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Eastern Illinois University

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White Wash

The Panther women's swim team won its first Midwest Classic Championship in more than 10 years.

Page 12 SPORTS

Defense: Mertz had alibi

♦ *Ex-girlfriend testified Mertz was home at time of Warner murder, fire*

By Avian Carrasquillo and Jamie Hussey
STAFF WRITERS

Defense attorneys Friday continued to paint a picture of a troubled home life of Anthony B. Mertz in his sentencing hearings.

On the fifth day of testimony, the defense also attempted to establish an alibi for Mertz during the time in which Charleston resident Amy Warner was murdered in June 1999.

Mertz's former girlfriend, his high school football coach, his adviser at Eastern and fellow marine also testified.

Mertz was found guilty of the murder of Shannon McNamara Feb. 12. He also was found guilty of aggravated criminal sexual assault and home invasion.

In an attempt to establish Mertz had a troubled upbringing, the defense called his step-grandmother Darlene Edwards to the stand.

Edwards said Mertz's father Alan was absent, and his mother Susan did not act as a fit mother.

"Whenever Anthony would cry, Susan would just scream at him instead of picking him up," Edwards said.

Edwards said Mertz's mother had a drinking problem, and she remembered an instance when Susan was carrying Christina, Mertz's older sister upside down and didn't realize why the child was crying. She said the house was always messy, filled with scattered bugs and dirty diapers. Edwards said she would constantly have to step in and bathe the children because of the unclean environment.

Tara Hofer, Mertz's girlfriend at the time of Warner's murder, testified she was with Mertz both at the time of Warner's murder and the night an apartment complex was burned down on Fourth Street in February 2000. Earlier prosecution witnesses said Mertz had admitted to committing both crimes.

Hofer said she is a light sleeper and would have heard on both occasions if Mertz had left. In past testimony, Hofer has said Mertz had not come to bed before 2 a.m. either night.

SEE MERTZ ♦ Page 7

Beard crowned Miss Black EIU



REBECCA HUTCHISON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Angela Beard, freshman communications disorders and sciences major, poses for the crowd after winning the 2003 Miss Black EIU pageant on Saturday evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

By Jennifer Chiariello
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Angela Christine Beard, a freshman communication disorders and sciences major from Phoenix, was the winner Saturday of the Miss Black EIU 2003 pageant.

"I was surprised. I was overwhelmed with joy. It was mostly disbelief because I won in all four categories. I was in shock," Beard said.

This year's pageant marked the end of the reign of Kia Che'Vaughn Gowder, a senior psychology major.

The title of the Miss Black EIU pageant 2003 was "Do you remember me, the black woman?" The purpose of the theme is to remember and honor all women, not just black women, Gowder said. However, the focus was primarily on black women and their struggle, from African queens to present.

Contestants for the title of Miss Black EIU 2003 included Ashayla Scott, a sophomore management major from Peoria; Kaylin Gordon, a freshman speech communication major from Calumet Park, and Beard.

The contestants were judged according to creative expression, talent, African garment and evening gown competitions, as well as their response to an impromptu question.

"I thought it was a great experience," Gordon said. "It was different. It helped me get over stage fright. It's a lot of work; you have to be committed, but overall it was good."

Contestants competed for scholarships, prizes and special awards, in addition to special recognition awards for Miss Congeniality, Miss Togetherness, Miss Enterprise, Miss Ebony and Miss Scholarship.

The Miss Ebony award was given to Gordon, the Miss Scholarship and Miss Enterprise awards were given to Scott and Miss Congeniality and Miss Togetherness were awarded to Beard.

"It's a lot of hard work, but it's a lot of fun. It's worth it and I encourage any women to participate in it if they have the opportunity," Scott said.

The contestants were given

SEE CROWNED ♦ Page 7

Contest essays due Wednesday, prizes will be awarded

The deadline for *The Daily Eastern News'* African-American Heritage Celebration 2003 essay contest is Wednesday.

Interested students should submit an essay that correlates with the theme "The Ties that Bind: Culture and Heritage."

Essays should be between 500 and 600 words and are due by 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in Buzzard Hall Room 1811. Submissions also can be e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu.

Three faculty members from separate departments will judge the entries, and the top three essays will be published in *The Daily Eastern News* on March 4.

Prizes, including free movie rentals and food certificates, also will be awarded.

National tragedies make bar owner think

By Caitlin Prendergast
SENIOR REPORTER

Although the weekend went without incident, at least one area bar owner will re-evaluate the safety of his facility in the wake of last week's two similar nightclub tragedies in Chicago and Rhode Island.

Mike Knoop, owner of Roc's Blackfront and Top of the Roc club, said the hundreds of lives lost in recent disasters did not have an impact on Charleston's bar scene.

Last Monday, 21 patrons of Chicago's E-2 nightclub were killed in a stampede when someone used pepper spray to stop a fight.

As the nation mourned the Chicago deaths, 96 people died in at a Rhode Island nightclub Thursday night after a pyrotechnics display set fire to the building, burning it to the ground.

Although attendance was typical at Roc's this weekend, Knoop said it is impossible for a club owner to not take last week's events into consid-

eration.

"It's a coincidence that it happened twice in one week, but (the events) should make every club owner think about their facility," he said. "If something like that happened, how would you live with yourself?"

Attendance at Mac's Uptowner, another popular bar on the Square, also was steady, said bartender/manager Scott Stewart.

Stewart said he didn't notice a difference in the weekend crowd, and the Uptowner staff will continue to do the same things to keep the bar safe.

"We always keep our eyes open," Stewart said.

Roc's management will make sure everything is checked and rechecked as far as safety is concerned to avoid anything that might lead to a fatal situation, Knoop said.

"We'll keep maintaining the facility and make sure all of our bases are covered," he said. "Nobody wants anyone to die."



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Bars in the Charleston area did not feel an impact after the recent accidents at night clubs in Chicago and Rhode Island that have claimed the lives of 117 people.



Council plans for cuts

By Brad Tammaro
STAFF WRITER

The Council on University Planning and Budget Friday discussed a plan to deal with a possible 5 to 10 percent budget cut.

The CUPB will divide into four groups to analyze the university's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The analysis will initiate a renewal of the university's financial planning.

"Before we go forward, we need to know where we are now," interim President Lou Hencken said.

A final budget planning document will be completed for the CUPB meeting in May. The council, along with other university committees and councils, will influence what goes in to the final draft.

The end result will be a formal plan to prepare the university for the state of Illinois' budget. The planning is considered an action plan to allow Eastern to respond more quickly to requests, especially from state legislators.

The CUPB also heard a report from Eastern's Legislative Action Team. The team lobbied in Springfield last Wednesday.

Hencken, along with several other state university presidents,

also was present in Springfield. He said every school in the state wants something from Springfield.

"I was very proud of our representation," Hencken said. "It was impossible to miss us." Hencken also gave a report on four state congressional bills progressing through Springfield. The bills deal with income funds, line-item budgeting, capping tuition and fixed tuition.

The fixed tuition bill is moving rapidly through Springfield, Hencken said. The bill sets tuition for an incoming freshmen so the tuition will remain the same throughout the student's college career.

A set budget for the university will be needed if the line-item budgeting bill is passed. In years past, the university has had a 2-percent margin to move parts of the budget around.

The other two bills deal with the return of the university's income to Springfield and the capping of tuition for incoming students.

"If you cut tuition, it cuts academic quality," Hencken said.

The bills have all been introduced but are not guaranteed to pass, with the possibility of being amended or completely rejected.

Unity Week events will promote diversity

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Student Senate will promote diversity next month through Unity Week, an initiative designed to positively spread the word about the differences on campus.

The week-long celebration will replace campus life night, and will offer a wide array of events.

Lisa Flam, student vice president for student affairs, has been working to coordinate the event.

"We didn't really see a lot of events with impact promoting diversity," Flam said. "I was big on diversity on my platform. With Unity Week, we wanted to try something new."

Unity Week will begin on March 24 with a student panel.

"We're hoping that with the student panel, we can agree that there is room for improvement in

terms of diversity on Eastern's campus," Flam said.

Details are still being worked out for the motivational speaker scheduled for Tuesday night.

Wednesday will feature a slam poetry competition and spoken word open mic, which also will have student talent acts, refreshments and prizes.

Thursday night will feature a step show by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, along with Street Smarts.

"The idea for Street Smarts came from the game show, and will have student contestants picked out of the audience. The contestants will then decide what students would have knowledge on a particular subject," Flam said.

On Friday, Unity Week will conclude with a comedian.

"I encourage people to get out of their comfort zone and experience something new," Flam said.



REBECCA HUTCHISON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Comedian Jay Phillips entertains the crowd in the University Ballroom of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union Friday night. Phillips' act was part of the African-American Heritage Celebration.

Comedian jokes about hip-hop

By Dustin White
STAFF WRITER

Many Eastern students spent Friday evening being entertained by comedian Jay Phillips.

Phillips, booked as part of Eastern's African-American Heritage Celebration, is currently on a 50-stop college tour promoting an upcoming comedy DVD titled "Black em Out."

Phillips will appear on the DVD, which is hosted by well-known comedian Tommy Davidson and also contains a guest appearance by superstar Chris Rock. Phillips has been touring U.S. campuses since January and will continue through May.

