

2-26-2003

## Daily Eastern News: February 26, 2003

Eastern Illinois University

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### Recommended Citation

Eastern Illinois University, "Daily Eastern News: February 26, 2003" (2003). *February*. 17.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den\\_2003\\_feb/17](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/den_2003_feb/17)

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# THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

February 26, 2003 ♦ **WEDNESDAY**



A cut above the  
rest

This week's "Top Cat" Frank DeFilippis hopes to defend NCAA West Regional title next week.

Page 12 SPORTS

## Mertz says he does not remember murder

By Shauna Gustafson  
SENIOR WRITER

Anthony B. Mertz testified Tuesday he doesn't remember killing Eastern student Shannon McNamara in her home on June 12, 2001.

An expert witness Monday said Mertz suffered from alcohol-induced blackouts that could have left him with no memory of the entire evening.

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

Mertz said he wishes he did know for sure if he killed McNamara.

"It's hard to explain it — at least if I knew that's something I could deal with it," he said, as he choked back tears. "Not knowing, that's 100 times worse."

Mertz also testified that he had not killed Amy Warner, a Charleston woman found dead in her home in June 1999. He said he had told friends he had killed Warner in a joking manner; that he has a poor sense of humor. "I said yeah, I killed her," Mertz said. "I was just joking."

Mertz said he had been drinking with Bryan Beavers most of the day before McNamara's murder.

"I don't know," he said. "I know the evidence came up that links me to it, but quite frankly I don't remember much after checking my e-mail that day."

Mark Cunningham, an expert in clinical and forensic psychology, also testified Tuesday that Mertz's childhood almost definitely had an effect on him as an adult, and is likely to testify Wednesday that anti-malaria drugs, most

### Intoxication claim commonly used in defense cases

By Carly Mullady  
CITY EDITOR

Intoxication is a common courtroom plea, said Lonnie Lutz, public defender and criminal defense attorney. "No matter what the charges are, people charged are frequently under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the crime occurred," Lutz said.

Anthony B. Mertz testified Tuesday that an intoxication-related blackout prevented him from knowing what occurred between the afternoon before and the morning after Shannon McNamara's murder.

In the end, punishment is entirely up to the jury, regardless of what types of evidence are produced for either side.

"There can be two identically-presented cases with two different juries, and one is found guilty or sentenced to death and the other is not," Lutz said.

SEE INTOXICATION ♦ Page 7

## Could it happen here?



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Above: Although area bars are often crowded on the weekends, like this scene from the dance floor of Stix, bar owners don't seem concerned emergencies could cause an event similar to recent happenings in Chicago or Rhode Island. Below right: The emergency exits at Stix Restaurant and Sports Bar are locked from the inside with a deadbolt. One exit has to be unlatched by an employee, which could be a hazard in an emergency.

### ♦ Deficiencies of Chicago, Rhode Island clubs also found in many local bars

By Caitlin Prendergast  
SENIOR REPORTER

The country continues to mourn the deaths of 118 people in two nightclub tragedies; however, opinions are mixed as to how relevant these incidents are to the Charleston community.

Twenty-one patrons of Chicago's E2 nightclub were trampled to death in the early morning hours of Feb. 17, when security guards allegedly used pepper spray to stop a fight.

The following Thursday, 97 people died in the Station, a Rhode Island nightclub, after a pyrotechnics display burnt the building to the ground.

Lack of accessible exits, overcrowding and an absence of a sprinkler system have all been blamed for the accidents — deficiencies that can also be found in many Charleston bars.

Although he would never issue a permit for pyrotechnics similar to those used in the Rhode Island nightclub, Darrell Nees, Charleston fire chief, said a tragedy of that

level is possible anywhere.

"We think here in Charleston we're immune to all that, but we're really not," Nees said. "Anytime you get a bunch of people in a room, something can set off a panic."

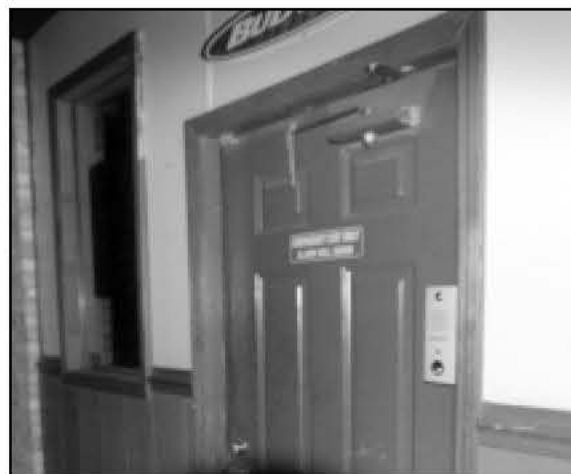
Dave Heidemann, manager of Stix Restaurant and Sports Bar at 1412 Fourth St., said he's unsure the bar will seek further safety measures or take extra precautions in the wake of last week's events.

Heidemann also was unsure of the capacity at the tavern and said it was rare for employees to keep track of how many patrons enter.

"Sometimes we count if it's a special weekend, but on weekdays, overcrowding is not really a problem," he said. "The door guys know how many people to let in."

The bar typically has seven or eight ambassadors, or bouncers, checking IDs, separating fights and guarding exits after 9 p.m. on the weekends.

SEE BARS ♦ Page 6



### Bar safety checklist

Bar Name*	Occupancy	Sprinklers	Exits
Stix 1412 Fourth St.	Not Available	✓	5 public
Marty's 1666 Fourth St.	200	No	2 public
Ike's 409 Lincoln Ave.	150	No	3 public
Uptowner 623 Monroe St.	175	No	3 public

\*Representatives at Top of the Roc, 410 Sixth St.; Lefty's Holler, 727 Seventh St; and Mike and Stan's on Monroe Street were not available for comment. Jerry's Pub, 1508 Fourth St., refused comment.

## Standardized testing may go to college

By John Chambers  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Once students make it to college they generally do not have to put up with the standardized testing they experienced in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Now that could change.

In five states, including Illinois, a statewide testing pilot initiative is underway to make standardized testing optional at private and public universities.

The testing involves each program or academic discipline developing exams

or other measures to assess what students have learned during the first two years of college and closer to graduation, according to a January Illinois Board of Higher Education press release.

The plan is part of a national project sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts, a foundation based out of Philadelphia, "to develop a model for assessing college-level learning," the press release said.

"The plan also requires institutions to demonstrate how they have used the

assessments to improve curriculum, teaching and learning."

Overall, the initiative is in developmental stages, but will be a "far-reaching plan to test what students have learned in all undergraduate and graduate academic programs," the press release said.

Two University Professionals of Illinois leaders at the state level and Eastern have voiced concerns about testing college students.

SEE TESTING ♦ Page 9

## Deadline for essay contest extended

The deadline for *The Daily Eastern News'* African-American Heritage Celebration 2003 essay contest has been extended because of a lack of entries.

The deadline to submit essays has been moved back a week to 3 p.m. March 5.

Prizes, including free movie rentals and food certificates from area businesses, will be awarded, and the top three essays will be published in *The Daily Eastern News* after spring break.

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 can be turned in to Buzzard Hall Room 1811. Submissions also can be e-mailed to majones@etu.edu.

Three faculty members from different departments will judge the entries.



# Event will observe African traditions

By Michael Dixon  
STAFF WRITER

"Step Africa" will bring a high energy act to Eastern's campus. The Washington D.C.-based percussive dance ensemble "Step Africa! USA" will set its feet on campus for the second year in a row.

