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Daily Eastern News: January 31, 2003

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

VOLUME 87, NUMBER 89
THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS.COM



THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

January 31, 2003 • FRIDAY

Something stinks

Eastern shoots 1-22 from the arc
in a 69-61 loss Thursday night at
Lantz Arena.

Page 8 SECTION A



Witnesses barred from courtroom

◆ *McNamara's mother will not be able
to attend Mertz trial until she testifies*

By Shauna Gustafson
SENIOR WRITER

Final motions were heard Thursday in the murder trial of Anthony B. Mertz.

Coles County Circuit Court Judge Dale Cini heard arguments over the use of certain exhibits during opening statements, whether to allow witnesses to be in the courtroom during the trial and the potential barring of certain witnesses from testifying.

More inside

◆ Ryan's commutations will not affect the possibility of Mertz receiving the death penalty if found guilty.

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Cini decided in favor of a defense request that potential witnesses be barred from the courtroom, in order that they not be exposed to any other witness' testimony. States Attorney Steve Ferguson objected to barring certain witnesses from the courtroom including the parents of victim Shannon McNamara, a Coles County sheriff's deputy who is

on security detail in the trial and two other witnesses.

The two potential witnesses, Jack Smith and Charlie Coffey, the deputy and Bob McNamara will be allowed in court throughout the trial, Cini decided. Cindy McNamara will not be allowed in court until after she has testified. Bob McNamara likely will not testify.

The prosecution also presented several exhibits it plans to use during opening statements when the trial begins Monday. The exhibits included a photo of McNamara taken before her death, a set of photographs from the crime scene, the knife police found in a dumpster that had blood on it that matched McNamara's and a diagram of the crime scene.

Cini sustained the defense's objection to using the knife as an exhibit during opening statements because it has not been admitted to evidence. The court agreed to the use of the live photo of McNamara and the diagram and will view a projected group of slides of the remaining photos today at 1 p.m. to decide how they will be used.

The prosecution also made a motion to bar testimony from several defense witnesses because of lack of information available about them. Included in the witnesses the state hoped to bar were two expert witnesses and several family and friends of Mertz.

The court denied barring the testimony of these witnesses, except for two, both of whom the defense had not planned on using. More information was provided to the state for the witnesses who were allowed.

The two sides will meet again at 1 p.m. Friday to finish final hearings. The trial will begin at 9 a.m. Monday and is open to the public.



Anthony Mertz



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Although campus looks crowded, enrollment for the spring semester has decreased by 800 students. Eastern has received a record number of applications for the fall 2003 semester, causing the university to make a Feb. 3 cut-off deadline for the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Enrollment drops by 800

By Tim Martin
CAMPUS EDITOR

Because of the large size of the 2002 freshman class and a large number of applications received, Eastern has set a Feb. 3 application cut-off date for the College of Education and Professional Studies in hopes to balance out class sizes.

The record-breaking 2002 freshmen class enrolled 2,132 students in the 2003 spring semester, with the sophomores at 1,596, juniors at 2,129, seniors at 2,863 and graduate students at 1,635.

The total enrollment at Eastern for the 2003 spring semester is 10,357 students with the campus being female dominated, enrolling 6,047 females to 4,310 males.

Last spring, the enrollment was 9,675 students with 5,642 females and 4,033 males.

The numbers of freshmen and juniors increased over last spring, but the numbers of sophomores and seniors went down.

Interim President Lou Hencken said in his president's report to Eastern's

Board of Trustees Monday that Eastern had received 7,734 applications for fall 2003, as opposed to 6,277 from this same time last year.

"I think we want to manage enrollment and even out the classes," Hencken said in a Sept. 12, 2002 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*.

To accomplish that goal, a cut-off date for fall 2003 applications to the College of Education and Professional Studies has been set.

Hencken also said in the Sept. 12 edition of the *Daily Eastern News* he had hoped for an increase of 250 freshman for the 2002-2003 school year from the previous year. Double that number—an increase of 593 freshmen—enrolled in the fall of 2002 and the high number only pushed the cut-off date earlier.

Although the college of education is the first college to set a cut-off date, Hencken predicted in the BOT meeting the other colleges — College of Arts and Humanities, Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences and the College of Sciences — will have cut-off dates in February.

The racial diversity increased mini-

Campus demographics

- ◆ Total enrollment, Spring 2003: 10,357
- ◆ Females: 6,047
- ◆ Males: 4,310
- ◆ Freshmen: 2,132
- ◆ Sophomores: 1,596
- ◆ Juniors: 2,129
- ◆ Seniors: 2,863
- ◆ Graduate students: 1,635

mally from last year, with Eastern minorities making up 9.79 percent of the population compared to 9.73 percent last spring.

White students comprise 86.93 percent of the spring 2003 enrollment, with black students the next highest percentage at 6.8 percent. Unclassified students are next at 2.04 percent, then Hispanic students at 1.91 percent, international students at 1.3 percent, Asian/Pacific Islander at 0.8 percent and American Indian/Alaskan Native at 0.22 percent.

University Board violates Open Meetings Act

By Nate Bloomquist
NEWS EDITOR

Members of the University Board Thursday admitted they broke two bylaws and the Illinois Open Meetings Act during its last meeting.

UB Chair Caleb Judy said he plans on taking steps to correct the mistakes.

"We hope this will be resolved as quickly and completely as possible," Judy said.

The UB held several votes for the concert coordinator position during executive session in its meeting Tuesday, a direct violation of the Open Meetings Act. The act states any meeting by a public governing body should remain open to the public.

A public body can go into closed session, but only for specified reasons, one of which includes the discussion of hiring and firing. No official action can be taken during the closed session.

The UB is a public body because it receives state funds through student fees.

The board also violated its own bylaw by electing Donna Fernandez to the concert coordinator position. A bylaw states coordinators must have at least two semesters left before graduating. Fernandez will graduate in May.

The board also has been in violation of a bylaw stating all expenses over \$10 must be presented to the executive committee for approval.

"This wasn't done maliciously, and really the bylaw is old and

we're hoping to revise it," Judy said. "We did this based on precedent and because we wanted the best person for the job."

Judy said last year the board elected a public relations coordinator who had less than half of a semester remaining before her graduation.

The process of Fernandez's election was atypical.

The board took one vote wherein freshman history major David Jones won 5-4. Members of the board took a break after a long deliberation session, and during that break, some of the board members raised concerns about Jones' election to UB Vice Chair Ryan Rinchuso.

Movies coordinator Vince Vellitto and Melissa Burke-Huston



Caleb Judy

"This wasn't done maliciously, and really the bylaw is old and we're hoping to revise it. We did this based on precedent and because we wanted the best person for the job."

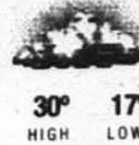
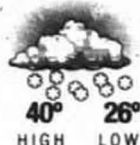
asked if a concert coordinator-elect position could be created. Rinchuso brought the concerns to Judy, and a motion was made and approved to nullify the first vote.

A second vote was taken to create the coordinator-elect position, and a third was taken in which Jones was elected to the position. A

fourth vote was taken for the coordinator position to which Fernandez was elected.

Rinchuso said he checked with communications law professor Scott Sievers to see if the UB could legally conduct business in execu

SEE US ◆ Page 6A



Art exhibit to be made of trash

By Matthew Kent
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

The Tarble Arts Center will be presenting "Mr. Imagination: The Inner Eye of Mr. I" as part of African-American Heritage Celebration Month.

The exhibition showcases art created out of discards and other ordinary objects.

As a self-taught artist who grew up on Chicago's south side, it was through a near-death experience in 1978 that Gregory Warmack became Mr. Imagination, a press release stated.

In a press release Mr. I said, "The eye is found in all races and nationalities — a strong Egyptian symbol from our past. Everyone can relate to its spiritual symbology."

The press release said his first exhibition was at Chicago's Hammer Gallery in 1983, which is well known for showing works of self-taught, intuitive and visionary artists. He has also presented his work at the Terra Museum in Chicago and, most recently, at a solo show at the Society for Contemporary Craft

Gallery in Pittsburgh.

He is currently represented in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the American Folk Art Museum located in New York City, a press release stated.

Mr. I will be presenting his work Jan. 31 to March 2 in the Brainard Gallery of the Tarble Arts Center. He will also present a gallery talk at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 to speak about his works, inspiration and the materials used. A workshop will be given at 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at Art Park West.

The workshop will feature some of Mr. Imagination's sculpting techniques and hands-on participation is available on a limited basis.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The Tarble Arts Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, call the Tarble Arts Center at 581-2787.

"I expect a few thousand people at the exhibition," said Michael Watson, director of Tarble Arts Center.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Cleanin' his act up

Taking advantage of the warmer weather on Thursday afternoon, Chris Jenkins, senior speech communication major, vacuums out his car at the Hydro-Spray Car Wash on Lincoln Avenue. Thursday's high was 39 degrees, and the forecast for the weekend calls for similar temperatures.

CORRECTIONS

An article in Thursday's issue of The Daily Eastern News incorrectly stated who was dismissed from the Anthony Mertz trial Wednesday. About 90 potential jurors were dismissed Wednesday. The News regrets the error.

POLICE BLOTTER

Criminal Damage to Property

Quovadis L. Thomas, 21, of 1818 Ninth St., was arrested at 1 a.m. Jan. 25, on the 1400 block of Fourth Street, on charges of criminal damage to property, police reports stated.

Purchase/Acceptance of Alcohol by a Minor

Michael J. Vinci, 18, of 852 Carman Hall, was arrested at 2:02 a.m. Jan. 26, at 1415 Fourth St., on charges of purchase and acceptance of alcohol by a minor and disorderly conduct, police reports stated.

Misconduct

David B. Abrahamsen, 22, of 1036 Second St., was arrested at 2:02 a.m. Jan. 26, at 1415 Fourth St., on charges of disorderly conduct, police reports stated.

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Housing to give out prizes

By Jennifer Chiariello
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Over \$1,000 in prizes will be given away Saturday during the home basketball games vs. Tennessee State at the University Housing & Dining Services' annual On-Campus Resident Appreciation Night.

"It's our way of saying thank you to our residents," said Chad Franks, coordinator of the event. "Thank you for choosing to live on campus, and thank you for letting us be a part of their lives."

University Housing & Dining Services will give away a number of prizes including a 19-inch color television set, a DVD player and a free single room upgrade valued at over \$650.

"The most popular prize is the single room upgrade," said Franks, in a press release. "The single room upgrade guarantees the recipient a single room for fall of 2003 at the same price as a regular double room."

Preparation for the event has been in the works for some time.

"I've been working since last month or so looking for prizes students would like, but I actually think about it all year long," Franks said.

"There are a lot of little things that go into it."

A space had to be reserved for the area where prizes will be displayed and the area where tickets will be handed out and a Saturday game in which both the men's and women's basketball teams would play had to be selected, Franks said. He has also spent a lot of time working with campus scheduling, athletics and the students themselves to select prizes they would like.

Franks said employees of university housing & dining services are also depended on heavily to volunteer help for the event.

Franks said he has worked primarily on advertising for the event by posting flyers and

posters throughout university-operated housing buildings, speaking directly with resident directors and local papers and working with the student worker who runs the student announcement channel.

A press release stated in order to be eligible for prize consideration, individuals must currently live in university-operated housing, pick up a ticket for the drawing in the northeast balcony of Lantz Arena on Saturday, be present at the time of the drawings, be enrolled in a minimum of a one-hour credit course and be able to produce their Panther card at the time the raffle ticket or any related winnings are obtained.

The women's game begins at 5:15 p.m., and the men's game begins at 7:10 p.m. Saturday in Lantz Arena. Attendance to the game is free to all Eastern students, and prizes will be given out during both games.

Budget director here today

◆ Second candidate in search for new budget director will have open session

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The second candidate in the search for a university budget director will continue a campus visit with an open session Friday.

Max Kerlin, the present resource management director at the University of New Mexico, is applying for a position the previous director, Kim Furumo, worked part-time until December.

"This position requires strong financial planning and resource management experience and the ability to identify practical implications of new financial strategies," Eastern's Civil Rights and Diversity Web site says.

