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## Daily Eastern News: February 19, 2003

Eastern Illinois University

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Sophomore sprinter Alicia Harris smashed two school records in the past two weeks.

Page 12 SPORTS



David Carwell, assistant professor in the political science department, asks questions during the University Professionals of Illinois meeting in the auditorium of Lumpkin Hall on Tuesday afternoon.

STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

## UPI nominates its future leaders

By John Chambers  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Elections for leaders of the university faculty union will be in March, but the position nominations were announced Tuesday.

Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois received nominations for executive committee positions and other state delegates or representatives.

"We're in the position now of having multiple candidates from some of these positions; which we've never had," UPI president David Radavich said.

Charles Delman, the current contract chief negotiator, was nominated for chapter president. English professor John Allison and secondary education professor Pat Fewell were nominated for vice president.

Allison was the active chief negotiator for a month during negotiations.

Radavich said the chapter president serves a three-year term and vice president serves two years.

State UPI president Sue Kaufman was nominated for the union local president.

Radavich said Kaufman was nominated because of her background at Eastern. She is now on leave as a journalism professor at Eastern while she serves as acting chair of the state's Higher Education Committee.

Three candidates were nominated for the chapter executive assistant.

Other nominations included a position for a Unit A or tenured faculty representative, Unit B representative and Unit B academic support professionals representative.

Delegates also were nominated to attend the conference of Illinois Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers.

Radavich said the local chapter usually sends six delegates to each conference held every two years.

The delegates bring resolutions on such issues as health insurance and tenure-track to the IFT, which can then be sent to be reviewed at a national level with the AFT, he said.

Radavich was not nominated, but previously expressed not wanting to move for another term as chapter president.

"I said that I wanted to step down. I think it's really healthy to bring in new people," he said.

Radavich said it's advantageous to bring union officials and representatives from varied academic departments, such as Delman, a mathematics professor, for president.

"We haven't had someone in the sciences," he said.

As a past president following elections, Radavich said he will still serve on the union chapter's executive committee.

The state-wide elections will be in late March with winners announced later that month or early April, he said.

## Witness: 'He tried to kill me'

♦ Four former friends testify Mertz admitted to previous murder, arson

By Shauna Gustafson  
SENIOR WRITER

"Lord, please don't let me die this way." This thought was all that went through the mind of an ex-girlfriend of Anthony B. Mertz as she struggled for her life, she testified in court Tuesday. The woman testified she was sexually assaulted by Mertz, who also attempted to break her neck.

She testified Tuesday during the second day of sentencing testimony in Mertz's trial. Mertz was found guilty of murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and home invasion on Feb. 12 for the death of Eastern student Shannon McNamara on June 12, 2001.

Other testimony included several former friends saying Mertz had told them he committed a different murder in 1999 and had burned down an apartment building on Fourth Street in 2000.

The woman said she and Mertz had been dating for about two weeks.

Mertz's ex-girlfriend testified she was at his apartment after an evening the two had spent out with friends, when in the course of foreplay, he flipped her over onto her stomach and sexually assaulted her in her anus, although she had told him not to. She said she screamed, and tried to push him away. She said he put his hand over her mouth, shoving his fingers up her nose so she couldn't breathe.

She testified that as she struggled, he placed his hands on her neck and twisted quickly. She said she

## Two unsolved crimes linked to Mertz

By Carly Mullady  
CITY EDITOR

Prosecutors on Tuesday continued attempts to link two unsolved Charleston crimes to Anthony Mertz.

Mertz's confessions to both were part of witness testimony during sentencing in the trial for the murder for Eastern student Shannon McNamara.

Here is some background information on both crimes:

Police found the lifeless body of a 23-year-old woman in her Seventh Street home June 30, 1999.

Amy Warner, the mother of a 4-year-old boy and 7-month-old girl died of blood loss from a wound to her neck.

Warner was killed sometime between late evening June 29 and when her body was discovered at 10:20 a.m. June 30.

SEE CRIMES ♦ Page 5

## Students have dissenting opinions of possible war in Iraq

By Lisa Meyer  
STAFF WRITER

Eastern students are divided on their stance on whether or not United States should go to war with Iraq.

After Sept. 11, flags were hoisted as an act of patriotism, but for some Americans raising flags is not their only patriotic duty.

These American soldiers are asked to show their allegiance by risking their life.

Students have mixed views on whether war is the necessary action to take.

"Why send troops to Kuwait when the problem is here?" Nora

### More inside

♦ Students present anti-war resolution to city council  
Page 3

♦ More opinions on the possibility of war  
Page 5

tions with Iraq were as former President Bill Clinton left them, Iraq wouldn't be building the missiles.

Malloy, a freshman English major, said. "What kind of protection will we have if our troops are in different countries?"

Malloy also thinks the president may be at fault for the war and if the foreign relations

"Because Bush allowed Iraq to build missiles again, he messed up foreign policies," Malloy said. "Bush doesn't know what he's getting into. Not only does the war affect the United States, but Paris, London and other major (cities)."

Malloy is not the only student who thinks the United States ignores the opinion of other countries.

"I fear for the lives of people being bombed," said Dontrese Thomas, a sophomore special education major.

But some students also hold the opposite opinion.

Matt Campbell, a sophomore history major, thinks war is the

right action.

"Iraq hasn't shown enough cooperation with the United Nations, and I think Saddam is hiding something," he said.

Other students agree with Campbell that the United States should go to war.

"Eventually, we're going to be sitting around and they're going to hit us hard," said Devin Janotta, a freshman secondary education major. "So we need to do something about it."

Campbell said he doesn't want World War II to happen again, citing the United States made a mistake of allowing Adolf Hitler too much power.

"Because Bush allowed Iraq to build missiles again, he messed up foreign policies."

—Nora Malloy

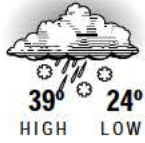
Another question up in the air is the idea of reinstating the draft.

"I respect the men in the army, but I hope I never have to go," Campbell said.

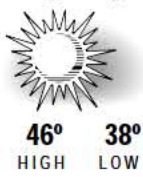
SEE KILL ♦ Page 5



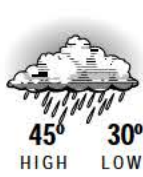
Today  
Rain/snow



Thursday  
Mostly sunny



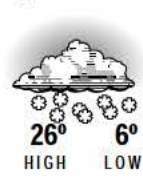
Friday  
Showers



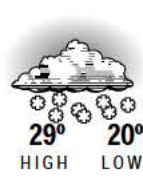
Saturday  
Snow/wind



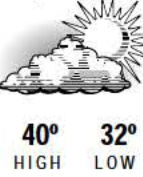
Sunday  
Light snow



Monday  
Snow showers



Tuesday  
Partly cloudy



## Senate to hear about direct deposit

By Avian Carrasquillo  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Student Senate Wednesday will hear a presentation from Jeff Cooley, vice president for business affairs, and Chuck Phillips, director of human services, concerning electronic funds transfer via direct deposit and twice monthly pay for students.

"We want to make them aware of where we are on these topics, and set up a timetable to get those items accomplished," Phillips said.

The university is now pushing for more students to sign up for direct deposit, aiming toward the semi-monthly payment for students. Starting with the Feb. 28 payday, all students without direct deposit need to pick up paychecks at the Cashier's Office in Old Main.

The Student Senate also will hear an allocation request for \$273.85 from the senate budget. The request is for a reimbursement to Student Senate mem-

*"We want to make them aware of where we are on these topics..."*

—Chuck Phillips

bers Ronnie Deedrick, George Lesica and Marty Ruhaak for the cost of attending an Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee meeting at Roosevelt University in Chicago earlier this month.

On the consent agenda, Niki Klinger, Anthony Hill and Emily Johnston are up for appointments to the Student Action Team. Keanna Mahone is seeking an appointment to the Diversity Affairs Committee and the Housing Committee. Tom DeGeorge is up for approval as a voting member to the External Relations Committee.

## Student Action Team traveling to capitol

◆ *Highlights of Teacher Education programs will be presented to General Assembly*

The Student Action Team will present highlights of Eastern Teacher Education Certification Programs to General Assembly in Springfield.

About 200 Eastern faculty members and students are going to Springfield Wednesday to lobby for Eastern.

Of the 200 team members, about two-thirds are students.

They are heading to the state capitol to meet with state legislators and present results of research on the Teacher Education Certification Programs.

"We want to give legislators a

chance to see the great things happening at Eastern," said Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations and an adviser to the Student Action Team. "It's a good way to spotlight our programs."

The Illinois General Assembly will be in session, but the team will attempt to meet with individual legislators between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

In addition, legislators representing districts of Student Action Team members were contacted and informed about the meeting.

Nilsen said the Student Action Team hopes these meetings will gain further legislative support for Eastern.

The Student Action Team expects to return around 5 p.m.