Percussion dancing is usually associated with physical contact in hitting one body against another.

SAUSA, which highlights the African dance form known as stepping, is a link to dance around the world, said Monique Cook-Bey, assistant director of the Student Life Office.

The purpose of the event is to "pay homage," to the story-telling traditions in Africa, she said.

Stepping involves putting varying rhythms and beats together using hands and feet, known as percussion stepping, Cook-Bey said.

"'Step Africa!' tells the story of how stepping originated in Africa," Cook-Bey said.

Step routines will be per-

formed by the fraternities Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma and by the sorority Zeta Phi Beta.

"Performers will do chants and wear elaborate costumes to assist them in the story-telling process," Cook-Bey said.

Stepping has been apart of Eastern's campus life since the establishment of black fraternities and sororities, which would have been in the late 1960s, Cook-Bey said.

"Two hundred people from different black Greek organizations are expected to attend, (but) all students are encouraged to come out," she said.

SAUSA is sponsored in part by the University Board.

"I've seen 'Step Africa' before," Cook-Bey said. "It's an excellent show ... and I think it would be a good idea to attend."

The event will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The performance is free for students with Panther Cards and \$4 for general admission.

# Workshop to discuss racial demographics

By Jennifer Chiariello  
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Students will have an opportunity to participate in a lecture Wednesday discussing the current and anticipated change of the racial makeup of the United States.

The lecture titled "Black and White and Shades In Between" will be presented by Bud Edwards, counselor at the Counseling Center.

"The lecture will take a look at how the racial makeup of the United States is changing and how it is anticipated to change in the next 10 to 15 years," Edwards said. "The focus is on racial and biracial people attending college and some of the unique challenges to developing their identities."

Edwards said he has previously given this lecture as part of

Black History Month at a college in Iowa.

"One of the more interesting pieces of the presentation will be audience response," Edwards said. "People's understanding, opinions and thoughts of how they want their world to be and how they choose to manage their world will be interesting."

The lecture is part of the Counseling Center's life skills workshop series as well as in conjunction with the African American Heritage Celebration.

"I think it's going to be interesting and timely, as our nation's demographics change over the course of the years," Edwards said.

The lecture will be given at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Effingham Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. The lecture will be open to the public and admission is free.

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

\$38 per semester, \$16 for summer, \$68 all year. The Daily Eastern News is a member of The Associated Press, which is entitled to exclusive use of all articles appearing in this paper.

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

PRINTED BY:  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
The Daily Eastern News  
Buzzard Hall, Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920

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STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

## Bosom buddies

Dan Eller, a sophomore speech communication major, and Doug Patterson, a senior business management major, try to solicit a bid Tuesday night in the Phi Sigma Pi/Delta Tau Delta date auction in the basement of Andrews Hall. Although the two men came as a package, which they named "double-bubble," they only managed to receive a \$2 bid.

# Senate recommendation will propose fiscal restraint to AB

By Avian Carrasquillo  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate will hear a resolution Wednesday recommending fiscal restraint to the Apportionment Board.

The resolution recommends increases to the fee-funded boards be denied, and that budgets be cut wherever possible.

Student Senate member George Lesica said the resolution is to ensure that enough money for next year's budget be kept in the reserve account.

"It's our job not to waste the students' money and to make sure it's spent the best way possible, especially with the tight budget situation," he said. "I think it's best to use the money in the Apportionment Board reserve account to subsidize programs the school can't afford. More money could be better spent on increasing library hours."

Lesica said a good example of a reserve account use was the \$25,000 the AB allocated to the University Board to match the \$25,000 the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union was putting into the \$50,000 needed to fix the lighting in the Grand Ballroom.

The Student Senate also will hear a recommendation for a bylaw change to strengthen the penalty for missed committee meetings. The bylaw change calls for an accumulation of three absences from committee meetings be equivalent to one absence from a senate meeting.

A resolution encouraging good conduct during meetings is also on the agenda.

"Senate is supposed to be a format run with formal rule. This resolution is to remind senators that a certain decorum is expected," Lesica said. "Some senators have been acting inappropriately during meetings. We have to be serious in

these meetings especially when we discuss giving out large sums of student money."

The Student Action Team is proposing a change in bylaws to increase activity.

"A change in (Student Action Team) bylaws makes it a more prominent organization, and more active," Lesica said.

The Student Senate will vote whether or not to approve the \$6,199.55 allocated to Student Senate from the AB reserve account for Unity Week, a week-long celebration of diversity.

Several people are set to be approved to three senate committees. Niki Klingler, Anthony Hill, Emily Johnston, Jan Spracker and Tim Mason are up for approval as voting members to the Tuition and Fee Committee and Dominique Simmons is up for approval to the Diversity Affairs Committee and the Housing Committee.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Disorderly Conduct

Daniel R. Bainbridge, 26, of 124 University Apartments, was arrested at 1:48 a.m. Feb. 21 at University Apartments on the charge of disorderly conduct, police reports stated.

### Driving Under the Influence

Kevin M. Cook, 21, of Palatine, was arrested at 4:30 a.m. Feb. 23 at Fourth Street and Lincoln

Avenue in Charleston on the charge of driving under the influence of alcohol, police reports stated.

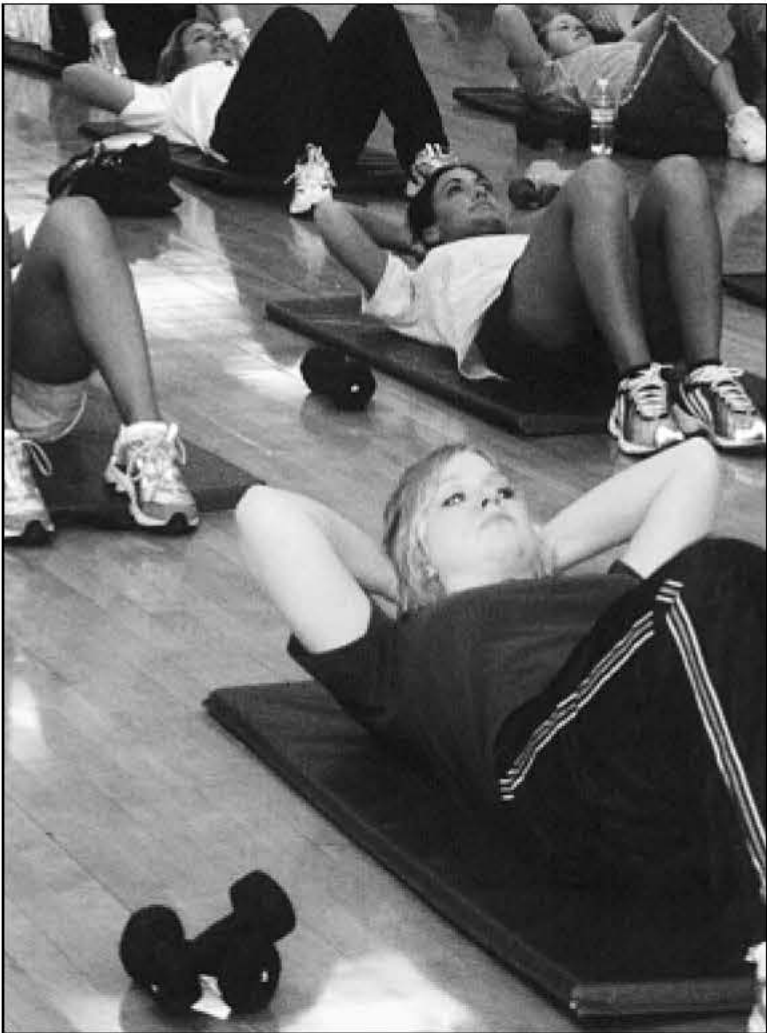
## CORRECTION

A news story in Monday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* incorrectly reported the start of the electronic writing portfolio. It began in fall 2000 and students no longer have the option of whether to submit to the portfolio.

