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Who's looking at O'Henry?

NBA scouts show interest in Eastern senior guard Henry Domercant thanks in part to a publicity blitz from the sports information department.

Page 12 SPORTS

Mertz gets death penalty



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN HAAS/
ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Above: Christina (right) and Brandi Mertz (middle) leave the courtroom with their grandmother, Dorothy French, Wednesday evening after the jury sentenced Anthony Mertz to death. Mertz was sentenced to death for the 2001 murder of Shannon McNamara. During sentencing, evidence was presented also tying Mertz to the 1999 death of Amy Warner.

Right: Cindy McNamara, Shannon's mother, talks to friends and family outside the courtroom in Coles County Circuit Court Wednesday afternoon while the jury deliberated.



♦ *Jury deliberates for 2 1/2 hours in first death sentencing since Ryan commutations*

By Shauna Gustafson
SENIOR WRITER

Shannon McNamara's family cried and applauded as the jury filed out Wednesday evening after delivering a death sentence to Anthony B. Mertz.

McNamara's mother Cindy shouted: "You got him, Shannon. Shannon did it. You destroyed that evil," as the McNamara family consoled each other and applauded the verdict and sentence at the end of almost a grueling five weeks of jury selection, trial and sentencing.

Final deliberations lasted about 2 1/2 hours in what became the first death penalty sentence since former Gov. George Ryan commuted all death penalty sentences to life sentences in early January.

Prosecutor Ed Parkinson said it seemed "pretty quick" for deliberations.

"That tells me they thought the evidence was very strong. I think the Amy Warner evidence played heavy in it," Parkinson said.

Warner, a Charleston resident, was found dead in her home in June 1999. The prosecution tried to tie Mertz to that crime scene during sentencing.

Mertz was convicted of murdering McNamara in her home June 12, 2001. He also was found guilty of aggravated criminal sexual assault and home invasion.

Not everyone was pleased with the verdict, however. Mertz showed little emotion as he was ushered out of the courtroom. His grandmother Dorothy French and sisters Brandi and Christina quickly left the courtroom and exited the courthouse. French said she would not comment to the press on the sentence.

"Not a thing, to you or nobody else," she said as they left.

The rest of courtroom was pleased, with police, detectives,

Appeal could last more than 10 years

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

Convicted murderer Anthony B. Mertz is the only person occupying Illinois' death row.

It took 2 1/2 hours Wednesday for a jury to issue a death sentence following the commutation of all death sentences in Illinois in early January.

Defense attorney Paula Phillips said she was not surprised a jury was willing to use the penalty.

Mertz's sentencing is the first following former Gov. George Ryan's decision to commute individuals previously on death row.

"Downstate Illinois is fertile ground for the death penalty," Phillips said, following the jury's decision Wednesday evening.

She also said the case is automatically appealed because it is a death penalty case. Phillips said several options for appeal exist following this case, including the defense not being allowed a change of venue, the possible influence of the anti-malaria drug Larium and a few problems the defense had with the way the jury was selected.

SEE APPEAL ♦ Page 6

attorneys and both McNamara's and Warner's families comforting each other and discussing the final outcome.

"Shannon fought so hard for this," Cindy McNamara said after the decision. "She would never ever allow this to happen to someone else. She destroyed this evil. He'll never have another victim. She's our hero."

SEE MERTZ ♦ Page 7

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.

Prayer service provides 'time for healing'

By Jennifer Chiariello
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

Closure and comfort was on the minds of Shannon McNamara and Amy Warner's friends and family Wednesday.

A prayer service honoring the memory of McNamara and Warner was held following the sentencing of Anthony Mertz.

Following 2 1/2 hours of deliberation Wednesday, Mertz was sentenced to death for McNamara's murder.

Lauren Lagoni, a member of Alpha Phi, McNamara's sorority, began the service with the announcement that a tree, funded by the university will be planted beside the Alpha Phi house in Shannon's honor.

Lagoni said the tree will be selected by the Alpha Phi house and planted in the spring as a remembrance of Shannon.

A video of Shannon, set to the song "Who can say for

SEE SERVICE ♦ Page 9



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

During a memorial service for Shannon McNamara and Amy Warner, 7-year-old Hannah Walker, Warner's daughter, talks with her grandmother and Warner's mother, Linda Walker, in the auditorium of Lumpkin Hall Wednesday evening. Anthony Mertz was sentenced to death Wednesday, making him the only person on death row in Illinois.

Today
Snow showers



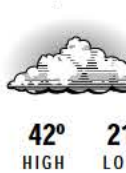
Friday
Mostly sunny



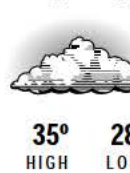
Saturday
Mostly sunny



Sunday
Cloudy



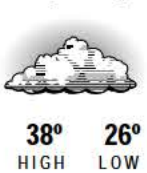
Monday
Mostly sunny



Tuesday
Mostly sunny



Wednesday
Mostly cloudy



Counselor: Look past color to see person

By Matthew Kent
ACTIVITIES REPORTER

Growing up in Mississippi during the Civil Rights movement, Bud Edwards, counselor with the Counseling Center, said he never had to respond to racial issues.

He addressed a small crowd in a workshop titled "Black and White and Shades in Between," which focused on race in the 21st century and how the impact of changing racial demographics affects society today.

"In this country, race has always had huge implications in society," Edwards said.

He said 2.4 percent of Americans identify themselves as a mixed race, and an increase in interracial marriages has dramatically affected society.

"There has been a shift in attitudes and how we view race," Edwards said.

He also spoke of the challenges people face and said children growing up often struggle with identity.

"The peer group that they have can have a huge impact,"

Edwards said.

He said growing up in Mississippi during the 60s and the 70s, no one ever questioned him about himself.

"No one ever questioned the language and the dialect I chose to use," Edwards said.

He asked the audience for possible solutions to ending such struggles.

Mikki Meadows, a family and consumer sciences instructor, said people should stop categorizing individuals.

"You need to see color and heritage; we need to be proud of our background," Meadows said.

Joycelynn Phillips, an adviser for Minority Student Affairs, offered her own perspective.

"We need to provide a safe zone or a place where they (children) feel comfortable to discuss how they feel," Phillips said.

Edwards stressed that over the next 10 to 15 years, there will be a mixed responsibility of how we shape this country.

"It is important not to just see color but to be seen as a person," Edwards said.



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Members of the Washington, D.C., based percussion dance ensemble "Step Afrika" incorporate traditional African dance with step dancing Wednesday night as they perform for students and members of the community in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Step Afrika rocks Union

By Kerry-Ann Malcolm
STAFF WRITER

The Martin Luther King Jr. Union sprang alive with stomping and African drums Wednesday as Step Afrika USA (SAUSA) performed for more than 200 people.

SAUSA is no stranger to Eastern, since it opened its tour here four years ago.

The program began with a performance from six members of the Zeta Phi Beta sorority.

The performance was followed by a step rendition from three members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.

After an intermission, the founding member of SAUSA and Brian Williams, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, warmed up SAUSA's performance and recognized all the fraternities and sororities in attendance.

Williams defined three principles the group empha-

sizes in its performances: preserving the art of step, reinforcing stepping as an educational and motivational art and getting involved with the art of African stepping.

The group defined the process of traditional pledging.

"Pledging as we know it was made illegal in 1991," Williams said. "We're going to show you what pledging looked like 15 years ago."

Three female members dressed in blue and black and two males in black and white demonstrated the traditional pledging process.

During the next part of the show, everyone learned a complicated step combination after being taught by a member of the show.

In the next scene, female audience members enjoyed seeing the men, dressed in scantily-clad African garments, take the audience on a musical journey to Africa.

COMING UP

Presentation shows 'dividing lines'

◆ A performance will teach students about inner-city race relations and misconceptions people may have about race relations, during the presentation titled, "Dividing Lines: The Education of a Chicago White Girl."

The performance is being presented by Susan O'Halloran, a native Chicagoan and professional storyteller.

"Her performance talks about her life experiences as a white female growing up in the inner city," said Dan Crews, director of publicity at the College of Arts and Humanities.

"She also talks about race relations and a lot of misconceptions that people develop after growing up in a particular area."

Professor of English John Kilgore has seen O'Halloran perform several times.

"She is an electrifying storyteller," Kilgore said. "I saw her perform last year at the Illinois Storytelling Festival in Spring Grove, where she received a standing ovation."

Kilgore said students from Chicago will be very interested in what O'Halloran has to say.