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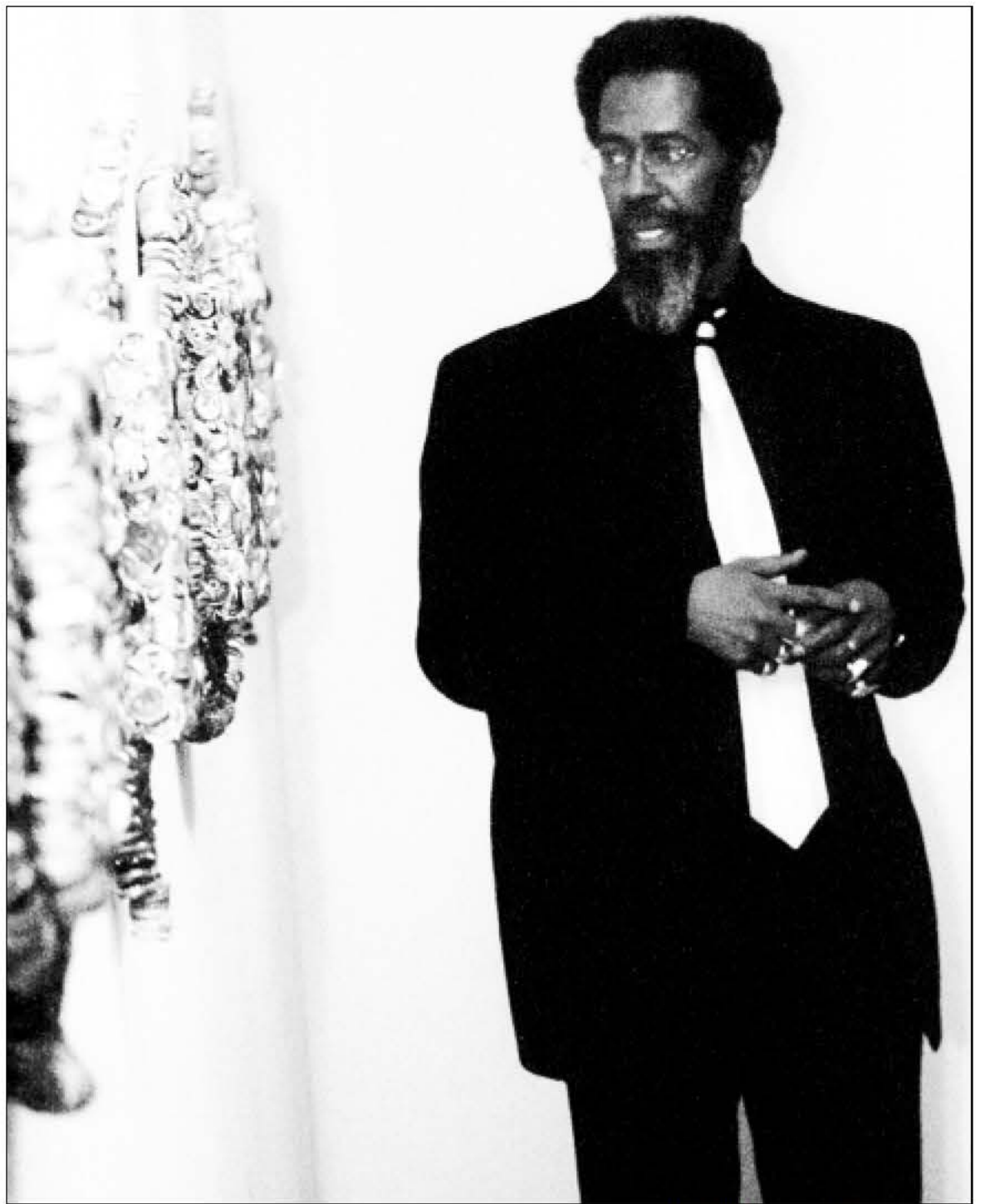
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STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Gregory Warmack, or Mr. Imagination, explains one of his pieces of work on display at Tarble Art Center on Tuesday evening.

## Life experiences influenced art

By Yvette Cozad  
STAFF WRITER

A near death experience changed Gregory Warmack's artistic perspective.

In 1978, Warmack was shot twice, he said. During this experience, Warmack had an out of body experience.

"This out of body experience has led me in other directions," Warmack said.

While out of body, Warmack was able to see ancient civilizations, which is what influences most of his artwork today.

Warmack, a three-dimensional artist spoke of his art and the influence behind it at the Tarble Arts Center Tuesday night.

Warmack's artwork mostly consists of statues and masks, he said.

His artwork is composed of unique objects, and he is constantly thinking of new objects to use.

"I work with bottle caps ... I'm trying to think of what I can do with the grounds of coffee," Warmack said.

For Angle Otto, a freshman graphic design major, the bottle caps proved to be the most distinctive part of Warmack's artwork.

"I would have never have thought to ask around about bottle caps to make sculptures," Otto said.

Warmack said he obtains bottle caps in various ways, and one way is as presents.

"Every Christmas I get a few bags of bottle caps," he said.

Warmack spoke of what he truly enjoys about being an artist.

"What I really enjoy doing is sharing," he said. "Telling others how I

do it so the art work will go on."

Warmack revealed the relaxed side of being an artist as he played with his artwork and encouraged others to do the same.

"It is refreshing to see an artist willing to play with his art while there are 'Do Not Touch' signs all over the walls," said Brittany Wisovaty, a senior art education major.

Warmack and his intense passion for art pleased Adam Caldwell, a sophomore studio design major.

"He was very interesting and he was very into his work which is an awesome thing for an artist," Caldwell said.

Warmack's artwork is currently on display at the Tarble Arts Center for students and members of the community to view.

## Mr. Imagination to give workshop

The Tarble Arts Center and Eastern's Art Department will host an artist's workshop Wednesday, which will include a three-dimensional design lab.

Michael Watts, director of the Tarble Arts Center, said approximately 40 people are signed up to work with hands-on labs, and spectators are expected.

The workshop is part of the celebration of African American

Heritage Month.

Gregory Warmack, also known as Mr. Imagination, an African American artist, will showcase his techniques on creating structures of sound objects using plaster of paris, Watts said. His focus will be mostly on folk art.

"We try to do something every year for African American history month, but this is the first time Mr. Imagination has been to Eastern,"

Watts said.

The artist's workshop will be held in celebration of African American Heritage Month at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Art Park West.

Admission to the workshop is free.

Students interested in more information on the workshop should to contact Michael Watts at 581-2787.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Theft

Kate M. Diguido, 19, and Karin A. Pligge, 18, both of 603 Lawson Hall, were arrested at 4:58 p.m. on Feb. 6 at Super Wal-Mart on charges of retail theft.



# Righter cashes in on new position

◆ Senator named to the Financial Institutions and Transportation Committees

By Andre Raymond  
STAFF WRITER

State Senator Dale Righter, R-Mattoon, has been named to the Financial Institutions and Transportation Committees in addition to his post as Health and Human Services spokesman for the Republicans.



Dale Righter

"I try not to look at just one thing, I am careful of issues that cost taxpayers."

Senate Republican Leader Frank Watson appointed Righter to both of the committees Feb. 4. Righter is experienced with financial institutions. As a member of the House of Representatives, Righter spent five years on the Financial Institutions committee.

The senator will be starting fresh as a new member of the Transportation committee.

"The basic function I do for each committee is to review and vote on legislation," Righter said.

As a member of the Financial Institutions committee, Righter will work with bank, savings and loan, credit unions and consumer credit issue legislature.

The transportation committee addresses state highway, railway and waterway legislation.

"Everything has to go through the committee before it gets to the senate floor," Righter said.

He will have input in legislation dealing with state transportation, financial institutions and health and human services.

"My job is to look at each piece of legislation or any sponsors," Righter said. "I try not to look at just one thing, I am careful of issues that cost taxpayers."

The 55th district senator will work actively to consider the needs of Illinois citizens.

"In the past, the committees just looked at the things that shouldn't be counted on the senate floor, but now it looks at the different things they need to offer."



CARLY MULLADY/CITY EDITOR

Larry Rennels and Lorelei Sims, members of the Charleston City Council, discuss the unified development code during the meeting on Tuesday evening at City Hall.

# Anti-war advocates present themselves to the City Council

By Carly Mullady  
CITY EDITOR

An anti-war proposal bearing the signatures of 450 supporters was brought forth by four Eastern students and was denied by the council at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Jeremy Pelzer, junior social science major, presented the resolution against the war on Iraq. The resolution was not a blanket anti-war resolution, it simply requested the United States avoided war unless all diplomacy and inspections should fail.

City Manager Alan Probst said the council should "stick to the issues they have control over."

Council member Larry Rennels agreed.

"Foreign policy issues should be left to the federal government," he said.

Pelzer said the war was a financial issue and a moral issue. He said the war's \$1.9 trillion cost would have to come through raised taxes or lowered public service funding.

Pelzer also said it has been approximated as many as 260,000 lives could be lost in three months of war.

The financial and moral inflictions involve every American city that may be losing federal money or sending its citizens off to fight, Pelzer said.

"It is a local issue and I would support it and sign it as an individual," council member Lorelei Sims said.

"But not as a council," Mayor Dan Coughill said.

Pelzer said at least 40 American cities including Ithaca, Berkley

and Urbana have enforced anti-war resolutions.

Council member John Winnett noted how many American cities have not enforced resolutions.

The entire council declined placing the resolution on the next meeting's agenda.

Temporary street closure for the annual Friendly City Five Foot Race to be held May 10 was granted by the entire council.

The council unanimously authorized the execution and delivery of the first-time home buyers program. Charleston will have no financial responsibility in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, Coughill said. Banks operate the financial aspects of the home buyer program.

"The program will enable some citizens to participate in lower interest loans and assist them in purchasing their first home," Coughill said.

The City of Charleston appointed an electrical commission of six members to serve five year terms.