The director will be required to perform such tasks as coordinating the external budget process, including preparation and review of capital budget requests, preparing and presenting internal and external budget materials and making recommendations to the vice president for business affairs along with assuming responsibility for the use of funds, the site says.

Kerlin has worked in his current budget position at the University of New Mexico under a different title since 1997. He also was the budget officer at Miami University in Ohio.

He received a bachelor of science degree in business at Indiana University and a master of science degree in public poli-

cy and administration from Purdue University.

Frank Papke, the current vice president for business services and finances at Illinois Valley Community College was on campus earlier this week.

Ron Hatley, a budget director in North Carolina, will be on campus this Tuesday for an open session, and Jimmy Shonkwiler, a faculty specialist in Missouri, will be at Eastern Wednesday.

Kerlin met with the university screening committee and others Thursday and will again Friday. He also will be involved in an open session to give the public an opportunity for questions Friday 11 a.m. to noon in the Effingham Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Page: We need a level non-sports playing field

By Niki Jensen
STAFF WRITER

Reflecting the contrast of his black suit and pink bow tie, Alan Page, Minnesota's first African-American Supreme Court justice, used both powerful words and lighthearted banter to connect with an attentive audience during his keynote address Thursday at the annual Opening Doors Conference.

After a brief introduction by Cynthia Nichols, director of Eastern's Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, the statuesque Page took the podium amid welcoming applause from faculty, students, Charleston residents and community leaders.

Page expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to speak at the Opening Doors Conference, which focuses on civil rights and diversity issues, and outlined the content of his speech by saying, "How we handle three important issues will determine how successful we will be.

"Those issues are education, race and character."

The former Minnesota Vikings defensive lineman, whom Nichols said participated in four Super Bowls and is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, pinpointed a specific period in his pro football career as being a major turning point in his decision to dedicate his life to promoting the value of education and advocating equal opportunity education.

In 1978, Page and eight other Vikings defensive linemen were asked to read their playbacks out loud to each other during meetings. Although Page said he and his fellow linemen had attended some of the nation's best universities, four of them could not read the play-

back.

"It was at that point that I dedicated myself to doing what I could to motivate young people to pursue academic opportunity," he said.

During his academic career at institutions of higher learning, which included a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Notre Dame, Page said he learned a valuable lesson about success that he still lives by today.

"Preparation is critical to success," he said. "Even if our fears cause us to stumble, good preparation will allow us to pick ourselves up."

In an effort to aid minority youths in preparing for the future, Page said he and his wife founded the Page Foundation, which provides financial grants to people of color for the purpose of post-secondary education. This year, the Page Foundation has 564 participating scholars, he said.

The most important thing is to "ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn," he said.

Crediting his parents with teaching him the importance of education at an early age, Page said, "I was lucky. I had strong, positive role-models."

But many children, he acknowledged, are not as fortunate.

In addition to needing role models, Page warned that children need worthy role models.

"We should be choosing our role models by the content of their character," he said.

As well as looking up to athletes and other celebrities, youths should look up to the people in their lives who make active and profound differences, Page said.

"It is our responsibility to teach our children the value these



MATT WILLS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former NFL Hall of Fame defensive lineman and current Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page speaks during the Opening Doors Conference Thursday.

(everyday) people represent."

Stressing the importance of character, Page said it is best taught by example and that developing character is an ongoing process.

"Whether we're 50, 15, 5, 75, a student, professor, member of the Charleston community, Supreme Court justice, we must all evaluate and consciously shape our charac-

ters."

Page concluded his speech by talking about current issues regarding race.

Though he said the world of sports has "increased (its) opportunities for players of color at both the amateur and professional levels," society as a whole has not seen this same amount of success.

"The challenge for us is to level

the non-sport playing field," he said.

In addition, "Everyone here has the ability and opportunity to make this world a better place.

All we have to do is act," he said.

At the conclusion of a brief question-and-answer period, the audience displayed its approval by rising to its feet for a standing ovation.

Long awaited capital murder trial begins Monday

By Shauna Gustafson
SENIOR WRITER

After nearly two years since Eastern student Shannon McNamara was found dead in her apartment, a trial will begin for the man accused of her murder.

The trial of Anthony B. Mertz, 26, will begin Monday.

Mertz, who is facing the death penalty if convicted, has been charged with first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault and home invasion. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The trial will be open to the public and will begin at 9 a.m. Monday in the Coles County Courthouse. Audience members will not be allowed to carry signs or wear any distinguishing material in support of either side. The trial is expected to last two to three weeks.

The Coles County Courthouse opens at 8:30 a.m., and all persons entering the courthouse are subject to search. Cell phones are not allowed inside the courthouse.

Jurors were selected this week, including four alternates. Jurors were selected from a pool of 90 potential jurors.

McNamara was found dead in her Charleston apartment on June 12, 2001. The cause of death was deter-

Mertz trial begins

- ◆ Trial begins at 9 a.m. Monday in Courtroom 1 of the Coles County Courthouse
- ◆ Trial is open to the public
- ◆ Courthouse opens at 8:30 a.m., those who plan to attend will have to go through security
- ◆ No signs or symbols of support for either side will be allowed in the courtroom.

mined to be asphyxiation, or choking, and police reported she was stabbed and sexually assaulted post mortem.

Mertz, an Eastern student at the time of the murder, was arrested after police found a Navy Federal Credit Union card in McNamara's apartment with his name on it.

The case has been ongoing for over a year, and the trial has been postponed several times. Most recently, the trial was scheduled to begin in October 2002, but was postponed because of defense mitigation specialists and experts needing more preparation time.

Mertz has been held in the Coles County Jail without bond since his arrest in June 2001.

Death penalty commutations won't be a factor in case

By Amber Williams
SENIOR WRITER

The death penalty commutations made by former Gov. George Ryan will not have any effect on the possibility of Anthony B. Mertz receiving a sentence of the death penalty if he is found guilty of first degree murder.

Mertz, 26, a former Eastern student, is on trial for first-degree murder, home invasion and aggravated criminal sexual assault in relation to the death of Eastern student Shannon McNamara.

Earlier this month, after having put a moratorium on the death penalty three years ago, Ryan decided to commute the sen-

tences of everyone on death row in Illinois to life sentences because he thought the system was unfair.

If Mertz is found guilty, State's Attorney Steve Ferguson plans to seek a sentence of the death penalty.

Judge Dale A. Cini questioned potential jurors this week on their stance on the death penalty, explaining that Ryan's commutations have no effect on people who are sentenced to death after he made his announcement.

Despite the fact that the halls of death row have been emptied, the future of what will happen to Illinois' capital punishment system is currently unknown.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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majones@eu.edu

EDITORIAL

Senate's voter drive important

Someone new might be knocking on your door in the not too distant future.

But don't be afraid.

The Student Senate's goal of starting a substantial voter registration drive could come right to your doorstep.

Senate Speaker Bill Davidson champions the plans for a new drive.

He said in the past the senate waited for students to come to them.

This time senate members hit the streets.

It's good the Student Senate has such an ambitious goal, and now it need to work to make the dream a reality.

College students' apathy toward politics is notorious, and convincing them to register to vote won't be easy.

The goal needs to be achieved because it goes beyond any resolution or bylaw the senate wants to draw up.

The drive directly impacts the future, making the drive vital.

Senate members' most ambitious goals include the door-to-door drive, but they also plan to take a registration drive to the many Recognized Student Organizations on campus.

While some of these groups may do plenty of community service already, little trumps the important civic duty of registering to vote.

The process fuels and preserves democracy, which would be in jeopardy if apathy continues beyond college.

A massive block of voters like the one the drive would stand to create can't be ignored by politicians — a common grip among the 18-24-year-old demographic.

The drive also would help senate members make a push for another goal — a student in the Charleston City Council.

This goal makes sense. At least half the city consists of students attending Eastern, yet none of the current council members attend classes at the university.

While Davidson's push for a voter registration is a lofty ambition that doesn't make it any less important. Senate can achieve its goal of getting more students to vote. It just needs to make a concerted effort and rally more students to get involved. It will be difficult to achieve the goal, but it's a good plan and an important concept.

Student Senate should push to really make the idea work.

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

OPINION

Life as spinster has its perks



Jamie Fetty
Managing editor and bi-weekly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

Fetty also is a junior journalism major.

She can be reached at 581-2812 or jefetty@eu.edu

It's coming for you. It's inevitable. And it'll be the happiest day of your life.

That's right. It's your wedding day and it will happen. What's that, you say? You haven't been planning out every detail from songs to flowers since childhood? And you're female? Welcome to life as a freak.

In bygone days, a woman basically had to marry or join the convent. Women couldn't work to support themselves. That marriage made them the property of their husbands.

Even centuries after coverture laws phased out and decades after women joined the workforce, some parents still fretted over daughters they couldn't seem to "marry off."

Spinster anxiety seems to trickle down to the daughters themselves when I meet women my age who worry they will never marry. The pressure is still on America's women to find a partner and stay with him forever, sometimes sacrificing self, career or freedom in the process.

Even those who don't have the worry seem to expect one day it

"It saddens me to think some women feel like they're missing out on life by not getting married."

will be their fate. Ever stop to consider the term "premarital sex?" How does one know if a sex act is premarital if one's wedding is not occurring in the next five seconds? I don't like to think of anyone as premarital. It suggests that it is everyone's lot in life to unite with another in the name of the Lord God and the state of Illinois, whether they want to or not.

No woman has to get married anymore unless she wants to. She can do whatever floats her boat, from starting her own business to living in a tree and eating bark. She can take a traditional job like teaching or nursing or go another route like construction or physics. She can apply make-up, shave her legs and highlight her hair, or she

can sport a zero-gauge tongue ring, shave her head and wear boxer-briefs. All of this and more she can do as well single as she can married.

It saddens me to think some women believe they're missing out on life by not getting married. Maybe married women are missing out. Think about the joy of being single: more time with your friends, more time with yourself, no one to worry about but you. Sure that's a little selfish, but if that's what makes you happy, why not go for it? If you love yourself, you can marry yourself. And every woman should love herself.

I understand those who see marriage as a natural step toward having a family. Even I get maternal urges, and I can see why someone would want a partner to help her raise kids. But it's unfortunate some women don't have the economic ability to do it alone. That's the fault of an economic system that doesn't value parenting.

Get married or don't get married — just don't let anyone else decide for you.



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Extended library hours not realistic

In the article "Students clamor for longer library hours" published in Tuesday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, it can be said in the best of all possible worlds, the library would be open 24/7, even if only one person was actually using it.

Get real. Have the words 'budget cuts' sunk in yet?

Even before this year, the university could not afford to open the library for the number of students who would use it on Friday or Saturday evenings.

At a time when the university must cut expenses drastically, it would be irrational to waste limited resources so 10 or 15 students could get in to check their e-mail or play computer games on Friday nights. This issue

comes up nearly every year.

Susan Eisenhour
Library Technical Assistant III
Library Technology Services, Booth Library

Victims are never at fault for assaults

I am writing in response to the rebuttal of the column "Alcohol ads are despicable," published in the Jan. 23 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*.

In Mr. Filippo's rebuttal, sexist beer ads were advocated by him saying "sex sells."

Does that mean it's right? Would Mr. Filippo endorse drug dealing because it provides fast cash?

He may not understand the parallel I just made because although he admitted the ads depict

women as sex objects, he doesn't see harm in that.

In fact, he rebuffed Ms. Clinton-Cirocco's link between the depiction of women as sex objects and sexual assault by writing, "beer ads do not cause sexual assault ... nice try, but do some research."

I completely agree the direct blame for rape should be on the offender. Indirectly though, sexist ads promote the "rape myth" that women are objects for men's sexual gratification.

I actually did do research and found some people are more likely to believe in such myths after repeatedly viewing similar ads, and the belief in rape myths is a common characteristic of

convicted rapists (Malamuth & Check, 1981).

Thus there are negatives stemming from those ads.

Last, and most troubling, Mr. Filippo wrote in cases of date rape, "maybe the women should make smarter decisions."

This is a ridiculous and harmful statement. Rape is rape because the victim has no choice. There are decisions to make. No matter what condition the victim is in, the only decision in rape lies with the offender.