"The performance gives a lot of insight to the causes of racial conflict in Chicago," Kilgore said. "Chicago natives will learn a lot about the history of the city's racial divisions."

After hearing O'Halloran's performance, Kilgore presented her

CD to Tim Engles, chairperson of the Visiting Writers Committee in the English department.

"I thought it (the CD) was excellent," Engles said. "It's very educational and helps to clarify how whites and blacks became segregated in Chicago."

The presentation will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday in the 7th Street Underground. Admission is free for the event.

— Compiled by Dar'Keith Lofton, staff writer

Two presentations to address foreign service, employment at State Department

◆ Ashley Profaizer, special assistant to Secretary of State Colin Powell, will be presenting a workshop Thursday titled: "Represent America to the World: A Career in the Foreign Service."

The workshop will advise students on careers in foreign service and discuss employment at the State Department.

Stephen Roper, professor of political science, said he first met Profaizer in 2000 while she was employed at the U.S. Embassy in London.

"Her impact, coming to Eastern as one of the highest ranking officials in the State Department, makes her beneficial to all," Roper said.

The workshop also is helpful to those who want to study abroad,

Roper said.

Profaizer will speak from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Charleston-Mattoon Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

— Compiled by Matthew Kent, activities reporter

How to be a librarian

◆ An Eastern graduate will present a lecture Thursday discussing careers offered in library sciences.

Amanda Staderfer, director of the Helen Matthes Library and a member of the Illinois Library Association Board of Directors, will speak about "Careers in Library Sciences."

Standerfer returns as a guest of the university. A press release stated she received a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1995 and a master of arts degree in history in 1997.

"The lecture will discuss the various careers using your degree from here, what kind of jobs you can find in library sciences and how you can use that degree," said Dan Crews, director of publicity for the College of Arts and Humanities.

The lecture will be 3:30 p.m. Thursday in Coleman Hall Room 3130, and a reception will follow. All interested students and faculty are welcome to the lecture, which is hosted by Sigma Tau Delta, Eastern's English Honors Society.

— Compiled by Jennifer Chiariello, activities editor

When NATO uses force

By Holly Henschen
STAFF WRITER

Ryan Hendrickson, assistant political science professor, spoke Wednesday about NATO secretary generals, focusing on secretaries General Willy Claes and Javier Solana and their use of NATO force.

The secretary general verifies that consensus is reached in the North Atlantic Council (NAC) meetings of NATO. The NAC takes no direct vote on its decision to use NATO force, so the secretary general is imperative in military action deliberations.

Hendrickson traveled to Brussels, Belgium, the home of NATO, to conduct interviews for a case study with NATO diplomats. Hendrickson researched influence of Claes and Solana in agenda setting, authorizing military action and targeting decisions.

Willy Claes, of Belgium, was secretary general during NATO involvement in Bosnia that began

August 1995.

Hendrickson said Claes had a "very organized, cut-and-dry method" during NAC meetings but was known to throw "temper tantrums" to reach an agreement. Claes "wasn't the one pulling the trigger at NATO" during Operation Deliberate Force in Bosnia.

"He made the use of force a military, not political decision," Hendrickson said.

Solana was NATO secretary general during Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, which began in June 1999.

He was an "urbane, sophisticated European diplomat with a high energy level," Hendrickson said.

Solana had the confidence of the United States and Europe and acted as a "shield for criticism," taking personal responsibility for NATO action.

Hendrickson said that contrary to Claes, Solana was "intricately involved in the bombing process and critical in targeting."

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For the love of the game

◆ *Manager at Eastern's Union Lanes started bowling at age 6; now a member of International Hall-of-Fame*

By Leslie O'Neil
STAFF WRITER

Few people dedicate their lives to a sport as Tim Taflinger has. Since childhood, Taflinger has been infatuated with bowling.

"It's been 34 years," he said. "I started when I was 6 years old. My whole family bowled; it was a family thing. I just hung around the bowling alley a lot, got better and started bowling a lot more."

However, a lot might be an understatement.

While enrolled at Vincennes University in Vincennes, Ind., Taflinger would regularly bowl over 100 games every week.

Now, Taflinger, manager at Union Lanes in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, awaits induction into the International Bowling Hall of Fame in St. Louis for the second time.

To qualify, bowlers must either score 300 in a game or 800 in a series of three games during a sanctioned league or tournament.

In 1984, Taflinger bowled a 300 and just recently bowled an 800 series.

"It's an honor," Taflinger said. "Some people wait all their life and never bowl a 300 or 800. You're among the elite (in the Hall of Fame) I guess."

"It takes a lot of practice," Taflinger said. "When I bowled for Vincennes University in 1983, we won the Junior College Nationals, and then we won the Bowling Nationals."

"All the schools in the country bowl in qualifying tournaments to get into the National Collegiate Championship. We're still the only college team to win them both within the same year. That was a pretty neat accomplishment."

Taflinger earned his associate degree in bowling lanes management from Vincennes and has been working as the manager of Union Lanes for 20 years.

Co-worker Ted Hart, who works as the assistant director, has worked with Taflinger for 18 of those years.

"Tim is just super to work with. He's very knowledgeable in the bowling center," Hart said. "It's just a privilege to be working with someone with his skill."

Although Hart likes to bowl, he admitted to lacking talent like Taflinger's.

"I love to bowl, but my bowling is strictly for leisure," he laughed. "I'm not a good bowler."

Hart commented on how many bowlers at the union admire Taflinger's skill.

"The customers definitely look up to Tim. He works with customers of all ages," Hart said.

League member Mike Lawler, a senior marketing major, has noticed Taflinger's ability.

"When I'm over there he does everything he can to spread his enthusiasm to us," he said. "Eastern is very lucky to have a guy like that."

Unlike Taflinger, Lawler bowls only three games a week through his league and plays for leisure.

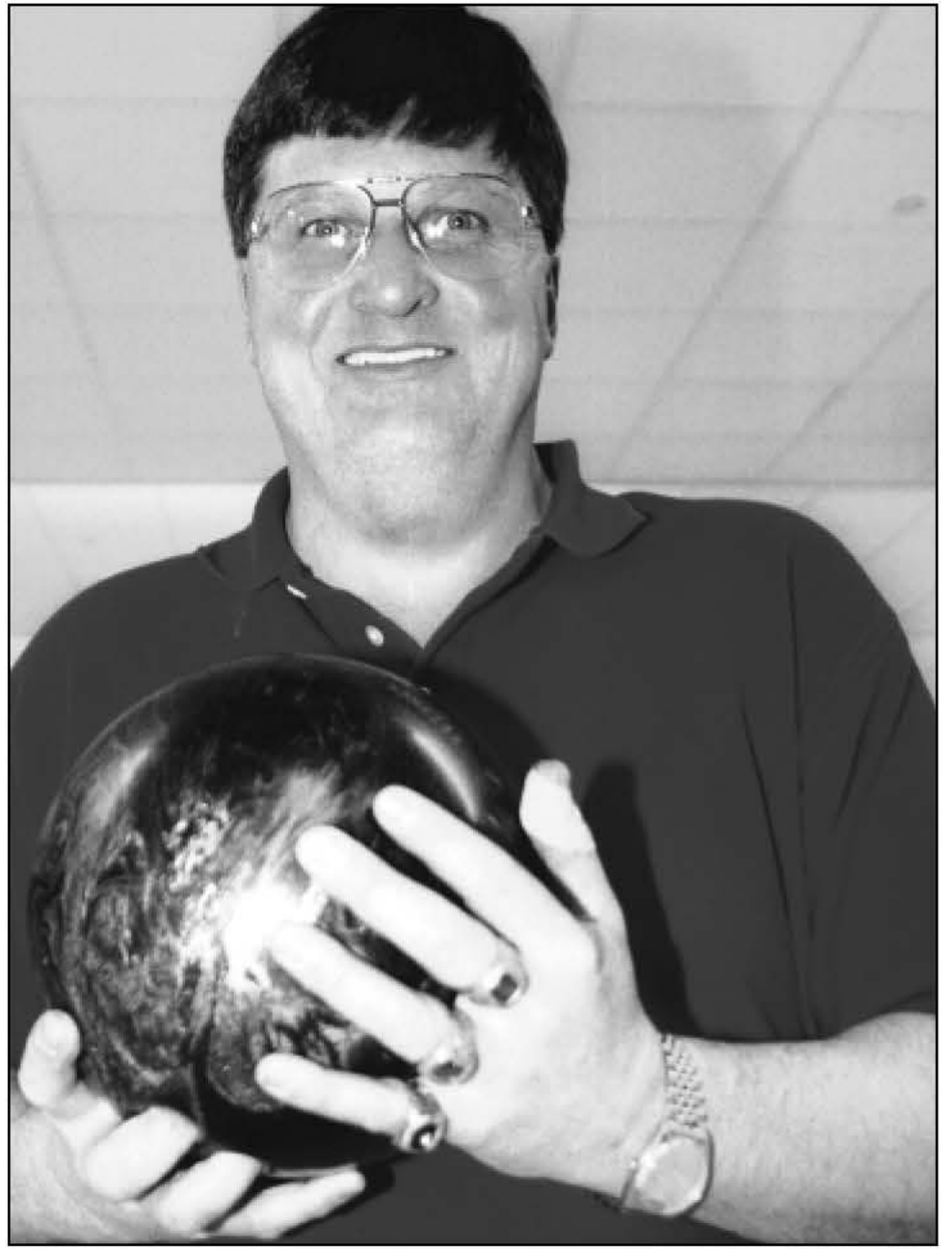
"We just bowl on Mondays," Lawler said. "It's just an excuse to get together."