Tom Shaffer of the Coles-Moultri Electric Co-op.; Terry Allen, owner of Charleston Electric, Inc.; James Shoot, owner of Shoot Electric; Al Green, journeyman and JATC instructor; Lewis Edwards, wholesale representative for Eastern Electric Supply; and Kris Phipps of the Charleston Fire Department have all been selected as the electrical commission.

The council unanimously voted to table the Board of Zoning and Appeals Unified Development Code until the next meeting to make changes for 18 points Sims questioned.

# Faculty Senate discusses textbook rental complaints

◆ Conclusion: Textbook Rental Service is a good thing, but could use some revisions

By John Chambers  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Faculty Senate heard discussion Tuesday on the feasibility of the Textbook Rental Service, concluding the service can continue as an asset to Eastern and still undergo revision.

History professor Keith Wilson serves on the faculty textbook rental committee and brought senate members a summary of the complaints and suggestions.

Textbook rental has told academic departments it will not buy any new textbooks for summer school classes unless the book used is going out of print or the course is new to the summer curriculum, Wilson said.

He said textbook rental informed the committee of the possibility for no new books last semester.

"They mentioned at last semester's meeting that the budget was in trouble ... they said, hypothetically, there would be a problem in the summer," he said.

Some concerns offered by the history department are the service is counterproductive, not productive in changing texts or the price of the service is too low, Wilson said.

Wilson said some suggested solutions include abolishing the program for graduate students or raising the current student fee structure.

Senate member and psychology professor Steve Scher questioned "whether the value (textbook rental's) getting economically is anywhere ... where they perceive it to be."

Textbook rental does not sell books to students at a price lower than its initial purchase cost.

Students are saving money overall by renting books and the university could raise the student fee funding the rental service, Scher said.

"They're getting a fee to support the program so why do they have to get the initial cost (back from students) ... that's an outrage," he said.

"I'd like to see the system work better. We could raise fees and still be far below the cost of books at other universities."

He said one of the best ideas the Faculty Senate has previously suggested was to make textbook rental a voluntary service.

Senate member and technology professor Mori Toosi said only 11 universities nationally have a textbook rental service.

"The cost savings is a reason for students to come here," said English professor and senate member David Carpenter.

Eastern would still have no problem attracting students without the

"The only thing I think you should do with it is haul it out to the crossroads at midnight and drive a stake through it's heart."

—David Carwell, senate member and political science instructor

option of textbook rental, said David Carwell, senate member and political science instructor.

"The only thing I think you should do with it is haul it out to the crossroads at midnight and drive a stake through it's heart," he said. "Textbook rental is an abomination."

Carwell said some suggested reforms for the system simply will not work.

Wilson said he would take points of the discussion with the senate back to the textbook faculty committee.

The senate subcommittee on the Council on University Planning and Budget reported to senate members an intent to change the membership of the council.

The CUPB currently has 37 members.

The discussion detailed an intent to decrease the number of voting members to 15, including four faculty representing each college.

The council plays on budgetary advisory role, and if the membership is not changed "the CUPB is likely to become nothing more than a side show" because of meetings usually resulting in arguments, senate committee chair Matthew Montipallil said.

The proposal suggests going back to resemble the type of membership the council has had in the past, he said.

The CUPB senate subcommittee will bring a resolution back to the senate in the future, Montipallil said.

The senate also discussed standardized testing at Illinois state universities.

Senate chair Anne Zahlan said the Illinois Board of Higher Education is recommending the testing pilot, and university participation is optional.

The IBHE is looking at testing students to see the results of academic programs funded by taxpayers, Montipallil said.

The senate will likely discuss the testing in the future.

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**SHANGHAI KNIGHTS (PG13)**  
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"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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## EDITORIAL

# Dentist idea very refreshing

When students come to Eastern, they leave the comforts of home behind, including their medical and dental providers.

Sometimes students can schedule appointments for these necessities for when they get home, but other times emergencies arise and they may need to see someone here. Eastern has Health Services to provide medical services to students when the need arises. However, Eastern is lacking in dental care services.

The Student Senate has realized the need for dental services and has started the ball rolling to try and correct that problem. Unfortunately, getting a dentist on campus will be more difficult than it appears. The first question is obviously, "How much will this cost?"

Senate members have said they would try to get an on-campus dentist without raising student fees. While that is a noble goal, that may not be possible to achieve. Everyone wants to get more services without paying more money, but further research into this idea by Student Senate will determine whether not raising student fees in exchange for this service is actually feasible.

Having an on-campus dentist would be a huge convenience and is a great idea. However, if student fees would have to be raised, having an on-campus dentist might not be the best thing. Fees are high enough already.

Student Senate ultimately needs to determine if this is a service enough people will use. No matter what the system for paying a dentist turns out to be, if no one uses the service, not only is it worthless, but the university is still stuck paying the bill.

A survey is needed to thoroughly assess the need and want for an on-campus dentist. Hearing the request from a few students does not mean the service will be an effective one. And a survey, which gages the overall campus opinion on the issue, should be distributed to a large number of people, not just a few hundred people.

A proposal that possibly means a hike in fees cannot be taken lightly. Having a dentist around on a full-time basis, however, would save students a trip off campus, thus possibly allowing them to miss less classes, if any, as a result of their dental care needs.

Trying to get a dentist on campus is a good goal to have, but only if it is thoroughly researched, and only if the students aren't forced to dole out a large chunk of change for the service.

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

**At issue**  
Student Senate passing the proposal to research the need for an on-campus dentist

**Our stance**  
On-campus dentist is a good idea if it will not mean an increase in student fees.

## OPINION

# Take a chance, get fake grass



**Matt Meinheit**  
Sports editor and bi-weekly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Meinheit also is a sophomore journalism major.

He can be reached at 581-2812 or mmeinheit@eiu.edu

Flipping through the pages of an Eastern pamphlet, I saw a picture of campus that confused me.

I looked at the picture for a while and thought, where is this? Those buildings look familiar, but it can't be Eastern. Then it dawned on me. That's what the South Quad looks like with grass.

As a sophomore, I have not had the privilege of fully experiencing the South Quad blanketed with lush, full grass. Grass was on the South Quad when I arrived in the fall of 2001 — I think. I do remember the South Quad was quickly reduced to a mound of dirt and a long, deep ditch when campus workers started replacing heating pipes underneath it.

When classes started last fall, sod was present in the South Quad, but after Quakin' in the Quad and other activities taking place there, combined with heavy fall rains, the nice green sod was replaced with brown mud.

It all doesn't matter now since the South Quad has been covered in snow and ice for the past couple of months, but what about in the upcoming weeks when spring starts to roll up from the south.

Will Eastern leave the south quad a brown barren wasteland?

Well I have been inspired by the Rich McDuffie, director of athletics.

What's the problem? You can't

*"You have horrible drainage? If grass isn't beneficial, get something artificial."*

grow grass, and when it does, it quickly dies? You have horrible drainage? If grass isn't beneficial, get something artificial.

Think of all the advantages of installing artificial grass in the south quad.

The university would save money on maintenance, and then it could splurge on some salt for the sidewalks. As an added bonus, Eastern could liberally sprinkle the salt on the sidewalks because they don't have to worry about killing the grass because it's fake!

This would have a trickle-down effect. Since the sidewalks would be salted and safe to walk on, the university wouldn't have to worry about students complaining about breaking their ankles and wrists going to class.

Laying down a green carpet in the South Quad would complete the ensemble of sixties chic already existing. All four residence halls (Thomas, 1964; Andrews, 1965; Taylor, 1966 and Lawson, 1967) in the South Quad

were built during the decade of love, and Astroturf was created in the late sixties when the Astrodome was built in Houston.

The Astrodome brings us to phase two of this brilliant renovation of the South Quad: a fully retractable dome covering the south quad. After completion of the dome (about three years after its planned completion date) the South Quad will be renamed after the naming rights are sold to Wal-Mart and the area will be known as Super Wal-Dome.