Phillips' set hit on an assortment of topics: television game shows, sex, his native Baltimore/Washington D.C. area, Forrest Gump and even his 10-year-old son. The main focus of his show, however, was discussing and poking fun at the world of hip-hop music.

"Hip hop is really important to me; it's what I'm really into," Phillips said after the show.

Most of Phillips' best-received jokes stemmed from his interest in hip hop.

"You're all looking at me like you just saw R. Kelly going back to the prom!" he said at one point, getting his loudest laughs of the night.

He also talked about the way some performers talk and sound, declaring that "Busta Rhymes

must have Tourette's or something," and mimicking some of the noises rapper DMX makes in his songs.

Afterward, Phillips seemed pleased with the performance, although not so much with the acoustics of the ballroom.

"I think it was a good show," he said. "I had fun, and the people who could hear me had a good time. That's all that really matters to me."

The talkative crowd of approximately 250 seemed to have fun throughout the half-hour set, and Phillips used a fast pace to avoid letting them slip into a lull.

Phillips, who has made a number of TV appearances including BET's Comicview and Showtime at the Apollo, said he enjoys performing for smaller crowds like this one over his televised events.

"The TV shows are important, but I like this a lot more," Phillips said.

After the show, students had good things to say about the performance.

"I really like the show; it was fun and I had a good time," said Dannette Deters, a freshman English major.

Laura Hankins, a freshman Psychology major, also enjoyed herself.

"He was funny, and it was a really good show," she said.

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Accident Saturday on Interstate 57 kills one, injures six

◆ *Four people involved were traveling southbound to visit friends at Eastern*
By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

One person was killed and six injured in an accident that occurred Saturday morning while four people were traveling to Eastern.

What originally was meant to be a visit to Eastern turned tragic in a three-car accident near Manhattan-Monee on Interstate 57.

Paladin Jordan, master sergeant of Illinois State Police's Joliet district, said the accident is still under investigation.

Vilin Patel, 19, of Steger, was killed, and his three passengers, Nicholas Tatgenhorst, 19; Luis DeLeon, 19 and Bryan Jinks, 18, were injured.

Patel's car, which was traveling southbound on I-57 toward Eastern, was struck after two cars collided in the northbound lane.

Scott Stephens, 21, of Chicago Heights, was driving northbound with two passengers, Amanda

Crescenti, 21, and Stephen Crescenti, 17. Stephens' car was struck by a third car.

Robert Hall, 19, of Posen, also was driving northbound with one passenger, Michelle Donaldson, 14, of Clifton.

Accident reports said Hall's car struck Stephens' vehicle in the northbound lane. Jordan said the collision sent Hall's vehicle through the median and into the southbound lane where it struck Patel's vehicle head-on.

"There were actually two crashes," Jordan said. "The first crash

was between Hall and Stephens, which led Hall's car out of control and over the median where it struck Patel's car."

Hall was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs and improper lane usage.

"Investigation will continue and there could be more charges later," Jordan said.

Donaldson and Tatgenhorst were released from the South Suburban Hospital emergency room in Chicago Heights Saturday. Hall and DeLeon are being treated at Olympia Fields Osteopathic Health

"Investigation will continue and there could be more charges later."

—Paladin Jordan

Center and Stephens was sent to St. James Hospital in Olympia Fields.

Jinks has been transferred to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago for further treatment.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Bill Snider, tank wagon driver for Lanman Oil Company of Charleston, fills the fuel tanks at a local service station Thursday afternoon.

Uncertainty in raising gas prices

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

In addition to corporate supply and demand combined with local competition, times of uncertainty and regional factors all determine the price of gasoline.

Gas prices reflect the wholesale price set by stock market competitive prices combined with local market sales. The fuel cost and stock market control the supplier for wholesale cost and then the local market has a small effect on overall prices.

Wholesale prices typically rise during times of uncertainty. This sets the base price for gas suppliers everywhere, Jim Dunn, owner of the Charleston British Petroleum, station said.

"As we continue nearing the war issue, I say we'll see a spike in prices of everything from gas to groceries," Dunn said. He also said as certainty among the public increases, the prices will begin to decrease.

Dunn compared the recent price spike to the response of the

Sept. 11 tragedy.

"Everyone was uncertain, so prices went up, but prices settled with certainty," he said.

Regional factors also may adjust prices. Dunn said a fire destroyed an Amoco Refinery in the Chicago area recently, which caused prices to rise by a few cents per gallon.

Mike Sportzum, manager of the Mattoon Citgo, said the only way prices would vary greatly regionally or by state would be state sales tax.

He said Indiana used to have considerably lower gas prices until sales tax increased there.

"Now, prices are about the same," Sportzum said.

Local competition has a small effect on the cost of gas. Today's wholesale cost leaves a 4-cent to 8-cent competitive margin locally.

"The wholesale price is \$1.59 per gallon and we are charging \$1.66 right now, so we have a 7-cent margin," Dunn said.

The few cents added to each gallon varies competitively depending on how much over wholesale

price each store is charging. They all work to match each other and appeal to customers.

"What we do is, everyday, we actually drive around and survey everyone else," Sportzum said.

Sportzum then uses other stores' prices to set the cost above wholesale.

"Our station will typically try to match the lowest gas price in the county, if not lower," Sportzum said. Individual stations are not notified long in advance when prices will increase.

"We don't know a week ahead or even a day ahead usually," Sportzum said. "It is usually pretty last minute." When prices are up, customers still continue purchasing gas. Sportzum said even when there was a drastic increase, sales did not take an incredible fall.

"People watch a little closer to how much they use," he said.

People rely on gas to get them to work or school, Dunn said. So although consumers carefully avoid waste, people still always need gas.

Eastern, Southern contracts similar

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

State universities have already seen one faculty contract ratified, and the agreement terms at that school are similar to Eastern's tentative agreement, which could be ratified as early as Monday.

The Board of Trustees at Southern Illinois University Carbondale ratified the new faculty contract Feb. 14.

Members of Eastern's University Professionals of Illinois chapter have until Monday to turn in their mail-ballots to reject or ratify the contract.

Compensation terms are the same for both schools, depending on state funds.

Neither school offered faculty raises for this fiscal year in the four-year contracts.

However, in the second, third and fourth years of the contracts, 2, 2.5 and 3 percent increases will be offered. The amounts are in addition to state appropriations.

At Eastern, a one-time bonus equal to a 1.5 percent salary increase will be offered if there is no state rescission by mid-May, according to the university's tentative agreement. The bonus will be equal to 1 percent if the rescission is less than \$500,000. At Southern, "salary distribution will be based on 50 percent merit, 35 percent across-the-board and 15 percent equity," according to the school newspaper, *The Daily Egyptian*.

Job security is an issue at both schools. Southern's administration has said faculty will not be laid off in the future, in exchange for no strike.

The faculty was originally set to strike Feb. 3, but the walk-out was postponed to review a recent proposal from the university's Board of Trustees.

Review of tenured faculty by department chairs was an issue during Eastern's negotiations, but not one that made it into the tentative proposal.

The proposed evaluation would have been in addition to the encour-

aged annual review faculty submit summarizing their work.

The UPI was against any additional review that could be perceived as a threat, especially since tenure "guarantees faculty members complete freedom in pursuit of ideas," UPI chief negotiator Charles Delman previously said.

However, the agreement cites provisions for probational faculty to "restore the third-year evaluation as required instead of optional."

The probational faculty are tenure-track and the review will demonstrate progress in research and teaching and service, Bob Wayland, director of employee and labor relations has said.

At Southern, faculty workloads are dependent on 24 credit hours per academic year, with assignment decisions on a departmental basis. Workload for full-time faculty at Eastern will remain at 18 to 24 credit units. Unit B or non-tenured faculty can be considered part-time during a semester of teaching six credit units as long as they are teaching 18 or more credit units during an academic year workload, according to the agreement.

Administration still maintain the ability to assign distance education courses to qualified faculty.

Wayland has called that a management right. Southern's agreement, ratified by faculty with a vote of 202 to 73, also covers issues such as the student/faculty ratio and union fees.

Eastern's proposed agreement also gives language to intellectual property rights, more merit awards, sabbatical information and benefits, among other issues.

Southern faculty are represented by the Illinois Education Association/National Education Association. However, six other state universities are represented by the UPI and involved in contract negotiations. Several schools have called for federal mediation, including Chicago State University, Governors State University and University of Illinois Springfield.


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African-American Heritage Celebration 2003 Essay Contest

Interested students should submit an essay that correlates with the theme "The Ties that Bind: Culture and Heritage"

Essays should be between 500 - 600 words and are due by 3 p.m. Feb 25 in Buzzard Hall Room 1811.

The contest is sponsored by:
If you would like to become a sponsor call Steve at 581-2816





THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Delay postpones hassles

The delayed closure of Seventh Street isn't all bad.

Unlike other construction delays which have been as much a fixture on campus as Old Main's castle, this delay will provide short-term benefits for students. Many of the inconveniences of a street closing will be postponed, and students luckily will still have access to Seventh Street for the time being.