Lawler said he once bowled a 191 during his best game and has a hard time imagining how much time and hard work a Hall-of-Famer like Taflinger dedicates to his passion.

"It's impossible for me to fathom 100 games a week," Lawler said. "That's incredible."

But for Taflinger, dedicating his time to the sport is a joy.

"If I had to quit tomorrow, I'd be satisfied with what I've done," he said. "But I wouldn't want to quit. It's in my blood. I've probably got another nine or 10 years working here before I retire, but when I do, I'll probably still be doing something with bowling."



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Tim Taflinger shows off his rings Wednesday afternoon in Union Lanes in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. He was awarded two rings for 299 games and one was for a 300 game. Taflinger will be inducted into the International Bowling Hall of Fame for the second time.

Senate constitutional amendments taken to the polls

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Constitutional amendment revisions in the Faculty Senate require more than the approval of senate members.

Faculty are asked to vote on amendment changes, and they have the opportunity to vote on two separate amendments Thursday.

The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union. Voting is only open to tenure or tenure-track faculty and department chairs.

Both changes were approved by the senate Feb. 11.

The two parts of the first amendment changes the eligibility of department chairs to hold seats on senate or major faculty councils, while allowing them to still vote on membership.

If the second revision is accepted by the faculty, department chairs

will not be able to serve on the councils. Chairs could be opposed to the amendment change, said physics professor Doug Brandt, chair of the senate elections committee.

After hearing feedback from the Council of Chairs, Brandt said he heard the chairs were split on the issue.

"Faculty Senate has heard from both chairs and non-chairs that they thought it was important that the chairs do not serve," he said.

Department chairs serving could cause a conflict of interest. The position holds "dual status" because chairs sometimes go back to serving as faculty members, senate chair Anne Zahlan said previously.

Sociology and anthropology chair Gary Foster served on Faculty Senate for 12 years.

Foster said he is not in favor of what the amendment would mean for chairs.

"While there is a potential for a

conflict of interest to emerge, chairs have contributed over the years to Faculty Senate and other councils. I would not want to see chairs disenfranchised," he said.

Foster said he was elected each time to the senate as a faculty member and stepped down when he became chair. Even without the amendment in place, others could handle any interest conflict that arose, he said.

The rationale for the second revision is to bring the senate's constitution in unison with other committees' bylaws and current practices regarding members selected by university colleges.

The senate supervises membership selection for university committees filed by elected members, and with the exception of the Council on Academic Affairs, the committees or councils are in the practice of specifying membership from specific colleges.

"While there is a potential for a conflict of interest...I would not want to see chairs disenfranchised"

—Gary Foster

However, the CAA is in the process of revising membership bylaws to select two faculty voting members from each academic college.

The senate amendment removed the wording "at large" and added, "any elective council may limit particular seats and the electorate for those seats to faculty from particular academic units to ensure balanced representation."

Technically, if the senate amendment change is approved, it will

allow the CAA to revise its bylaws.

"I think (the amendment) is very important because the councils have been working under bylaws that are inconsistent," Brandt said.

Thursday's vote follows the required two weeks wait past the senate's own approval of the amendments.

The changes will be finalized before nominations are due March 7 for faculty council and committee elections on March 25 and 26.

The nominations cover nine university committees as well as five positions selected at large for the Faculty Senate.

Brandt said he does not expect a large turnout Thursday.

"Often times the amendment votes are at the same time as the faculty elections," which would have added to the voting numbers when past amendments have been changed, he said.

EXTENDED
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. Mar 5 in Buzzard Hall Room 1811.
The contest is sponsored by:
If you would like to become a sponsor call Steve at 581-2816

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DAREDEVIL (PG13)
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JUNGLE BOOK 2 (G)
Daily 4:00, 6:30, 8:30
CHICAGO (PG13)
Daily 3:50, 6:45, 9:30
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS (PG13)
Daily 4:45, 7:20, 10:05
HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (PG13)
Daily 4:10, 7:10, 9:55
LIFE OF DAVID GALE (R)
Daily 5:00, 8:00
DARK BLUE (R)
Daily 4:30, 7:30, 10:10 Ends Thursday!
OLD SCHOOL (R)
Daily 5:15, 7:45, 10:00
Starts Friday
CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE (R)

FREE REFILL on Popcorn & Soft Drinks!



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EDITORIAL

Standardized tests not for college level

Standardized testing has been a staple of elementary and secondary education for at least as long as most of Eastern's students have been alive.

Many started taking them in first grade and didn't stop until the latter years of high school. The Iowas, IGAPs, ISATs and whatever may have replaced them aimed to assess the value of mandatory public education.

Schools, unless they are private, are a government-funded institution that we have little choice but to attend. We also have little choice about which school we attend - geography pretty much takes care of that.

Therefore, it's important to make sure any student, regardless of whether they go to school in Chicago or Centralia, gets an adequate and roughly equal education. Standardized testing is one way to do that, although educators are in dispute over its efficacy.

That dispute and the very big difference between college and K-12 education is why college students shouldn't be made to take standardized tests. The University Professionals of Illinois, a union of university professors, rightly opposes the statewide testing pilot initiative.

All colleges and universities are not created equal because they select their students from all over the world based on academic achievement. All colleges have different standards and have in place individual assessment practices to ensure their students live up to those standards.

A student, in turn, selects his or her college similarly, looking not only at price and proximity but academic standards.

Even in the cases of public universities, it is not in the interest of Illinois or any other state to ensure a university system of carbon copies. Illinois' 12 public institutions have varying acceptance requirements, specialty programs and other factors that distinguish them from one another.

Additionally, systems are already in place to keep track of the performance of a particular college and its students. Eastern itself is currently going through the accreditation process.

Illinois students and universities aren't all the same; their methods of assessment shouldn't be either.

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

At issue

The possibility of making standardized testing optional at universities

Our stance

Standardized tests should not be administered at the college level.

OPINION

Let's go attack Iraq now



Nate Bloomquist

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

Bloomquist also is a senior journalism major.

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

Some European countries sling every name in the book at the United States. Warmongers, aggressors, power hungry Joes and maybe even Great Satan, they shout.

They thumb their noses at us and fart in our general direction.

But their name calling is unjust because the United States, aided by many of those countries that cry foul, should go to war to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction.

What more does Iraq have to do?

During the 12 years since the Gulf War Conflict, Iraqi leadership has done almost nothing to appease the United Nations. Iraq broke sanctions, it misled weapons inspectors and more importantly it was found to be in material breach of several UN resolutions.

Inspectors aren't detectives and they shouldn't be expected to sniff out weapons. Iraqi officials need to show them the weapons. It doesn't take a Sherlock to see the purpose for going to war is elementary.

The UN shouldn't simply sit back and let Iraq get away with evil.

Drawing up another resolution or wasting more time with more ineffective inspections compares to putting Iraq in the corner time-out chair.

Don't call Iraq a problem child.

The country and its leaders play like rats that should be rooted out, not grounded.

"It doesn't take a Sherlock to see the purpose for going to war is elementary."

The term regime change angers many, and it should. Weapons need to go first; then Iraq can figure out who should lead it.

The United States has made regime changes before. The most recent was the Taliban rule of Afghanistan which America supported during the 1980s. We've already seen the outcome of that action.

Instead, Sadaam should be forced into exile by his own people - not a stretch in logic. If Iraq loses the war, the people of Iraq, who have been continually oppressed and will likely again be used as human shields, Sadaam's power vaporizes.

But how can we justify sending off sons and daughters and other loved ones overseas?