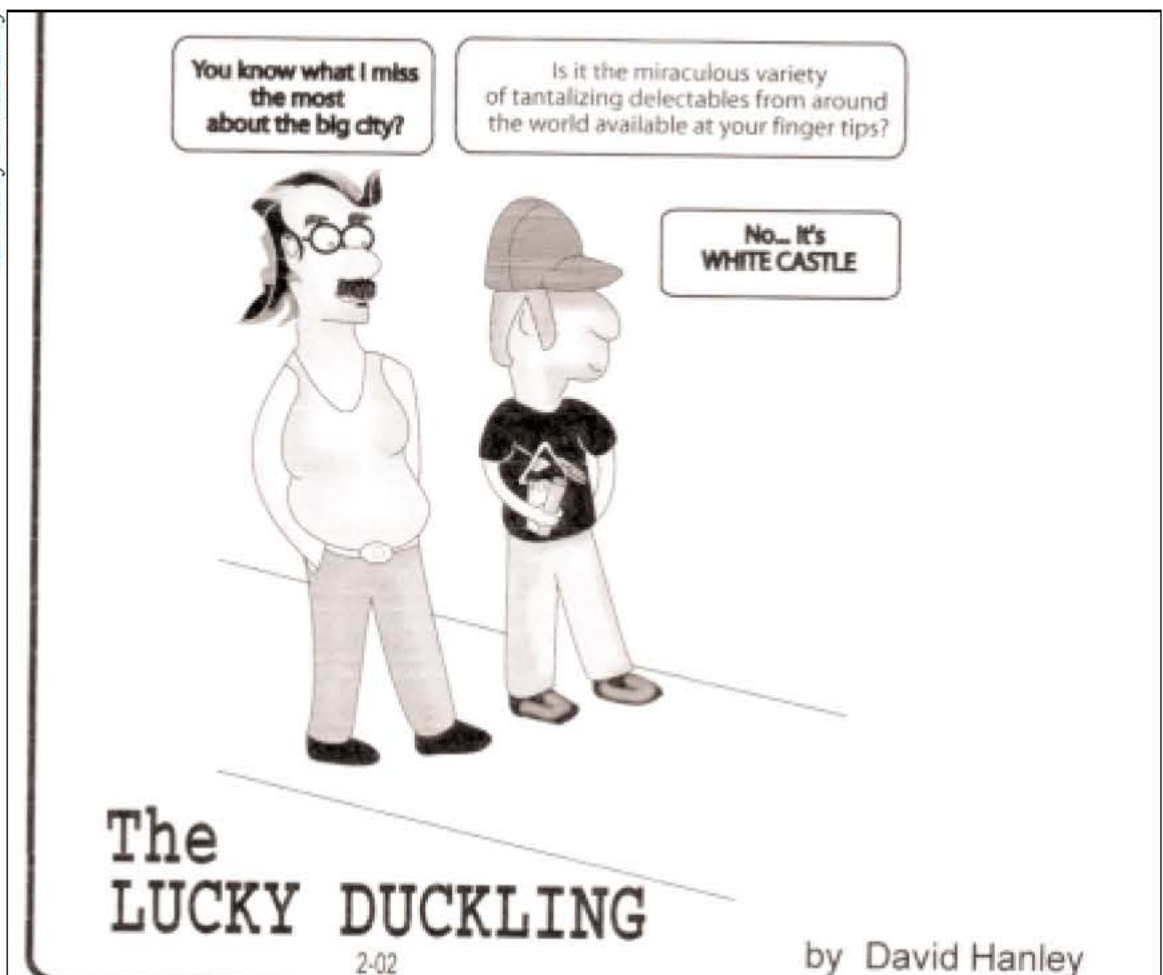
Well, a fully enclosed south quad might be impractical, but so is attempting to grow grass in the South Quad. Too many students use it to play football, soccer, frisbee or whatever they want to.

Students playing in the mud during a rainstorm is an inevitable problem. It's like a homing beacon for bored college students looking for fun on a rainy day.

Eastern can keep trying to grow grass in the South Quad, but it will keep getting trampled and rained on.

Artificial grass might not be the most financially feasible solution to the South Quad's problems, but reseeding the area and hoping central Illinois' climate will yield to the will of Eastern Illinois University is about just as feasible.

Cartoon by David Hanley



## YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# NASA has made great advancements

In the column, "Price can't be placed on life," published in the Feb. 5 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, the writer states the United States should spend its money on other things more useful than the space research that seems useless. But, such are things with science, you can't get a pay off right away from things.

If humankind only bothered about "useful" things, we would still be in the Stone Age. If you don't believe me, in dealing with a huge set of different problems like healing illness, transportation and communication, would anyone ever think about using the methods science uses?

I am referring to chemical and mathematical equations, strange theories, etcetera. Of course not. So when people use this stuff, they usually

struggle a lot to find applications, but so far nothing has been proven purer and better than science.

*Manuel Serratos*  
Graduate chemistry major

## Anti-war nonsense needs to stop now

Iraq must be disarmed. There is no other way. What about that is so hard to understand?

I am tired of reading anti-war articles everywhere and seeing the anti-war posters on campus. In the column "Take an anti-war stance," published in the Feb. 10 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, the writer said she is sad because someone she knows got deployed with the military to the Middle East.

Why doesn't the writer give those friends a call and ask them if they appreciate her being against war? My guess is they won't appreciate it at all, and they'd instruct you to do something better with your time.

I wonder if the victims of 9/11, if they were still alive, would appreciate all of this anti-war nonsense. I wonder if their families are for the war. My guess is yes because they know Saddam could just as easily do something worse than Osama. You see, a drastic event must occur before people come to their senses. Is it going to take people again lying under

rubble saying, "Hey, maybe we should have done something to keep Saddam from doing this," for everyone to come to their senses, pull together, and show our nation's military support. I hope it never comes to that, but it is possible. It's very easy to hold up anti-war posters and speak opinions. But try traveling thousands of miles away from your friends and families to protect your country. Believe me, attitudes would change. Don't hold your posters up in front of me!

*Adam D. Laurent*  
Sophomore  
athletic training major

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



**POLL:**

# Should the United States go to war with Iraq?



Ryan Ervin

*"America needs to go to war to deliberate, not to conquer."*

*Ryan Ervin, senior physical education and history major*



Tracy Catron

*"I'm not sure if we need to go to war, but something does need to be done."*

*Tracy Catron, senior elementary education major*



Bobby Jo Buchar

*"I just think we need to mind our own business."*

*Bobby Jo Buchar, senior sociology major*



J.R. Fredrick

*"Go ahead and get them; why should we listen to the French?"*

*J.R. Fredrick, senior biology major*

**Kill:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

heard her neck cracking. He twisted three times total, twice to the right, once to the left, she testified.

"He was trying to break my neck," she said.

The third twist was so strong that she flipped from her stomach to her back, at which point she could see into Mertz's face.

"He had a blank face — his eyes were just dark circles, his lips were pursed," she said. "It was like the Anthony I thought I knew wasn't there."

The women testified that she kept screaming, "no, stop, please don't kill me," and called Mertz by name, at which point he loosened his grip on her and she was able to get away from him.

"All I could think of was to get out of there — he tried to kill me."

The woman testified that Mertz refused to let her leave his apartment, and demanded she lay down to sleep with him. After he had fallen asleep, she said she broke away and ran for the door. He reached out to grab her leg, but she was able to dodge his hand. She then ran down the stairs and out of the building, with Mertz following close behind.

"I could hear his footsteps coming after me."

She testified that later Mertz said he didn't know what she was talking about, and made her tell him what had happened. She did not report the sexual assault to police until December 2001 during a third interview with police who were investigating the murder of McNamara. She previously reported Mertz trying to kill her.

"I was scared, and I was humiliated, and I just didn't know what to do," she said.

The woman also testified that Mertz had several books on Hitler and Nazism, in particular "Mein Kampf," in his apartment and had agreed with Hitler's goal of "purifying his race."

She also testified Mertz had told her

he was very proud of the time he spent in the Marine Corps.

"(He) said the Marines taught him to kill without remorse," she said.

Mertz's neighbor Kim Lille testified she had heard noises coming from his apartment the night of the sexual assault, and heard people running down the stairs early in the morning. She also said she witnessed Mertz wedge himself between the car door and the car of the woman leaving the apartment, and keep her from leaving. Lille said she did not know what the situation was, but she had heard the woman crying.

Jeff Marlow, a homicide investigator with the Illinois State Police testified he had interviewed another woman who said Mertz sexually assaulted her while he was in the Marines, based in San Diego, Calif.

Marlow testified the young woman told him and Detective Kevin Paddock of the Charleston Police Department that she visited Mertz at Camp Pendleton and was sexually assaulted by him there. She said he called her "white trash."

Bryan Beavers, Doug Paul, Christopher Howard and Anthony Laulatta all testified Mertz had told each of them that he had killed a Charleston woman in the summer of 1999, and that he had set the blaze that destroyed an apartment building being built on Fourth Street in February 2000.

The woman he mentioned was Amy Warner, a 23-year-old Charleston woman who lived on Seventh Street, the same street Mertz lived on during the summer of 1999. Each of the four men who testified said they did not report Mertz's comments to police.

"He said that he'd killed her," Beavers said. "I didn't believe him."

Paul testified he had seen a newspaper clipping in Mertz's apartment about the Warner murder, clipped from one of the local newspapers and remembered Mertz saying he was involved with it.

Warner's best friend Patricia

**Crimes:**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Police discovered "defense wounds" made by a sharp object on Amy Warner's body.

There was evidence Warner struggled with the attacker, a police detective reported during the Aug. 11, 1999 inquest.

The second crime is a fire.

Nine buildings, several cars and several pieces of construction equipment were damaged by a fire that began Feb. 13, 2000 at the Unique Properties apartment complex located on Fourth Street and Buchanan Avenue.

Stephen Mason of the State Fire Marshall's Arson District said at the time that the fire's cause would be

"practically impossible to determine" because of the incredible amount of damage it caused.

Mason said the fire started in the center of the Fourth Street and Buchanan Avenue apartment building. The partially completed building where the fire began was unoccupied, but the fire spread to nearby buildings.

On Feb. 14, the damage costs were estimated at \$2.5 million.

More than 25 Eastern students were evacuated from their homes and apartments because of the fire. Reports said no injuries were sustained during the fire.

Mertz, an Eastern sophomore at the time, was a resident on the second floor of the 1128 Fourth St. apartment, which was evacuated.

Winborn, formerly Conrad, testified she had known one of Mertz's ex-girlfriends, Tara Hofer since elementary school, and had spent time with him and Hofer on occasion. She also testified Mertz had been in Warner's home with her when she was babysitting Warner's 4-year-old daughter and 7-month-old son.

Beavers, Paul, Howard and Laulatta also testified Mertz told them he had set a fire that destroyed the apartment building being built by Unique Homes on Fourth Street. The fire also destroyed several cars and caused two houses to be demolished, Chris Phipps, assistant fire chief for the Charleston Fire Department testified. Phipps said the blaze cost \$3.1 million in damages for the new apartment complex alone, and had been arson.