The News regrets the error.



# Students get in line for crunch time



JENNIFER CHIARIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Lauren Markiewicz, a senior graphic design major, works out during abs class in the Student Recreation Center on Tuesday afternoon.

By Steve Cook  
STAFF WRITER

With spring break right around the corner, students are flocking daily to the student recreation center in search of better-looking abs.

The abs class, Eastern's most popular aerobics class, meets twice daily at 3 and 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and at 3 p.m. Friday. Attendance increased recently, an instructor said.

However, spring break isn't the only time abs class receives large increases in attendance.

"Attendance rises and falls over the course of the year," said Justin Vencill, an abs instructor and a junior recreation administration major.

"The class usually gets larger as the weather gets warmer. But right now people are just trying to get their bodies in shape to impress people over spring break."

Great abs isn't something that can be attained overnight.

"It's cool that a lot more students are going to classes now, but a person really should attend abs class regularly to see some real results," Vencill said.

Sophomore early education major Katie Kubil can vouch for that.

"I'm not really seeing any results because I only attend once a week," Kubil said after Tuesday's 3 p.m. class. "I wish I could go more but unfortunately my schedule only allows me to attend once a week, if that."

Students, like Kubil, looking for a quick fix to getting in shape, but

*"When you're working out in the middle of a large crowd, you're going to have a tendency to push yourself harder."*

—Dan Jongebloed

don't have the time or the willpower, shouldn't get discouraged by the amount of dedication it may take to achieve their aspired physique.

Vencill thinks the abs class takes at least a month of attendance before satisfying results are found.

"The abs class is by far the best workout offered by the rec. It's also the one that brings in the most students," Vencill said. "The exercises really work, but you have to be consistent. Coming once a week won't get results."

"You have to be consistent about it, attend for up to five or six weeks, to really see results."

Students who attended the abs class Tuesday performed crunches, leg pulls and work with dumbbells.

Instructor Michelle Woods, a sophomore history major, has been teaching the class for a more than a year and has really taken a liking to teaching such a popular class.

Woods said she noticed some fickle behavior from the classes.

"The later classes get the most crowded, probably because more

students are available in the early evening than in the middle of the afternoon," Woods said. "Spring break is really going to bring a lot of new students in — but that's fine, I prefer teaching in front of a large crowd."

Woods is a relatively new addition to the rec's staff, but has been a long time attendee of the abs class.

"I'm an instructor now, but ever since last year when I started going to Eastern I've gone to abs class," Woods said. "It's just a great way to get in shape and look great."

Students are attending abs class at an all-time high.

"I've been coming since last year," said Dan Jongebloed, a sophomore biology major. "I try to come every chance I get."

Jongebloed said the class uses a rigorous regimen, but said it pays off over time.

"I've been doing it for a while and it does work," Jongebloed said.

Jongebloed and Vencill said they see the logic in attending the abs class on a regular basis.

"The workout can be a little intimidating at times, especially when in the bigger classes," Vencill said. "When you're working out in the middle of a large crowd, you're going to have a tendency to push yourself harder."

Students who regularly work out, but find it difficult to maintain a legitimate workout on their own, might enjoy the camaraderie offered by the abs class.

"I figure I'm here anyway, I might as well go to class," Jongebloed said.

# Faculty senate discusses electronic writing portfolio

By John Chambers  
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Faculty Senate Tuesday discussed the potential of the electronic writing portfolio to assess student writing, with most saying the program should not be eliminated, just changed.

The portfolio is meant to show writing progression over a student's college career. Students are asked to submit revised selections each year from writing-centered or writing-intensive classes.

Students turn in a selection from each academic year, including one from a freshman English class and senior seminar.

Faculty concerns ranged from questions on the efficiency of submitting sample writing, the procedure and its comparison to the writing competency test.

Senate chair Anne Zahlan said the concerns and discussion were meant to bring the departments together.

Several senate members and faculty present questioned whether the number rating system for the writing portfolio was a fair evaluation of student writing, especially in areas of demonstrating improvement.

The portfolio began in fall 2000 and will undergo an assessment next year because the program will then be able to show records of students' submitted writing over four

years, said English professor Robin Murray, former director of the Writing Center.

Associate English professor Tim Shonk questioned the "rubric" between the portfolio and the system of how writing is taught in class.

"My worry is we're getting assessment intruding into the classroom now," he said.

The portfolio covers areas that were not covered by the writing competency test, said Daiva Markelis, chair of Writing Across the Curriculum Committee.

Writing evaluation is best seen in the grade students receive from instructors, said English professor John Allison.

"The most reliable assessment will be the grades they receive in writing classes and in other classes where they do writing," Allison said. "Who will be the gurus to assess all these portfolios?"

Associate speech communication instructor Mary Hogg is the representative for the College of Arts and Humanities Council for the Assessment of Student Learning, a group involved with assessing the writing portfolio.

The portfolio might not be necessary for all students, especially those who have completed English general education courses, said senate member and accounting professor Matthew Monippallil.

"I would say about 25 percent of my students write extremely well," he said. "There is another 20 to 25 percent of them whose writing makes me physically sick."

The CASL and others discussed the possibility of future forums or meeting to discuss assessment or the portfolio.

Monippallil also introduced a resolution as chair of the senate's subcommittee on the Council on University Planning and Budget.

The resolution deals with the council's membership and will be voted on by the senate in about three weeks after the proposal is circulated with the senate's minutes to the university community.

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## THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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

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### EDITORIAL

# Service should be kept intact

Contrary to many Faculty Senate comments regarding Eastern's textbook rental service, the service is an asset to students.

It is not only a convenience, but also a god-send to often times financially-strapped students, especially with the current state of our economy.

While Faculty Senate members have legitimate arguments with the service, the benefits of textbook rental outweigh the negatives.

Some complaints offered in the Faculty Senate discussion Feb. 18 regarding the service were that it is counterproductive, not productive in changing texts or the price of the service is too low.

David Carwell, senate member and political science instructor, said at the meeting Eastern wouldn't have a problem attracting students if the textbook rental service was disposed of.

However, with only 11 universities nationally having a textbook rental system in place, the service is an obvious perk of the university. Forking over fewer than \$100 dollars per semester for the textbook rental fee is refreshing.

At other universities around the country, doling out in upwards of \$500 dollars for 15 credit hours worth of books is often times what students are forced to do, and, can be daunting and straining on the pocketbook. On top of that, if students were forced to dish out money for a stack of books, they still likely wouldn't get half of that money back when they resold them, which is likely what would happen.

It is realistic to presume most students would rather sell their books back for cash rather than keep it.

Faculty Senate also has previously suggested textbook rental become a voluntary service.

Sure, having students buying their books allows them to keep the text around for future use after the courses have ended; however, if students do desire to buy their books textbook rental allows them to if they want to.

Making revisions to the textbook rental service is understandable, but doing away with it altogether would be detrimental and possibly deter some students from attending Eastern.

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

**At issue**  
 The textbook rental service and Faculty Senate's discussion regarding it

**Our stance**  
 The textbook rental service is a convenient perk that needs to remain a university asset.

### OPINION

# Every opinion has merit



**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@eiu.edu

During a night that was supposed to be filled with fun and frivolity, I witnessed a fight about masturbation. The intensity of the argument escalated to the point that one participant narrowly avoided a black eye.

