said associate political science professor Ryan Hendrickson.

Hendrickson said reconstruction in Iraq rests heavily on the Bush admin-



Saddam Hussein



Hussein captured

istration's willingness to work with the United Nations and others, but was optimistic about what this means to U.S. soldiers.

"In the short term, I don't think there'll be any change in policies," he said. "I do think this will give a great morale boost to American troops over there."

The conflict between the two main Islamic sects, Shiites and Sunnis, is historic, stemming from Islam and the arguments over Mohammed's successors. It is tension that could be heightened with Saddam's capture since the Sunnis were his main supporters and might now feel even more threatened, said history professor Roger Beck.

SEE CAPTURE ♦ Page 2

COMMENCEMENT



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Eugene R. Harrison, associate professor in the art department, carries in the University mace as the Commencement Marshal for the afternoon ceremony Saturday in Lantz Arena.

Ceremonial celebration of an era

By Evan Hill
CAMPUS EDITOR

The end of an era has occurred for the Eastern students who participated in commencement ceremonies Saturday.

President Lou Hencken reminded the graduates of the significance of the ceremony.

"This is a wonderful accomplishment," he said. "Don't forget Eastern. Remember to keep in touch."

The candidates for graduation were presented with diplomas in two ceremonies that took place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Approximately 600 students of the more than 950 estimated to graduate took part in the ceremonies.

The ceremonies began with the presentation of colors by the ROTC Eastern Panther Battalion, which was followed by a performance of the national anthem by the Eastern Honor band and senior music major Lucas Goodrich, who sang the national anthem.

Biology professor Bud Fischer served as commencement marshal. The marshal tradi-

More inside

♦ More
commence-
ment photos
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DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Friends and family members of graduates line up along the railing of the second level to take photos and video during the commencement ceremony Saturday afternoon in Lantz Arena.

tionally leads the commencement procession carrying the university mace.

Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations, led the ceremony in a moment of reflection.

"May the shared vision of the past be matched by our shared vision of the future," she said.

Student Body President Caleb Judy spoke a few words to the graduates who replied with fits of laughter.

"I know what it took for you to get here," Judy said. "Never forget this university ... never forget your 21st birthday when you rode the Panther."

The speakers were not the only people

with something to say. Emily Watterson received a degree in family and consumer sciences and is planning on attending graduate school next fall.

"I've enjoyed my time here at EIU, but I'm looking forward to earning a paycheck," Watterson said.

Kevin Wake, who received a degree in speech communication, was also planning to attend graduate school in the future.

"It's a great feeling and a good way to put it all together," Wake said. "Looking back over the last four and a half years, most of my professors in the speech communications department have prepared me well for graduate school."

The commencement speaker, Sen. Dick Durbin D-Ill., could not attend because he was attending the visitation of ex-Illinois senator Paul Simon in Carbondale.

Hencken said Durbin called Eastern to personally apologize. Hencken gave a short speech, which included a final opportunity for him to give advice to the graduates.

His four pieces of advice were for graduates to remember what they learned, never to lose faith in their ability, always treat others as they would wish to be treated and finally he reminded them to never forget Eastern.

In addition, he dropped many reminders to the graduates to join the Alumni Association.

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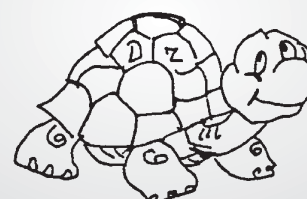
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Sonya D and friends return to campus to spread laughter bug

By Megan Jurinek
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

Students were welcome to sit back, relax and have a good laugh before finals week Friday night. At the 7th Street Underground, SD Entertainment held a comedy show for students, drawing about 65 people. The show was hosted by Sonya D, who has formerly performed on BET's Comic View, Def Comedy Jam and the Queens of Comedy Tour. Sonya D said she loves coming to Eastern and performing for students. "I love the crowd and I love the students here. This is probably the most mature crowd of students that I have worked with in a long time, and they support these events," she said. Sonya D said this was her first choice college to perform at. "If I was to do any event, it would be at Eastern," she said. Sonya D said that "just kicking it" with the students after the show was enjoyable as well. Monique Cook-Bey, assistant director of the Student Life Office, put the show together. "We want to try to make sure that there is something down here that students can do," she said. Cook-Bey said Sonya D did not mind hosting the comedy show; she just wants to make sure she brings some type of entertainment here so the students will have some source of entertainment.

"This is a way for students to not even focus on finals, for them to come down here and just laugh and, you know, have a good time," Cook-Bey said. "Next time we want to have a party after the comedy show." She described the event as a good environment where students can relax and relate. "There will probably be another comedy show in January, there just hasn't been any date locked down yet," she said. On a scale of one to 10, Sonya D has given Eastern a '10' as far as response and as far as students just enjoying the show, Cook-Bey added. April Salter, sophomore biology major, said she needed a stress reliever before tests begin. "I heard about the show though word of mouth and flyers," Salter said. "I like to laugh personally and needed the comic relief before finals." Candice Reeder, early childhood development major, attended the show with Salter. "I decided to come because I have been studying for finals for a couple of days now and (Salter) told me that if I came out and had a couple of laughs it would take the stress off of me," Reeder said. "Laugh is good all the time." Cook-Bey also said she was going to keep in touch with Sonya D and have her return every first Friday of the month with different comics.