The delayed closure of the street occurred because of a stalled plumbing contract negotiations. The street may not close as late as April. The street was originally scheduled to close January.

The delays show construction business as usual on campus.

Students can still expect the extraordinary (wait?) as the sign outside Doudna Fine Arts Center proclaims, but now they won't have to battle the hassle of trekking around a closed Seventh Street.

As a whole, construction hassles many — but it must be done.

But maybe students can take some solace in not having to endure a few more hundred feet of fencing and flashing, blinking lights.

Of course, construction shouldn't be halted to keep students from inconvenience. If that were the case, Eastern would consist of Old Main and Pemberton Hall.

Maybe some of the jokes about attending Construction Zone University will stop for a while now that the Seventh Street closure is delayed.

But how funny will it be when several years later from now many fine arts students are toiling and learning in distant Art Park West and the Village Theater. Delays, no matter what the circumstance are unacceptable.

Students should enjoy the convenience of an open Seventh Street but at the same time shouldn't be lulled into complacency and accept delays as the norm.

It would almost seem as if construction crews think expecting timeliness and the extraordinary for on campus projects is like trying to have a cake and eat it too.

While students may lick their chops at an open Seventh Street they'll have good reason for sourness when Doudna Fine Arts Center delays ensue.

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

OPINION

Why I shouldn't live in Chicago



Karen Kirr
 Editorial page editor and bi-weekly columnist for The Daily Eastern News

Kirr also is a junior journalism major.

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

As I blissfully soaked in the sights and scents of Chicago this past weekend, I couldn't help but daydream about how I so desired to one day make the windy city my permanent residence. It's a place where the melting pot of cultures and the picturesque Lake Michigan have always put me at ease.

With its monstrous skyscrapers and its glitzy nightlife, Chicago, ever since I attended my first Cubs game at Wrigley Field when I was 9 years old, is a habitat that has been simply mesmerizing to me in a surreal way.

Although plenty of downsides exist when it comes to city living, including highway robbery prices that can easily deplete one's budget in a startlingly rapid fashion. I mean, is anyone up for paying \$35 for a measly bottle of rum? Or perhaps a \$3 20 oz. bottle of Coke? I think not.

Despite the array of downsides, the allure of the city has always seem to outshine any negative experiences or circumstances that come with city living.

However, the daunting hurdles

"When it comes to getting lost, I panic, and that's quite a problem."

of city life that get butterflies churning in my stomach are the navigational challenges Chicago presents.

Granted, I'm quite inept when it merely comes to navigating within suburbia. Somehow though, I don't think I'd be able to muster as much courage to ask for directions from residents in the city as opposed to the suburbs.

It's not so much that I have this profound fear of asking for directions as much as it's an etiquette issue to me.

I might not mind being bothersome on a rare occasion by asking some clean-cut businessman where a certain landmark was located, but knowing myself, the city landscape would not become any more familiar to me even if I lived in the heart of downtown for a year. Therefore, I would proba-

bly run into the same predicament on a regular basis and continuously feel guilty for asking grizzled civilians where Michigan Avenue was in proximity to Lakeshore Drive.

Sure a map would help to a certain extent, but I have no ambition whatsoever to carry a map around in a city where I spend a good portion of time when I'm not at Eastern; it would be quite embarrassing to say the least.

Places such as the various grease pits scattered throughout Chicago have often served as my lone tools in finding my way around.

There comes a point, in my own experience in pacing the city sidewalks, when every city street corner seemingly mirrors the next and having a keen sense of direction might just mean the difference in whether one can handle city life for a substantial chunk of time.

When it comes to getting lost, I panic, and that's quite a problem.

Perhaps I should forego my aspiration of staking out permanently in Chicago and stick to mundane suburban living.

Cartoon by Rita Reinhardt



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter on Bush displayed ignorance

I would like to say the flowery language used by Michael Strange in his letter to the editor printed Feb. 13 did not hide his ignorance as well as he might have hoped.

I was just wondering if Mr. Strange knew most people quit name-calling (King George Bush II) in about second grade. First of all, Saddam has killed more people (Kurds) with chemical weapons (VX and Seran gases) than were killed on all of Sept. 11.

Furthermore, every baby born in these regions that have been "gassed," are born with deformities, mental retardation, or both. So if Mr. Strange thinks the deaths of thousands of people, and the horrible disfigurement of children is "taking Saddam's dehumanization to surreal proportions" then I would hate to see what he would call reality. I do want to say he is right about one thing, and that is, it will be unfortunate if Iraqi citizens are harmed by an American strike. However, I think the Kurds will tell people it would be a small sacri-

fice after watching more than 6,000 of their men, women and children being brutally murdered by Saddam. Maybe Mr. Strange would like to ask the families of the victims of Sept. 11 what they think? The point is Saddam does have weapons of mass destruction, and he has shown his willingness to use them, and to sell them to the highest bidder. But maybe Mr. Strange is right; maybe we should appease Saddam. Didn't that work in the days before World War II, when Hitler invaded Poland, the world said, "Go ahead and take Poland, we want to avoid war?" This is a different kind of invasion; an invasion that will cause innocent American civilians to lose their lives. God Bless America.

Zach Monroe
 Junior computer information systems major

No winners when it comes to war

Who wins at war? We assume it must be the one

who conquers the other. But, the only reason we think that is because the history is written by the winners, and they want to be able to start more wars.

Do any countries win? No, they all suffer all kinds of damage and a horrible wasting of resources. Do any of the people win? No, while losing resources and friendships die, the survivors are scarred physically and emotionally. What they gain most is hatred and fear. The winners are industry and government. Industry's few, select, privileged moguls are the only ones who really make money from war, at the expense of the people who actually are made to fight. They sell their machines of war, paid for not by the government, but by those who remain at home and those who die wasting those resources to kill others.

And not just on the winner's side. The equivalent moguls on the other side do not suffer either.

Government kills their own as well as others and to gain what? Power and bragging rights at the expense of those should be shielding. Instead of nurturing and supporting the very people that make it possible, government kills and denies them for what? Freedom, while taking it away at home? What is the use of a pride that causes death and destruction at home as well as away? War is only for a very few to make even more money and at the expense of everyone else. The observation is not overly simplistic; it's just the actual core purpose for war.

Bryan Miller
 Associate professor for biological sciences

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STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Rockin’ roll dorm style

Matt Crain, vocalist and guitarist of My Best Friend’s Band, sings a song while lead guitarist Keith Kristinat plays in the background on Saturday night in the lobby of Taylor Hall.

Convenience center unveiling today

◆ The long-awaited South Quad center will provide students goodies in exchange for Dining Dollars

By Tim Martin
CAMPUS EDITOR

The Marketplace at Thomas Hall will open Monday with projections to double business at the Carman marketplace, Danita Timmons, director of Thomas Hall Dining Center, said.

The convenient spot of the Thomas location – closely surrounded by three other South Quad residence halls – compared with the seclusion of Carman, is the main reason for the higher expectations.

“I want it to be huge, but until the doors open, that will remain to be seen,” Timmons said.

Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining, previously said, “By its physical location, I can’t imagine it not being (more popular than Carman).”

The Thomas hours are 8 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday.

Timmons hired 10 new employees to run a convenience center offering a number of grab-and-go items to students.

Racks of Pop Tarts, microwave popcorn and doughnuts, among other snack items, are on the north wall.

Three refrigerators containing Pepsi products, fruit juices and milk products are on the east wall.

And cases of 12-packs of pop and freezers of ice cream goods are on the south wall.

The two marketplaces will have similar items, but Hudson said the Carman location was built in an area that used to serve food and had a lot of stainless steel.

“I think the Thomas location will have a little more ‘convenience center feel’ because we remodeled it, instead of just revising it like the one in

“Whenever you get a project where you remodel, you can suffer some setbacks.”

—Mark Hudson

Carman,” Hudson said. “But students shouldn’t notice a big difference between the two.”

The food was shipped and stocked last week, Hudson said, and although Thomas is fully-stocked it is not 100 percent complete.

Timmons said Thomas is waiting on a freezer to be shipped, and Hudson said a door piece that has been missing still has not been received.

“We have had a big struggle with door assembly,” Hudson said.

The aforementioned piece is needed for the automatic door opener, but Hudson and Timmons assured the door was still accessible.

The Thomas location has two doors, on its north and east sides, but the north, outside entrance will be the only one accessible for non-employees.

The setbacks were not great enough to further delay the opening. The store was originally scheduled to open in the fall 2002, but did not because of the relocation of the fine arts departments.

“Whenever you get a project where you remodel, you can suffer some setbacks,” Hudson said. “A great deal of university resources, in terms of money and labor, were spent on the relocation of the Fine Arts department – and that was the appropriate decision.”

Nevertheless, Timmons is excited for the Thomas location to open, although the grand opening will not occur for a few weeks.

“On Day 1, we will have a soft opening where we can make sure everything is working,” she said.

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Plethora of apartments available

◆ *More apartments and the wide variety give students more decision time*

By Amber Jenne
STAFF WRITER

Although students may harass apartment owners for next year's leases in the spring semester, availability is still an option during summer months, owners from various Charleston apartments said.

Students commonly sign leases in January when leases for the following fall semester become available, but students can wait longer.