After a period during which the group splintered apart to various locales to regain composure, some new people came to the party. Then ensued another, more civil, discussion about the relative value of one's opinion that lasted until 5 a.m. Because all of this added up to a cumulative five hours of having my ideas challenged, I had to dwell on it some in the following days.

First of all, what is it about masturbation that incites such anger in both sides of what I had never before considered an argument? Our society has left behind the days of graham cracker and cereal companies trying to convince us of all the medical complications getting oneself off causes.

What I learned is that some women my age still think it's something only men can or should do. A few still believe the myth that men medically need to masturbate. Those appalled by others' openly embracing the practice of flying solo thought the idea of touching themselves, the same skin that covers the rest of their body, was disgusting. They thought they should wait for some-

*"Yelling about how 'repressed' someone is isn't going to change their point of view."*

one else to arrive to deliver their orgasm but still felt guilty about the two-party sex they were having.

However, they defended their refusal to approve of their comrades' self-satisfaction by citing religious reasons, and understandably so. It's unreasonable to expect someone to renounce their religion even for the sake of orgasm.

At the same time, those of the belief that masturbating is fun for all and necessary for good sex with others seemed intensely frustrated with the resistance they met. It seemed almost as if they considered masturbating a hot secret they had discovered and now found themselves saddled with the task of spreading the good news.

Now picture what this must have looked like to me, who for once played the role of observer. Women in their 20s screaming, pulling their hair out, jumping up and down and nearly crying over this disagreement. Four of these women lived together and were close friends. I tried to understand not only how this became an argu-

ment at all, but why it got so out of hand.

That same night, we practically deconstructed the universe with the not groundbreaking but certainly unsettling discussion of whether one can advocate social change and respect the very opinion one is trying to influence. While this brought up some tension and frustration among those in the discussion, it didn't ignite the hostility the arguably less important masturbation fight did.

But the second argument applies to the first. If, as a masturbator, one wishes her friends to know the joy she knows, she'll want to change their opinions. She has good intentions: orgasms for all, better and more often. But she has to respect her non-masturbating friends' stance. If someone has a religious conflict, that's a fair reason and one that is probably very sensitive. Yelling about how "repressed" someone is isn't going to change their point of view.

The world spins with the force of people trying to make change. But no one can expect to change a thing by not giving those they disagree with any credit. Every opinion, every religion, every idea has some merit, or else no one would hold the opinion, follow the religion or subscribe to the idea.

Making change means first realizing how similar we all are and then respecting why those similarities have an end.

Cartoon by Mary Beth Marsia



### YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Time to Repair movie channel glitches

When I moved back to Charleston in the fall to go to graduate school, I had to begin the search for an apartment.

When I came up empty, I turned to on-campus housing, and I now live in university apartments.

As far as I'm concerned, it's a pretty good deal with one exception.

One evening I had a chance to sit down, and I flipped to the campus movie channel. A pretty good movie

was on that I could watch and relax to before I went to bed. About 20 minutes into the movie another movie cut in and started playing.

This annoyed me a little, but it was a movie that I had not seen yet so it didn't bother me much.

What bothered me was 10 minutes into this movie it cut off and nothing. When I was an undergraduate, I lived on campus and the movie channel was HBO.

Now granted, HBO doesn't

have movies all the time, it does have programming that is consistent and what is supposed to be what we actually see. The whole concept of having a movie channel that plays nothing but movies all the time is, in theory, better than HBO, but only if it actu-

ally plays movies.

I'm sure others out there who are just as annoyed as I am, so I say to "the powers that be," bring back HBO!

*Cathrine Blesboer*  
 Physical education graduate student

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



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Murder:  
Mertz's time in the Marines intensified drinking habits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

likely a drug called Lartum, that Mertz took while in the Marines could have led to nightmares and psychotic and aggressive behavior. Mertz also testified that he had not spoken to other inmates about McNamara or anything he did or did not do in regards to the case.

In answer to questions as to why he would not look police in the eye as he was interviewed, he said he did originally, but after seven hours of interrogation police began telling him he had committed the murder.

Mertz also denied having started the fire that burned down an apartment building on Fourth Street in February 2000.

He said he and some friends were joking that Beavers had started it by burning his trash outside, and then Mertz joked that he had started the blaze.

Overthrow of the government was not something Mertz supported, he testified, although he could understand it.

"I don't support it, but I understand it," he said. "If you want to be a nut and live on a hill in Idaho, you can do that."

He also said that although he was in Terre Haute, Ind., just before Timothy McVeigh's execution, he was not there with the purpose of witnessing the scene.

"I am by no means an admirer of McVeigh," he said.

Mertz also testified further to his experience in the Marines, and to the extent of his alcoholism.

He said his time in the Marines intensified his drinking habits, and he experienced more alcohol-induced blackouts.

"There's always that awkward moment in the morning," he said. "There were definitely some blackouts."

At some points he said he would split a case of beer and a fifth of hard alcohol with a friend, then go to the bar and drink the equivalent of 12 Jim Beam and Cokes.

"We didn't care how much we were drinking," he said.

He also said: "I knew I had a little bit of a drinking problem."

Mertz said he cut back on his drinking while he was dating Summer Summers (formerly Jacobson). He recalled this period as the "happiest time of my life."

"I was madly and deeply in love with her," he said.

Mertz said he and Summers broke up shortly before he was deployed to Japan for a second time, and that he was "heartbroken" over the split.

He said his drinking re-intensified during this deployment. Specifically when they would stop in a port city.

"When you hit liberty — you go out and you party for a week," he said. "You stay drunk."

He also recalled several times he found himself in trouble with his superiors in the Marines because of his drinking. He said after one offense he asked if he could go to an inpatient alcoholic program at the Naval hospital.

"They knew I was an alcoholic, I still wasn't ready to admit it to myself," he said. "You're a Marine and you're getting your ass kicked by a 12 oz. can — it's a lot to deal with."

Mertz eventually lost his title of corporal and was bumped down to

the level of private before he left the Marines. "I drank too much and I got in trouble for it," he said. "Everything I worked for over three and a half years basically slipped away in the last six months."

Pornography found on Mertz's computer hard drive also was discussed in court again Tuesday, and Mertz testified that many other people had access to his computer. He also said he chose his email address cereal\_killer\_2000 in connection with an Insane Clown Posse song and a Dave Barry humor column. He said he changed his address because friends complained they found it disturbing.

"I thought it was really funny at the time," Mertz said.

More alcohol-induced blackouts and excessive drinking ensued after Mertz arrived at Eastern, he said, especially after he made friends with people in his apartment building on Fourth Street.

"We liked to joke we lived crawling distance from Stix," he said.

Sometime after he arrived at Eastern he went to the Counseling Center to get help for nightmares, irritability and sleeplessness he was experiencing. The center suggested he contact Veterans Affairs, who could get him more help. Mertz said a doctor at the VA hospital in Danville put him on several different medications to help with depression and sleeplessness, and that he continued drinking heavily while on the medications.

Mertz said he has thought about what life in prison will be like, and said he'd like to help other inmates.

"I'd at least like to make something of the time," he said. "If that's teaching in prison, I'll teach what I love."

During cross-examination Mertz said he remembered telling a prosecution psychologist about an attack against an ex-girlfriend in May 2001 and that he had once passed out naked outside his apartment building. He also said he had attempted to commit suicide and had promised his grandmother he wouldn't try again. State's Attorney Steve Ferguson asked if he had told a counselor that he would kill others to force the police to kill him, to which Mertz responded, "I might have said that."