Victims are never at fault for sexual assault.

Tom Edwards
President of the Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service

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 Hill, Charleston, S.C. 29402; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eu.edu

Not hip to be on the Square

◆ *Businesses opt to move out of downtown Square*

By Jennifer Stoops
STAFF WRITER

Some local businesses, like Prairie Outfitters, are moving from Charleston's Square in hopes of attracting more customers and fitting customer needs.

Prairie Outfitters will be moving to 930 18th St. on March 1, said Richard Cuddy, store owner. Cuddy said his reasons for moving the business were for better visibility and better parking.

Since its opening two years ago, Prairie Outfitters has gained business causing Cuddy to consider a move.

"It is hard for customers to find parking on the Square," Cuddy said.

A larger parking area attracted Cuddy to the new location.

Cindy Titus, executive director of the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce, said she would ideally like businesses like Prairie Outfitters to stay on the Square. However, she noted that, ultimately, the decision is up to the business owners. Titus said she happy to see a member of the chamber of commerce grow, but was unaware of the pending move.

Cuddy opened the store, which primarily sells fishing tackle, because he has always had an

interest in outdoor activities. Cuddy also sells hunting and camping equipment.

He did not choose the Square as the location of his business for a specific reason. Although this makes the move to 18th Street easier in terms of significance, he will miss the other store owners he met while operating Prairie Outfitters on the Square.

Titus feels the loss of business on the Square will have a negative effect on the other businesses located there. With businesses leaving, there are fewer reasons for people to go to the Square, Titus said. She said she would like the Square to remain made up of professional and retail businesses.

The chamber makes new businesses aware of all locations available to them, but the Square is not always the first preference of new store openings.

"It is the decision of the person who owns the business," Titus said.

Although Titus would like the makeup of the square to be business oriented, she is pleased when businesses succeed. She said the relocation of Prairie Outfitters will have an overall effect on Charleston, but she acknowledges it is better for a business to continue to grow.

Titus also said another shop on the Square, The Giraffe, is closing.

No one was available for comment as to the circumstances of The Giraffe's closing.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Rick Cuddy talks to Bill McMorris, of Greenup, about different types of fishing line Thursday afternoon at Prairie Outfitters, Cuddy's business. Prairie Outfitters will be moving from its current location in the 600 block of Jackson Avenue on the square to 930 18th St. on March 1.

CAA approves 12 new journalism classes

By Kevin Sampler
ADMINISTRATION WRITER

The Council on Academic Affairs unanimously approved the addition of 12 new and revised journalism classes on Thursday and disputed the similarities one new class would have to a course already in the curriculum.

The proposal of new course, JOU 2950, Introduction to Visual Communication, was not approved because of a conflict between the journalism department and the school of technology.

"Now a question of duplication has arisen," said speech communication professor Doug Bock.

The description of the course is similar to course INT 1363, Graphic Communication Technologies, offered by the school of technology, but the journalism department says the overlap in material is necessary.

"We have significant concerns about offering this course when resources are scarce," said technology department chair Mahyar Izadi. "It duplicates our class by at

least 95 percent."

Journalism professor Brian Poulter said the classes are similar only because photography is a broad subject, but journalistic ethics are not taught in the other class.

The intent of the class is the study of design, communication and visual communication theory, principles and techniques that are essential to understanding photojournalism and visual design, the course proposal said.

The council voted to postpone approval of the class to the cur-

riculum until the two departments worked out their differences.

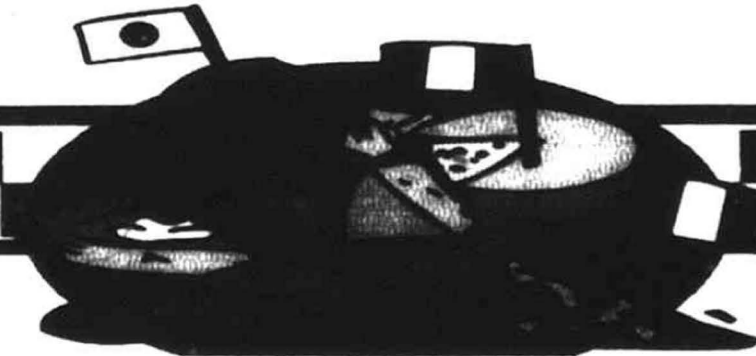
The CAA also approved a new English class, ENG 4801, a senior level course that will focus on speech, technology, media and theatre.

Karla Sanders, director of the Center for Academic Support and Achievement, discussed the results of a critical thinking exam given to 816 students at Eastern in 2001.

"The results were lower than we were hoping for," Sanders said.

Students were allowed to make up their own data for the writing competency section of the exam, but not for the rest of the test. Sanders said some students used their own information on other parts of the exam instead of using the data provided.

The council will vote on two more journalism classes and a revision of CAA bylaws, which were postponed until next week. The CAA meets at 2 p.m. Thursdays in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.



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RHA discusses Up Till Dawn

By Yvette Cozad
STAFF WRITER

The Residence Hall Association Thursday was informed about Up Till Dawn, a fund raiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

RHA President Stina Heldmann said the goal of the project is to keep people up all night.

"This service was designed to help people understand how the children of St. Jude's feel. I'm really excited," Heldmann said.

St. Jude's speaker Sonia Matteson spoke about the Up Till Dawn event and urged Eastern's RHA to get involved in the event.

"Children at St. Jude's feel drained and tired, so should the people at Up Till Dawn. St. Jude's relies on donations to operate so Up Till Dawn can help raise money for the hospital.

"In past years, Up Till Dawn has raised up to \$40,000 at other

"In past years, Up Till Dawn has raised up to \$40,000 at other universities."

— Sonia Matteson

universities. Money is raised by donations and through sports tournaments," Matteson said.

The tournaments will require a \$75 entry fee for each team. Volleyball and basketball tournaments will be held. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. A disc jockey will also provide music for the Up Till Dawn participants.

Currently this event is scheduled for March 28 but remains tentative. Up Till Dawn information will be announced as plans for it become permanent at future RHA meetings.

UB:

Brinker: UB bylaw slights weren't deliberate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ive session. Sievers gave the OK but didn't give the green light for a vote because such a situation wasn't proposed.

"It's not uncommon," said Sievers in a telephone interview Thursday from his Springfield law firm. "A lot of people screw up the Open Meetings Act, even with their lawyers in the room."

Director of Student Life Cici Brinker said the bylaw slights

weren't deliberate, but said the UB doesn't always follow Robert's rules of order.

"I just think that in this case there was a concern with the controversy," Brinker said. "But I do support what they did simply because of the controversy involved around the issues."

Judy said expenses over \$10 aren't brought for approval by the executive board because it isn't efficient.

"We consider ourselves more of a business than anything else," Judy said. "Just by precedent that hasn't been followed. There are checks and balances in place though. We can't ask for the approval of the board everytime we need a lot of copies or something like that."

Names of mob boss and wife on former Gov. Ryan's clout list

CHICAGO (AP) — Over an eight-year period, former Gov. George Ryan doled out hundreds of political patronage jobs, state contracts and favors for people with clout, including apparently mob boss Tony Accardo, according to a list unveiled in federal court Thursday.

Prosecutors offered the 555-page document detailing how Ryan's staff allowed political patronage to become entangled in a scheme that included use of state workers and tax money for campaign work.

All the favors listed in the document were granted when Ryan was secretary of state, before his 1998 election as governor, prosecutors said.

The list was made public Thursday at the racketeering

trial of Scott Fawell, once Ryan's top aide, and the Citizens for Ryan campaign committee.

The name Tony Accardo appears on page 244 along with that of Clarice Accardo — the name of the late mob bosses' wife.

The list indicates that Ryan's office performed an unspecified favor for the Accardos at the request of Ernie Kumerow — the name of Accardo's son-in-law, former head of County and Municipal Union Local 1001, which represented 3,000 city streets and sanitation workers.

Federal prosecutors declined to comment publicly on the list. Accardo died in 1992.

Two sources familiar with the Accardos and the investigation said they assumed that the Accardo on the list is the one-

time Al Capone helper who ruled over the "Chicago Outfit" for several decades. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

"You have to wonder why Kumerow's name is on there and why he is asking for a favor, especially for the Accardos," said Richard Lindberg, author of 11 books on Chicago crime and politics. He said it might not be anything very serious. "You have to know what the favor was."

The list contains a few cryptic entries. On the line with Mrs. Accardo's name the words "Old Joe" were written. There was no further explanation.

Interviewed by telephone late Thursday, Ryan said: "I don't talk about any of these things at trial. When the trial's over, we'll talk — maybe."

AB approves additional allocations

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Apportionment Board Thursday granted more than \$40,000 in additional allocations to Student Government and the University Board.

A total of \$40,479 in allocations were made, leaving the AB reserve account with \$130,570 remaining.

Student Body President Alison Mormino asked for \$1,311 on behalf of the Student Senate to cover travel and registration fees for the Conference on Student Government Associations to be held at Texas A&M University Feb. 22-25.

"We've gained a lot from these conferences in the past," Mormino said. "Last year Ronnie Deedrick got the idea for the 'Pick a Prof' system from the conference. It's a great place to get ideas and network with other schools."

The UB requested two addition-

al allocations; one for \$11,168 and a second for \$28,000. The AB approved both requests.

The request for \$11,168 was made in an attempt to restructure its programming into monthly, theme-based events with an emphasis on novelty entertainment.

The money will be used for a Cheap Date Night scheduled for Feb. 21, which will feature novelty items like a build-a-bear, where students can choose a bear and have it customized in the Bear-Making Machine.

Another novelty item available that night will be a Big Chair that holds up to 12 people at a time, with the option of taking a photo.

On March 21, the UB will hold a Stress-Free Night, which will include an oxygen bar, candle making, massage therapists, and the band Schvfilcus, a jazz band.

The allocation for \$28,000 will be used for the renovation of the stage lighting in the Martin

Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom. The Union will match \$28,000 for the \$56,000 total needed to complete the renovation.

UB Chair Caleb Judy said construction and completion of the project is tentative, but it could begin and be completed over spring break or this summer.

The AB meeting concluded with a budgeting presentation by Account Technician Sha Woodyard. The AB will hear additional requests next Thursday.

The AB oversees the budgets of five boards funded by student activity fee money. The five boards are Student Government, the UB, Campus Recreation, Dramatic Players and the AB.

In addition to those budgets, the board has a reserve account for boards to request additional allocations. The account must maintain a minimum balance of \$100,000 at all times, leaving \$30,570 in the account.



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Strike would not affect Panther sports

By Matt Meinholt
SPORTS EDITOR

Panther fans do not have to worry about a potential faculty strike affecting Eastern's athletic schedule.

According to Eastern Director of Athletics Rich McDuffie and Ron English, Ohio Valley Conference interim commissioner, a faculty work stoppage should not result in any cancellation of games.

"No, I don't know how that would affect us," McDuffie said. "I don't foresee anything like that."

English said he didn't know of any situation that would cause teams to cancel games.

"I am not aware of any bylaws (concerning a faculty strike) in the OVC if there are any," English said.

English also said there is no previous case to set a precedent for the situation.

"I don't remember that ever having occurred," English said. "I have been in the OVC 10 years, and that has not happened since I have been here."

Eastern men's basketball coach Rich Samuels said Southern Illinois University will make a good example. The faculty at Southern has scheduled a strike deadline for Monday.

Eastern's faculty has not decided to strike yet. The faculty has supported strike authorization. The faculty must give notice to the Illinois Education Labor Relations Board and, following a 10-day waiting period, will set a strike date.



Ron English
"I don't remember that ever having occurred. I have been in the OVC 10 years and that has not happened since I have been here."

Scalped:

Turnovers give SEMO easy win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8A

The Otahkians attack was led by senior forward Lori Chase. She knocked down 5-of-7 of her shots from the field, including 2-of-3 three pointers and 2-of-4 from the charity stripe for 14 points.

Juniors guard Kenja White and forward Yashika Sidbury added seven points a piece by halftime.

The Otahkians started to build their lead back up early in the second half. They scored 15 of the first 24 points in the second half to improve their lead to 15.