"In the past, if students waited to find an apartment, what (selection) they had to choose from was horrible," Jim Wood, owner of Wood Rentals on 1512 A St said. "Because of more housing units being built, students don't have to scramble around like they used to. They now have a wide variety and can take the time to shop around."

Wood said there is no deadline to apply for his apartments until all of them are filled.

Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining, said Wood may have a point, but suggests students not take such a laid-back approach.

"Although this is true, the sooner a student starts his search and schedules an appointment, the better the results will be," he said.

He said the University Court apartments, at southeast of Andrews Hall, are located on such popular property they have no problem filling up.

Currently, 91 of 141 apartments are still available. The University Court office has 25 appointments scheduled for prospective leasers this week, and the number meets the trend

set since the beginning of the semester.

Hudson said the apartments, which consist of 10 different buildings with two buildings designated to sophomores-only, will be filled in two to three weeks.

Each University Court lease lasts the school year from Aug. 10 to May 10.

Wood said his complex is comprised of mainly two-bedroom apartments, but a few have three or four bedrooms. His 10 to 12 month leases are not completely filled.

For Wood, this year hasn't been as busy as in past years, but since enrollment is up at Eastern, he does not see the slowness as a problem.

Todd Foster — an owner of one of the Woods Apartment-owned Britney Ridge townhouses located on 950 Edgar Drive, said students who typically live there are sophomores who are trying to get out of the dorms.

Because this is his first year as an owner in Britney Ridge, Foster is unaware how comparatively busy business is from last year, but he has noticed students commonly room with people from their high schools, home-town or dorm roommates.

"They seem to be more comfortable sharing a room with people they know," he said. "And I will do whatever I can to custom-fit their needs to them."

Some students have completed their search for an apartment already.

Brad Marlow, a sophomore business management major at Olney Central College, will transfer to Eastern next semester and plans to live in a Bell Red Door apartment located on Fourth Street.

After beginning his search in October 2002, Marlow found his

ideal apartment three weeks later and it was \$150 cheaper than his first choice.

Marlow signed an 11 month lease in mid-November.

"We found out we could get the apartment we wanted, and the owner said she dropped the rent from \$250 to \$200 a piece," he said. "We signed the lease then because we didn't want to lose out on a good deal and take a chance of getting a worse one."

New apartment leasers, like Marlow, must begin earlier than those who already have a lease.

Teresa Nichols of Old Town Management on Sixth Street, said current students living in the apartments are given first choice if they plan to return the following year.

"Students may begin looking for their second apartment shortly after choosing their first," Nichols said. "And a lot of them even show up before Christmas break."

Heather Witmer, a part owner of the Red Door apartments, said new students typically sign leases before the end of spring semester, and some even complete the process in the summer.

Witmer said if students have no preference regarding a certain apartment building or floor, they shouldn't worry about waiting and looking later than the norm.

Marlow agrees students should get started as soon as possible.

"If students want a wide selection of choices...now would be the time to start," he said. "Although there is still plenty of time, they should avoid getting in a situation where they will have to take what they can get."



REBECCA HUTCHISON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lounging in luxury

Jill Gates, junior secondary education major; Becki Kreiling, junior education major; Laura Raddatz, junior computer information systems major; Amanda King, senior marketing major; and Anita Fischer, junior special education major, have their picture taken with big props as part of the African-American Heritage Celebration on Friday evening.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plaques for each special recognition award and Beard received a trophy in all three categories of the pageant.

Some prizes given to contestants throughout the pageant included gift certificates, jewelry, bed sets, a TV and DVD player.

The opening number of the pageant included a dance and formal introduction of the contestants to the crowd and judges. Each contestant represented a different characteristic of a woman: strength, wisdom and courage, Gowder said.

In the creative expression category, contestants were given the opportunity to speak on an issue of great importance to them and express that issue in a creative manner, Gowder said.

Scott spoke about AIDS, Gordon spoke on being a slave to fashion and Beard spoke on alcoholism and dealing with drinking and driving.

The second category of the pageant was the African garment section, Gowder said. The essay written by each contestant telling what African American heritage meant to them was read as each contestant modeled an African garment of their choice.

The talent portion was the third category of the pageant. Gowder said two contestants displayed dance as their talent and one contestant sang.

During the final category of the pageant contestants modeled an evening gown and answered an impromptu question, Gowder said.

The duties of Miss Black EIU include participating in campus functions and she is obligated to speak at organization's functions when asked if her schedule permits, Gowder said. Also, in events of the Black

"I'm a freshman, and I thought it was going to be so hard to be in the pageant, but it was all worth it."

—Anglea Beard

Student Union holds, she is responsible for making an appearance or helping out in any way possible. She should also be involved in the community.

It is not mandatory, but a goal of Miss Black EIU is to put together an event she would like to sponsor. This year Jonathan Pettis, the winner of the "Essence of a Man" pageant, the equivalent of a Miss Black EIU pageant, will be her counterpart in sponsoring an event and both will reign together and be positive role models on campus.

Miss Black EIU also will be responsible for planning next year's Miss Black EIU pageant.

"I would like to become more involved with the campus and one of the responsibilities as Miss Black EIU is to coordinate the pageant for the following year and when I first entered the pageant I was not sure of that responsibility. I'm a freshman and I thought it was going to be so hard to be in the pageant but it was all worth it," Beard said.

"I want to do some community service, I want to use the title as an advantage to represent Eastern's African American women. I would like to let the campus know anyone could achieve a goal if they put their mind to it and if it's something they really want to do, don't let anyone talk them out of it," Beard said.

Iraq withholds ruling on U.N. missile ban

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq has withheld a decision on a U.N. order to start destroying its Al Samoud 2 missile program by the end of the week, but said Sunday it is "serious about solving this."

Iraq's chief liaison to U.N. weapons inspectors insisted Baghdad is "clean" of weapons of mass destruction and that there should be no new U.N. resolution on disarming Saddam Hussein, as the United States is demanding.

At a packed news conference in Baghdad's Information Ministry on Sunday night, Lt. Gen. Hossam Mohamed Amin gave Iraq's first official comment on a Friday order by chief weapons inspector Hans Blix that it must dismantle its Al Samoud 2 missile program.

Iraq's response will likely be a key factor in determining how the U.N. Security Council votes on a resolution the United States is expected to introduce early next week designed to win approval for an attack on Iraq.

"We are serious about solving this," Amin told journalists. He said the order was being studied, "and we hope it will be resolved peacefully, without the interference of others, particularly the Americans."

But Blix told Time (ITALICS) magazine in an interview to be published Monday that "of course they have no credibility" and "diplomacy may need to be backed up by force."

"Inspections may need to be backed up by pressure," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he did not expect Baghdad to resist the order.

"If they refused to destroy the weapons, the Security Council will have to make a decision," Annan told reporters Sunday night in Turkey. "I don't see why they would not destroy them."

President Saddam Hussein, meanwhile, was defiant about the U.S. threat of war.

"Americans can harm and destroy buildings and installations, but will never be able to humiliate Iraq," he was quoted as saying by the official Iraqi News Agency. "The people of Iraq are not defending only Iraq, but the whole Arab nation and its security."

Saddam met Sunday with former U.S. Attorney-General Ramsey Clark, and the news agency said the Iraqi president praised Clark for his role in the anti-war movement in the United States. It gave few other details of the meeting.

Former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov also was in Baghdad on Sunday, a source told The Associated Press. But his activities - and very presence - were not officially confirmed.

Primakov, who forged close ties with Baghdad as a former Soviet minister, has mediated in Iraq on several occasions. However, his mission to Baghdad in a bid to prevent the 1991 Gulf War ended in failure.

Amin said destroying the missile program would be a blow to Iraq's defenses - but not a serious blow.

Mertz:

Adviser, teacher: Mertz said he was an alcoholic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It was not uncommon for Anthony to stay up until 2 a.m., he would watch 'Politically Incorrect' and then come to bed," Hofer said.

The prosecution questioned Hofer if she would have slept heavier either night because of drinking. She said that was a good possibility.

Mertz's former football coach and physical education teacher Dave McDonald testified he knew Mertz from physical education class and from football. He said Mertz was a normal second-stringer who accepted his role on the team. McDonald could only recall one time when Mertz "got physical" with another person. McDonald said Mertz and another player got into a scuffle on their own time, and the other per-

son started the altercation.

"It surprised me because I didn't feel Mertz would defend himself that highly," McDonald said.

Mertz left Rossville after high school to serve in the Marines.

Lisle Farnham, a former acquaintance who served in the Marines with Mertz, testified it was not uncommon to fight in the Marines.

"Marines fight a lot," he said. Farnham also said he had fought Mertz before, but despite their past, Mertz was an excellent Marine, and he had strong leadership skills, which he admired.

"Mertz was the type of guy you'd want fighting next to you in a war," Farnham said.

The Marines changed Mertz for the better, said former teacher Myron Ward.

Ward testified Mertz was an average to below average student.

"He was more intelligent than he performed in class," he said.

Ward recalled one instance where he thought Mertz might have stolen some rub-

ber bands from a shop class and shot them in his class.