Paul also testified to an evening when he and Mertz had been drinking in Mertz's apartment and a black person broke a bottle in the parking lot outside the building. He said Mertz yelled out the window a racial slur and an altercation followed.

Testimony from three members of the Coles County Sheriff's Department also was heard, all describing fights and verbal altercations Mertz had been involved in at the Coles County Jail. One additional corrections officer testified that Mertz had made a vulgar statement to her while she was passing out breakfast.

A former cell mate, Michael Jordan, testified he spoke with Mertz about newspaper articles that were written about the murder, and Mertz had told him he would get even with Charleston Times-Courier Dave Fopay for having written them.

"He saved them all," Jordan testified.

He also testified Mertz had found a piece of wire, and was practicing how to pick the lock on his handcuffs to attempt an escape while being transported to the Coles County Courthouse.

Testimony will continue at 9 a.m. in Courtroom 1 of the courthouse.

"A fireman woke me up around 7, and he was yelling and banging on the doors saying, 'This is no f\*\*\*ing fire drill, get the f\*\*\* out!'," Mertz told a Daily Eastern News (italics) reporter for a story that ran in the Feb. 14, 2000 edition of the DEN.

Mertz's girlfriend, Tara Hofer, then a junior Eastern student, was also awakened by the fireman's yells and was quoted in that edition.

Darell Nees, who was the Charleston fire department chief at the time, said the fire was the "hottest he had ever seen."

Reggie Phillips, who owned the Unique Properties complex, said: "I think someone started the fire — there's no other way. Whoever did it, did it with intention."

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# Columbia disaster investigation accepting help

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The board investigating the Columbia disaster will hold a public hearing next week to listen to non-NASA experts who have theories about why the shuttle disintegrated over Texas, the panel's chairman said Tuesday.

The hearing will be held Feb. 27, said retired Navy Adm. Harold Gehman, who is leading the board. The location has not been decided.

"We will invite experts who are not associated with any U.S. government program who have theories or hypothesis, who have written to us or provided research documents, to express to us their opinions," Gehman said. "That way we get input... not by any government agency."

The board has been criticized by some U.S. lawmakers as being

too closely tied to NASA.

Four thousand pieces of debris have been shipped to the Kennedy Space Center, and about 2,600 of those pieces have been identified and cataloged, Gehman said. Investigators hope to partially assemble the pieces to help them figure out what happened to the space shuttle.

An additional 10,000 pieces are headed to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana and the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The board split into three teams Tuesday — materials, operations and technology — and began delving into what may have caused a breach in the shuttle's left wing.

In the more than two weeks since Columbia disintegrated high above Texas, the NASA-appointed board has publicly put forth just one hypothesis: that the super-

*"We will invite experts who are not associated with any U.S. government program who have theories or hypothesis."*

—Harold Gehman

heated gases surrounding the spaceship during its descent through the atmosphere penetrated the left wing.

The newest member of the 10-person panel, former Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall, will join her colleagues later this week.

Additional members are being sought to include more scientific experts and quell criticism from members of Congress who contend the board is not independent enough of NASA.

Still a major focus of the investigation is a 2 1/2-pound chunk of rigid insulating foam that broke off Columbia's external fuel tank shortly after liftoff on Jan. 16 and slammed into the left wing at more than 500 mph.

NASA concluded while Columbia was still in orbit that any damage caused by the foam was slight and posed no safety threat. But engineers are now redoing their analysis to see if they made a mistake or missed something.

An engineering professor who warned NASA more than a decade ago about the catastrophic risk of

launch debris, Paul Fischbeck, said the analysis that was done during Columbia's flight appears to have stopped short of determining what would happen if multiple thermal tiles were hit and damaged by the foam.

Fischbeck, who is now at Carnegie Mellon University, said the most probable scenario is that the foam damaged or knocked off thermal tiles, more tiles gave way during re-entry, and those missing tiles led to a burn-through of the shuttle's aluminum hull.

The investigation board began its work within hours of Columbia's breakup on Feb. 1. The shuttle was traveling at 18 times the speed of sound and was just minutes away from a Florida touchdown when contact was lost. All seven astronauts aboard were killed.

## Fish producer fights West Nile

BLUFORD (AP) — While her neighbors dig out from the year's biggest snowstorm, fish producer Glenna Beck is busy thinking of the steamy days of summer, and the worries the West Nile virus can cause.

Beck, who raises water plants and exotic fish in this southern Illinois town, has recently started raising gambusia minnows, an inch-long fish that state officials say can be a handy weapon against the virus.

And although the critters are native to Illinois, only a few people in the state are licensed to grow and sell them, said Michael Conlin, director of fisheries for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Producers must have aquaculture licenses,

he said.

The United States recorded more than 3,900 cases of the West Nile virus and 256 deaths from it last year, and Illinois led both categories with 55 deaths and 836 cases.

The mosquito-borne virus causes fevers and aches and can lead to potentially fatal swelling of the brain.

Health officials warn people to keep clear of stagnant pools of water in the summer, where mosquitos breed and the virus can spread.

That's where the gambusia minnow comes in.

Although the fish is only one of several that feed on mosquito larvae, the gambusia minnow also prefers stagnant water with high

temperatures and low oxygen content — the kinds of places where mosquitoes flourish, Conlin said.

"They are good for certain situations," he said, including "ornamental ponds or storm-water ditches, mine pits or sedimentation ponds, very small (pools) of water that might be good mosquito-breeding areas," he said.

The fish also prefers warm weather and for that reason does better in southern Illinois rather than the northern part of the state, he said.

A couple of gambusia minnows will clear out the average small ornamental pond, Beck said. About 250 would be required to clear the kind of one-acre ponds that are found on farms, she said.

## Normal mayor resigns citing health concerns

◆ *Kent Karraker steps down; Chris Koos named mayor in succession, beginning in April*

NORMAL (AP) — Citing health concerns, Kent Karraker has resigned as Normal's mayor after 10 years, and he has been replaced by first-term city councilman Chris Koos.

Karraker said he was diagnosed at being at high risk for heart problems several years ago and decided it was time now to get away from the rigors of the job.

"When I'm walking on the beach, I don't have stress," said Karraker, who recently spent two weeks in Florida and returned Tuesday with his wife, Marcia.

Karraker, 66, was a member of the city council for 10 years before being elected mayor in 1993.

A retired information and community relations worker for the Illinois Farm Bureau and Heartland Community College, Karraker also said he wants to spend more time with his grandchildren.

"I'm missing too many swim meets, hockey games and band concerts... there are still a lot of roses I'd like to smell," said Karraker, the longest-serving mayor in the history of this city of 45,000.

Karraker recommended Koos for mayor because he was



Mayor Chris Koos

*"We have such similar goals. Our goals intertwine, working to make this a better place to live. That's the focus."*

the top vote-getter in the 2001 election and, unlike some veteran council members, is not up for re-election this spring.

Koos, 54, said he was "humbled" after the council approved his two-year appointment Monday night and

predicted an "almost seamless" transition.

"We have such similar goals," he said of Karraker. "Our goals intertwine, working to make this a better place to live. That's the focus."

Koos, owner of a downtown Normal bicycle shop, said he will seek a mayoral term of his own in the city's 2005 election.

Like Karraker, Koos supports a downtown redevelopment plan that includes a city-owned hotel and conference center. The proposal has drawn criticism and will go before voters in an April 1 advisory referendum.

## Man accuses priest of molestation

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Two former Roman Catholic priests, including the brother of a prominent advocate for clergy-abuse victims, were sued Tuesday by a man who contends the men molested him for most of his childhood.

The alleged victim claims he was molested by one of the men, then turned to the other for help. That priest then began molesting him, the suit claims.

Neither Gary Pool nor Kevin Clohessy has been criminally charged. Also named as plaintiffs were the Diocese of Jefferson City, retired bishop Michael McAuliffe and Bishop John

*"My heart aches for this young man... I hope taking action will be healing for him..."*

—David Clohessy

Gaydos, who heads the diocese.

Clohessy's brother, David, is national director of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. He is estranged from his brother.

"My heart aches for this young

man... I hope taking action will be healing for him, as it is for so many survivors," David Clohessy said.

A woman who answered the phone at Pool's Jefferson City home said the former priest had no comment. Clohessy, who lives 30 miles north of Jefferson City in Columbia, could not be reached for comment. His phone number is not listed, and his brother did not know how to locate him.

The alleged victim was identified in court documents and by his lawyers only as a 28-year-old now living in North Carolina. His suit, filed in federal court, seeks unspecified damages.

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# U.N. inspectors visit missile sites

◆ *Rockets become flashpoint in Iraq crisis; youths form strong opinions about war*

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.N. weapons inspectors visited five sites involved in the production of a banned missile Tuesday as rockets became a new flashpoint in the Iraq crisis.

The United Nations is deciding whether to insist that Iraq modify the missiles or destroy them — a demand Saddam Hussein would likely find hard to meet.

Iraq's foreign minister, Naji Sabri, was asked Tuesday night what Iraq would do if told to destroy the missiles. He refused to answer, saying the question was too hypothetical.

The U.N. inspectors said Tuesday they have put identification tags on components of dozens of Al Samoud 2 missiles, but wouldn't say how many more remain to be inventoried. It remained unclear what they will do with the missiles they find.

"We are waiting for further instruction from New York," said a spokesman for the inspection teams in Baghdad, Hiro Ueki.