Mertz testified he had taken medication handed out by Marine Corp officers before and during deployments, and said the pills were supposed to protect the men against malaria.

Ferguson asked Mertz if he had had nightmares before leaving the Marines, and reminded him that he had told prosecution psychologist Park Dietz that he had not.

Mertz said his struggles with depression have continued since the time of his arrest. He said he is currently still taking a prescription sleeping pill each night, but has started to wean himself from prescription antidepressants. He said he has heard he won't receive them in prison, so he thought he should get used to life without them.

Cunningham, a psychologist hired by the defense, followed Mertz's testimony late Tuesday, saying moral culpability is what formed Mertz into who he is today.

In a review of records and interviews with family, friends, employers and other people who knew Mertz, Cunningham said he found several factors that could have damaged Mertz.

Among the biggest influences on

*"The world is out of control. The scars on your heart are slower to heal."*

—Mark Cunningham

Mertz is a family history of alcoholism and depression, he said.

"All impact on the trajectory of Anthony's life," he said.

Cunningham said children of alcoholics are three to five times more likely to be an alcoholic themselves, even if they are adopted by another family at birth. He also said many of Mertz's family behavior patterns that could have left a negative effect are multi-generational, including abandonment, alcoholism and abuse.

Emotional abuse is the "most fundamental damage that can be done to a kid," Cunningham said.

He said it is "critical" for a child to have a figure of love from infancy. While Mertz had a loving home with his grandmother, Cunningham said the love was not placed in his life soon enough, or consistently enough.

Cunningham also said the neglect Mertz encountered in his childhood was "catastrophic."

Mertz was subject to what Cunningham refers to as the five Hs — when a child feels helpless, hopeless, hungry (emotionally or physically), homeless (not always physically) and huggless.

He said such damage is cognitive and puts the child's perception of the world off base. This kind of damage can be terror, he said.

"Their world is out of control," Cunningham said. "The scars on your heart are slower to heal."

Intoxication:  
Defense tries to portray defendant as law abiding until intoxicated

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Lutz said a defense attorney might try using the intoxication claim to separate the client's usual personality from the character presented while intoxicated.

"The defense would try to portray him as an ordinary law-abiding individual until intoxicated," Lutz said.

Personal testimony and testimony from friends, family and other

individuals would be presented to emphasize the behavioral differences the convicted murderer shows when intoxicated compared to when not intoxicated.

"They would try to present an almost 'Jekyll and Hyde' personality," Lutz said.

Prior medical contacts could also testify with behavioral records information.

Witness testimony would be the primary evidence for intoxication claims without alcohol or drug test results, Lutz said.

"In the Mertz case, there has been no specific testimony of any alcohol tests or intoxication levels," Lutz said.

Should attorneys wish to present

evidence beyond acquaintances' testimony, they may refer to levels of intoxication.

Determining a set point of intoxication where a person cannot function normally is usually set by a state's driving under the influence guidelines, Lutz said.

"Intoxication at the .08 percent blood alcohol level indicates a person cannot safely operate a motor vehicle," he said. "The higher the level, the less capable the person would be to conform to normal standards."

An individual can be intoxicated to an extent where functioning as a normal citizen and awareness of proper societal behavior becomes

obsolete, Lutz said.

Beyond the legal driving requirements, there is a point when a person passes out and a much higher level of intoxication can lead to a life-threatening stage.

Somewhere between driving statutes and immobility is a state of unawareness, where logical thinking is rarely possible, Lutz said. Displaying the defendant as someone who ventures violently into that state but behaves normally otherwise could offer an explanation, though not an excuse, for criminal acts.

Juries then must decide if the criminal's behavior is still worth capital punishment or if life

*"They would try to present an almost 'Jekyll and Hyde' personality."*

—Lonnie Lutz

imprisonment will suffice.

"At this point it is only whether he receives the death penalty or a life sentence," Lutz said about Mertz. "He has already been convicted and the sentencing phase of trial determines his eligibility for capital punishment."



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Jess Gendron	Traci Soprych	Annie Fredrick	
Becky Gorniack	Sandy Bylut	Carol Hendricks	
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FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES Meeting on 2/26 at 9:15 pm in the Lantz Meeting Room. All are welcome.

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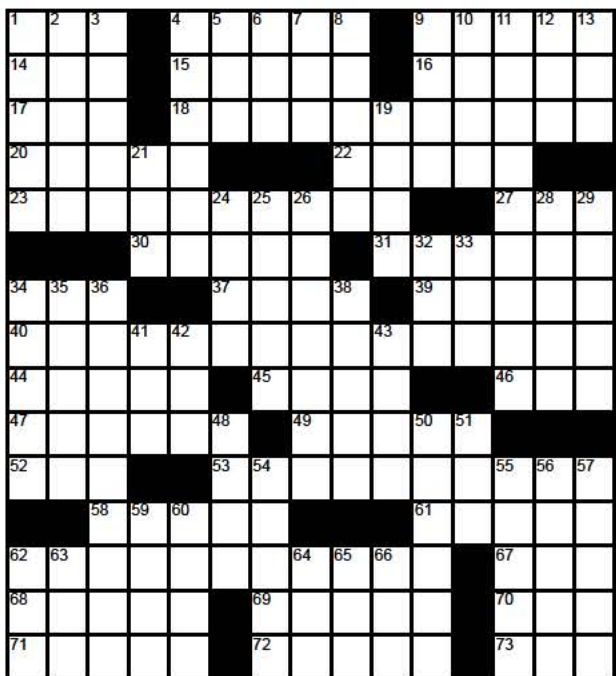
- 1Not telling
- 4Drink before bed, maybe
- 9Belt clip-on
- 14Part of a World Cup chant
- 15Sister of Terpsichore
- 16Squirreled-away item
- 17Merkel of old movies
- 18Irish symbol
- 20Time off, briefly
- 22Fuller than full
- 23Bottom line
- 27Something to draw from
- 30\_\_\_\_\_ file (French girl)
- 31Society Islands island

- 34Item in a thimblergig game
- 37Fixes, in a way
- 39Exorcist's quarry
- 40Like a snap decision
- 44Lines man?
- 45"You've got a deal!"
- 46Huge expanse
- 47Tastelessly affected
- 49Christina of "The Opposite of Sex"
- 52Letters at a Nascar race
- 53Commodity in the old South
- 58Strand in winter, maybe

- 61Grenoble's river
- 62Informal discussion
- 67Subj. of this puzzle's theme
- 68Healing plants
- 69Leave out, in speech
- 70"Get comfy"
- 71"Same here"
- 72In shape
- 73D.D.E.'s W.W. II command

DOWN

- 1Opposite of celebrate
- 2Carpi connectors
- 3Stood for
- 4It's the law
- 5Palindrome center
- 6Nutritional fig.
- 7A.B.A. member: Abbr.
- 8Impose (on)
- 9Munich \_\_\_\_\_ of 1938
- 10One to grow on?
- 11Esther Rolle sitcom
- 12Hosp. areas
- 1312-Down staffers
- 19Start angling



Puzzle by Brendan Emmett Quigley

- 21Basketball Hall of Fame nickname
- 24Beach lapper
- 25Condos, e.g.
- 26Chicken breed
- 28Make amends
- 29Ship commanded by Pinzón
- 32Hubbub
- 33Confine, with "in"
- 34Jrs.' exams
- 35\_\_\_\_\_ Center
- 36Cockpit aid
- 38Baseball's Bud
- 41Baloney
- 42Montana's motto starter
- 431700
- 48"The Grapes of Wrath" figure
- 50Invented
- 51T.G.I.F. part
- 54Atlas feature
- 55High-strung
- 56Go around in circles?
- 57"Cool!"
- 591963 role for Liz
- 60Big name in petrol
- 62"Batman" sound
- 63Relative of -let
- 64Highway warning
- 65"Boy, am \_\_\_\_\_ trouble!"
- 66Lofty lines



Testing:  
UPI officials question  
feasibility of assessing  
learning with test

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

UPI state president Sue Kaufman said in a report to the IBHE the press release wording is misleading.