"The trajectory of the rubber bands came from Tony's direction. When I confronted him about it, it appeared that he had concealed them underneath his shirt. He replied something to the affect of 'I bet you'd like to get them from under here,' implying that I wanted to inspect him personally," Ward said.

Ward testified Mertz had an improved attitude upon completion of the Marines.

She said Mertz returned to his old high school to discuss his future plans on becoming a history teacher, and he expressed feelings that he wished he had done better and was sorry about his past behavior.

Mertz's pursuit to become a history teacher led him to Eastern and academic adviser and associate history professor Michael Shirley.

Shirley was a former academic adviser and teacher to Mertz.

"He was fairly regular in his attendance," he said "He did not contribute regularly to

class discussion. He would sit in the back row."

Shirley said there was an instance where a group of students left after taking a quiz, and Mertz referred to them as whiners.

Shirley said Mertz had not turned in a paper, prompting him to set up a meeting with Mertz to discuss it.

"I asked him why he hadn't turned in the paper, and he broke down and started crying," Shirley said. "He said that he was an alcoholic and that he had problems. I asked him if he had gone to Alcoholics Anonymous; he said he had. As a recovering alcoholic that has been sober for 26 years, I couldn't offer better advice than getting help."

Shirley said he had seen Mertz once or twice after their meeting. On one of those occasions, Mertz had bruises on his face, which he told Shirley were the result of a bar fight.

Testimony in the sentencing hearing will continue today at 9 a.m. in Courtroom 1 of the Coles County Circuit Court.

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2/28

3 BR 2 bath, house for rent start-
ing Fall '03. 2 blocks from cam-
pus. Call 348-8286 after 6:30pm

3/2

4 bedroom near campus, wash-
er/dryer, off street parking. Call
348-0712

3/4

Fall Rental: 1800 Twelfth St. 4
Bedroom, 2 bath, new construc-
tion. Call 217-868-5610.

3/4

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ment across from Union. Fully fur-
nished. \$250/ month. Call 581-3956

3/5

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CAMPUS CLIPS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: General meeting tonight, 8pm in the
Effingham Rm. Everyone is welcome.

CAMPUS BIBLE STUDY: Christian Bible study today, noon-1pm at the
tables in the food court. Everyone is welcome. Come join us as we
study the Bible. It could change your life.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SHANTYTOWN INFORMATIONAL
tonight, 8:15pm in the Effingham Rm. Please attend if you would like
information on participating on Shantytown this April.

NATIONAL PANHELLENIC COUNCIL (NPHC) Panel Discussion
tonight, 7pm, Coleman Auditorium. Discuss concerns about minority
issues on EIU campus.

The Daily Eastern News
Classified ad form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Student: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Under classification of: _____

Expiration code (office use only): _____

Person accepting ad: _____ Compositor: _____

No. words / days: _____ Amount due: \$ _____

Payment: Check No. _____

Dates to run: _____

Ad to read:

30 cents per word first day ad runs. 10 cents per word each consecutive day
thereafter. 25 cents per word first day for students with valid ID, and 10 cents per word
each consecutive day afterward. 15 word minimum.

DEADLINE 2 p.m. PREVIOUS DAY - NO EXCEPTIONS

The News reserves the right to edit or refuse ads considered libelous or in bad taste.

The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

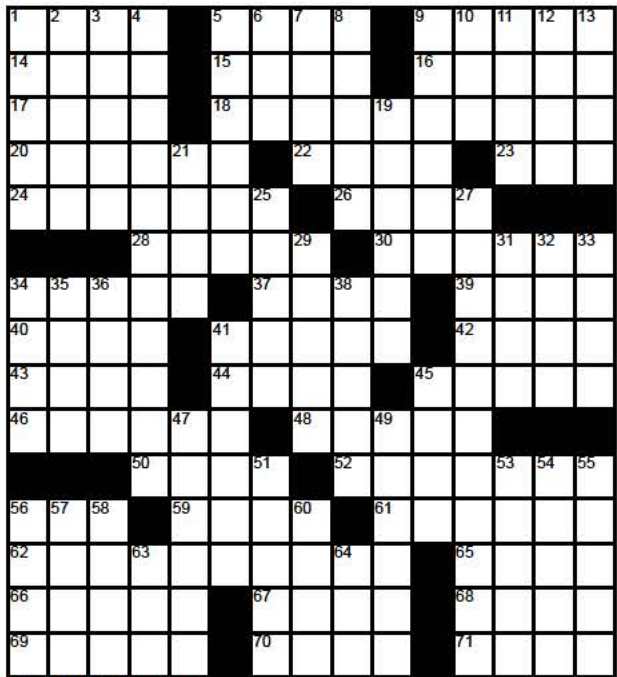
No. 0113

- ACROSS**
- 1Health resorts
5TV series with Hawkeye and Hot Lips
9Aspirin maker
14N.Y.S.E. list- ing
15Nabisco cookie
16Miss Doolittle of "My Fair Lady"
17Large section in an atlas
18Thumbtack, British-style
20Error
22Office mes- sage
23Drunkard
24Church bell spot
- 26Fall in scat- tered drops, as rain
28Boot camp reply
30Not on the road
34Sheets and pillowcases
37Sandwich shop
39Restaurant chain acronym
40Immediately, after "at"
41Job title (giv- ing a hint to this puzzle's theme)
42Goopy ground
43Hearty drink made with honey
- 44Center of a Christmas display
45Hearty steak
46Flowering shrub
48Water at the mouth
50One-named Irish singer
52Avenues
56"What's the ____?"
59Reps.' foes
61Bluesman ____ Wolf
62Well-worn
65German "a"
66Art stand
67Fiction teller
68R & B/jazz singer James
69Beach sou- venir
70Stately trees
71Work station

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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

- DOWN**
- 1Rip-offs
2Put
3Get up
4Seattle land- mark
5Catwalk walkers
6The "A" in E.T.A.: Abbr.
7Line made by a 41-Across
8Inventor Elias and others
9Marathon runner Joan
10High school math: Abbr.
11Puppy sounds
12Operatic singer Pinza
13Long, angry complaint
19Damage
21Atop
25Duck down?
27White-flow- ered plant
29Marry again
31Cincinnati's home
32Time starting at dawn
33Fencing rapi- er
34____ Linda, Calif.
35"II Trovatore" soprano
36Interscholasti c sports org.
38Lecherous looks
41Stuck around
45Bull in a bull- ring
47Ultimate pur- pose
49Additional ones
51Walk
53Best of the best
54Salon jobs
55____ preview
56Tableland tribe
57Iranian "king"
58Scots Gaelic
60Flying jib, e.g.
63Electric fish
64Hit head-on



Puzzle by Gregory E. Paul

Missing monkey in middle of debate

DAVIS, Calif. (AP) — When a monkey slipped from its cage at a University of California medical research lab, handlers peered into sewers, poked behind cages and baited traps to try to catch it.

A week and a half later, though, all they've found in their search is an angry town armed with new ammunition against a proposed biodefense research center that the university says would study the world's deadliest diseases for the effort to protect the country from bioterrorism.

The monkey, a rhesus macaque, disappeared from the California National Primate Research Center, which would supply animals to the proposed Biosafety Level 4 lab to study diseases with no known cure, such as the Ebola and West Nile viruses.

School officials promised that the runaway was disease-free — the center currently raises animals for research on level two and three diseases, which have vaccines or treatments — and would never have escaped from the proposed biodefense lab, which would have armed guards.

But that was little comfort to residents working to prevent the biodefense lab from being built. They learned about the disappearance Thursday, a week after the monkey got away.

"If they can't manage these monkeys when they've got level two and three diseases, how will they manage monkeys with level four diseases?" asked Joshua English.

The University of California, Davis, is one of about a half-dozen institutions across the country that applied this month to the National Institutes of Health for a grant to build the \$200 million disease research lab.

The United States already has five high-containment disease laboratories and two others are being built or designed. UC Davis is competing against institutions in Texas, Maryland, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York

to build another.

The proposed facility would have strict security.

Still, opponents fear a lab just 65 miles northeast of San Francisco could be a terrorism target or a rogue scientist could smuggle out a deadly pathogen.

Dr. Dallas Hyde, director of the primate center, said he can understand why the incident has fed fears, but he said the security level of the primate center and the lab would be quite different.

"Animals that go in there don't come out alive," he said.

University spokeswoman Lisa Lapin said critics are unfairly using the episode to target the university's grant application.

"People will make connections, but there truly is no connection," she said. "There's no scientific connection, there's no security connection, they're two completely different kinds of facilities."

Police vehicle hit tourist on beach

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A French tourist remained in critical condition Sunday, a day after she was badly hurt, and her sister was killed, when a police vehicle ran them over as they sunbathed on a beach.

Sandrine Tunc, 26, was being treated at Jackson Memorial Hospital, spokeswoman Conchita Ruiz-Topinka said. The Miami Beach police department and mayor have set up a Monday blood drive to help her, said police spokesman Bobby Hernandez.

Tunc and her sister, Stephanie, 27, were struck by the sport utility vehicle as they lay on a crowded beach Saturday, authorities said. Officer George Varon apparently didn't see the two as he searched for robbery suspects who had been reported nearby.