The Panthers' last signs of life came at the 10 minute mark of the half. Gossett made a pair of baskets within 20 seconds of each other and junior forward Katie Meyers added another to cut the SEMO lead to seven, which was the lowest it would get for the rest of the game.

"We're getting back into our old habits and breaking down in the second half," Gossett said.

However, the momentum the Panthers had gathered came to a crashing halt when Dailey, the team's leading scorer this season, came down hard on her left knee with just over seven minutes to play. Dailey left the game with a bruised knee but returned a few minutes later and converted on a pair of free throws to finish the game with 16 points.

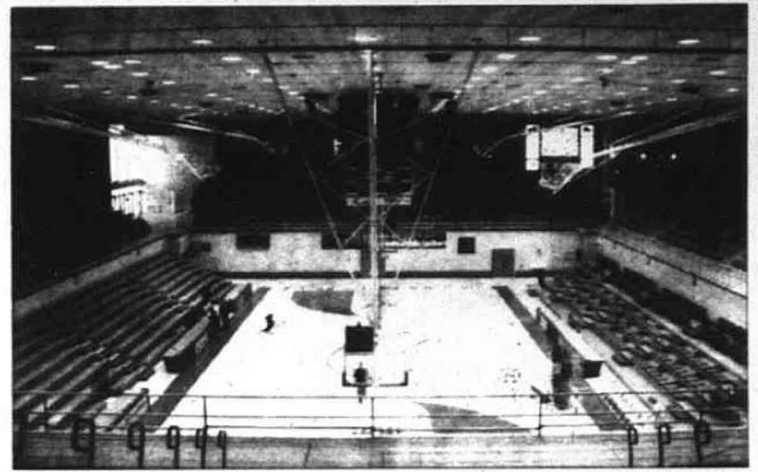
"It's always scary when somebody goes down, but I knew she'd be back," Gossett said.

Gossett finished the game with 16 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Freshman guard Megan Sparks added 12 points.

The Otahkians had four players finish in double figures. Chase made three three-pointers and finished with 20 points. Sidbury finished behind Chase with 18. White added 14 and junior guard Sarah Costello had 10.

Limiting turnovers will be a concern for the Panthers when they host Tennessee State Saturday. The team is still without a true point guard with red shirt freshman guard Ashley Kearney out with a back injury.

"We have to be better ball handlers, especially since we're missing Ashley," Karos said.



DAN LEE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lantz Arena is the smallest basketball facility in the Ohio Valley Conference but has the third highest attendance average this season.

Lantz:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A

(1,054 fewer than capacity) fans came to Lantz to watch the Panthers defeat Tennessee-Martin 68-60. The smallest crowd at Lantz this season was during winter break. On Dec. 30, only 1,748 people came to watch Eastern defeat Northern Illinois 90-75.

When it comes to single game attendance, Eastern has been out drawn by every other team in the OVC. Morehead State's season high of 4,419 ranks eighth in the OVC this year, making Eastern's 4,246 last. Four of the biggest crowds at OVC facilities this year could not even fit in Lantz. Murray drew 7,288 people on Dec. 7 when the Racers faced Western Kentucky. Eastern Kentucky (5,850), Southeast Missouri (5,520) and Tennessee-

Martin's (5,372) best attendance could not fit in Lantz.

However, Eastern's worst attendance of the year is better than five other teams in the conference; Tennessee-Martin's (421), Tennessee State (1,034), Eastern Kentucky (1,100), Austin Peay (1,124) and Morehead (1,378).

Despite being built in 1966, Lantz has some features other places in the OVC don't have, like the \$250,000 video system Eastern installed in Lantz during the fall of 2001.

Dave Kidwell, Eastern director of sports information and marketing, said the video system is rare to mid-major programs like Eastern and makes Lantz Arena stand out above other facilities in the OVC.

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SAT SUN MON MATINEE 2:00

THE RECRUIT (PG13) DAILY 4:10 - 7:15 - 10:00
SAT SUN MATINEE 1:15

NATIONAL SECURITY (PG13) DAILY 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45 - SAT SUN MATINEE 2:30

JUST MARRIED (PG13) Daily 4:30 - 6:50 - 9:15
SAT SUN MON MATINEE 2:15

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (PG13) Daily 5:00 - 8:10 - SAT SUN MATINEE 1:45

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ALL WEEKEND!

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Stinky shooting spell

◆ *Panthers make only one of 22 shots from long range*

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

It's fitting Eastern (7-12, 2-5) lost its second Ohio Valley Conference home game after matching its shooting percentage with the outside temperature.

The Panthers dropped a 69-61 decision to the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles (12-8, 5-2) by shooting .33 percent from the floor and 1-of-22 from beyond the arc.

"We're going to Rural King and get some of that shooting cream," Panthers head coach Rick Samuels said.

Eastern opened up the game by making 8-of-34 in the first 20 minutes of play while missing all of the 14 three-pointers attempted before halftime.

"The way we were shooting tonight was ridiculous, but I never felt like I was pressing," senior guard J.R. Reynolds said.

Reynolds was two of 13 from the field and missed every one of the nine three-pointers Eastern's second-leading scorer attempted Thursday night. Because of this disappointing performance,

Reynolds was practicing his shooting by himself after the game.

"I'm definitely not going to stop shooting like I did during my early slump at Indiana State and Illinois," Reynolds said.

The fifth-year senior wasn't alone in a game where the nation's leading scorer Henry Domercant shot seven of 18 and was limited to 20 points.

"I could definitely see that Henry was pressing tonight because in the second half he felt like he had to be the man to take over," Reynolds said.

OVC first-team center Damien Kinloch earned a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Golden Eagles shooting guard Brent Jolly hit 4-of-8 from beyond the arc and led Tech with 19 points. Jolly hit every one of those three-pointers when Eastern would switch to a 2-3 zone defense and failed to rotate to the wing.

"We tried to keep the big men from scoring by going to zone but it was simply a tough match up," senior guard Craig Lewis said.

For over nine minutes in the second half, the Golden Eagles kept the lead double-digits while the Lantz Arena crowds stayed



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Senior guard Craig Lewis made 5 of 13 from the field for 11 points. Eastern shot only 33 percent from the field for the night.

silent.

The 61 points was the second lowest point total of the season and the lowest at Lantz Arena since the 52 in last year's Indiana State contest.

"We are all pressing out there simply because we haven't made a jump shot in four games now," Samuels said.

This game concludes a 3-5 January for the Panthers when they were hoping to make a run at

the top three positions in the OVC.

"We need some tough kids out there now because these aren't freshmen out there," Samuels said. "We need seniors we can count on."

Despite the teams disappointing January, the team still believes it can make a run at the top of the OVC.

"I still truly believe that we are in the hunt in the OVC race," Reynolds said.

Lantz crowds rank third in OVC

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite playing in the smallest facility in the Ohio Valley Conference, Eastern has the third highest attendance numbers in the conference.

The 5,300-seat Lantz Arena has attracted over 3,000 fans per men's home game this season. The only schools with better attendance for its men's basketball games are pre-season favorites Murray State and Eastern Kentucky. Racer fans have packed the Regional Special Events Center at the pace of 4,167 people per game.

Eastern Kentucky draws 5,850 fans per game to McBrayer Arena.

However, Eastern's attendance this season is impressive considering Lantz Arena's capacity is over 1,000 fewer than any other facility in the conference.

McBrayer Arena and Morehead State's Johnson Arena both seat 6,500; 1,200 more than Lantz.

The Lantz crowds this season have been consistent. The largest crowd came Jan. 18 when 4,246

SEE LANTZ ◆ Page 7A

SO THERE!

A no-punches-pulled look at Eastern and national sports

C'mon, get unhappy

Those who thought going to Eastern can't take people places far and wide need not look any further than this week to find evidence to the contrary.

When Charlie Partridge flew the Panther football coop as defensive line coach last week for a job on the University of Pittsburgh's staff and Roy Wittke left as offensive coordinator for a job in Deliverance Country at University of Arkansas, they showed going to Eastern can take you far.

But their loss has created yet another void for your friendly neighborhood headline writers here at the Daily Eastern News.

The loss of Partridge makes us sing, "C'mon, get unhappy."

The "So There" sub-committee for crafting better headlines has placed this want ad to help the football program in its quest to find new coaches.

Wanted: competent, quick-thinking coaches wanted for prominent Division I-AA football team. Must have plenty of experience in the field and a strong, sturdy last name no longer than six letters.

University in small market area is looking for a key headline player to join a list of marquee names such as Spoo, King, Raymond, Ricks, Roc and Miller.

Long names need not apply.

◆ It appears the disease spread to the Eastern men's basketball team.

Whatever ails the women's squad from finishing a basketball game with the lead it holds at halftime has taken control of the men's squad too.

The Panthers lost a lead against Murray State and nearly squandered one against Division III foe Aurora University.

◆ After so many fumbles, the Bears better not fumble this one.



Nate Bloomquist
STAFF EDITOR

The Chicago Tribune reported that former Chicago Bears defensive end Richard Dent will interview with the Bears for the team's vacant defensive line position.

Hiring him wouldn't put a dent in the Bears' budget, and it would be great to finally have a piece of the Bears Super Bowl puzzle back in place. Dent was the MVP of Super Bowl XX.

◆ Ads for Las Vegas during the Super Bowl vs. the Super Bowl, oh wait, no comparison can be made.

In a related story, the judge who in 1990 sent Pete Rose to prison said in an Associated Press story Thursday he believed Rose belongs in the Hall of Fame.

But I still wouldn't bet on it — not even in Las Vegas.

◆ Many people inside the Beltway want to make changes to Title IX. Their reasons include, among other things, that Title IX takes away from wrestling.

The act gives scholarships to women's basketball and softball at the expense of wrestling.

If these people had their way, the Connecticut women's basketball team's drive for 55 straight wins wouldn't have happened. We'd never find out if a woman can dunk. The answer — hell yes! Girls bashing balls better than the best of the boys, even if the ball is bigger and "softer," is a sight not to be missed.

So spare me the griping because basketball and softball should always be more important than some guys rolling around on a mat.



Charlie Partridge
He's flown the coop for another flock of Panthers and that makes us sad.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers get scalped

◆ *Otahkians hand Eastern 18-point conference loss*

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Two weeks ago Eastern's women's basketball team was on a season high. The team had just won back-to-back games and were moving up the Ohio Valley Conference standings.

However, in the Panthers (3-15, 2-5) last two games, nothing has seemed to go right. The Panthers committed 27 turnovers in their 82-64 loss to Southeast Missouri State Thursday night.

"I felt like we were never really in this game," Eastern head coach Linda Wunder said. "We were just trying to keep our heads above water."

The Panthers won the opening tip off and scored on their first possession on a two-pointer by junior guard Lauren Dailey.

But it would be the only time Eastern held the lead. The Otahkians (11-6, 5-2) made a 14-2 run, giving them a 10-point lead four and a half minutes into the game.

SEMO's full-court press applied pressure to the Panthers and forced 15 turnovers in the first half.

"We were out of our game," senior center Brooke Gossett said. "We weren't smart and it showed."

The Otahkians converted the Panthers' mistakes into points. SEMO scored 20 fast-break points in the first half and 14 more off of second chances.

"They live on their full-court pressure and sometimes we handled it well and sometimes we didn't," Wunder said.

Eastern was able to keep SEMO from running away to a big lead with some quality shooting in the first half.

The Panthers made 14-of-30 from the field, led by 5-of-6 shooting form Dailey. Gossett made 4-of-6 from the field and made good



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Junior guard Lauren Dailey tied for the team lead in scoring against Southeast Missouri Thursday night. Dailey and Senior center Brooke Gossett both scored 16 points in the Panthers 82-64 loss to the Otahkians.

on a pair of free throws.

Outside of Dailey and Gossett, the rest of the Panthers only scored 13 points. Sophomore guard Rachel Karos came off the bench

to score Eastern's last five points of the half helping the team cut the deficit to seven points at halftime.