"If I were back in my role of hiring new college graduates ... I probably would have reacted to the story saying 'About time!'" she said. "Seventeen years later I can tell you that I understand the problem to be far more complex than I

could have imagined."

Kaufman questioned the testing pilot's ability to measure and account for student learning.

"The prime question I submit to you today in the name of the faculty and academic support staff who work with students is this: 'Is it truly possible to assess student learning by way of a national test? ...'" she said. "Hours and hours of faculty, staff, student, and, ... administrative work could be shuffled aside as we move to yet another platform of assessment."

She said the testing could also "degenerate into bureaucratic make-work," or lead to a narrow testing method.

For those and other concerns, Kaufman recommended postponing the IBHE vote on the testing plan earlier this month.

Eastern's local UPI chapter president David Radavich said the testing was discussed last weekend at the Illinois Federation of Teachers conference, held every two years.

He is against the testing at Eastern and said the diversity of college departments does not compare to kindergarten through grade 12 education, so the tests should not be similar either.

Radavich said that was one objection shared at the conference. "In college you have so many

diverse areas that the assessment needs to be on a departmental basis," he said. "It's not clear to me how much more testing students need."

Besides, Eastern is already experiencing an assessment in preparation for the accreditation visit from the North Central Association, he said.

Radavich said Black Hawk College in northern Illinois has advanced more toward the testing.

"(The pilot) is focused a lot on vocational (studies) so it may be more appropriate for junior colleges," he said.

The testing can also be linked to part of a goal under a plan called The Illinois Commitment adopted

*"(The pilot) is focused a lot on vocational (studies) so it may be more appropriate for junior colleges."*

—David Radavich

by the IBHE in 1999.

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BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Because of the inches of snow that have fallen on William's Field and Monier Field at Coaches' Stadium this winter, Eastern's baseball and softball teams have been forced to practice inside Lantz Fieldhouse, and may not be able to practice outdoors after the snow melts.

# Winter snows give Panthers case of cabin fever

By Matthew Stevens  
SPORTS REPORTER

It's clear Panther head baseball coach Jim Schmitz and his players would like to add a dome to Coaches Stadium.

"Obviously, you can't do anything outside right now except duck hunt," Schmitz said.

The month of March is rapidly approaching and the Panthers have failed to have an outdoor practice in Charleston.

Eastern started its 2003 campaign earlier than recent years with games beginning in the middle of February with one already canceled in Fayetteville, Ark., due to snow.

"We've never opened up this soon before," Schmitz said.

The early start will affect how Schmitz manipulates the pitching staff in the next coming weeks.

In the season opening 5-1 loss to Arkansas,

Schmitz pulled starting pitcher Damon White after he threw 33 pitches in only three innings of work.

"After this weekend, we may let our pitchers loose, but last year I made a mistake when our best pitcher got tendinitis because he pitched too much," Schmitz said.

Currently, the team has been practicing in the evenings at Lantz Fieldhouse and coaches are now getting concerned about the cabin fever effect setting in.

"It hasn't really affected practice except in the mental aspect," Schmitz said. "It's now a morale concern of telling the guys we're going inside again, and how much fun could that be?"

After losing two straight to the Razorbacks, the baseball team was Eastern's most disappointed team when they were forced to return to Charleston and brave the cold weather once again.

"Nobody understands the difference of going back and forth between inside and outside more than baseball players," Schmitz said. "We are practicing late in the evenings which can't be too exciting for them either."

Eastern is currently preparing this week for a three-game set starting Friday at Birmingham, Ala., against University of Alabama-Birmingham, Kentucky and Marshall.

"I'm sensing the guys want to get on the bus now, and go play UAB," Schmitz said.

The one lingering concern could be the field at Coaches' Stadium being negatively affected by the amount of snow and cold temperatures this winter.

The Panthers currently have 22 days until the home opener March 19 vs. Indiana State.

"It's really way too early to tell if it will affect the field because we still have so much time until our first home game," Schmitz

said.

The Panthers' morale may jump by the upcoming spring break trip to Jacksonville, Fla. starting March 8.

"It's going to be a great spring trip in Florida," Schmitz said. "I think we have to be more patient with them early to prepare for the conference."

The softball team could be more affected by Mother Nature with there home opener on March 20 against Indiana State but they will have traveled to New Mexico, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama.

"What we can do in the field house is have mini games but you can't hit live in there," Eastern softball head coach Lloydene Searle said. The softball coaching staff is hoping for the predicted 40-degree temperature forecast to come true.

"that would be good enough to play on if the field was dry," Searle said.

Stevens:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the people who can rest easy by finishing ahead of Sorenstam. At the very least, they won't have to hear jokes about them in the locker room the next week.

The top player in the world, Tiger Woods, was quoted as saying, "it will only be great for women's golf if she plays well, if she puts up two high scores, it will be more detrimental than

good."

The sad part is El Tigre is correct.

In all honesty, I have no idea how Sorenstam will do at The Colonial, but I do have a fear. If she does well, it will be a great victory for all of golf.

My fear is she might play poorly, because the stereotypes and jokes about male domination will continue. The fact is that kind of attitude is what continues to turn people away from the game and it doesn't need to exist.

Top Cat:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Besides being one of the top wrestlers in the program, DeFilippis has become a leader for young Panthers. Although McCausland noted his leadership qualities in 2001, DeFilippis' role increased this year when senior Ross Bracey suffered a career-ending neck injury over the

summer. Bracey was to be counted on as the top senior wrestler and team leader.

"Ross Bracey's loss was a devastating blow but it just means that certain guys will be forced to step up a little quicker than they expected," McCausland said.

Judging by DeFilippis' efforts on the mat it, appears as though he has answered his coach's challenge.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Home games up for grabs in OVC

By Matt Williams  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

An Ohio Valley Conference first-round tournament game is what all OVC teams strive for when their seasons start in November. Each year only one team from the OVC makes it to the NCAA tournament, making the extra home game that much more important.

At the beginning of the season, Eastern looked like it would be no where near the fourth and final spot to host a first round game. Seven wins in the team's last nine games, with two being against conference leaders Morehead State and Austin Peay, has changed that prospect a bit for the Panthers.

Eastern (8-6, 13-13) controls its path to the tournament as it holds a slight lead over Murray State (8-7, 15-11) for the final home court spot. Two more Panther wins or a Murray State loss Saturday at Tennessee-Martin will assure Eastern one more game at Lantz Arena.

"The fact that we can control our own destiny at this point of the season is good," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said. "Going on the road is going to be difficult, but our kids have shown some toughness."

The Panthers take to the road for their two remaining games. Games away from Lantz have not been kind to the men as they have dropped 10 of their 13 road contests.

The first stop is at last-place Tennessee State, which has won

only two games all season. The Panthers beat the Tigers 96-67 Feb. 1 at Lantz and they have been hot ever since.