U.N. officials have banned the missiles because they have been tested at ranges greater than the 94-mile limit imposed on Iraq by U.N. resolutions adopted at the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

Giving up the Al Samoud 2 would mean sacrificing an important part of Iraq's defenses just as tens of thousands of U.S. and British troops mass on its southern border. But refusing to do so could give Iraq's enemies arguments to launch a war.

During a visit to Baghdad in January, chief inspector Hans Blix said the Iraqis suggested that when they fitted guidance and control systems and other devices to the missiles, they would be weighed down and fly within the legal distance.

Iraq was having trouble meeting another U.N. demand: encouraging

*"Those demanding war are an isolated few who stand against humanity. They are the enemies of humanity."*

—Iraq's foreign minister, Naji Sabri

scientists involved in weapons programs to grant private interviews to inspectors from UNMOVIC, the U.N. Monitoring and Observation Commission.

Ueki said only three of 30 scientists invited since the inspectors returned to Iraq in November have been willing to talk without a tape recorder — a condition the UNMOVIC inspectors insist on because they believe it will make the scientists more candid.

The three scientists who gave interviews were suggested by the Iraqi government — not requested independently by the U.N. team, Ueki said.

A separate team of U.N. nuclear inspectors has conducted more interviews but allowed the scientists to record them. On Monday, those inspectors interviewed Saad Ahmed Mahmoud, deputy director-general of the al-Rasheed Co., which makes rocket motors and infantry rockets.

On Tuesday, Mahmoud denounced the interview, calling it unjustified because it "came from a political decision imposed by the United States."

Ueki said the resumption of U-2 flights on Monday signaled that Iraq's cooperation with the inspectors was improving. An American U-2 spy plane made its first flight over Iraq after the United Nations

gave Iraq 48 hours notice.

Ueki wouldn't say whether the United Nations also gave Iraq other requested details of the flight, as it had under a former inspections regime in the 1990s, but said: "The conditions are very similar."

Agreeing to allow the U-2 flights fulfilled a major demand by the U.N. inspectors, who returned to Iraq in November after a four-year break. Baghdad asserts that it is fully cooperating with them.

The United States and Britain accuse Saddam of concealing weapons of mass destruction. They planned to press this week for a Security Council resolution authorizing force against Iraq, according to U.S. and British diplomats.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they expected the negotiations to be wrapped up by the time Blix delivers his next report on Iraq — March 1.

Sabri, addressing an anti-war youth rally, called the attempts at a new resolution "many illusions and many dreams."

"If these tyrants and oppressors had an ounce of respect for world opinion, they would have abandoned the path of war," he said. "Those demanding war are an isolated few who stand against humanity. They are the enemies of humanity."

He was alluding to anti-war demonstrations on Saturday that drew millions of people into the streets around the world.

President Bush said Tuesday that the numbers didn't deter his conviction that Saddam must be disarmed, by force if necessary.

"Size of protest, it's like deciding, 'Well, I'm going to decide policy based upon a focus group,'" he said, adding: "Some in the world don't view Saddam Hussein as a risk to peace. I respectfully disagree."

# North Korea threatens to disrupt the peace

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea upped the stakes in the confrontation over its nuclear weapons program Tuesday, threatening to withdraw from the armistice that keeps peace along its heavily fortified border with South Korea and accusing the United States of plotting an attack.

The North has made similar threats in the past and the announcement was considered largely symbolic. Still, any change in the armistice agreement — the only legal instrument keeping the peninsula from war — could greatly increase tensions on the border.

"At a time when the situation on the Korean Peninsula is getting extremely tense due to the U.S. nuclear racket, the U.S. side is contemplating the additional deployment of huge forces ... in and around the Korean Peninsula," a North Korean army spokesman said.

North Korea "will be left with no option but to take a decisive step to abandon its

commitment to implement the armistice agreement ... and free itself from the binding force of all its provisions," said the unidentified spokesman, quoted by the North's state-run KCNA news agency.

Despite the statement, South Korean and U.S. officials saw no immediate indication North Korea planned to launch a major attack across the border. Armed forces of the two Koreas were in the middle of their annual winter training.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the threat is part of a series of statements from Pyongyang, "all of which only serve to hurt, isolate and move North Korea backward." He said the nuclear standoff remains a matter for the international community.

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis, said The United States "will not respond to threats, broken commitments or blackmail" and is seeking a peaceful resolution to the standoff.

# Subway attacks kill 120

DAEGU, South Korea (AP) — Kim Ho-keun, a 68-year-old grandfather, was about to get off the crowded subway when an explosion knocked him to the floor. He awoke in darkness minutes later, gasping for breath and desperate to escape a fiery attack that killed 120 people on Tuesday.

Struggling to call for help, Kim feared the worst until he heard a rescue worker's voice.

"I couldn't see him, but I saw his flashlight, so I grabbed his hand," Kim said from his hospital bed, tubes supplying him with

oxygen. "It was then that I thought to myself: I'm going to live."

Kim was one of the fortunate in Daegu, South Korea's third-largest city.

The fire started about 10 a.m. when a man lit a container of flammable liquid and tossed it. The blaze incinerated two six-car subway trains, killed 120 people and injured 138, many of them seriously.

Rescue workers gave up the search for survivors by the afternoon.


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# Nightclub disaster leaves 21 dead

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago officials asked a judge Tuesday for a criminal contempt sentence of at least one year in jail for the owner of a nightclub they claimed was operating in defiance of a court order when a frenzied stampede at the nightclub left 21 dead.

"Let me assure you, the city will use every tool at its disposal to make sure that justice is done," Mayor Richard M. Daley told a news conference hours before city attorneys filed a criminal contempt petition against the nightclub operator and two companies involved.

Meanwhile, one of the attorneys for the companies which owned the nightclub and the restaurant in the same building, said the companies have agreed to close both.

Attorney Thomas Royce said city officials claimed that the second floor nightclub, where the disaster took place, could in extreme cases collapse onto patrons in the restaurant below. Royce said he did not necessarily agree, but that the building would be closed voluntarily.

*"The court order was very clear . . . Yet the club continued to operate . . ."*

—Mayor Richard M. Daley

The deadly stampede began about 2 a.m. Monday morning at the E2 nightclub about a mile south of the Loop after a fight broke out and someone sprayed pepper gas into the crowd of patrons. The patrons had been dancing and partying in the second-floor club. Panic quickly spread and patrons dashed for the stairwell.

Scores of patrons tumbled down the steep, narrow stairwell in a crushing, suffocating frenzy. People became flattened against the glass door at the bottom and more people piled on them.

Besides 21 killed, 55 people were injured in the worst night spot tragedy to strike Chicago in decades.

City officials said the club was operating in defiance of an order last July from Circuit Judge Daniel J. Lynch to close the second floor of the building.

"The court order was very clear," Daley said Tuesday. "The second floor of the building was not to be occupied. Yet the club continued to operate on the second floor."

Hours after Daley spoke, city Corporation Counsel Mara Georges asked Lynch for a finding of contempt against two companies, Lesly Motors Inc. and Le Mirage Inc., and one individual, Dwain Johann Kyles, who is registered with the state as the president and chief officer of Le Mirage.

City officials said Lesly Motors was the owner of the building. Le Mirage was doing business there as the E2 night club on the second floor. Le Mirage also operated a restaurant, Epitome, on the first floor of the building.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Mark Limanni asked Lynch to fine all three defendants and sentence Kyles to "up to and beyond a year in the Cook County Jail."

# Rantoul man convicted in attack on ex-girlfriend

◆ Although James was not present for the verdict, he could face 37 years in prison

URBANA (AP) — A Rantoul man who forced a mistrial after punching his attorney is scheduled to be sentenced April 1 after another Champaign County jury convicted him of stabbing and slashing the throat of his former girlfriend.

Jessie James Jr., 38, wasn't in the courtroom when he was found guilty Monday of attempted murder and aggravated domestic battery. He was removed from court after he punched his attorney in the face last Thursday.

Court-appointed attorney, John Taylor, suffered a broken cheek bone and a cut under his eye from the punch, which happened in front of the jury. The outburst forced Circuit Judge Thomas Difanis to declare a mistrial and begin the case again with a new jury on Friday.

James was charged with attacking Lavon Aker with a butcher knife on Nov. 9, 2000, allegedly slashing her throat from ear to ear

*"... treat Jessie James in accordance with the law."*

—Court-appointed attorney, John Taylor

and stabbing her several times. Aker, 31, recovered from her injuries and testified against James. She said she finally stopped his assault by playing dead.

Taylor, who continued as James' lawyer, argued for acquittal on the attempted murder charge saying his client did not intend to kill Aker.

"It will be a test of your humanity to treat Jessie James in accordance with the law and not the way he treated Lavon Aker," Taylor told the jury.

James could be sentenced to as much as 37 years in prison.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Games gain importance

◆ Teams have 3-4 games remaining in conference schedule before tournament

By Matt Williams  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR



Rick Samuels

With teams having just three or four games remaining in the Ohio Valley Conference regular season, each game becomes more and more important. Teams within fighting distance of a first round home tournament game find themselves watching the standings as each game passes.

"You can't put that out of your mind," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said. "I think from the standpoint of the players is that we are playing one game at a time."

The most interesting race is for the fourth and final spot for a home game. Tennessee Tech sits in the third spot after an overtime road win against Eastern Kentucky Monday while Murray State holds on to the fourth spot by a thread with only a half game ahead of Eastern.