Because it's the right thing to do.

My best friend from high school ships off to Turkey this week as part of a Patriot missile unit. He's fighting a war he agrees with, and I believe he can fend for himself.

I'm not worried, but his deployment tests my stance on the war as I'm sure it does thousands of friends, fathers and mothers

across the country.

Iraq remains a valid threat and has ties to terrorists. Secretary of State Colin Powell earlier this month showed reams of evidence revealing Iraqi schemes to evade weapons inspectors.

Powell's report showed a clear link to an Al Qaeda associate and showed a terrorist training camp in northeastern Iraq. He revealed evidence showing production of Anthrax and other chemical agents. He said one small vial of Anthrax can cause thousands of casualties.

But many would let it slide. They say Iraq has a history of deceit and wonder why now is any different.

So how many vials of Anthrax need to be produced? How much VX nerve gas should we let Iraq store? Iraq had used such agents on its own people. What's stopping the country from using them on us?

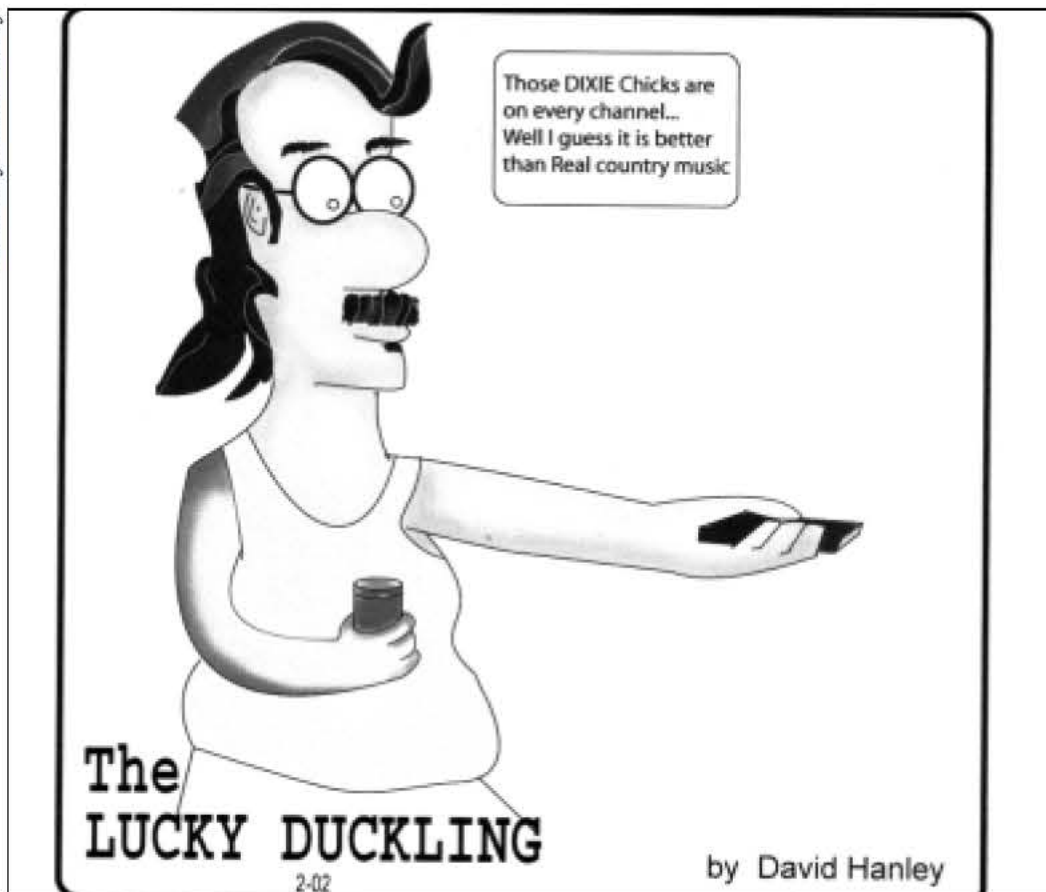
Iraq must disarm now. North Korea also should take steps as should Iran, India and Pakistan. The United States targets Iraq now because the country currently poses the biggest threat.

How alert do Americans need to be before taking action?

Americans are on code Orange, high alert. Living under Code Red isn't the American way. We can't keep living in fear.

Americans have much more to fear than fear itself these days, and a war against Iraq would vaporize plenty of that fear.

Cartoon by David Hanley



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students applauded for support

To the student body: Last Thursday's basketball doubleheader vs. Austin Peay at Lantz Arena was a great environment for college basketball. They were two extremely competitive and exciting games. The enthusiasm and good sportmanship Eastern fans displayed is always a great motivator for our coaches and players.

On behalf of the team, I wish to express our thanks to the Blue Crew, the Panther Pep Band and the student body in general for supporting Panther basketball this winter. You are a difference maker as our boisterous 'Sixth Man!'

Eastern's student cheering section is indeed the best among the nine institutions in the Ohio Valley Conference. No one else comes close! Let's grow and make Lantz Arena the envy of the Midwest.

Your support is significant in creating a special 'home court' advantage in Lantz Arena. Our players recognize and appreciate your spirited 'cheering' at every home game.

Eastern students are the best, and that certainly was evident during the 2003 season.

We hope to see you again in Lantz this coming Tuesday in the first round of the Ohio Valley Conference tournament. Thank you!

Rick Samuels
Men's basketball coach

Country needs to step in to help

This is in response to Bryan Miller's letter published in the Feb. 21 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Mr. Miller reminded us we should not condemn the soldiers of war. I agree. Miller went on to say we should condemn the act of war itself.

He stated nothing good has ever emerged from war, and, "freedom doesn't come from war ...," but war only leads to more oppression. He equated war with "redemptive violence" instead of freedom.

Mr. Miller, are we still under England's rule?

Why is this nation still whole?

How was Hitler's regime stopped? Who liberated the survivors of the concentration camps? Yes, there are

Wars that are not justified, but the Bible tells us there is a place and time for all things. When your neighbor is being ravaged and violated, you need to step in and help them, whether you are a single person, a country or an alliance.

I hope I am never your neighbor in need of your defense because by your own statements, you may decide I am not choosing to exercise my right to freedom but allowing myself to be oppressed.

Kathy Bryant
office systems specialist I

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

Speaking of speech...

◆ Workshop discusses benefits of communication major

By Jeff Stauber
STAFF WRITER

Speakers at the Speech Communication Career Day Wednesday told students how a degree in speech communication would benefit them in overcoming the obstacles of the job market.

Rather than recruiting, the event held by the Student Activities Committee for Speech Communication was focused on providing information to students interested in pursuing a speech communication major. It featured panels of Eastern alumni and other professionals who were invited to speak by Eastern faculty members.

Along with local entrepreneurs and Eastern administrators, health, technology, broadcasting, teaching, public relations and sales and marketing professionals spoke to students about the advantages of majoring in speech communication.

"With my degree (in speech communication)," said speaker V.J. Bellafiore, a sales manager with Wells Fargo International, "I had a lot of options. Because of the program I was in when I was here, I ended up with a position that I'm very happy with."

Speakers stressed the importance of interviewing and gaining job experience.

"My biggest advice is to interview, interview, interview," said Tara Myerscough, an Eastern graduate and pharmaceutical sales representative, "because you're not going to get the first job you interview for."

She also spoke on the importance of previous experience in finding a job.

"Get some experience straight out of college," she said, "Don't wait for the job you really want, because you won't get it without experience."

Students were also active during the panels of discussion and appreciated the speakers' advice.



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Cameron Foster, a senior speech communications major, meets Todd Jones, a public relations representative for Jones and Thomas, after Jones' speech Wednesday afternoon in the Effingham Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"All the panels were well-attended, and students asked a lot of questions," said Jodi Aeschleman, a senior speech communication major.

"The panels were very informative," said Lana Miller, a senior speech communication major. "They helped students understand how to be competitive in the job market and how to get the job they really want."

With many people involved in its organization, the event attracted more than 200 students, said Brian Sowa, speech professor and coordinator of the event.

"This was a great idea, but, individually, it would have been impossible," Sowa said in considering the organizers of the event. "I applaud the students and faculty for their help."

Council will continue bylaws talk

By Jessica Caudle
STAFF WRITER

The Council on Academic Affairs will discuss bylaw revisions and the proposal of a new course Thursday. Bylaw revisions from last week's CAA meeting will continue.

One revision will be for the council to elect a vice chair who would advance to chair the following year, said James Tidwell, journalism professor and council member.