Varon, a seven-year veteran, was placed on administrative leave while the accident was under investigation. He wasn't using a siren and witnesses said the women didn't see his vehicle coming.

City officials have said speed did not appear to be a factor in the death. Police said the vacationing sisters lived in Britain, but did not say where in Britain or where they were from in France.

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Spacious 3 bedroom house. 1403 9th street. Plenty of room to spread out. \$250 per student per month, plus utilities. No pets, No laundry. Call 348-1474 for showing. 00

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SPACIOUS, 1 bdrm apt across from EIU At 1542 4th St. All elec. cent. Air. Good closet Space. Trash & parking included. Ideal for mature student or couple. Availabilities for June & August. 345-7286. 00

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3 BLOCKS FROM EIU @ 2001 S. 12th Street 2 BR apts. to meet your needs. Furn.@ \$435/single, \$500/2 adults. Unfurn.@\$395/single, \$460/2 adults. Stove, reffrig, micro, laundry room. Trash paid. 348-7746. www.charlestonilapts.com 00

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Exceptionally economical! 1 BR apt w/loft, Furnished for 1 or 2 persons. \$370 for 1, \$425 for 2. 1/2 of duplex, 1 BI N of O'Brien Field, Call Jan 345.8350 00

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3 BR house for rent for Fall 2003. Good location W/D & AC, trash, off-street parking, no pets. 345-7286. 00

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Nice house directly across from Old Main on 7th, 3-4 students, fall lease. 348-8406 00

PERSONALS

The women of Delta Zeta would like to thank BRIAN TOGAS of Delta Chi on being a wonderful sweetheart. 2/24

What happends when you mix ecasty and alcohol? Find this, and other useful information at MyStudentBody.com. Type in eiu as your school code! 2/25

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES IN THE DORMS! FEB. 24TH-27TH EVENINGS 2/27

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Male sublessor needed for 6 months. \$200/month. Call 345.5412 00

PERSONALS

Congratulations to Kristen D'Andrea of DELTA ZETA on becoming the new PI KAPPA ALPHA sweetheart. Your sisters are happy for you! 2/24

NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY MILLER

JUST WHEN ED THOUGHT WINTER COULDN'T GET MORE UNBEARABLE...

WILEY MILLER 2/24

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BY AARON MCGRUDER

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"FIBBING"?

OUR AGENTS CAUGHT HIM CROSSING HIS FINGERS DURING THE INTERROGATION. THOSE GUYS DON'T MISS MUCH ...

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2/24

Families of dozens who died in Rhode Island nightclub fire visit scene, memorial

WEST WARWICK, R.I. (AP) — For days, they've lived with the video images of their relatives jammed in the doorway of a burning nightclub, many screaming in terror as they struggled in vain to break free.

On Sunday, for the first time, families of the dozens of victims who couldn't escape were allowed to walk up to the charred rubble of The Station nightclub to pray and say goodbye.

Their visit came as the death toll from the tragedy was raised to 97, after the governor announced that yet another body had been pulled from amid the debris Saturday.

"We've gone over the site and over the site and hopefully there are not many more," Gov. Don Carcieri said Sunday. He also said that 11 more victims had been identified, bringing the total to 42.

Earlier Sunday, the families were bused to the site where a rock band's pyrotechnics turned the nightclub into a raging inferno. Nearby, a flatbed truck serving as a temporary memorial was piled with cards, flowers, stuffed animals, American flags, and even an unopened can of Budweiser.

Several people were overcome with emotion, the governor said. At least one had to be taken to an ambulance.

"These families are going through such a tragedy, such an emotional odyssey right now, and their hearts are broken, and they still don't know in many cases whether their loved one has been positively ID'd," said Carcieri, who met with the families several times in the days after the fire.

On Sunday, he ordered a no-fly zone within 5 miles of the site to give the families privacy to mourn.

"The agony they've been going through for the last 48 hours almost has turned into what you'd expect, the kinds of questions: 'Why did this happen? Did it have to happen? What caused it to happen? Did some individuals cause it to happen?'" Carcieri said. "We're asking all the same questions."

The band was just getting into its first song Thursday night when sparks from the pyrotechnics ignited foam tiles in the ceiling and quickly spread flames over the crowd of more than 300. Fire officials said the entire building was engulfed in three minutes.

Carcieri said Sunday that a moratorium on pyrotechnic displays had been issued for clubs accommodating 50-300 people, and that fire inspectors would fan out across the state to check the clubs.

Under gray skies and sporadic rainfall Sunday, the family members huddled as they left flowers, poems and photos at a chain-link fence surrounding the debris. Before the families arrived, a steady stream



of mourners stopped by. One person left a 6-foot wooden cross; taped to it was a high school portrait that simply read "Stephen." Another left a rosary-draped plaque reading: "No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it, and only God knows why."

Among them was James Morris, 36, of Warwick, who said he was supposed to attend the concert Thursday, but didn't feel like going out that night. Six of his friends went without him and haven't been heard from since.

"It's unbelievable," he said, hugging his two sons. "It's just awful. They were all young guys in their 20s, early 30s."

Carcieri said 80 survivors remained hospitalized, about two dozen in critical condition.

Later Sunday, about 150 people crowded into St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry, with acoustic guitars and other instruments, for a memorial service described as "prayer unplugged." Some prayed, others sang.

"We came to pray for the families and the victims," said Teresa McQuiggan, 76, of East Providence. "And last but not least, we're here to pray for the dead."

Like many others who attended the service, McQuiggan didn't know anyone who died in the fire.

"People are getting closer since this happened. Everyone just wants to pull together," Sandra Rego said.

During the hourlong service, twin sisters recounted their escape from the burning nightclub through windows.

"I thought I was going to die," recalled Kimberly Napolitano, 30, of North Providence, who went to the club with her sister and a friend. "If we didn't get out of there within 30 seconds, we would've been dead."

Three days after the fire, questions remained about whether the heavy metal group Great White had permission to set off the fireworks — and whether anyone should face charges in the deadly blaze.

The club did not have a permit for the special effects. While the leader and an attorney for the band have said the group got permission from the club before setting off the special effects, the club's owners insist they never approved pyrotechnics use.

Two nightclub disasters lead to more inspections around country

CHICAGO (AP) — Fire inspectors descended on nightclubs across the nation Saturday and Sunday after two nightclub tragedies in the span of a week killed 118 people, some caught in a stampede and others burned to death in a fire.

In Chicago, where 21 people were trampled at the E2 nightclub Feb. 17, inspectors evacuated the second floor of a club early Sunday after finding overcrowding, blocked exits and other problems.

A rock band competition planned for Salem, Ore., was canceled after an inspection there revealed the venue didn't meet fire and building codes.

And other cities, including Dallas and Kansas City, Mo., put more inspectors on duty and kept them out until the early hours Saturday and Sunday, when clubs are most crowded.

The flurry of inspections closely followed the deaths of 97 people late Thursday in a West Warwick, R.I., nightclub, where a rock band's pyrotechnics ignited the ceiling tiles and quickly engulfed the nightclub and its trapped patrons in flames.

Fire officials across the country said Sunday that they were finding clubgoers almost everywhere were more aware of their surroundings than usual — and more willing to report problems.

"We've seen a sharp increase in the number of reported overcrowdings," even though most didn't prove to be problems, said Brian Humphrey, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Fire Department.

More people than usual also called Chicago authorities to complain about clubs there, said Chief Kevin MacGregor, a department spokesman.

It was a complaint that led police to the Rive Gauche nightclub early Sunday.

"We found a number of life safety issues that required closing down the second floor of this club," he said. "We will be writing up violations on the building, and they've got to comply before we let them reopen."

Kansas City's fire department, which typically conducts inspections during the week, sent four teams of investigators to 54 establishments on Friday night and Saturday morning. In Dallas, the city fire department, which now has two full-time nightclub inspectors, pledged to temporarily add a second two-member team to search for safety violations.

Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street announced Sunday that the city's approximately 200 nightclubs would face emergency inspections in the next 60 days. Massachusetts' governor on Friday ordered



similar inspections statewide.

In Miami Beach, which has more than 60 clubs, Fire Marshal Ed Del Favro said the city continued an already busy inspection schedule. Fire marshals are in the clubs during peak hours every Friday and Saturday night and make about 3,000 inspections a year, he said.

On Saturday, one Miami Beach club, Ibiza, was cited for having about 230 patrons — well above its legal limit of 142. Fire marshals ushered patrons outside until the level was back to the limit.

"The club owners welcome us coming into the club," Del Favro said. "If their clubs are safe, it's positive for their industry."

Hundreds attend interfaith protest against war in Iraq

CHICAGO (AP) — Hundreds of demonstrators filled one of Chicago's largest Roman Catholic churches Sunday before taking to the streets of downtown to protest a possible U.S. war with Iraq.

An interfaith service held at Holy Name Cathedral attracted more than 1,500 people from different religious backgrounds, including Muslims, Christians and Jews. Many sitting inside the ornate church held signs calling for "No War" while a banner proclaimed the events theme: "Peace, Salaam, Shalom."

The service featured speakers who were opposed to war for economic, social and moral reasons.

"There is nothing holy about war," said Malik Mujahid, an Imam with the Muslim Community Center on the city's North Side. "The casualties of war are not just civilians. They are the human beings we call soldiers."