The road win for Tech was huge because it moved them out of a tie with Murray and put them further ahead of the Panthers.

"Any road win in this league is big," Tech assistant coach Steve Payne said. "Our destiny is in our hands right now."

The other tight race is for the regular season championship crown. Morehead State only holds a half game lead over Austin Peay for the top spot in the OVC.

Austin Peay is the hottest team in the conference, winning its last nine games; the longest streak under current head coach Dave Loos.

The Governors have the privilege of facing Eastern at home on senior night. Loos said the team's win streak could be in jeopardy when they visit Lantz Arena Thursday.

"How do you like having to face

Henry Domercant on senior night?" Loos asked. "That is a scary thought. He could go off for 100."

Domercant will not be the only thing on Loos' mind

entering the last weeks of regular season play. Austin Peay will host Morehead State in both teams' final regular season game March 1, which will probably decide who will reign as OVC regular season champions.

While the Governors are trying to overtake the No. 1 spot, the Eagles will be trying to keep it. Morehead had two close calls last week with a one-point win over Eastern Kentucky and came back from 17 down against Tennessee Tech for an eight-point victory.

"We are trying to get our guys to understand that teams are not going to just lay down for us because we are in the conference race," Morehead State head coach Kyle Macy said. "You can only test your fate every so often."

The Eagles are featured in another important game of the week. They host Murray State Saturday at Johnson Arena. The Racers fell to the Eagles earlier in the season 83-76 and know they have a tough task on their hands.

"It's going to be a tough road trip for us, but it is one of those trips you have to make," Murray State head coach Tevester Anderson said. "Every team wants to host a first round game, but at the same time we are trying to get our kids ready for the tournament overall."



## Men's Basketball Standings

	OVC	OVERALL
Morehead State	11-2	17-7
Austin Peay	10-2	17-6
Tennessee Tech	8-5	15-11
Murray State	7-5	14-9
Eastern Illinois	7-6	12-13
Tennessee-Martin	6-7	13-11
Eastern Kentucky	4-8	10-13
Southeast Missouri	4-9	9-16
Tennessee State	0-12	2-21

**Monday's Results**  
Tennessee Tech 76,  
Eastern Kentucky 68 (OT)

**Tuesday's Results**  
Western Illinois ??,  
Southeast Missouri ??

**Thursday's Matchups**  
Tennessee-Martin at Morehead State  
Murray State at Eastern Kentucky  
Austin Peay at Eastern Illinois

**Saturday's Matchups**  
Tennessee-Martin at Eastern Kentucky  
Murray State at Morehead State  
Tennessee Tech at Tennessee State  
Austin Peay at Southeast Missouri

MEN'S BASKETBALL

# No. 20 Illinois crushes rival Michigan State

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) - Freshman Dee Brown had 24 points, five rebounds and five steals and No. 20 Illinois held Michigan State scoreless for a 9:38 span in the second half in a 70-40 victory on Tuesday night.

Brown, a 6-foot guard, seemed to be involved in every play. He made two steals to spark an 18-0 run in the first half and capped several fast breaks with layups before leaving the game with 5:42 to play.

The Illini (17-5, 7-4 Big Ten) pulled away for good when Brown's layup with 11:42 to play sparked a 21-0 run that put them up 69-28. The Spartans (14-10, 6-6) were held scoreless until Chris Hill's 3-pointer broke the drought with 3:30 to play.

By then it was far too late for the Spartans, who missed 22 of 32 shots in the second half and wound up shooting only 32 percent for the game.

Hill led the Spartans with 12 points.

### Stevens:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Hopefully, the NFL general managers won't get up and leave after they look down at their stopwatches and actually miss the opportunity to see him toss the pigskin.

Romo has already shocked people in his all-star bowl game practice by making all the throws he was required to make and seemingly doing all

Michigan State  
40

Illinois  
70

The Illini made up for a lackluster effort in a 70-61 loss at Purdue last Saturday to win their 15th straight home game. It was coach Bill Self's 70th win in three seasons at Illinois and the 199th of his career.

The last time the Illini lost at Assembly Hall was to Michigan State, 67-61 on Feb. 2, 2002.

Illinois was missing guard Luther Head, who sat out with an abdominal strain, and freshman Kyle Wilson, who left the team last week for personal reasons. Reserve center Nick Smith was hobbled by a sprained ankle but scored nine points in the first half.

The Spartans used a 6-0 run to take an 8-2 lead, but after that, the first half belonged to Illinois. Brown's 3-pointer with nine minutes left capped an 18-0 run for a 20-8 lead.

Michigan State hit only seven of 21 shots in the first half and committed 11 turnovers. Smith's buzzer beater on a long inbound pass put Illinois up 37-17 at halftime.

of the basic things naturally.

I really hope Tony Romo won't slip or fall because God didn't bless him with Michael Vick's athletic ability.

At the end of the day, Tony Romo can throw the football far and accurate.

Last time I checked, those were adequate qualifications to play in the NFL.



# Yearbook Pictures

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MEN'S TENNIS

# Taking charge of the net

◆ Junior C.J. Weber went from struggling to find competition in a small town to Eastern's ace

By Jason Blasco  
STAFF WRITER

One day before what Eastern tennis coach Brian Holzgrafe considers the biggest win in the team's recent history, their No. 1 player junior C.J. Weber wasn't even sure if he would be able to play.

"We didn't play until that evening," coach Holzgrafe said of the Jan 31 match against Marquette. "At the last minute he decided to play doubles, and then later he decided to play singles."

Weber was fighting a multitude of injuries, including a sore abdominal muscles, an aching shoulder, elbow and cramping, making him doubtful for the big match against Marquette.

"I cramped up that match and couldn't even walk that night," Weber said. "I took the entire next day loosing up my legs as much as possible. My legs were still really tight and I was stiff and sore."

Weber fought through the injuries and ignored the fact he was trailing against Marquette's number one player Eigtas Vendrickas 5-4 with match point to come back to help propel the team to victory. Eastern's No. 2 player, Brandon Blankenbaker, was on the other court, also trailing 5-4 before both went on to win their individual matches helping the Panthers defeat Marquette.

"It was just a big match for our team, and I needed to do everything in my power to help my team win," Weber said. "It is my responsibility to show everyone, no excuses, you always to give 100 per-

cent. I'm just going to do my best."

Weber wasn't alone in the victory; he had his teammates supporting him.

"C.J. and I left on the court; we were both down 5-4 in the first set," Blankenbaker said. "The whole team got him all pumped up. Whenever we get behind, all the guys off the court helped him pull through it."

Weber's path was not typical of most students who play NCAA Division I college tennis. Weber, from Teutopolis, had trouble finding competition. He spent several hours hitting balls by himself without the benefit of having a tennis pro or much competition in his surrounding area.

"Tennis isn't very big (where I'm from) so finding competition was always a problem," Weber said.

Because tennis wasn't big in his area Weber had to travel to other areas looking for competition.

"Basically, growing up in a small town, I had to motivate myself," Weber said. "It's not always fun to hit balls on the ball machines with no one else there. The thing that kept me going was my motivation to play D-I tennis and professional tennis."

In collegiate tennis, Weber has had his fair share of setbacks, including a match against the University of Tennessee-Martin last season where he stretched his Achilles tendon last season.

"I learned to appreciate playing more," Weber said. "It made me realize that I have to capitalize on every opportunity I get now and that I could break my leg or

turn my ankle in any match."

Weber used the newfound prospective and played in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. The ITA included players from all over the country.

"In the regional tournament I ended up making it to the semi-finals," Weber said. "I played against some of the best college and professional players in the world. That helped maintain my focus that tennis is something that I may want to pursue after college in the professional ranks."

Weber not only excels on the tennis court, but also in the classroom with a 4.0 GPA in his major of psychology.

"As far as budgeting my time, the biggest thing is time management and another thing is communication with professors because I have to miss a lot of classes with away messages. That way they understand my situation."

Coaches and teammate credit him with leadership qualities.

"He always takes it to the limits," Holzgrafe said. "That kind of has an influence on the team's motivation. In the past, we had the players that are top caliber players but because of the lack of their leadership it dissolves the moral. He sets precedent and supports everyone on the team."

Weber's teammate and doubles partner Blankenbaker agreed.

"At practice he is always is working hard; when he works hard everyone else is going to work. He basically leads by example. He doesn't really have to say too many words just by actions."

Kercheval:

## Senior leads by example

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Kercheval led the Panthers by winning the 200-yard backstroke and the 400-yard individual medley and helped the Panthers to a commanding 162-84 victory. The 78-point victory was the second largest of the season and could not have come at a better time, according to assistant coach Bill Yanney.

"It was very important to come back with a victory after the loss (to Saint Louis) last week," Yanney said. "Josh swam a couple of great races for us and came up big."

Two months later, on Feb. 8, Kercheval finished the regular season strong by winning two races on Senior Recognition Night in a rematch with the Saint Louis Billikens. While his performance was not enough to give the Panthers a winner, he was tops in the 200-yard backstroke and the 1000-yard freestyle.

"Josh was exceptional on a very emotional night," Yanney said.

He was one of only two swimmers that won two races on the day.

This weekend as the Panthers prepare for the season ending Midwest Classic Championships, Kercheval will be counted on to bring home a second consecutive title.

"We expect him to swim well because the competition will be improved," Padovan said. "He will be part of his usually races (200, 400 IM and 200-yard backstroke) and he will compete in the maximum four or five relays."