SEE SCALPED ◆ Page 8A

The Verge

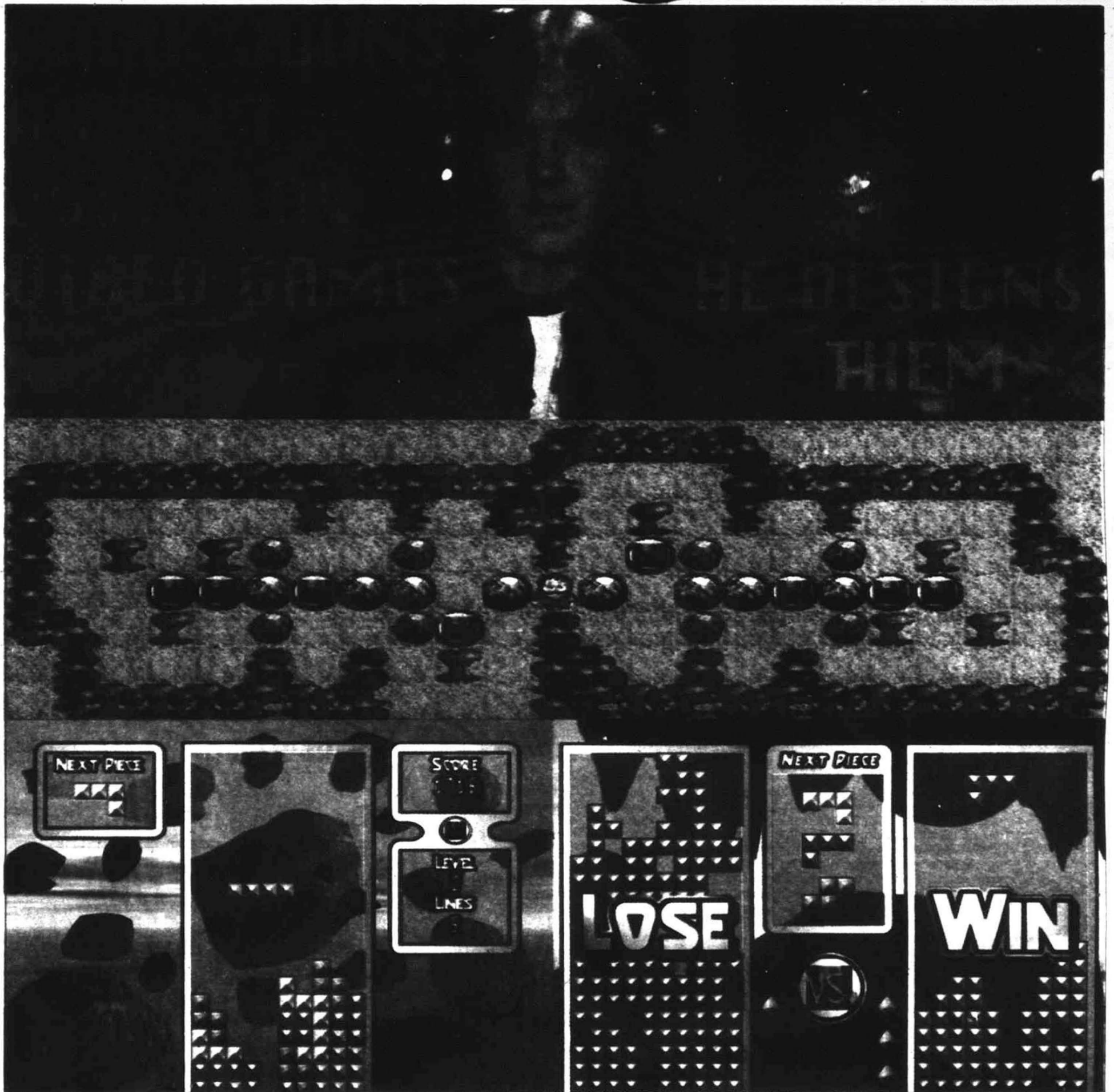
REVIEW THIS

Phish

"Round Room" is the band's return to the spotlight after a self-imposed two-year hiatus

★★★

Page 8



◆ Eastern student designs games for the Macintosh, markets them via his website

By Ben Turner
VERGE EDITOR

Eastern student Mark Johns not only plays video games—he designs them.

Johns, a freshman math and computer science major from Champaign, has been designing video games for the Apple Macintosh since middle school.

The Macintosh is to the person-

al computer what the College Music Journal is to the music industry. Yes, more than 90 percent of PC users opt for Microsoft and the Windows operating system, but those in the know prefer Macs to the more popular PCs. Just as those in the know prefer finding bands they like, many hailing from the college charts, rather than the generic mainstream sound thrust on America.

Johns first worked with a Macintosh in fourth or fifth grade when his parents purchased a Mac to serve as the home PC. Video games like Nintendo's *Zelda*, *Super Mario Brothers Three* and Sega's *Sonic the Hedgehog* were an early influence on Johns, but as he got older the *Final Fantasy* series really drew him in deeper and got him thinking about designing video

games.

"One of my friend's dads owned a software company and one of his friends was a professor at U of I and he would come by and give us programming lessons every Saturday, so I was really lucky and I was only in seventh grade," Johns said.

After becoming familiar with Ambrosia Software, the largest Mac shareware system, Johns

designed and programmed his first video game for the Mac when he was just 14. "Pong Wars: The Paddle Strikes Back" was his first creation. "It was just a big satire of '70s nerd stuff," Johns said.

Johns went all out in creating the *Star Wars-Pong* hybrid. By hooking his Mac up to a VCR, Johns recorded dialogue and SEE **JOHNS** ◆ Page 58



THE FAVORITE FIVE

Staff writers Ryan Rinchiuso and Matt Wills debate the best non-human TV characters in history.

◆ Page 28

HOME COMING FOR ALLISTER

The punk rock quartet features two Eastern alumni.

◆ Page 38

ZWAN

The new album from Chicago's newest musical powerhouse is influenced by many of the member's previous projects.

◆ Page 48

CONCERT CALENDAR

The Idle Hours, The Butcher's Legs, Motherlode and Crow Alias provide music for the area this weekend.

◆ Page 88

Non-human TV characters



Ryan Rinchiuso
Staff writer

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Matt Wills
Associate Online Editor

He is also a freshman journalism major.

Reach him at
mowills@hotmail.com

Although most television viewers tune in for the interaction between human characters, on some programs it's the non-human characters that steal the show. Whether they happen to be animated characters, animals (some who talk), puppets or inanimate objects, non-human characters have played large roles in many of America's favorite television programs. From children's shows to comedies, writers have used non-human characters to address some of this society's shortcomings and done so in such a way that viewers can laugh freely.

5. The Goodfeathers - "The Animaniacs" was one of the funniest shows, animated or otherwise, I watched when I was a child. Yako, Wacko and Dot, Pinky and the Brain and Slappy the Squirrel were all classic characters that would leave me laughing until the commercials, but there is one set of characters I can still think about and giggle like a school girl. Taking Martin Scorsese's violent opus "Goodfellas" and turning the gangsters into pigeons was a magnificent idea. At the time the show originally aired, I did not get the parody, but I still found the wisecracking birds quite entertaining. The show proved that cartoon birds talking with a New York accent could work on so many levels and stands as a testament to the brilliance of the show.

4. Masturbating Bear - There are so many classic characters on Conan O'Brien, but the Masturbating Bear has a special place in my heart. Pimbot 5000 didn't have "Flight of the Bumblebee" playing behind him, Robot on the Toilet didn't have a diaper, Triumph the Insult Comic Dog is now too big and a bear is so much funnier than a dog anyhow. While the Masturbating Bear was a one-joke character, when that joke is as funny as his, it can't be overlooked. The only way it could have been funnier was if it was a masturbating monkey - because that is the only animal funnier than a bear in the grand scheme of hilarity.

3. Mojo Jojo - A rule: monkeys are funny, no matter what they do. A highly intelligent supervillain monkey who tries to take over the world, on the other hand, is even funnier. A super smart supervillain monkey with a very distinct talking pattern cannot be beat. Although no person with a heart could ever actually root against those cute Powerpuff Girls, would it have killed them to let Mojo Jojo win every so often? Taking over the world is a hard task and it takes time, effort and a secret lair in a hollowed-out volcano. James Bond villains have nothing on Mojo Jojo, and a world that would not like to be ruled by a super monkey is not a world I want to live in.

2. Kit - Along with the time-traveling Delorean from the "Back to the Future" trilogy, Kit was the coolest car on the planet during the '80s. Who would not want a car that will talk to you, and not just the annoying reminders to shut your door and buckle your seatbelts? Think of the possibilities a person could have with this car. Playing the license plate games on long trips, complaining to him about the stupid drivers on the road, or even fighting crime David Hasselhoff style. Although the car could get a little snooty and standoffish, anyone watching "Knight Rider" on a regular basis knew who the brain was in that partnership.

1. The Muppets from "Sesame Street" - This might be cheating, but how can you pick only one character from "Sesame Street?" There is no way to pick between Ernie and Cookie Monster or Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch. These characters were a large part of my childhood, and it would be too emotionally draining to pick between them. All of them were my friends every morning and they taught me the word and letter of the day that would get me a special snack from my mom when I told her what I

had learned that day. How cool was that and how many different shows can do that for you? Not many, I know that for sure.

Wills' Picks:

5. Mr. Ed - This horse is my long lost friend. Where else can you find a horse that gets his owner in all sorts of trouble by offering not-so-clever insight? He always finds a way to get Wilbur in a bind, and usually answers the phone the wrong way.

4. Lassie - The sexiest wonderdog alive, Lassie is that and more. For some reason she always knows where Timmy is and I think it's because she goes to the same well every single time.

3. Homer Simpson - "MMMM, AHHHH, BEEERR and D'OH!" I don't really know how Homer came to be the way he is, but I think it has something to do with the radioactive materials he handles at the local power plant. Offering clever advice for his children and always forgetting to do something, he leads his family to pure popularity among the Springfield residents.

2. Stewey - No other non-human television character can offer more wiseass and women-degrading comments to his mother than Stewey from "The Family Guy." Stewey is an evil prodigal toddler with the heart of a puppy and is dedicated to taking over the world. Failing at every attempt, he is sure to be back for more.

1. Buck Bundy - A true player with the female dogs in the neighborhood, Buck Bundy defines the term Viagra. He's so old and lazy he won't even leave the house to take a piss. He proves you're never too old to get back in the game.

Other favorite fives:

- Ben Erwin, Online editor
- 5. Alf
- 4. Gargamel from "The Smurfs"
- 3. The Sweedish Chef from "The Muppet Show"
- 2. Starscream from "Transformers"
- 1. Oscar the Grouch

Matt Meinheit, Sports editor
Honorable mention - Mr. Belvatron from "Clone High USA"

- 5. The entire cast of "The Family Guy"
- 4. Count Van Count from "Sesame Street"
- 3. Gonzo
- 2. The Brain from "Pinky and The Brain"
- 1. Homer Simpson

- Ben Turner, Verge editor
- 5. Baby from the ABC sitcom "Dinosaurs"
- 4. Ralph from "The Muppets"
- 3. Buck Bundy
- 2. Moe Szylack
- 1. Mr. Ed

Next week's topic: MOVIES IN WHICH MUSIC PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE.

Voice your opinion: Drop off your favorite five at the newsroom, 1811 Buzzard Hall or e-mail your picks to eiuverge@hotmail.com. We welcome lists from students, faculty and staff. Students please include your major and year in school. Deadline for favorite fives is noon on Wednesday. Do you have a topic that you think would make a good favorite? Are you interested in writing a column about your picks for a future issue of The Verge? E-mail the staff of The Verge and voice your opinion.

Coming after spring break: THE BEST OF COLES COUNTY. Vote for the best the area has to offer in live music, food, watering holes, drink specials, retail outfitters and many more. The winners will be featured in an April edition of The Verge.

Top 10 albums in sales at Positively Fourth Street Records for the week of Jan. 21-27.

1. Audioslave - ST
 2. Bonnaroo - Live double album
 3. Jack Johnson - Brushfire Fairytales
 4. Phish - Round Room
 5. Pearl Jam - Riot Act
 6. Kid Rock - Cocky
 7. Missy Elliott - Under Construction
 8. 8 Mile Soundtrack
 9. Eminem - The Eminem Show
 10. Nirvana - ST
- ◆ Don't forget Positively Fourth Street Records sells releases from local artists.