The members of CAA each serve three-year terms. The only members this change would be applied to would be those in their first term, considering the advancement from vice chair, he said.

"There are real problems with that," Tidwell said. A second bylaw revision deals with the council's membership.

Membership has been at large, but the CAA will be voting to make it represented by two representatives from each college.

All members seemed opposed to the idea last week, but a vote needs to be held, Tidwell said.

CAA also will discuss a new course proposal.

The new course proposal, INT 2043, Computer-Aided Engineering Drawing, will be a required course for industrial technician majors. The course will replace INT 1043.

The proposed class will be taught by technology professor Ronald Sutliff and associate technology professor Wafeek Wahby.

The new computer drawing class will provide basic and advanced computer-aided drawing experience and engineering graphics principles and concepts, Sutliff said.

This course will be a core course for the industrial technician field. Currently, the curriculum has INT 3053, which is an in-depth computer drawing class, but is not a requirement or core course. INT 3053 will be eliminated once INT 2043 is put into effect.

"All (industrial technician) students will now have an in-depth experience," Sutliff said.

The council meets at 2 p.m. Thursdays in the Arcola-Tuscola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

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Meetings to hear budget requests, volunteer projects

◆ AB hears budget, expects own to grow by \$15,000 to total over \$400,000

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Apportionment Board will hear budget presentations Thursday from Campus Recreation, Student Government and the AB.

Ken Baker, director of Campus Recreation; Student Body President Allison Mormino; and Sha Woodyard, adviser to the AB, will give their prospective budgets for the upcoming year.

The last budget presentation will come from the Dramatic Players March 6, said Amy Leonard, AB chair.

AB funds for next year will increase by \$15,000 for a total of \$462,375. The money will be divided among the five fee-funded boards: Campus Recreation,

Student Government, the AB, Dramatic Players and the University Board, which presented its budget last week.

"We've received the increase because of projected enrollment. It's a conservative amount that could rise if enrollment increases. In that case, the extra money would go into the AB reserve account," Leonard said.

The meeting is open to all students.

"Students should attend these meetings if they want to see what their fees are paying for," Leonard said.

Mormino said the Student Government budget asks for money usually requested in additional allocations. This money will cover programs the student vice president

"Students should attend these meetings if they want to see what their fees are paying for."

—Amy Leonard

for student affairs works on, such as the Recognized Student Organization Banquet and the Recognized Student Organization fair.

"This money will help cover the costs of food and publicity for the events," Mormino said.

◆ RHA will hear presentations, one on a future service program called Bucket Brigade

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association Thursday will hear a presentation from Student Body President Allison Mormino about Bucket Brigade, an upcoming community service project. The program will unite Eastern students with Charleston residents to paint selected homes.

"I will be asking them to volunteer and for some donations for supplies," Mormino said. "They have always been helpful in the past."

RHA President Stina Heldmann said issues relating to money are tabled for a week.

Heldmann said the RHA also

will hear from a representative from the National Residence Hall Honorary, which honors the top 1 percent of leaders living in residence halls. The speaker will talk about the organization and how students can nominate people they feel are qualified.

"It's quite an honor to be nominated for NRHH," Heldmann said. "RHA is only allowed to make up to five recommendations."

Jody Stone, associate director of housing, also will give a presentation on housing scholarships available to students. The complete list will be released on March 3.

The Residence Hall Association will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday in McKinney Hall.

Appeal: State makes plans to revitalize death row program

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Phillips said she hopes this case will bring Larium into the limelight as a problem. An expert witness testified Larium can potentially cause psychotic and aggressive behavior, among others.

"I hope (the case) leads to that drug being taken off the market," Phillips said.

She said the legislature needs to change the way mitigation in death penalty cases is heard and, although the state has made great strides in making capitol litigation more fair, there is still a long way to go.

During and before Ryan's time in office, a substantial number of flaws with the process were discovered. Shortly before his term ended, he made a drastic step against

state capital punishment by unilaterally commuting and granting clemencies to all inmates.

Ryan also put a moratorium in effect preventing any death row individuals from being put to death.

"Gov. Rod Blagojevich is a supporter of the death penalty," said Tom Schafer, press secretary for the governor's office.

Blagojevich will adhere to the moratorium Ryan put into effect until proper reforms are made, Schafer said. "This doesn't mean he will never be executed."

The judicial appeal process for a person sentenced to death lasts years.

"The decision on this individual is a long time off, upward of 10 years," Schafer said. "It's quite a ways down the road."

The governor has time to seek reforms to the system, Schafer said. Rather than the blanket, unilateral decision made by Ryan, Blagojevich will reform all possible issues to ensure those sentenced to death will serve the sentences they were assigned by judges and juries.

Victims' families who found

comfort in death sentences lost that security when sentences were commuted.

Under Blagojevich's leadership, judges and juries' sentences will be respected and carried out with only the changes necessary for reforming prior errors in the system.

"The judicial process should continue on with courts, prosecutors and juries assigning the sentences they see fit," Schafer said.

State legislature is actively seeking to resolve the causes of errors in assigning and carrying out death sentencing.

"Eventually the problems that existed in the past will be no longer," Schafer said.

Following the death penalty's revitalization, death to death row inmates will continue as it did in the past, only without mistakes.

This reformed system will ensure a more structured and more reassuring judicial process for accused individuals as well as victims' families.

—Shauna Gustafson, senior writer, contributed to this report

Fiscal plan rejected

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

The Student Senate discussed a resolution for fiscal restraint from the Apportionment Board at great length Wednesday.

During audience participation, Ken Baker, director of Campus Recreation, said mandatory restraints were not necessary. Baker said his budget presentation for the fiscal year 2004 already is down almost 50 percent from \$196,000 to \$111,000.

Caleb Judy, University Board chair, also addressed the senate about his additional requests for the University Board budget.

"What we will do with the extra money is based on what we need to provide the students of EIU with quality programming," Judy said.

After a lengthy discussion, the resolution calling for fiscal restraint was not approved.

A bylaw change request concerning strengthening the penalty for missed committee meetings was tabled for next week. The bylaw change calls for three absences from committee meetings to result

in senate member's dismissal. "If you're not there, then you're not doing your job," Speaker of the Senate Bill Davidson said.

A resolution encouraging good conduct among Student Senate members during meetings was approved.

The Apportionment Board allocation of \$6,199.55 to Student Senate for Unity Week also was approved.

The approval of the Student Action Team bylaws was tabled for next week.

The Student Action Team bylaws include a mission statement and more detailed committee descriptions.

Several students were approved to committees. Nikl Klingler, Anthony Hill, Emily Johnston, Jan Spracker and Tim Mason were approved as voting members to the Tuition and Fee Committee. Dominique Simmons was approved to the Diversity Affairs Committee and the Housing Committee. Jeremy Pelzer, Ryan Siegel and Vlad Nikobich to the University Development and Recycling Committee.

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STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

State's Attorney Steve Ferguson paced back and forth between his office and Courtroom 1 of Coles County Circuit Court Wednesday during jury deliberations in the sentencing of Anthony B. Mertz. Mertz was sentenced to death for the murder of Shannon McNamara after 2 1/2 hours of deliberations. Ferguson said: "A death penalty is not something that you celebrate."

Mertz:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Warner's sister Debbie Endsley said she felt "relief" after the jury rendered its decision, and even if no charges are brought against Mertz for her sister's murder, she thinks this verdict helped somewhat.

"I feel like some justice is done for Amy too," Endsley said. "He's gone; he's not going to be able to hurt anyone else."

State's Attorney Steve Ferguson said although he was pleased with the outcome, it wasn't an easy victory to enjoy. "A death penalty is not something that you celebrate," Ferguson said. "We did our job; it was up to them (the jury)."

He said the jury did a lot of hard work, and he appreciated it.

"A death penalty (sentence) is more a triumph of the system," Ferguson said. "I honestly feel they came back with the right verdict."

Charges against Mertz for the murder of Warner are not immediately in sight, he said.

"We'll have to approach that later, but to be honest, we presented the evidence that we had here in this hearing," Ferguson said.

He also said there is no statute of limitations on murder, and charges could eventually be brought up. Ferguson said the Warners have not asked him to charge Mertz as of yet.

"We've accomplished something significant right now," he said.

Defense attorney Paula Phillips said although Mertz didn't express much emotion after the decision was read, she said he was affected.

"You can knock on the door, but he's not going to let you in," Phillips said. "(He is) scared to death."

She said the introduction of evidence regarding the Warner case was disastrous to their case and should not have been allowed at that stage of trial.