As Kercheval's tenure with the Panthers comes to an end he has left his mark on the program in more ways than just setting numerous school records and helping the Panthers to last year's Midwest Classic Championships. Kercheval is largely responsible for bringing in some of the Panthers younger talent, most notably Tom Watson.

Watson, a sophomore from Bloomington, Ill., was lured to the school by the record-setting Kercheval.

"I picked Eastern for three reasons," Watson said. "The first was swimming, the second was my major and the third was Josh."

Padovan already realizes he cannot replace Kercheval's ability and leadership next year but he believes new recruits and teammates will step up to fill the large void left by Kercheval.

"You don't replace him," Padovan said. "You just hope recruits and other people come through."

With the success of Kercheval it appears that in rare cases going south can be beneficial. Just ask Padovan and the Eastern swim program.

Top Cat:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"To have a young leader would help the women's track & field team," Wallace said.

Wallace also said she hopes Harris can pull some of her teammates along with her so Eastern can compete at the Ohio Valley Conference meet in a couple of weeks.

Junior sprinter Lexie Nuckolls said Harris is steadily improving. Nuckolls is a teammate of Harris and is a fellow 200 meter dash runner.

"She is going to be one of the top competitors at the conference meet in a couple of weeks," Nuckolls said.

The Conference meet is Feb. 28 and March 1 at Lantz Field house.

Men's track and field head coach Tom Akers said Harris doesn't even like running the 200 meter dash, but she still broke the record.

"I joke with her and say she runs more like a mid-distance runner, and now she is starting to run more like a

sprinter, and she will continue to knock the records down," Akers said.

Wallace is not surprised at all with Harris and her improvements.

"She has been consistently running 56s in her 400, so the improvement in the 200 is no big surprise," Wallace said.

Akers believes they have only just begun to see Harris' potential.

"She works real hard, and I still think we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg," Akers said.

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# SPORTS

## Panther sports calendar

THURSDAY	Women's BB vs. Austin Peay	5:15 p.m. Lantz Arena
	Men's BB vs. Austin Peay	7:10 p.m. Lantz Arena
FRIDAY	M/W Track Friday Night Special	Lantz Arena
SATURDAY	Wrestling at Purdue	1 p.m.

## OUT OF BOUNDS



Matthew Stevens  
SPORTS REPORTER

## Combine set to shred Romo

Let the criticism begin. On Tuesday, the NFL Combine began where scouts and general managers from all 32 franchises poke, prod and dissect all of the 350 college prospects like an alien autopsy. These ridiculous ratings every year at the RCA Dome affect a 21-year-old's chances of getting the opportunity of playing professional football.

I believe the best quote I heard about the combine was former Atlanta Falcons head coach Jerry Glanville - "what am I supposed to know about a guy's potential when he's in gym shorts." Truer words have never been spoken.

To prove the subjectiveness in the process, Marshall quarterback Byron Leftwich is expected to be rated quite high even though he refuses to throw a football until two weeks before the draft.

The combine resembles the President's Physical Fitness Test by involving a 40-yard-dash, shuttle run, bench press, high jump and at the end, an IQ test. Amazingly enough, after all this, they get to practice their position (what a concept: letting a quarterback throw the ball).

Unfortunately, this uneven process will affect Eastern quarterback and 2003 Walter Payton Award winner Tony Romo. Let me prepare NFL management for Romo's performance.

He won't run the 40 very fast (this was proven by the eight-yard scramble in the Homecoming game that took Romo two days to cross the goal-line).

Coaches will be able to time him in the shuttle run with a sun dial.

Romo's high jump could possibly be measured with a limbo bar.

His bench press numbers won't be fantastic, but keep in mind he is a quarterback.

Finally, roll the dice on the IQ test but the last quarterback to fail it miserably was Ryan Leaf. Since you only get one shot, good luck Tony.

In an athletic sense, the Mel Kiper's of the world will report him as being similar to Dan Marino because a quick release will be his best option in avoiding a sack but not a brutal hit. In short, no matter how many Olympic trainers he works with, he's a sitting duck in the pocket.

However, to be quite honest, all of these attributes mean about as much as the peso. Call me crazy, but I really don't care how the man looks in a pair of gym shorts because on Sunday afternoons they are fully padded and it won't matter.

So, what they've determined before he ever throws the ball is that he's a tall, slow and lanky kid that is a traditional drop-back passer. Uh, these people pay me \$50 and I could've told them that.

SEE STEVENS ♦ Page 10

## SWIMMING

# In Kercheval's wake

♦ Senior prepares for final home race

By Michael Gilbert  
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern Illinois swim program improved dramatically in the fall of 1998 by heading south.

It had nothing to do with a rebuilding year and letting younger swimmers compete, but rather the improvement came from information head coach Ray Padovan received on a high school senior named Josh Kercheval who was swimming just south of Charleston for a Decatur club.

Through word of mouth and reading Kercheval's impressive swim times, Padovan knew he had found a talent. The only problem was getting Kercheval to attend Eastern. Padovan recruited him heavily and Kercheval became a Panther in 1999.

"He was highly recruited by me and we had to recruit him," Padovan said. "People like that just don't walk through the door."

Four years later, as Kercheval prepares for his final race at Eastern, his mark has been left on

a program depending on his ability day in and day out.

"He is one of the top three swimmers I have coached here at Eastern," Padovan said. "Anywhere from one to three; he is that good."

It is quite a compliment coming from a coach who has resided in Charleston for the last 37 years and has seen 24 All-Americans come and go. However, the numbers never lie.

Even as a freshman, Kercheval made an immediate impact with his performances and his leadership abilities.

"He was pretty good when he arrived here (from high school), but he got much better as a freshman," Padovan said. "His leadership qualities came right away. When Josh is in the pool, he is there for one reason and that is to win, and others picked up on that."

Kercheval really came into his own last year when he set four school records and led the Panthers to their best season ever. Eastern was a perfect 12-0 in dual meets and captured its



Josh Kercheval

first Midwest Classic Championship.

It was at the Midwest Classic Championships last year where Kercheval etched his name in the Panther record books. He was part of three-school records that weekend, including the fastest time (1:54.03) in the 200-yard backstroke. For his efforts, Kercheval was named Most Outstanding Swimmer of the Midwestern Classic Conference.

Kercheval became a captain for the first time this season and started the year where he finished the 2001-02 season by winning races.

In the season opener against Louisville, Kercheval won the 200-yard individual medley and the 200-yard backstroke.

"Josh swam well today but in a few weeks he will be facing tougher competition," Padovan said after the Louisville meet. "He needs to continue to swim well in order to win."

Padovan was alluding to a tough meet against Illinois-Chicago on Oct. 26, 2002. Kercheval lived up to his coach's challenge and

helped the Panthers extinguish the Flames 124-112.

Kercheval won two individual races (medley and backstroke) and also anchored the Panthers first-place 400-yard free relay team.

Just one week later Kercheval did it again, this time helping the Panthers to a first-place finish at the EIU Invitational. Kercheval's three winners in the 200-yard individual medley, 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard backstroke gave Eastern an easy win in its home tournament.

After the meet, Padovan had nothing but praise for his talented senior.

"For quite a while he has been our best swimmer," Padovan said.

"He usually out-distances the competition, and that is what happened today."

While Padovan seemed ecstatic over his senior's strong performance Kercheval took the wins in stride.

"I'm kind of in a place where if I swim well that (winning) is going to happen," Kercheval said.

In a must win meet against the Butler Bulldogs Dec. 8, 2002,

SEE KERCHEVAL ♦ Page 11

## TOP CAT

"She will continue to knock the records down." - coach Tom Akers

# No record is safe

♦ Sophomore Alicia Harris has broken two school records in the past two weeks in the 200, 400 meter dashes



Sophomore sprinter Alicia Harris has set school records in the 200 meter dash, 25.33 seconds, and the 400 meter dash, 56.32.

♦ Editor's note: Top Cat is a weekly series taking an in-depth look at Eastern's top athlete from the previous week. Winners are selected just once. Selections are made by The Daily Eastern News sports staff.

By Jamie Hussey  
STAFF WRITER

School records stand no chance of remaining intact with sophomore Alicia Harris running for Eastern's track and field team.

Harris broke the 200 meter dash record Saturday at the Butler meet and the 400 meter sprint record the week before at the Indiana meet. She ran the 200 in 25.33 seconds to beat the record of 25.34. In the 400 meter sprint, Harris turned in a time of 56.32 seconds to break the old record of 56.74 seconds.

For her record-breaking performances in the past week, Harris has been named this week's Top Cat.

Harris, from Wheaton, Ill., ran for Wheaton North High school.

Harris ran a wide array of events in high school from sprinting to mid-distance, but nothing over an 800 meter run.

Harris said she modeled her athleticism after her father.

"I just look at my dad, and he was a great athlete in college, and he encourages me to do what I do in track," Harris said.

Harris said her brother's athletic ability is another reason she stays focused and motivated. He plays football at Northern Illinois and Harris said he is very successful in it.

She wanted success in something too.

"I am a girl so I could not play football, so I have to be successful in something else," Harris said.

Women's track and field head coach Mary Wallace said Harris is extremely dedicated to her sport.

"She works extremely hard and does more than just practice," Wallace said. "She goes on morning runs and it is starting to pay off. She is dedicated to running fast."

Harris is a team leader focused on track and making the team better.

"I try to motivate my teammates because we have a chance to win championships," Harris said.

Wallace is also hopeful about the leadership Harris exudes when she is running.

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