Study spots abound around Charleston, students say

◆ *Many say coffee shops, churches break monotony*

By Michael Schroeder
CITY REPORTER

Booth Library and the four walls of a residence hall room aren't the only choices of scenery for students cramming for finals. To relieve this, many students choose various off-campus locations to go and study. Several of the local coffee shops offer good studying atmospheres and special exam deals. Keith Bliss, owner of Jitters n' Bliss, said he always has students studying at his coffee shop, especially around exam week. To attract students he is also offering a special deal for exam week. "We will offer free shots of espresso with any purchase from now through the end of finals," Bliss said. Jackson Avenue Coffee owner Ryan Dawson said students come to his shop all the time and study. For this reason, they will also be having a special. "We will have a late night bagel and coffee deal for \$2.50 refills on coffee," Dawson said. "I appreciate the atmosphere and they have good chai tea," Audrey Cler, a senior music education major said about Jackson Avenue. In Mattoon, Mindy Codes, the owner of Common Grounds, also is expecting a large contingency of studying students, however, many of her customers are Lakeland College students. "We offer 10 percent off for

any students who has either a Lakeland or an Eastern ID," Codes said. She says students are attracted to her coffee shop because of the quiet, private back room. "We have big tables students like to spread all of their work out on," Codes said. For the students without cars, there are also a few off-campus options within walking distance. The Newman Catholic Center and the Wesley Foundation both offer studying safe havens for students. Tom Goodell, director of Wesley Foundation located at 2202 Fourth Street, said "We have students here all the time, obviously more during exam week." The Wesley Foundation is a place for students to study throughout the day. Then at 10 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, they offer a "Finals Bash." According to Goodell, this is a time for the students to just relax, talk and have "free food and drinks and make noise." The Newman Catholic Center, located on Roosevelt Avenue, also offers what is called a "24 hour study zone" which was kicked off with "Phil's Pancake Palace" Sunday night. Campus Minister Edrianne Ezell said "We offer various places to study and leave out munchies, pop and Fair Trade Coffee. People are free to come and go." Nick Gober, a junior communications disorders major, who frequents the Newman Catholic Center for his studying said, "I like the ambiance and free coffee."

COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY PLANNING AND BUDGET

Report sent to outline purpose for accreditation committee

By Kevin Sampier
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Council on University Planning and Budget approved a letter Friday that will be sent to the North Central Accreditation committee. The NCA is responsible for making sure colleges meet requirements for being accredited every 10 years. CUPB Chair Christine McCormick said the report, which outlines what the CUPB does, will now be sent to Bob Augustine, dean of the Graduate School and Research. The report will be combined with other committee reports from around campus and then sent to the NCA, McCormick said.

CUPB member Mahmood Butt said "basically, our assignment was to take a look at the questions presented by NCA." CUPB member Joe Heumann made a motion to discuss appropriated academic funds that are being used on intercollegiate athletics. The motion, which was discussed at length by council members, was postponed until a report from President Lou Hencken can be made. "It's been explained to us that it's occurring, quite clearly, by the president," Heumann said of the funds. CUPB member Steve Daniels said "I would really like to have a lot more information before we make a decision on this."

Daniels said he will wait until a presentation on the issue can be made to the CUPB. "We're in the middle of a financial crisis and I would just like to know where the money is going," Heumann said. CUPB member David Carpenter said Hencken made a presentation to CUPB earlier in the year, explaining funds from academics given to athletics would be phased out over the next three to five years. The Council on University Planning and Budget will meet at 3 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Arcola/Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Administration Editor Kevin Sampier can be reached at k_sampier@hotmail.com



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Presidential address

Student Body President Caleb Judy speaks to the crowd during the afternoon Commencement Ceremony Saturday in Lantz Arena.



Mattoon park aglow with spirit

By David Thill
STAFF WRITER

For many years, the Christmas light works display has been drawing thousands of people to Peterson Park in Mattoon. So many that they have recently been featured in *Illinois Now*, the state's tourism magazine. According to Beth Hettinger of the Mattoon Department of Tourism, from Nov. 14 to Dec. 26, Peterson Park will be filled with dozens of light designs. The designs include seven dinosaurs, Frosty the Snowman, numerous designs of Santa Claus and a marching band. "We have more displays than ever before. Everybody should be

"We have all of the old favorite designs back, and some new ones."

—Beth Hittinger, Mattoon Department of Tourism

thrilled to come," Hettinger said. "We have all of the old favorite designs back, and some new ones as well." She said thousands of people come to see the lights every year, averaging 300 people a night. The lights have been an annual Christmas tradition in Mattoon for the past 12 years.

The purpose of the light works is to get the community excited about the holiday season, Hettinger said. The lights are funded by money from the tourism department as well as local businesses and individual donations, she said. The lights take at least a month to put up and take down. "I like the lights, they are fun to go to every year," said Charleston High School student Jennifer Pollard. "The lights make the most of the yule tide. They bring a sense of cheer to the community," Shane Reichart, a senior industrial technologies major said. "I think everybody should go to see them. I go every year."

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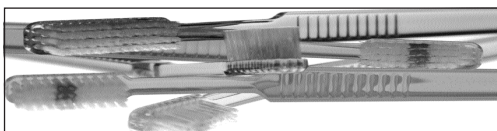
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DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Kiel Schaljo, a junior at Charleston High School, spends time to relax after school with his girlfriend, Maranda Rehg, also a junior at CHS, Tuesday, Oct. 7, on a dock at Lake Charleston.

Putting the semester into FOCUS



The Daily Eastern News photo staff selected its favorite photos they have taken over the course of the fall 2003 semester.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY ROB BRENNAN

Rap artist Twista performs for a full crowd in McAfee Gymnasium during a UB fall concert Sunday, Nov. 16.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY COLIN MCAULIFFE

Members of Eastern's Pan-Hellenic Council walk by the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union in early September. Many Greek students at Eastern think that MTV's Fraternity Life and Sorority Life depict Greek life inaccurately.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY DANIEL WILLIAMS

Emily Kenney, a senior finance major, sweeps out the playhouse in the playground outside of Buzzard Hall Monday, Sept. 29.