"I think it had a horrible impact on the jury," she said. "No reliability. Law enforcement has a motive here."

"It's a very difficult thing... to even ask for the death penalty"

Parkinson delivered closing statements for the prosecution, calling Mertz a "coward" who had murdered McNamara, "but he didn't defeat her."

He said Mertz had a lot of chances in life, regardless of his childhood, and had chosen the paths he took.

"Close the door on Anthony Mertz. He had too many chances," Parkinson said.

He revisited the idea the prosecution brought up during trial that McNamara had convicted Mertz herself through DNA evidence and evidence found at the scene of the crime.

Parkinson asked the jury if it heard remorse from Mertz for a murder he said he couldn't remember committing.

"Did you ever hear 'I'm sorry'?" he asked. "Did you ever hear, 'I'm sorry Shannon; I'm sorry Cindy and Bob'?"

Parkinson told the jury although the defense would likely tell them the death penalty wouldn't bring McNamara back, it should consider his actions, consider the crimes, including the murder of Warner and a fire on Fourth Street, when it considered the sentence.

"This is one of those cases, if ever, that deserves the death penalty," he said.

"You now know Anthony has failed miserably"

Defense attorney David Williams told the jury Mertz had tried his entire life to be normal, but a terrible childhood and too much extra life baggage dragged him to where he is now.

"He knows he'll live the rest of his life with the picture of Shannon McNamara's mutilated body before him," Williams said.

He reminded the jury of Mertz's history of abuse, alcoholism and depression, and he tried to connect one last time the effect an anti-malarial drug may have had on him in bringing on psychotic episodes and aggression.

Williams also asked the jury if it would be able to go home and tell family members and friends it had sent someone to death. "Anthony's execution won't make her reappear," he said. "You're not the instrument of the McNamara's revenge. I ask for you to stand by your beliefs. You won't have a second chance."

Parkinson responded sharply to Williams' comments with a rebuttal that shifted the blame for the decision.

"Mr. Williams urges you to take the easy way out," Parkinson said. "You're not the reason (Mertz) is here. You're not going to kill him. You're going to follow the law."

"Some people are just evil. The McNamaras aren't here to get revenge — the state is here to get justice."

Parkinson said McNamara had already done more in her short life than a world full of Mertz.

He said Mertz asked for mercy, but he didn't offer it.

"Don't you think Shannon would like to watch TV, feel rain on her face, run?" he asked. "Maybe just breathe."

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ACROSS

1, 5 & 10 Need for 69-, 70- and 71-Across

14"___ off?"

15Earthling

16Vargas Llosa novel "Julia and the Scriptwriter"

17Ye follower

18Blue dyes

19Atlases, e.g.: Abbr.

20Cruelty

22Hebrew prophet

24Milk provider

25P.D. alert

27Cheated

30Div. of a former union

31They have big bills

34Outside: Prefix

35Relating to life

36Philips product

38Label on many an advertising photo

41Washington State's Sea-___ Airport

42Pantywaist

43Adherent in Iran

44Work boot feature

46Clockmaker Terry

47How some rebukes are made

49"Life cabaret"

52Creepy-crawlies

DOWN

1Snares

2Marriage byproduct

3Yes-man, perhaps

4"___ Sleep, for Every Favor" (old hymn)

5It might be next to a bar of soap

6Bit of wit

7Provençal pal

8"Safe" or "out"

9Academy graduate

5438-Down was the second one

55R.N.'s treatment

56Rarely

59Unconcerned retort

61Kind of bag

63Period

65Surrounding light

66Litigious one

67"___ And then again ..."

68Desktop marker

69, 70 & 71 What the middle of this puzzle is

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

E	A	V	G	A	O	D	N	Y	X	S	D	I	K
N	O	I	O	I	O	R	O	R	E	S	S	E	R
O	T	H	E	A	G	E	S	E	T	O	I		
I	A	H	M	O	S	W	O	D	S	E	L	E	
C	T	L	N	O	S	E	V	A	R	V	L		
S	A	I	A	T	S	S	O	C	R	O	I	L	E
I	S	S	I	S	C	A	T	O	I	E	R		
O	X	E	S	N	Y	A	C	T	O	I	S	S	
E	D	L	E	D	L	E	D	L	E	D	L	E	D
S	N	I	W	S	T	I	N	V	H	D	E	L	O
I	N	N	Y	S	T	I	N	V	H	R	O	N	O
I	D	G	R	I	D	S	P	A	C	E			

Puzzle by Patrick Merrell

10 ___ Abdel Nasser

11Unfeeling

12Place to lay over

13Skid row ailment

21Like Britain's Private Eye magazine

23Antidrug mantra

26Fit up against

28Split personalities?

29Feeble-minded

32Informal goodbyes

33Ins have it

35She played Maude on "Maude"

37Limo passenger

38See 54-Across

39Scottie in the White House

40Craved

45Nearly

48Ted Williams and others

49Cornell's home

50Winter Olympics event

51Broadway opening?

53Turns

57Other, in España

58"Death in Venice" author

60Antiroyalist, in the Revolution

61Scolding sound

62Ja, across the Rhine

64Vishnu, e.g.

Service: Father: Getting tears out like getting poison out of your system

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

certain" by Josh Grobin, was presented, and the poem "Death" by Henry Scott Holland was read by Becky Leman, a member of Alpha Phi.

A video of Warner also was presented, followed by words from the Rev. Chris Brey of the Newman Catholic Center.

"Love, light and memories endure — we gather to remember and to close this moment that has endured," Brey said. "Memories of love continue — some things in life cannot be taken away; light and love will endure."

Members of the prayer service joined hands for the singing of the Lord's Prayer lead by Brey.

Jessica Catto and Susan Kretch of Alpha Phi presented flowers to the Warner family and flowers and a quilt to the McNamara family. The quilt is made of Alpha Phi T-shirts that belonged to Shannon.

Cindy McNamara, Shannon's mother, said: "What an effect this town had on Shannon. She loved it down here. The best part of her life was here. We appreciate the fact she had such a good life down here."

"She had a really good 22 years ... Thank you to those who made her last years the best. Thank you so much." Debbie Endsley, Amy's sister, said: "It's (the service) hard but beautiful, They did a wonderful job. It's wonderful they included Amy in it all."

Bob McNamara, Shannon's father, said: "I'm glad the Warner family got peace too."

"The only closure I'll have is when I meet Shannon in heaven."

Bob said he never doubted Shannon's safety in Charleston.

"I was more afraid of her driving to and from school," he said.

Bob said he found out about his daughter's death at work and did not believe it.

"You wish this on no parent."

Bob said he has received supportive letters from across the United States from parents of murdered or missing children, and "it felt good talking to (the Warners)."

Bob said the two families know what each other are going through.

"Getting the tears out is like getting the poison out of your system," Bob said.

Bob said after something like this "your values change" — money is nothing — "materialistic things change."

Bob said he had wanted to take the children on one big family vacation or go on a cruise somewhere like the Caribbean.

"I was really looking forward to doing something like that."

John McNamara, Shannon's uncle, said: "She was so looking forward to it (the summer) ... This was going to be her summer."

John said not only has the family

lost Shannon, but the state missed out. Shannon was going to be an elementary education physical education teacher.

"Imagine the influence she would have had on our future children."

John added: "Even in death she did the right thing."

Linda Walker, Amy's mother, said: "(The sentencing) is the best news I've heard in a long time."

Kevin Paddock, detective of Charleston Police Department, said, "A just outcome of the trial is what the family wanted, and it was supported by 12 jurors that felt the same as the family."

Lou Hencken, interim president, said: "I'm glad it's over. And I say that for the family and friends of Shannon. I think it was probably a difficult, difficult time for them. From people I talk to, there is relief it's over."

"Personally I am very touched and emotional about two parts that specifically affected me. When the Alpha Phi's presented the quilt to Mrs. McNamara — that was very

emotional for me — and when Mrs. McNamara said how much Shannon loved Eastern," Hencken said. "It was a tribute to both Shannon and Amy. I am pleased it did bring closure to the tragic events."

Hencken said: "The other thing I thought about was the number of lives that were affected, not just by the murder, the women in the sorority, friends of Shannon and parents. It was a tragic, tragic event. I am glad this will help bring closure."

Sandy Cox, assistant director of the Counseling Center, said the presentation was to give closure and the McNamaras were gracious enough to include the Warners.

Brey said: "I'm very grateful that Mr. McNamara asked that we end their time with us in prayer, seeking to remember Shannon and Amy."