◆ Tickets for The Reverend Horton Heat show at Top of the Roc March 4 will go on sale this Saturday at Positively Fourth Street Records and Roc's Blackfront. Limited number available, \$25 and 21+.

- New Music on WEIU FM 88.9
- Hip-Hop (9-midnight, Friday and Saturday)
- ◆ Fabolous - "I Can Let You Go"
- ◆ Angie - "Can I Take You Home" (Blaze remix)
- ◆ Sean Paul - "Just Busy"
- ◆ Gza - "Knock, Knock"
- Rock (5-9 p.m. daily)
- ◆ Panic in Detroit - ST
- ◆ Thick Records - Oil: Chicago Punk Refined V/A
- ◆ Keepsake - Black Dress in a B Movie
- ◆ Timetofly - Birth.Work.Death

Ben Turner, Verge editor

Kelly McCabe, Associate Verge editor

Alta King, Copy editor

Ben Erwin, Copy editor

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Allister stages homecoming Friday at Friends & Co.

By Ben Turner
VERGE EDITOR

Members of Chicagoland punk outfit Allister will have their own homecoming this weekend when the band returns to Charleston Friday for a show at Friends & Co.

Two of the band's current four members are Eastern alumni. Guitarist and primary vocalist Tim Rogner and drummer Mike Leverage each attempted to bolster the local music scene during their time in Charleston. During their time here though, the two musicians played more in the local punk quartet, The Conways, as Leverage has just recently taken over behind the kit for Allister.

"The Conways was just a project that evolved because we were stuck in school and it was something to do," Tim Rogner said.

In fact, Allister took shape before Rogner came to Eastern. Although he is the only remaining original member of the band he started in high school, he said he is extremely happy with Allister's current lineup. Rogner said bassist and vocalist Scottie Murphy is essentially an original member, since he joined the band about a year after Allister's birth. Kyle Lewis completes Allister's current lineup as the band's other guitar player. Lewis replaced Rogner's younger brother Chris, who toured with Allister for much of 2002 but has moved on to pursue his other project August Premier, who will be opening up the show at Friends.

After recording its first demo in a band member's basement, Allister sent the recording to the California-based Drive-Thru Records. Drive-Thru was inter-

ested, but suggested the band make a better recording before the label would consider signing the band. After a self-released seven-inch followed the initial rejection, Drive-Thru kept good on its promise and in 1999, Allister's full-length, "Dead Ends and Girlfriends," was readily available.

Before the band's follow-up "Last Stop Suburbia" was released in October of 2002, Allister added a few more impressive entries to its punk rock résumé. Being from the Chicagoland area, the band was given a slot on Thick Records' highly successful Chicago punk rock compilation, "Magnetic Curses." The band chose the first track on "Dead Ends and Girlfriends," "Jimmy's Dreamgirl," as its contribution to the release.

"That was pretty exciting because, at the time, it was one of the biggest compilations we had been on," Tim Rogner said.

This summer Allister played part of Vans Warped Tour with many of their fellow Drive-Thru acts. According to Rogner, Drive-Thru put on their own tour within Warped Tour.

"Drive-Thru brought their own stage and stage crew as well as putting six of the label's bands on a couple of buses to share for the whole tour," he said. Among the other acts that spent the summer on tour with Allister were Home Grown, The Starting Line, Rx:Bandits, Finch and New Found Glory.

This past fall, Allister played second on the four band tour that featured Lost City Angels, Andrew W.K. and Flogging Molly. Tim Rogner said the first few shows were a little rough, but as the tour went on Allister began to get a better reaction

from the largely diverse audiences.

"At first we didn't know how (the audiences) would react, but as the tour went along, it was clear (the audiences) were so diverse that each act had its specific group of fans," Tim Rogner said. "We got to meet and hang out with the other bands too."

As for 2003, Allister has a tour planned with Mustard Plug and American Hi-Fi set to begin next month and will visit Japan in May, where the band has a substantial fan base. Prior to that adventure, Allister will headline a show at Metro Feb. 6 with August Premier also appearing on the bill.

August Premier also hails from the Chicago suburbs and took shape thanks to the merger of the four members' two previous projects. Chris Rogner (vocals and guitar) and Mark Halminiak (bass) previously played with Cut to Sit while Halminiak's younger brother Danny (guitar and vocals) and Mickey Molinari (drums) were members of Slag.

Chris Rogner is a former Western Illinois student and August Premier played frequent shows at an on-campus venue in Macomb. Chris Rogner agreed to the statement that August Premier is to Western what Allister or The Conways is to Eastern.

After releasing "Balloons ... Everything's Okay," an eight-song EP on the Schuamburg-based Little League Records, August Premier went on hiatus after Allister asked Chris Rogner to join the band for their tours with Warped Tour and Flogging Molly.

While Chris Rogner was playing with Allister, August Premier's "Tuckered Out"



Tim Rogner (far right) was a member of The Conways and Allister during his time at Eastern.

appeared on the widely distributed "Plea for Peace: Take Action, volume two" compilation, which was co-released by Sub City and Asian Man Records. A fan of the band and a member of the Florida-based Fueled By Ramen Records' street team, sent a copy of August Premier's album to Fueled By Ramen and the label offered to sign the band. With these new opportunities presenting themselves, Chris Rogner and Allister mutually decided it was time for Chris to move on.

"I didn't expect that type of offer from Fueled By Ramen, it was really cool they were interested in the band," Chris Rogner said. "For the past month we

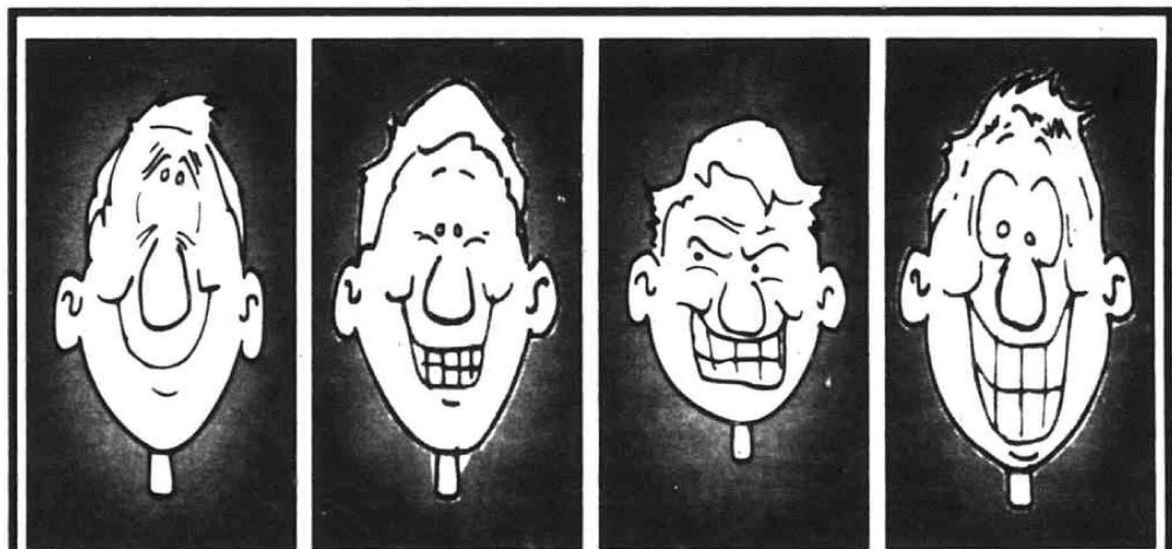
really haven't been doing anything but writing the new album."

August Premier plans on going into the studio in early February with the two guitarists doing the majority of the songwriting.

"I'm really excited about playing at Eastern. The Conways played there a lot and always said they had fun," Chris Rogner said.

"We still have a couple of friends at Eastern, so we're excited about returning to Charleston," Tim Rogner said. "Allister shows are just a little more rowdy than The Conways were."

Doors open at 10 p.m. with a \$3 cover.



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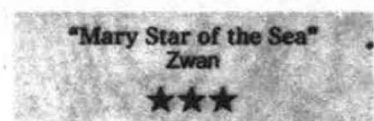
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Zwan delivers for fans of members' previous projects

By Tim Brannan
STAFF WRITER

What came to be one of the most influential alternative artists of the '90s, The Smashing Pumpkins made their name playing intense shows at Chicago venues like Metro. Although frontman and guitarist Billy Corgan never liked being lumped in with many of the grunge outfits of the era, his band was perhaps the most popular rock band to come out of Chicago in the early '90s. Members of The Smashing Pumpkins took their sound to the masses and received tons of press and radio airplay thanks to hits like "Today," "Rocket" and "Bullet With Butterfly Wings."

Three years after the demise of The Smashing Pumpkins, Corgan and drummer Jimmy Chamberlin have since picked up where they left off with the new project, Zwan. Corgan and Chamberlin returned to Metro this month for five sold-out shows, but this time it was with a



new cast of accomplished artists, a new name and new sound.

Corgan pieced together an impressive group of mostly Chicago natives for Zwan's debut album. This all-star cast of musicians consists of A Perfect Circle's Paz Lenchantin on bass, guitarists Dave Pajo (formerly of Chavez and Skunk) and Matt Sweeney (formerly of Slint and Tortoise) and of course, his old pal Chamberlin behind the kit.

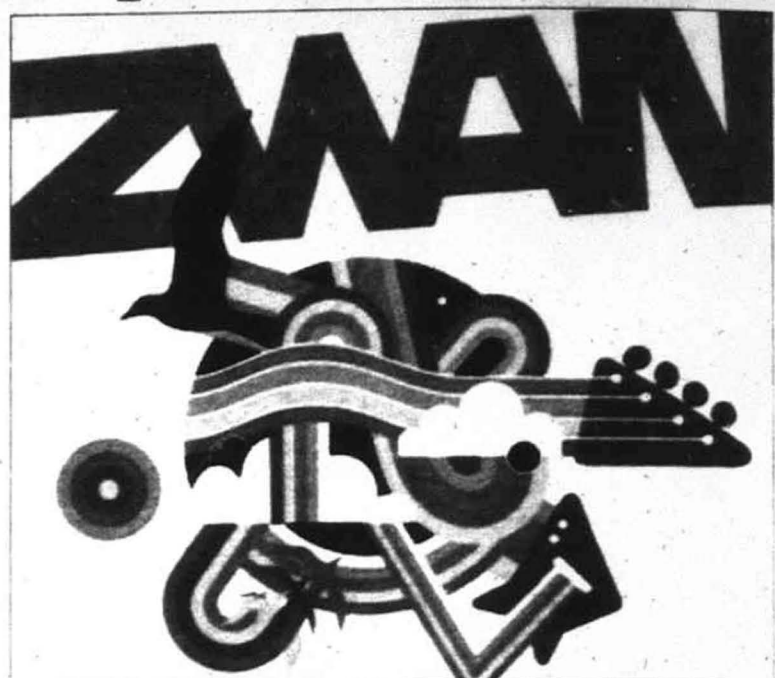
Zwan's new album "Mary Star of the Sea" is a breath of fresh air for alternative rock fans subjected to rap-rock for the past few years.

Zwan's first single, "Honestly," is in heavy rotation on many alternative stations across the country. "Honestly" is quickly turning out to be a classic with its compelling and powerful melody.

Corgan's vocal range goes from a whisper to a scream in "Lyric," the opening track on the album. "Lyric" sets the mood for the work of art that is "Mary Star of the Sea." The down-tempo vibe in "Of a Broken Heart" is the slow and soft side of the album.

The spirit of this record lies in my favorite song, "Yeah." "Yeah" is a positive and upbeat song standing out with its catchy melody. The 14-minute jam "Jesus, I/Mary Star of the Sea" is the only weak area I have found on this debut effort. This song is tiresome and doesn't add to the overall feel of this record.

What makes this album so superior is its originality. I can't compare "Mary Star of the Sea" to anything in music today. "Mary Star of the Sea" is well-balanced and won't leave any rock fans disappointed. With a host of garage rock bands flooding the airwaves with similar sounds, it is nice to find a sound that sets itself apart from the current trend.