Samuels said a quick start and penetration to the basket would be the keys to knocking off the Tigers.

"A good start is important and to not give them a run in the game to give them confidence that they could win one," Samuels said. "Because of the way I think the game will go, we will have the ability to beat people on the dribble."

If Eastern's men can beat Tennessee State Thursday, will they be watching the Murray State game even closer Saturday?

"I hope that we are focusing on the task at hand," Samuels said. "We want to focus on what we can accomplish."

Murray State is going to have to earn another shot to play at home. The Panthers defeated Martin at home earlier in the month, but this time they will have to travel for a win.

None of this will matter if Eastern can beat Tennessee Tech Saturday. The Panthers struggled on the offensive side by making just 1-of-22 from behind the three-point arc.

Samuels said the game was not lopsided and would have been turned around if they could have made a few more shots.

Samuels knows with two wins this week, his team could be the Murray State of this year as the Racers fueled up late last season to take the 2002 OVC tournament title.



Men's Basketball  
Standings

	OVC	OVERALL
Morehead State	13-2	19-7
Austin Peay	11-3	18-7
Tennessee Tech	9-5	16-11
Eastern Illinois	8-6	13-13
Murray State	8-7	14-11
Tennessee-Martin	7-8	14-12
Eastern Kentucky	5-10	11-15
Southeast Missouri	4-10	10-17
Tennessee State	0-14	2-22

Monday's Results  
Murray State 100, Tennessee State 79

Thursday's Matchups  
Eastern Illinois at Tennessee State  
Southeast Missouri at Tennessee Tech  
Eastern Kentucky at Austin Peay

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

"Them getting hot led them to the NCAA Tournament," he said.

Running:  
Pairing for OVC Tournament at stake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

State, but it could eventually help the Panthers move up in the standings as well. With a victory over Tennessee State Thursday night and a win at Tennessee Tech Saturday, the Panthers would increase their positioning and move into the sixth seed for the tourney. But once again this game has importance to both teams involved.

Tennessee Tech is currently one game ahead of the Panthers and need to win in order to secure that sixth spot. Tennessee Tech is coming off a big win this past Saturday, as they blew away Tennessee State 81-58. The last time Eastern and Tennessee Tech met, the Panthers were victorious 64-46. While the game Saturday night may prove to be the more important of the two, Coach Wunder isn't really worried about it yet.

"This weekend we are gonna take each game one at a time," she said. "We know how important this games are for us and we can't look past the first one. We could end up anywhere from sixth to not in the tournament at all, and we have to remember that."

As the Panthers look to start a winning streak prior to the tournament, the favorite going in would have to be Austin Peay.

The Governors are the hottest team in the conference and hold the best conference record. The Governors are 14-0 in conference and 22-3 overall. They have been playing great basketball all season long, and have other coaches wondering if they can be beat.

With an 80-78 victory over Southeast Missouri Saturday night, the Governors claimed their first outright OVC regular season title. It was the first time an Austin Peay women's basketball team had won a regular season title since the 1995-96 season, when they shared it with former member Middle Tennessee.

With Austin Peay as the favorite, other teams that have already clinched postseason berths will look to prove themselves as con-



Women's Basketball  
Standings

	OVC	OVER
ALL		
♦ Austin Peay	14-0	22-3
♦ Eastern Kentucky	10-5	18-9
♦ Southeast Missouri	9-5	15-10
♦ Morehead State	9-6	16-10
♦ Tennessee-Martin	8-7	11-15
♦ Tennessee Tech	5-9	10-15
Eastern Illinois	4-10	5-20
Tennessee State	4-11	8-18
Murray State	2-12	4-20

♦ - Clinched OVC Tournament berth

Monday's Results  
Morehead State 79, Tennessee-Martin 65  
Murray State 71, Eastern Kentucky 68  
Austin Peay 73, Tennessee Tech 58

Thursday's Matchups  
Eastern at Tennessee State  
Eastern Kentucky at Austin Peay  
Southeast Missouri at Tennessee Tech

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

tenders right away. Eastern Kentucky, Southeast Missouri, Morehead State, Tennessee-Martin and Tennessee Tech have already clinched spots and will look to carry momentum from this weekend into the upcoming tournament.

Eastern Illinois, Murray State and Tennessee State will contend for the final two spots this weekend, and attempt to continue their seasons into the OVC Tournament.

Illinois beats Indiana at home

CHAMPAIGN (AP) - Brian Cook scored 17 points, including nine in a decisive run to start the second half, and No. 18 Illinois beat Indiana 80-54 on Tuesday night, the Hoosiers' seventh loss in 10 games.

The Illini (19-5, 9-4 Big Ten) pulled away from a 39-30 halftime lead with a 25-15 run and led by as many as 28 points with 4:02 to go.

It was their third straight win overall and 16th in a row at Assembly Hall as they pulled into a second-place tie with Wisconsin in the conference. The Illini

have won their last three home games by a total of 75 points.

Jeff Newton had 11 points for Indiana (16-10, 6-7). Illinois opened the second half with a 9-2 run that was capped by Dee Brown's 3-pointer with 16:20 remaining. Indiana closed the gap to 10, but Cook made a layup and a 3-pointer and Brown hit from the outside to put Illinois in control for good.

Roger Powell scored 22 points for Illinois, his second career high in as many games. He scored 20 in Illinois' 73-61 win over Northwestern last Saturday.

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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.

## THROWING HEAT



Matt Stevens  
SPORTS REPORTER

### Annika likes to play with the boys

PGA Tour professionals are shaking right now. In fact, they are downright scared silly and it's not because of this week's World Golf Match Play Championship or the upcoming Masters Tournament or the return of Tiger Woods.

PGA pros are having nightmares every evening because in nearly three months, they will be staring a cold, dark reality in the face. They might lose to a girl!

LPGA superstar Annika Sorenstam has announced in late May she will compete with the men in The Colonial tournament in Fort Worth, Texas. However, it's the reaction that could be considered less than positive for the most elementary of reasons; the greatest of which being she might actually play well.

Us guys all remember how middle school recess became our own personal hell when our friends witnessed us lose to a girl in anything. It didn't matter what it was, if you lost, you were branded for life. C'mon, we were kids and didn't know better. Well, golf is still similar to a playground atmosphere for spoiled adult males who also don't know better. This is why the entire world may be putting incredibly too much pressure on Sorenstam to carry the torch for the LPGA and all of womenkind for that matter. She has made it very clear she's doing this to challenge herself.

Nobody can say Sorenstam wasn't smart with her choice of where to play. The par-70 and 7,080 yard course demands accuracy, and nobody hits the ball straighter than Sorenstam male or female. The fact she's not playing a long course like Pebble Beach will help her succeed. The problem will be that the LPGA's best player averages 265 yards off the tee which would rank close to 200th on the men's tour where players use barely legal rocket launchers off the tee. Therefore, the Swede will be forced to hit 2-irons and 7-woods into most greens.