Following the service, the Rev. Jesse Jackson lead the march along Michigan Avenue, his right foot bearing a brace for an injury he said he received while walking recently in San Francisco. "We are on the brink of war, yet we must stop the war before it happens," Jackson told the crowd. "We must not stop marching. We must not stop hope."

Other protesters beat drums and carried cardboard coffins while two large effigies — one symbolizing an Iraqi mother, the other a wounded American soldier — towered over the crowd.



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March 6th

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WRESTLING

Boilermakers let off steam against Panthers

By Matt Williams
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern had an idea of what it was getting into when it was scheduled to wrestle No. 15 Purdue. Saturday at the Intercollegiate Athletic Facility, the team got it.

The Boilermakers (15-5) commanded a 37-3 victory over the Panthers (4-13) in Eastern's final dual meet of the season before it hosts the NCAA West Regional March 8.

Purdue featured five ranked wrestlers including senior 165-pound Oscar Santiago and junior 174-pound Ryan Lange both ranked in the top five nationally.

Eastern head coach Ralph

McCausland said he realized the competition they were facing, but believes there were opportunities to turn the meet in the opposite direction.

"In this dual meet there were several things that could have gone our way," he said. "We just need to make the match point."

One of those close decisions came with the Panthers lone ranked wrestler junior 165-pound Matt Veach. Veach held a 1-0 lead going into the final period.



Frank DeFilippis

No. 15 Purdue Boilermakers 37, Panthers 3

141	Pursley (P) def. Sbertoli	12-7
149	No. 8 Jankowski (P) def. Jordan	12-3
157	DeFilippis (E) def. No. 25 B. Harper	2-1
165	Santiago (P) def. No. 23 Veach	4-2
174	No. 4 Lange (P) def. French	20-5
184	Groski (P) def. Lepper	8-0
197	Kapp (P) won by forfeit	
285	No. 16 Blevins (P) pinned P. Ziminski	6:54
125	Moreno (P) def. Dexter Wright	9-7 OT
133	Hernandez (P) def. Pat Dowty	9-2

Santiago took advantage of an escape and a takedown to take a 4-2 decision.

"Matt has not wrestled a weak opponent in about two months," McCausland said. "He has been within one situation of beating

them."

It took overtime for Purdue freshman Adam Moreno to defeat Eastern sophomore Dexter Wright in the 125-pound dual.

Wright was in front 6-3, but Moreno was able to land a takedown with 1:00 remaining to force the extra period. Moreno made the winning takedown 16 seconds into the overtime to take a 9-7 decision.

The high note for the Panthers was senior Frank DeFilippis' decision over No. 25 Brad Harper in the 157-pound dual. Both wrestlers had gained one point on escapes before DeFilippis was awarded the winning point when Harper was given a one-point stalling penalty with 11 seconds remaining.

"It's good for him because that's

his first match in several weeks," McCausland said. "Wrestling at Purdue, and in those situations, he kept a good head throughout the entire match."

McCausland believes this is good preparation for his senior going into regionals.

"He understands what it takes, it's just a matter of him picking it up one more notch," McCausland. "He has got to be on and he has got to be ready."

As a team, McCausland is looking for the Panthers to be more consistent and plans on getting his wrestlers rested up before March 8.

"We just have to work on our consistency," he said. "It will be a day in and day out thing."

MLB: WHITE SOX

Konerko: Thomas flap is history

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Paul Konerko would like the questions about his relationship with Chicago White Sox teammate Frank Thomas to go away.

But there he was again on Sunday, talking about whether the two could coexist in the wake of Konerko's public criticism of the Big Hurt for skipping a pregame stretching drill last July as a protest for being benched.

"I never imagined that I would be answering questions about this coming into the spring," Konerko said. "I thought it was done."

It seemed to be, until Thomas rehashed the subject on Saturday,

using phrases like "professional jealousy" and insisting that Konerko had no clue of what was going on.

But Konerko said he and Thomas were ready to forget about the controversy after the two had a talk during a team workout early Sunday.

"I don't even remember who initiated it," Konerko said. "It wasn't like it was some debate or formal talk. It was like two guys shooting the breeze."

"We both said, 'Let's get past this and start playing ball.'"

Asked if Thomas' rant on Saturday camp could set a nega-

tive tone for the start of the season, Konerko didn't seem very concerned about any lingering impact on team chemistry.

"He's a good person," Konerko said of Thomas. "A good person can do things like that. I've done things like that and I'm a good person. That's part of his personality. That's what makes him great; he's driven."

Konerko also implored reporters to drop the topic.

"I'm not a good enough player to be focusing on this," he said. "I've got to focus on the field. For everyone's good, can this be it — please?"

MLB: WHITE SOX

Tyson ponders a future with Lewis, no dancing rhinos

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — On Mike Tyson's list of lessons learned from his 49-second destruction of Clifford Etienne, a few stand out:

First, rhinos don't dance, but they sure hit the canvas with a thud.

Second, one devastating right hand doesn't mean Tyson has any chance in a rematch with Lennox Lewis.

"I'm not going to lie to myself and lie to the public," Tyson said. "I need more fights. I'm not interested in getting beat up again."

Tyson rambled on as only Tyson can after Saturday night's fight, touching on everything from his bad back (broken, he says) to his desire to party (it's big) and, finally, to his future in the ring (more Clifford Etienne).

But there was an element of truth in his comments that was largely missing from a weird week of pre-fight non-

sense that nearly obscured the fact that Tyson was entering the ring with a fighter made to order for his punching style.

Etienne — aka the Black Rhino — had gone down seven times in one fight with soft-hitting Fres Oquendo two years ago. Tyson proved that the last thing to go in an aging heavyweight is his punch when his right hand flattened Etienne.

Etienne made the mistake of trying to punch with a puncher, and as soon as Tyson landed his right, he walked away knowing it was over.

"That's what rhinos do," Tyson said. "Rhinos don't dance."

The crowd of 15,171 at the Pyramid went wild over the sixth-fastest knockout of Tyson's career. But the former heavyweight champion was more realistic about what it all meant.

Meinheit:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the other is Murray State. Tech handed Eastern an eight-point loss Jan. 30 and the two teams meet against March 1 for the regular season finale.

The Panthers should pick up another win before they play Tech because they face the black sheep of the OVC, Tennessee State.

Defeating the Golden Eagles at Nashville, Tenn., would guarantee the Panthers home court advantage for the first round of the OVC Tournament, and prove they have the potential to go all the way in the OVC Tournament.

Washout:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The men also had two relay squads disqualified, which cost them over 70 points in the competition.

"We were happy in some ways with the performance and also disappointed somewhat," Padovan said.

Josh Kercheval, a senior co-captain from Sullivan struggled in his final meet for the Panthers.

Kercheval, who won 21 individual races during the regular season, managed only one winner

over the weekend. Kercheval won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:55.28 on day one.

Rich Wahlgren was a bright spot for the Panthers.

The junior from Palos Heights won three events (50-yard freestyle, 100-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle) and also captained a relay winner.

Eastern Michigan and Indiana University at Purdue University finished second and third behind the front running Leathernecks.

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SPORTS

Panther sports calendar

THURSDAY	W basketball at Tenn. State	5:30 p.m.
	M basketball at Tenn. State	7:10 p.m.
FRIDAY	M/W track at OVC Championship	Lantz
	Baseball at Ala.-Birmingham	
	W tennis at Saint Louis	3 p.m.

LONG SHOT



Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Panther success? no doubt here

At the beginning of the season, I had doubts about the Eastern men's basketball team. Who will help Henry Domercant carry the load on offense? What will the Panthers do if Domercant gets hurt? What if Henry isn't able to carry the team like he did last year? (Sense a theme?)

Well the Panthers have answered almost all my questions. J.R. Reynolds, despite some early struggles, can be Eastern's second threat and freshman Josh Gomes is a catalyst off the bench. Fortunately, Domercant has not been injured this season, but when he limped off the court during the second half of Eastern's second meeting with Morehead State, the Panthers responded by overcoming and taking the lead from the Eagles. My final question seems moot with the way Domercant has played this season. He's on pace to finish in the top five in the nation in scoring for the third season in a row, which would put him in the company of NBA greats Larry Bird, Pete Maravich, Bill Bradley and Oscar Robertson. Now most of my questions are answered, I think the Panthers might be able to win the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament.

Currently the Panthers are the soul possessor of fourth place in the OVC, which would mean if the season ended today, they would get to host a first round tournament game in Lantz Arena where they have lost only twice all year. Of late, Eastern seems unbeatable in Lantz Arena. The Panthers have won their last five games at home and their last two home wins came against the first and second place teams in the conference, Morehead State and Austin Peay.

If the Panthers could get a first-round win in the conference tournament, I don't see why they can't win it all.

As the fourth seed, Eastern would face the No. 1 seed in the second round of the OVC Tournament. Morehead has a one-and-half-game lead over Austin Peay.

Eastern matches up well with Morehead. At Morehead, Eastern lost by just four and defeated the Eagles by six in Lantz Arena. With no home court advantage, the edge should go to the team with more experience, and with five seniors on this year's team, experience is with the Panthers.