ALBUM COVER COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

Zwan features former members of Smashing Pumpkins, Chavez, Slint, Tortoise, A Perfect Circle and Skunk.

The Idle Hours make time to play at The Uptowner Saturday

By Ben Turner
VERGE EDITOR

The Idle Hours has a full schedule of upcoming shows over the next two weeks, but will take time to play the Uptowner Saturday night.

Drummer Dan McCabe is the only local member of the three-piece. Although McCabe has played with his fellow bandmates since high school, The Idle Hours didn't begin playing live shows until this summer. University of Illinois students Justin Sconza (bass) and Mark Villalobos (guitar) complete the lineup, with both sharing much of the vocal responsibilities.

Because The Idle Hours has members booking shows in two college towns, the amount of shows and traveling back-and-forth can be tough to balance with school. "We play at least once a weekend, it's starting to get a little hectic, but I love it," McCabe said.

Drawing on influences such as The Beatles, Radiohead and The Grateful Dead, The Idle Hours have a jam-influenced sound that is ripe with melodies. Striving to be an all original band, McCabe said it's unlikely the band will play any covers Saturday. Currently The Idle Hours has a four-song demo of original material available.

The Blackouts, one of Champaign-Urbana's hottest rock

acts, became beneficial allies of the three-piece after The Blackouts played with The Idle Hours at a house party hosted by Sconza and Villalobos. The Idle Hours will open for The Blackouts when they visit Friends & Co. next Saturday.

Next Saturday's show will fall in the middle of The Idle Hours run of five shows in five nights. Thursday the band will perform at The Brass Rail in Urbana, Mike and Molly's in Champaign Friday, Friends Saturday, The Lyon's Den in Chicago Sunday and back to Champaign for a show at The Highdive Monday.

Monday's show will be The Idle Hours third performance at Champaign's premier music venue.

Last semester they opened a Monday night show and headlined a Sunday night performance. According to McCabe, The Highdive's booking agent Ward Gollings has been a great help to the band.

"Our demo ended up in the hands of (Golling's) girlfriend and she liked it and gave it to Ward and he has been one our biggest supporters and helped us get gigs," McCabe said.

Show promoters at The Brass Rail, Mike and Molly's, Friends and The Uptowner have also been instrumental in the bands many live gigs.

Recently The owners of The Highdive purchased the building

that used to be home to The Blind Pig, a precursor to The Highdive. According to McCabe, The Idle Hours have signed on to play The Blind Pig during it's first couple weeks of being reopened.

Although the band hails from the Southside, its members have tried to stay away from playing bars along the famed Western Avenue strip. McCabe said that booking shows at some of the Western Avenue bars may be more trouble than it's worth at this point due to the amount of travel that would be necessary for all the members. "I do want to play at Joe Bailey's once though, I think that would be an interesting show," McCabe said.

Doors at 10 p.m. with a \$2 cover.

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'The Sims Unleashed' brings home cats and dogs to the family

Lisa Rowe
STAFF WRITER

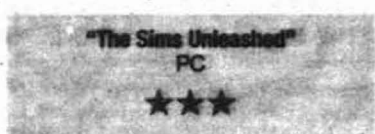
Maxis has done it again, making the already popular "The Sims" game even more fun to play. "The Sims Unleashed" expansion pack is certainly one to keep you busy for hours.

The Sims now have pets they can adopt and take into their families. Having pets in the family is very demanding, so be careful how many you adopt at first. New pets can be trained, played with and even

scolded for the things they do. The only disadvantages to having pets is that you can't control their actions, and you can't adopt a cat and a dog into the same household.

Neighbor's pets can interact with your pets, creating or destroying friendships between each other, just like the Sims do with their human neighbors. When going out to downtown, pets tag along and take in the sights with your family.

Maxis has created a wide



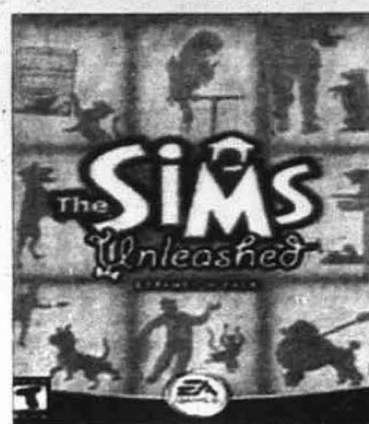
variety of items available for download on their web site, www.thesims.com, which enhance your gameplay in "Unleashed." Various user skins are also available for download on the site, as well as user created items.

Fan sites for "The Sims" have popped up all over the world

and offer a wide variety of additional items for download.

My personal favorite Sims sites are 7deadlysims.com, 8thdeadlysims.com, and thesimsresource.com. More fan sites are available on The Sims web site.

Overall, I would say "Sims Unleashed" is one of the most fun and interactive expansion packs Maxis has created thus far. Check out "The Sims Unleashed" at a store near you, or buy it online and get it shipped straight to school!



JOHNS: "Sloppy Sokoban" and "Descender" his latest creations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

sound bites from the original three movies as well as taking screen shots of memorable, from the films. When the ball hits the pong paddle, which fittingly enough is a mini light sabre, sound bites from the movie kick in and makes the pong experience sound more like a light sabre battle. It doesn't end there, though; each side of the starry background represents one of the sides of the force. The good side represented by a blue light sabre battles the dark side represented by a red light sabre. When one side wins a point a screen shot takes over, complete with movie dialogue. Each side has three screen shots and three pieces of movie dialogue that alternate through the course of match.

Johns received quite a bit of feedback from Mac users and even got some press from Mac publications. Unfortunately, "Pong Wars" is currently only compatible with the Mac operating system 9.

Since his game was a satire and

he was just a young kid he never heard from the Lucas Arts Corporation. "I never got any mail from Lucas Arts or (Twentieth Century) Fox probably because it was for Macintosh. No one cares expect for other Mac users."

When Johns was 16 he traveled to Dearborn, Mich. to participate in the yearly international Mac conference. The keynote speaker attending was telling the industry veterans how they should change the ways they do things. "He said Linux Open Source programmers are like dogs, they distinctly know their territory and continued talking for about six or seven hours," Johns said.

When the time came for Johns and his friend Justin Lee to make their hack presentation, the two presented what they termed "Doggy Style Windows." Drawing on the speaker's cliché, they created a hack that caused chaos among all the open windows on the monitor.

"Our hack for the hack show was comedy filled and a play on (the speaker's) words. It effected all the windows in the Mac OS and so if you had multiple windows open, it would make all the windows that were behind the primary one bark and run away. It got big press in Mac Addict magazine and we won

the best student hack for it."

The next project on Johns' agenda was creating a free Mac version of the traditional video game, Sokoban. By this time he had set up a website called Sloppy Disk. Johns said the name originated in eighth grade when floppy discs were becoming obsolete. Thus Johns called his version of the game "Sloppy Sokoban."

The purpose of Sokoban is to push boulders or other objects to designated area of the map. As you may already know, Sokoban can become very difficult as you ascend into upper levels because the levels get more intricate and you can't pull the boulders.

Using C/C++, Mac's graphic API, Johns created about dozen of his own levels and then found and used about 1000 levels from the Internet.

Johns said he always tries to use original music with his games and a Champaign jazz outfit recorded the music for Sloppy Sokoban.

Johns' latest video game available via sloppydisk.com is "Descender." After working on the game for much of 2002, he made the finished product available on Dec. 12. Although the game carries a \$12 shareware fee and is only compatible with OS 10, Johns has already received orders from all across America as well as places like Paris

and Japan.

You may know "Descender" by a different name, "Tetris."

"Nintendo doesn't own the copyright to 'Tetris,'" Johns said. "It actually was invented by a Russian computer scientist in the '80s while Russia was still communist. So he didn't actually own it, Soviet-Russia technically owned it and they sold it out to all these different people and he kind of got screwed."

Johns explained that Nintendo only owns the copyright to the name "Tetris." In fact, even the music that you may be very familiar with from the background of "Tetris" is actually a traditional Russian folk song, which Nintendo doesn't own the copyright for either.

"I got this local jam-band, Mighty Pranksters, to do a surf-rock interpretation of the theme. The guitarist Jeff Kerr improvised some solos which which made the recording unique," Johns said.

Again using C++, Johns set out to create a Mac version of the traditional strategy game. Johns said there are plenty of free versions of the game available, but his goal was to create a version with smooth piece movement, a characteristic that many games do not offer. Descender features a two-player battle mode and background artwork that rotates as a player moves

to higher levels.

Johns used Adobe Photoshop to design all of his graphics. As for the programming of the game, Johns was basically on his own. Unlike web site designing where programs like Macromedia's Dreamweaver and Netscape Composer write the actual HTML code that the browser interprets, in designing "Descender" Johns had to write every line of code himself. He estimated that "Descender" contains 8,000 lines of code.

Johns said that he spent a few hundred bucks on his hobby and any profits will go toward new hardware. "I never really intended on doing this full-blown Tetris thing, that's just kind of how it worked out."

Recently Johns assisted some friends in writing an audio hi-jacking program for Macs, which allows the user to record real audio streams in real time and add affects. As for the game programming though, his next challenge will be to create a 3-D adventure game that he would like to cross platform and make it compatible with both Mac and Windows.

"I've definitely got a little niche in a niche computing market share. I hear that if you do something of this nature for Mac and Windows you'll get 10 times the exposure."



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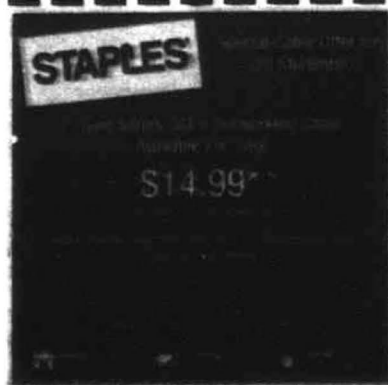
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Thick compilation goes back to work ethic of years past

Colin McAniff
STAFF WRITER

Chicago has been known for its music. From early blues and jazz to the Smashing Pumpkins and beyond, Chicago has a foot-hold on the music scene. Chicago's punk rock scene is no different. Stemming from early stockyards, railways, airports, and the shipping industry, Chicago is notorious for having a blue-collar work ethic.

Billy Spunke, former Blue Meanies singer, and vice president of Thick Records, wanted to bring that work ethic to Chicago's punk scene. "I hoped to draw a parallel between Chicago's industry and the city's underground music, not only on CD, but also by using photos and video images," Spunke said. With that in mind, Spunke set out to get the bands he thought best showed this blue-collar work ethic in their music.

Spunke created a recording studio in an old oil blending factory on Chicago's South Side. Nineteen previously unreleased songs from some of Chicago's hardest working bands, were recorded in 15 days.

Rise Against, with former members of Baxter and 88 Fingers

Louie, is the first track on the compilation. This is not a one of the group's better songs.

Haymarket Riot comes next with "Grand Canyon." This is a band you have to see live to fully appreciate.

Next is Alkaline Trio, which has former members of Tuesday, Slapstick, and Boxcar. The band has moved away from what they used to be about and play. The group hasn't done anything new or better since its album "Goddamnit" in 1998, and this song continues along those lines.

In the cleanup position, Duvall has former members of Smoking Popes and Slapstick. If you liked the Smoking Popes, this song and band are along those lines. This is definitely one of the better songs on the compilation.

The Arrivals, with members formally enrolled here at Eastern, rock through "Pangea." This band is better live than this track leads one to believe.

With "Where are you going, where have you been" the Lawrence Arms, with members in such bands as the Broadways, Tricky Dick, Slapstick, and Baxter, sound decent. This song continues along with songs on the "Apathy

and Exhaustion" album. This album and song has digressed from what made them popular with "Ghost Stories."

The Ghost is next with "They Came to See You." This band has played at Friends, and doesn't really strike a nerve with me. Another below average song on an alleged "great" compilation.

The Owls step up in the number nine spot with "We are the Owls." Yes they are. This Jade Tree band includes Tim Kinsella of Cap 'n Jazz and Joan of Arc fame. The band and song are along the same lines of a laid back Cap 'n Jazz. Think of a less experimental Joan of Arc. Keep trying Tim.