"In the midst of all the tragedy, the light and love of God's life and theirs continues to endure."

— Shauna Gustafson, senior writer, contributed to this story.

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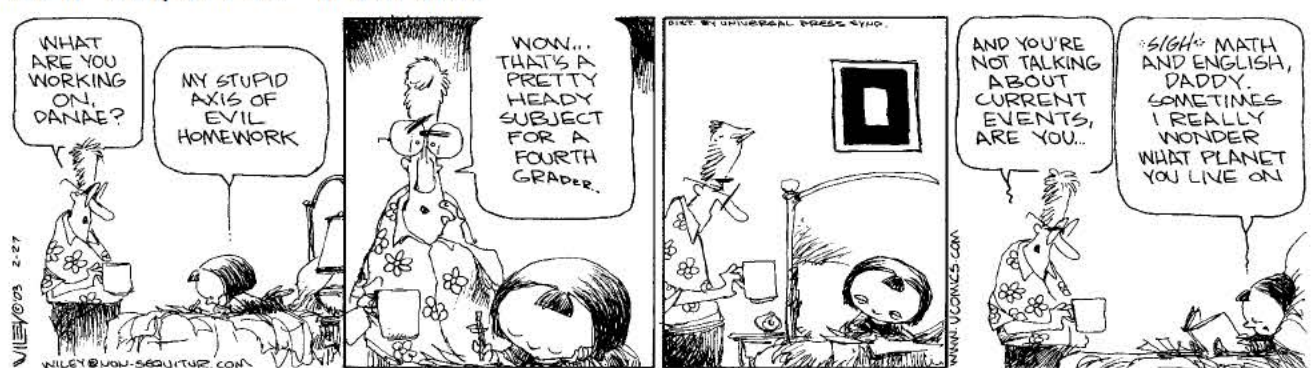
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WOMEN'S TENNIS

Panthers to battle Billikens on road

By Dallas McKenzie
STAFF WRITER

After a long road trip last weekend, the women's tennis team is at it again Friday, when it takes on the Billikens of Saint Louis.

The women embarked on a four-day road trip this past weekend and were victorious throughout the whole weekend. After a stunning performance on the road, the team is feeling quite confident in what it can bring to the table in St. Louis.

Eastern is facing a challenge at this point, with adjusting its lineup to make up for the loss of Jana Matouskova. Matouskova has an

Achilles injury that is day-to-day as of now. Matouskova fills the top slot in Eastern's lineup and has brought plenty of skill as well as experience to the team. With the loss, it forces the rest of the team to pick up a lot of slack this the weekend.

Even with this great hole in the lineup, head coach Brian Holzgrafe is feeling good about his team.

"This team is no longer filled with one-shot wonders," Holzgrafe said. "We are a solid team."

The Panthers have been trying to get back into the groove of things this week after the trip from last weekend.

The long road trip was a pivotal

turning a point in the season, and the team is expected to have much success not only this weekend, but throughout the whole year.

After beating Toledo and having a close battle with Dayton, Eastern has been gaining recognition from both conference teams and teams all over the country.

"This team has been turning heads all year," Holzgrafe said. "It's nice to have other coaches recognize our hard work."

With the possibility of Matouskova not being in the lineup, it is giving freshman Audra Koerner a chance to step up into the sixth spot and bump senior Becky

Brunner into the top slot. The loss of Matouskova leaves the team facing an uphill battle with a solid team in St. Louis. But it is ready for the challenge that lurks ahead.

"After coaching in St. Louis for two years, I know what to expect when we face them this weekend," Holzgrafe said. "They are a solid team that is not to be taken lightly, but so are we."

All this week, Holzgrafe and his players have been playing a catch up game to stay on track. After a grueling road trip, the team has a lot of work to take care of, not only on the court, but in the classroom as well. With missing as much school

as it did, the team has been bombarded with work to take care of throughout this week.

"I understand the load these girls have to take on, and we had to make sure we had some recuperation time this week," Holzgrafe said.

The team practiced light all week and are preparing for a big practice before it heads out to St. Louis.

The main focus of the team, at this point, is to be healthy for the trip and get caught up in the classroom.

The team knows what to expect from the competition this weekend, and the team feels it is ready for the next challenge.

Henry: Character and shooting ability make Domercant special

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"If (Domercant) gets 18 votes, I have no doubt he will be there," Blake said.

Samuels said Domercant might have some trouble getting into the camp.

"They bring all the foreign kids in and the kids leaving college early," Samuels said. "A lot of seniors get excluded from (the Chicago Predraft Camp).

Why scouts are looking at Domercant

Scouts know Domercant is a prolific scorer that shoots over 40 percent from the floor and nearly 40 percent from three-point range. They also know he is an excellent free throw shooter, who has made over 80 percent all four years of his college career.

Domercant knows the strengths and weaknesses of his game.

"There are some (players) that

can do things that I can't do, but I can do some things that they can't," he said. "I have a lot of confidence in my ability, and I know I can help a team at the pro level. I'm confident that I can match up well against anyone in the country."

One skill Domercant possesses that Samuels believes places him above others is his ability to catch and shoot.

"The NBA has a deficiency of players that can just catch and shoot the ball," Samuels said. "That is why (NBA teams) look at foreign players a lot, because they know how to do it."

One problem scouts might have with Domercant is his size. At 6-foot-4, Domercant is limited to playing the shooting guard position.

However, he has worked on gaining weight and muscle during his time at Eastern. Domercant has gained over 10 pounds since the 1998-99 season, when he sat out in a redshirt season.

"Henry has put himself in the elite," Samuels said. "But if there is a young, potentially good, big kid, (NBA teams) will take them and look for guards through other avenues."

Moral character could a helpful factor in the minds of NBA teams.

"(NBA teams) like Henry's character," Samuels said. "They like the fact that he's a quality person with a great work ethic. Right now the NBA is very conscious of public perception."

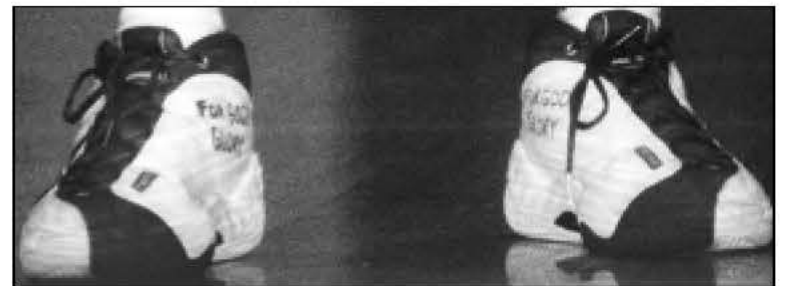
Promoting 'O' Henry!"

Eastern head coach Rick Samuels and Eastern's sports information department has been promoting Domercant to the national media and the NBA since last year.

With awards like being named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District 11 team, Samuels and the athletic department are starting to see the fruits of their labor.

The athletic department has mailed out at least three different promotional flyers to the national media. The first one was mailed in February 2002, listing his awards and updated stats. Two have been mailed this season: one at the beginning of the season and the other this past January, which was an updated version of the one mailed in November.

"It was a 'Heads up folks, we got a great player here and you've been living under a rock for the last three



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Henry Domercant's shoes display the words 'For God's glory.' Domercant's moral character is something that NBA scouts like.

seasons," Dave Kidwell, director of sports information and marketing, said. "The one in January was a 'Hey folks, he's doing what we told you he would do in November.'"

Through 26 games this season, Domercant is averaging three assists per game and nearly seven rebounds per game, on top of his 26.8 points per game. These numbers are consistent with the numbers he has recorded the past two years. In 2000-01, he averaged 22.8 ppg (fourth best in the country), 2.1 apg and 6.8 rpg, and last year he averaged 26.4 ppg (second best in the country), 2.2 apg and 7.2 rpg.

Samuels said Domercant's numbers speak for themselves. Domercant's numbers have spo-

ken so loudly, he has forced national publications like *Sports Illustrated* to take notice and feature him in articles.

At the beginning of the season, Domercant was featured on CNN.com's weekly series "Diamond in the Rough," featuring players that don't receive much national attention.

More recently, Domercant was featured in the January 27 issue of *Sports Illustrated* in the "Inside College Basketball" section.

In the article, titled "Unheralded but Unstoppable," Domercant was quoted saying, "I don't know when it's (playing in the NBA) going to happen, but it's going to happen. You can count on it."