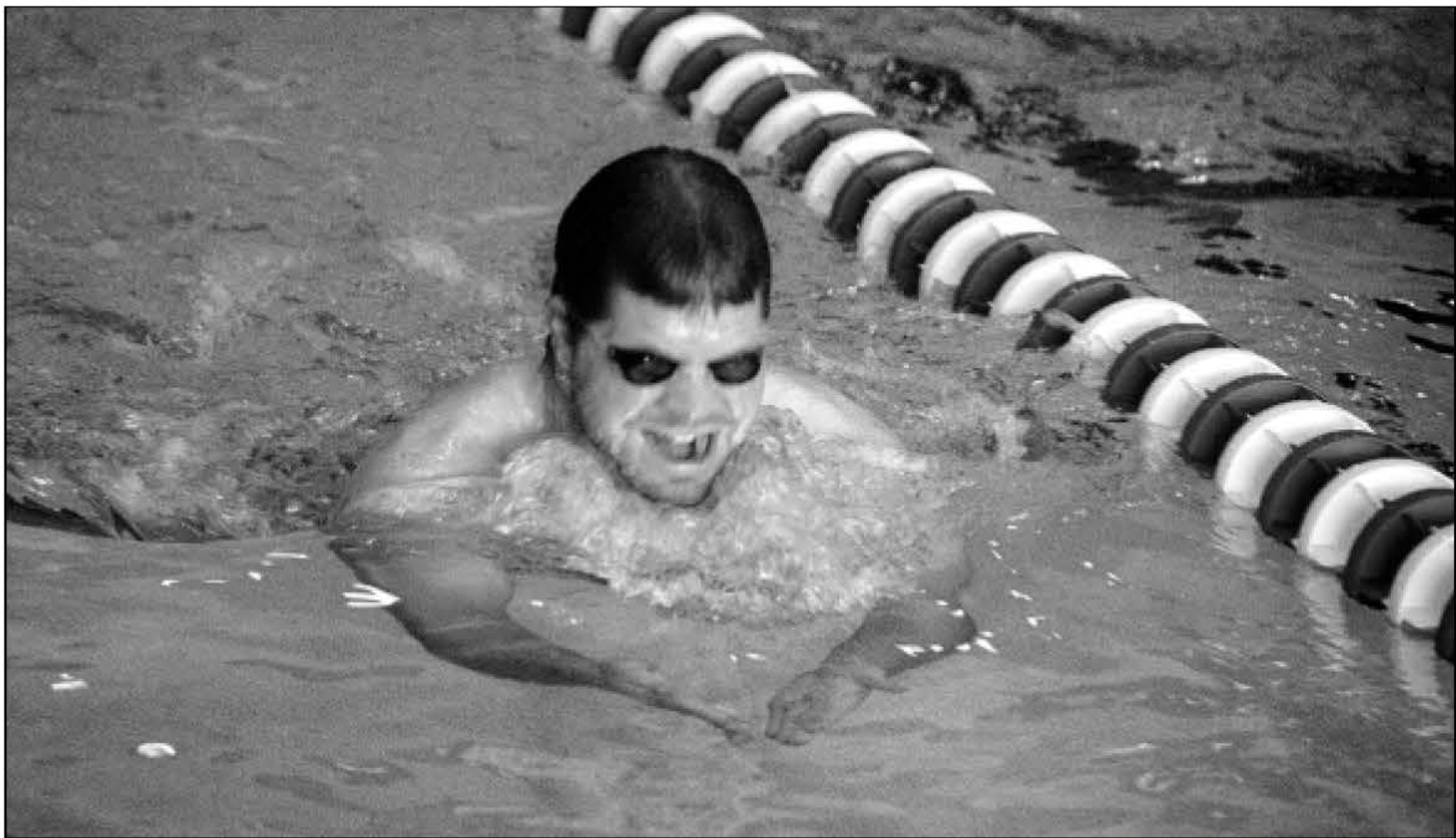
Austin Peay has not had its way with the Panthers either. The Governor needed overtime to beat the Panthers in Clarksville, Tenn.

The only question left to be answered is, how well can the Panthers play against Tennessee Tech?

The Golden Eagles were one of two teams to defeat the Panthers in Lantz this season,

SEE MEINHEIT ♦ Page 11

SWIMMING



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Jim Anderson, junior swims during a recent practice. Anderson and the rest of the Panther men's swimming team finished fourth in the Midwest Classic Championship this weekend. The women's team won the event.

Washout in Indy

♦ Panther women handily win first Midwest Classic Championship in more than 10 years

By Michael Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern women's swim team led wire-to-wire at the Midwest Classic Championship this weekend in Indianapolis to win their first title in more than 10 years.

The Panthers finished with 833.50 points to win the three-day event. Western Illinois finished a distant second (639) and Miami of Ohio rounded out the top three with 621 total points.

The men were unsuccessful in their claim to repeat as Midwest Classic Champions and finished fourth.

The Panthers had numerous outstanding individual performances, but head coach Ray Padovan said winning the Midwest Classic Championship was a complete team effort. He stressed that no one person stood out, instead the Eastern women gelled as a team over the weekend.

"It (key to winning) was a case of the team coming together at the right time," Padovan

said. "When you win 11 out of 20 races no one or two people stand out."

The impressive win came to many as a forgone conclusion after day one of the event. The Panthers opened up a big lead on Thursday and never looked back.

"Winning became a reality after the first day," Padovan said. "We led by 50 points on day one and were under control all three days."

A big boost for the Panthers came from freshman Claire Garvey and Jenny Curry. The duo performed exceptional for a majority of the season but were coming off their worst showing of the year against Saint Louis on Feb. 8. Garvey and Curry regrouped and had one of the best showings of the season.

"Both Claire and Jenny swam great," Padovan said. "Claire won the 400-meter individual medley (4:44.84) and was really solid in her other events. Jenny had many lifetime best swims. She was second in the 100-meter freestyle (53.68) and was part of three winning relays."

Senior Allison Kenny finished her Panther



Allison Kenny

career on a high note by winning the 100-meter freestyle in 53.35. Kenny also finished second in the 50-meter freestyle. The first and second place finishes were worth a total of 36.5 points for the Panthers. Kenny also took part in two first place relay teams as well.

This was the first Midwest Classic Championship for the Panthers in over a decade. Padovan was uncertain as to what set this team apart from the previous teams he has coached.

"I'm not sure what things were different," Padovan said. "The team feed off of each other and swam great."

The men's team finished more than 300 points behind first-place Western Illinois. The men never got higher than third during the meet.

The men could not overcome the points lost in the diving portion. Eastern lacked male divers all season long and the Midwest Classic was no exception.

"We swam well enough to finish third but we ended up in fourth," Padovan said. "Not having any divers hurt us in the men's competition, but it was our strength in the women's competition."

SEE WASHOUT ♦ Page 11

INDOOR TRACK

Panthers show 'special' running

♦ Individual performances anchor strong showing in home meet

By Michael Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern men's and women's track teams had impressive performances as they hosted the 'Friday Night Special.'

The women's team built on the momentum it gained last week at the Canon IV Classic by winning seven individual events at the 'Friday Night Special' and set a new school in the 200-meter dash.

Alicia Harris' record setting time of 25.33 seconds in the 200-meter dash set at the Canon IV Classic lasted a week.

The talented sophomore broke her own record this weekend by

shaving over two-hundredths of a second (25.10) off the time to once again cement her name in the Panther record books.

"Alicia is on a big roll," women's track coach Mary Wallace said. "She works extremely hard and is dedicated to running fast."

Harris continued to 'run fast' when she won the 60-meter dash later during the event. The Wheaton native had a winning time of 7.70. Harris has now won an event in four consecutive meets.

Senior Jennifer Cowan also won two events. The senior finished in a tie with Harris in the 200-meter (25.10) and also won the long jump with a distance of 17 feet, 9 inches. The jump distance was a season best for Cowan.

In the mile run, Angie Simone

distanced herself from the pack by winning the event by nearly 18 seconds. Simone finished the mile in 5:11.07 and Wallace said her times in the mile continue to drop weekly. Simone's win in the mile comes one week after she won the 5,000-meter run at Southern Illinois.

Krissy Peters finished the dominating performance turned in by the women when she won the 3,000-meter run. Peters' time of 11:00.85 gave her an easy win in the distance event.

On the men's side, Josh Wakey gave the Panthers a first-place finish in the pole vault with a season-best jump of 14 feet, 7 inches.

Freshman Brad Runnion also stood on the winners podium with a win in the 800-meter run. The Lockport graduate had a time of 1:57.92.

Runnion's high school teammate

and fellow freshman Jake Stout had the Panthers other top finish on the day. Stout, a distance runner, cruised to victory in the 3,000-meter run with a time off 8:58.12.

A big key to the success of both the men and women was competing at home. Wallace said home meets are an advantage for the athletes.

"I think any time you can have a home meet it's a bonus for the athletes," Wallace said. "It's great to have the home crowd and the athletes are always ready to go at home."

The Panthers return to action this weekend when they host the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Championships this Friday at the Lantz Fieldhouse. The event will start at 3:30 p.m. Friday and will continue with a full-day of action Saturday.