Tom Daily crawls through "Uncool is What You Make It." The song is just that - uncool. This song could have been left off and made the compilation much better.

The Tossers, who have played here, are in the 11 spot with "Teehan's." If you like the Tossers live show or other material, this is along those lines and it's highly recommended.

Plain White T's jam through "Bruises." This is another throw away song. The track is nothing to write home about.

The Detachment Kit screams through "Spycrash," and it's a forgettable song. Which is promptly what I did after listening to it.

The Reputation, with Elizabeth Elmore of Sarge fame, tear through "Some Senseless Day." This is definitely a great song on this compilation. I found myself putting this song on repeat and listening to it four or five times.

Local H climbs into the 15 spot with "Mellowed." This song is very mellow and not too exciting. I never really heard anything positive about these guys and this song helps that case.

Check Engine, with "Mr. Beer" is an interesting song. An interesting rock jazz song with a piercing saxophone. It is a positive song with a catchy beat.

Bitchy, with former Blue Meanies members, rocks through "Motherf**king Saturday." This is a below average song yet again. There seems to be a theme of sub-par songs throughout the compilation.

The Matics rock the listener with "R101." This is a song I found myself nodding my head to. It has a catchy guitar riff and is a good song for this band.



"Old Chicago Punk Refined" Thick Records compilation

Robert Nanna ends the comp with "Lost My Lights" which serves as a happy ending to a below average comp. The drums accompany the acoustic guitar of Nanna's wonderfully.

Sorry Billy Spunke, this so-called blue collar compilation has way too many throw away tracks to even be considered an average compilation. Better luck next time.

The record release show for this compilation will be Feb. 14 at Metro in Chicago.

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Sweep the Leg Johnny's 'Live' not as good as band was in concert

By Ben Turner
VERGE EDITOR

One of the great things about working at a college radio station is getting a chance to hear new music before much of the public.

Then, when a band goes on tour supporting a new album and playing material from it, the college radio DJ knows the new songs, while the rest of the audience is oblivious.

This chain of events came into play this past summer when I saw Sweep the Leg Johnny's final Chicago performance at the Fireside Bowl. A formidable four-band line-up played that night with The Honor System, Haymarket Riot and Lustre King opening up the Friday night show. Without a doubt, it was Sweep the Leg Johnny that blew me away.

Although I was familiar with the band's work prior to this past summer, its final studio release "Going Down Swingin'" was the album that really made me a fan. After listen-

ing to "Going Down Swingin'" practically nonstop and talking about the show on the air, I had to make the trip up to Chicago.

After a powerful set from Lustre King, who reunited for one night to open for their buddies from Sweep, the Chicagoland-based outfit took the stage and played most of "Going Down Swingin'" just as it appears on the album.

Frontman and saxophonist Steve Sostak and guitarist Chris Daly formed Sweep the Leg Johnny with bassist Matt Alicea and drummer Scott Anna in 1996. John Brady took over on bass by the time 1999's "Tomorrow We Will Run Faster" hit the streets. Sweep the Leg Johnny released most of its material on Divot and Southern Records, but the Chicago-based Sickroom Records Limited has kept the Sweep legend alive by releasing Sweep's first live album. Recorded at Bottom of the Hill in San Francisco in September of 2000, the release is actually a double live album with Rumah Sakit contribut-

ing the second half of the material.

Although this release doesn't exactly capture the vibe and power I experienced at the Fireside in July, it is a fitting cherry on top of Sweep's catalog.

Combining elements of jazz, punk, noise and progressive rock, I've always thought describing Sweep as a punk-rock-jam-band was the most complete description. Almost all the band's songs are longer than five minutes and when they perform live, they use improvisation to make their songs even longer and more inventive.

Kicking off its set with "Please Give Me Roses Before I am Dead" Sweep starts out slow and melodic before exploding into experimental instrumentation about a minute-and-a-half into the track.

The next two tracks hail from Sweep's 2000 effort "Sto Cazzo" in the lengthy and guitar-driven "The Fine Wrinkles, We Have All of Them" and "Walking Home on the Emergency Bed," both are

much more captivating than the studio tracks.

"Sometimes My Balls Feel like Tits—part one" is the first track on "Going Down Swingin'" but appears here as a scaled down, shorter version of the 14-minute musical masterpiece. Like many other bands, Sweep must have played some songs live before deciding to record them in the studio.

"The Blizzard of '99" appears on both "Sto Cazzo" and "Swingin,'" but the live-cut is a combination of the two studio versions and may be the origin of Sweep choosing to rerecord the song. "The Blizzard of '99" has always been a favorite of mine because I distinctly remember the Chicago blizzard the song is based on. "Bloodlines" wraps up the live effort.

Sweep's live album does feature some dead spots without banter or solo instrumentation, which are sometimes used to fill in spots on live albums. Although Sweep



"Live Sept. 9, 2000"
Sweep the Leg Johnny

★★

has wrapped up its musical journey, the band's catalog and Sostak and Daly's other punk-rock-jam-band project, Check Engine carries on the instrumental experimentation that Sweep the Leg Johnny created. I highly recommend this live album to anyone who is looking to broaden their musical horizon.

Phish gets rolling again with 'Round Room'

By Casey Cora
STAFF WRITER

After a two-year "hiatus," Phish is back in its role as kings of the jamband circus.

With the recording of a new album and a four-show New Year's run followed by a tour set to begin in February, Phishheads can once again rejoice.

The band's latest effort, "Round Room," should satisfy the appetite of the bands' ever-loyal fan base, with the expected noodling and dreamily sentimental softness Phish is also capable of achieving.

However, common sense leads me to believe the band could have recorded hurried crap and their red-eyed, hungry, neo-hippie fan base would instantly claim it to be Phish's almighty return. Truth be told, the album sounds raw, but that is not entirely a bad thing.

"Round Room" is highlighted by the impressive opener, "Pebbles and Marbles," full of tight, intense ups-and-downs setting the tone for the rest of the record.

The album's title-track provides a playful groove that escalates into a cascading, albeit short, flight into what Phish has always done best—unsuspectingly taking a song into a completely different direction.

The anthemic "Mexican Cousin" is an ode to the art of drinking tequila, and should find a place in the forthcoming tours' set. "46 Days" is standard Phish, laying



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Phish has arguably the most loyal fans in the world, so it will be interesting to see how they react to "Round Room."

"Round Room"
Phish

★★★

down some serious slow, harmony laden blues. "Round Room" features some delicious keyboard work, compliments of Page McConnell.

As all fans know, each one of the songs on "Round Room" has the opportunity to take on a life of its

own when played live, which is really where Phish's entire catalog takes off. While "Round Room" is not likely Phish's best studio recording, it does what it was supposed to — wet their fans' beaks until they get out on the road.

In my opinion, some of the album could use polishing, but I'll give the band the benefit of the doubt because after two years of not playing together and recording this album in just four short days, they haven't lost a step.

Moral Crux doesn't stray far from poly-punk roots

By Kelly McCabe
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

In the world of punk, there seems to be two routes a band can take. The first being lyrics about things like having fun and partying, the route which bands such as The Queers and The Ramones chose. The other would be to take the a more serious and political route, ala The Clash.

Formed in 1983 in Ephrata, Wash., Moral Crux has always featured collective attitudes geared toward the faults in society and the world of politics. Although playing many shows in SoCal, a hotbed for punk, Moral Crux never quite caught on, but they still managed to get signed to punk rock powerhouse Lookout! Records. Lookout! is the label that bands such as The Donnas and Green Day used as their launching-pad to musical stardom.

Moral Crux is back with its fifth full-length album "Pop Culture Assassins," released on Panic Button, a division of Lookout!. With James Farris at the mic, Jeff Jenkins on guitar, Justin Warren on bass, and Johnny Machine behind the drumkit, the band essentially attempts to do what the title suggests — assassinate pop culture. The members take shots at TV talk shows, fashion and popular music among other things. The track "Disaffected" discusses how socie-



"Pop Culture Assassins"
Moral Crux

★★

ty greatly influences what to eat, listen to and watch. From the political aspect, the band analyzes war on the track "New War Generation," which makes a plea for equality.

The group is very melodic and has a polished sound, which can be deceiving considering the heaviness of the topics they sing about. Although Moral Crux sounds comparable to the likes of Screaming Weasel and The Queers, the ideas expressed in their songs keep them from being categorized with those bands. Although not highly original, this album is worth listening to, not because of their musical talents, but to see their perspectives on different issues.

Chicago's Biosound Records is an up-and-coming label to watch

This is your man Notorious T.I.M. bringing you the news on new up-and-coming independent record label Biosound.

Biosound Records Corporation was founded in February of 1998 by a teenage Philip Earl. Then 16, Earl was sure he wanted to go into the music business, however, as an artist, not an executive.

Earl and his fellow musician Nastics were relentless in their pursuit for any local labels to sign them as prospective talent. Nonetheless, all attempts were thwarted without reason. After encountering numerous executives employing business practices he did not agree with, Earl decided to take matters into his own hands, and Biosound was born.

Before officially incorporating as a record label, Earl read multiple books about the music business and studio engineering. He invested all of his income from a summer job to purchase equipment, and considered many names and logos before settling on Biosound.

Now, Biosound Records is opening its first commercial studio this February and it has two of Chicago's most ener-



Tim Edwards
STAFF WRITER

getic talents, Nastics and Binks.

Nastics began his entertainment career in film, starring in the film "The Prodigy." From there, Nastics has appeared in a number of commercials, including spots for Pepsi and Truth.

In 2001, Nastics showcased his talent and love for the music industry, by releasing his self-produced hip-hop album "Rebirth." Thanks to the success of his album, Nastics has received praise in the Midwest for being a skilled and versatile hip-hop artist and producer.

Binks began his music career in 1998, writing poetry and winning contests with his work. Binks slowly began to convert his poetry to music and broke into the world of hip-hop. Meanwhile, Binks did not let go of his poetry and Binks created a hip-hop style all his own while maintaining a great love for his poetry.

The duo of Nastics and Binks has performed in front of an Eastern crowd on a few occasions. They took first in the Student Government sponsored Spoken Word and they also were the hosts of the Black Student Union's spring fashion show.

Together, Nastics and Binks create magic on stage and miracles in the studio. When they combine their talents they give breath to a fresh new genre, call it "Hip-HoPoetry." There is no other cutting edge style of art as Hip-HoPoetry, which places Nastics and Binks in a league of their own. Nastics and Binks combined is more than hip-hop or poetry, they are true entertainment.

Nastics and Binks' new single "Bounce" can be heard on Outlaw Radio on WEIU FM 88.9.

CONCERT CALENDAR

Friday
◆ Allister,
August Premier
Friends & Co.
10 p.m. \$3

Saturday
◆ The Idle
Hours
The Uptowner
10 p.m. \$2

◆ The Butcher's
Legs,
Motherlode and
Victoria Woolen-
Danner
Friends & Co.
9 p.m. \$3

◆ Ryan Navel
Jackson Avenue
Coffee
8 p.m. No cover

◆ Alias Jane
Ranch House
Ashmore
9 p.m. No cover

Sunday
◆ Ryan Groff
Acoustic night
at The Uptowner
8 p.m. No cover

Thursday
◆ Demolition
Dollrods
Friends & Co.
10 p.m. \$2

Upcoming shows
◆ Chris
Robison and
The New Earth
Mud
Feb. 15
Canopy Club
Urbana

◆ Buckwheat
Zydeco
Feb. 15
The Highdive
Champaign

◆ Ja Rule, Eve
Feb. 15
SIU Arena
Carbondale

◆ 56 Hope Road
Feb. 15
The Uptowner

◆ The Queers,
Teen Idols
Feb. 23
The Fireside
Bowl
Chicago

◆ Candy
Snatchers,
Eddie and the
Losers, LoFreq
Feb. 23
Friends & Co.

◆ The Chieftains
Feb. 24
Orchestra Hall at
Symphony
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◆ Hey
Mercedes, Panic
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March 2
Metro
Chicago

◆ The Rev.
Horton Heat
March 4
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Tickets on sale
Saturday

◆ O.A.R.
March 18
Canopy Club
Urbana

◆ J. Davis Tito
March 29
Friends & Co.