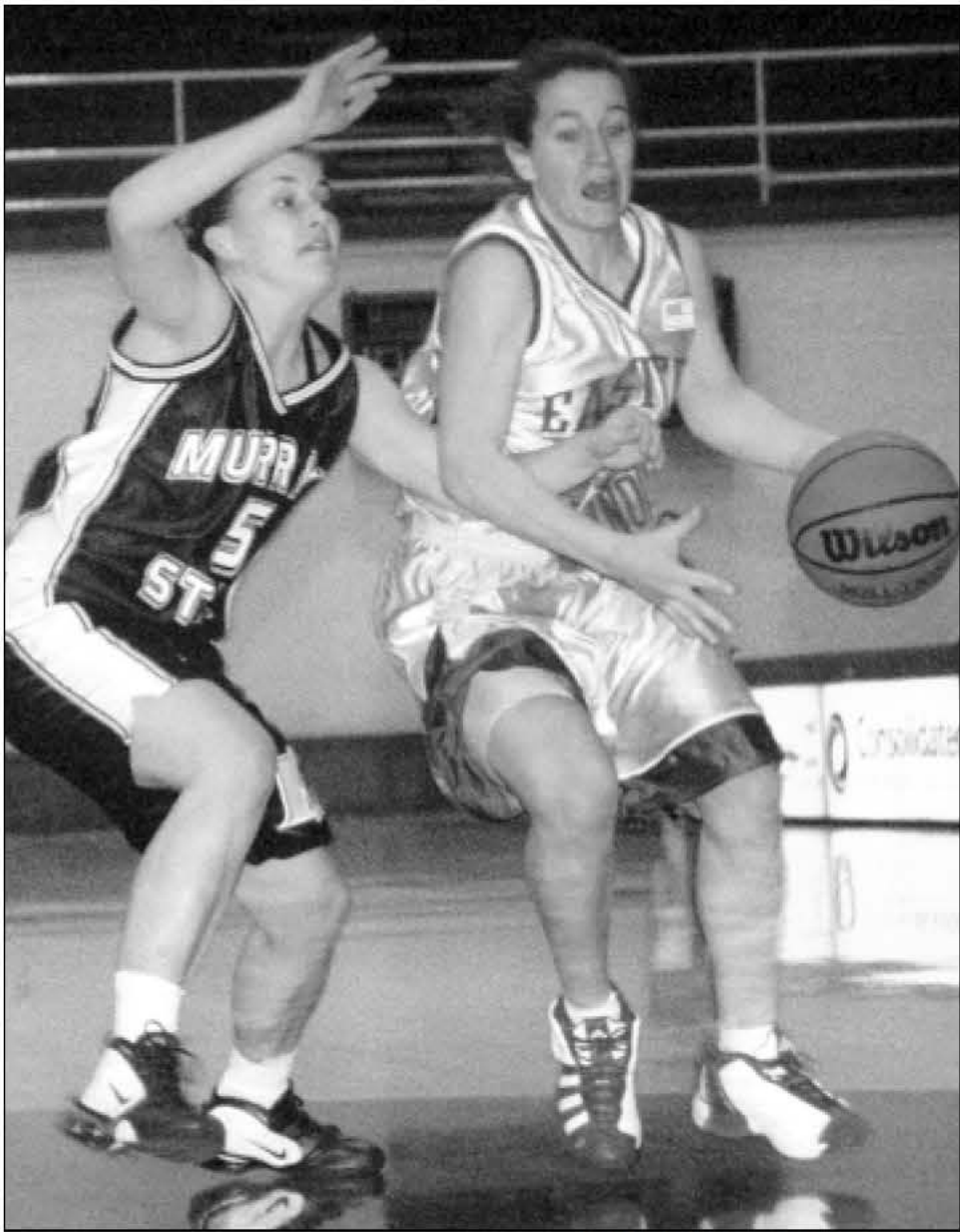
The fact remains unless Sorenstam posts two scores in the high 80's and finishes in last place, she'll finish higher than somebody and nobody wants to be that guy.

The No. 2 ranked golfer in the world Phil Mickelson said it best when he predicted Sorenstam will definitely finish in the Top 20. However, things got interesting when Lefty was asked how he would do. Mickelson answered with, "I hope 19th or better." Notice Mickelson didn't say "I expect to win the tournament."

Two things are very poignant about Mickelson's statement - No. 1, PGA pros are in favor of Sorenstam playing as long as it doesn't effect their reputation.

No. 2 - There will definitely be a tournament within a tournament. The person who takes home the trophy on Sunday and

SEE STEVENS ♦ Page 10



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Redshirt Freshman guard Ashley Kearney and the rest of Panthers will try to jockey for position in the Ohio Valley Conference standing in the final week and a half of the regular season.

## TOP CAT

"He understands what it takes to win." - head coach Ralph McCausland

# In a class of his own

♦ Eastern wrestling team's lone senior Frank DeFilippis hopes to defend his NCAA regional title next week

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

By Michael Gilbert  
STAFF WRITER

Senior wrestler Frank DeFilippis has battled injury and tough opponents all season long, but his crowning moment of the season so far might have come this past weekend in West Lafayette, Ind.

At the Intercollegiate Athletic Facility, the home of Purdue University wrestling, DeFilippis pulled off a stunning upset when he defeated Brad Harper 2-1. Harper was ranked No. 25 in the nation in the 157-pound weight class. Both wrestlers gained one point on escapes before DeFilippis was granted the winning point when Harper was given a one-point penalty for stalling.

For his big win at Purdue, DeFilippis earns this week's "Top Cat" honors.

Regardless of how DeFilippis won, he earned praise from his head coach, Ralph McCausland.

"It's good for him because that's his first match in a few weeks," McCausland said. "Wrestling at Purdue and in those situations, he kept a good head throughout the entire match."

DeFilippis has been in and out of the lineup all year due to injuries. He is the lone senior on the Panther wrestling squad. In his last year at Eastern, he has been sidelined two

different times with a torn bicep. Despite the nagging injuries, DeFilippis has posted an impressive 14-6 record.

When healthy, DeFilippis is a force for the Panthers. In a November meet against Big Ten powerhouse Indiana, DeFilippis provided the Panthers with one of their three winners on the day when he overmatched J.P. Stanley 8-2.

At the Midlands Tournament in late December, DeFilippis won three matches in the 157-pound weight class. The three wins were the most by any Panther grappler and helped Eastern finish in 33rd out of 57 teams.

The finish was quite respectable for the competition the Panthers were facing. The Midlands is open to wrestlers of all ages and abilities, often an NCAA Champion or Olympic hopeful will attend the meet, which makes it one of the most challenging tournaments according to the Panther coaching staff.

With the regular season complete, DeFilippis will now focus and prepare for the NCAA West Regional held in Charleston March 8. DeFilippis is the reigning regional champion at 157-pounds and because he is finally healthy, McCausland believes his senior has a good shot at repeating.

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

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## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Running down the stretch

♦ Eastern, other teams in the bottom half of the standings try to move up in the closing days of the regular season

By Lamon Woods  
STAFF WRITER

With the regular season coming to an end this week, many of the teams are still vying for good positioning in postseason play.

Depending on the results of the weekend, a lot of movement in the lower half of the conference could be seen. Eastern head coach Linda Wunder hopes good play on the road this weekend will boost the team's position and confidence before the upcoming Ohio Valley Conference Tournament. The Panthers will try to move up in the standings Thursday at Tennessee State.

"Tennessee State is a very hard place to play," Wunder said. "We know that we are walking into a very hostile environment Thursday night. We just have to be ready to play."

She also knows how important this game is for Tennessee State.

"They (Tennessee State) need two wins this weekend to even qualify for the postseason tournament," Wunder said. "They know they need to beat us and I expect they will be very fired up to play."

Not only is this game important for Tennessee

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MATT MEINHEIT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Frank DeFilippis defeated 25th ranked wrestler in the nation Purdue's Brad Happer last week, but his final test at Eastern will be next week when he defends his title in the 157-pound weight class at the NCAA West Regional Championship in Lantz Arena.