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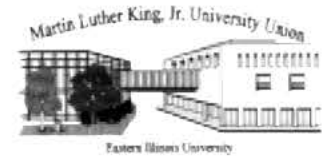
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

An important conference cat fight on road

◆ *Panthers battle Tigers in a crucial game for standings placement*

By Aaron Seidnitz
STAFF WRITER

The men's basketball team has put itself in position to play its first conference tournament game in Lantz Arena, but two games remain in which the Panthers must win.

Eastern's next game will be against Tennessee State at 7:10 p.m. Thursday, and could prove to be a game the Panthers cannot look over.

The Tigers have yet to win a game in the OVC this season, but they could still be a dangerous team by playing the spoiler towards the end of the year.

The turmoil the Tigers have been through this season seems to have had an effect on the team.

This is also the same team that posted seven of its 11 wins from last year within the conference. While it was not considered among the conference's best teams going into this season, it was also not expected to go winless through its conference schedule.

"They are dangerous because they are not a team that doesn't win because they don't have the talent," head coach Rick Samuels said. "We expect them to put it together at some point, and it is a worry that they will do so against us."

While the Tigers may be a sleeper team the Panthers should not take lightly, Eastern does understand that it has to continue to playing its best against the Tigers Thursday.

The Panthers hope to play the way they have been for the past couple weeks, where they have put themselves in position to be a force in the OVC tournament.

"There is no question we have been playing our best basketball of the season the

"There is no question we have been playing our best basketball the past three weeks."

—Rick Samuels

past three weeks," Samuels said. "We have been able to steady the ship offensively and play consistently."

Everything offensively seems to focus around senior Henry Domercant, but the emergence of the Panther's defensive intensity seems to take precedence right now.

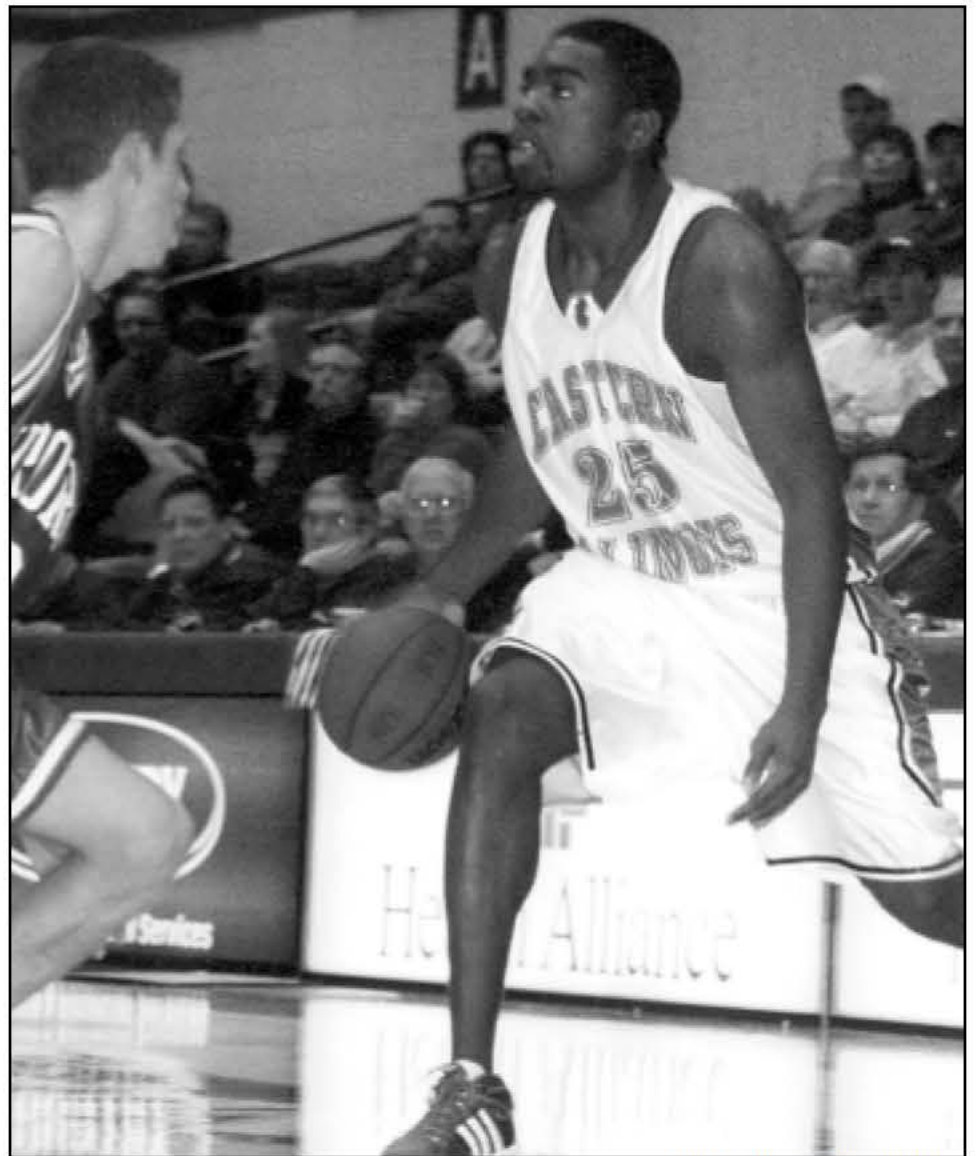
Against the Tigers, the Panthers will look to take advantage of their players down low. Players in Eastern's front court have improved as the season has progressed and are defending and rebounding better in the post.

By improving their toughness down low, the Panthers have played team defense as well as they can, considering it was a weakness for the team early on. Eastern is not dominant in the paint but now considers this the point of attack against the Tigers.

"In practice, we have expressed rebounding as a team concept," senior forward Jesse Mackinson said. "It helps us defensively because we limit the number of chances the opponents have offensively and goes hand-in-hand with us getting the ball in the open court with our guards."

Coach Samuels now believes, as well, that his team has gotten better defensively, which has led to his players' inspired play lately.

"Defense and rebounding need to be a concentration for this team because we weren't great at either earlier in the year," Samuels said. "But we have become a solid defending team, and it is an area that we have had to work on this season."



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EIDTOR

Senior guard J.R. Reynolds is a key ingredient to the Panthers' success. Reynolds and the Panthers need to bring their 'A' game if they have any hopes of coming back to Lantz Arena.

Hussey:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The Associated Press reported a Lincoln High School wrestler and football player died in September after taking Yellow Jackets, which contain ephedra.

The high school athlete was 16-year-old Sean Riggins.

One would think after all these deaths of such young athletes, there would be a lot of legislation to ban the use of ephedra and anything that contains ephedra.

However, MLB thinks it would be too soon to ban ephedra. MLB should follow in the footsteps of the NFL and the NCAA and ban ephedra to protect their young athletes.

MLB should find a better way for these athletes to have energy and keep in shape. Maybe if the players want to lose weight, they could run a couple of miles a day or even join Jenny Craig.

I heard Jared's Subway diet is effective for stuffing your face and losing weight. And if they want to have more energy, they should start eating right and exercising regularly.

Skid:

A battle for positioning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"Brooke has been excellent this year," Wunder said. "She has really picked up her game."

Besides her basketball skills, the senior has been a role model for the younger players Wunder said.

"Brooke is a quiet leader," Wunder said. "She is very encouraging to her team-

mates. She helps on the court and also off the court. Brooke understands the game and our system, so she helps her teammates to understand."

After the meeting with Tennessee State, Eastern will stay in Tennessee to close out its regular season Saturday, when it takes on Tennessee Tech.

Wunder realizes just how important these games are to the Panthers' season.

"We are going to take the games one at a time," Wunder said. "We could end up anywhere from sixth to not in the tournament at all."



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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.

KNOCKOUT



Jamie Hussey
STAFF WRITER

Ephedra ban should be made soon

It feels like, within the past year, I'm constantly hearing or reading about another young athlete pass away.

Pass away from what you ask? They were taking some form of the drug commonly known as ephedrine or also known as ephedra.

Ephedra is found in the diet pill Xenadrine RFA-1. Xenadrine is a non-prescription drug that anyone can purchase and use freely.

You may have seen an advertisement for Xenadrine in a magazine or on television. The ads usually show a man or a woman who is grossly obese and not very happy in the picture. In the next scene, they are toned, much lighter and always so happy. The people in the ad always claim they lost 30 pounds or more by using Xenadrine for only a few weeks.

I am not a registered dietitian or anything, but I know it is unhealthy for someone to lose more than one or two pounds in a week.

However, despite the fact that Ephedra could be unhealthy and possibly lethal, Major League Baseball still allows it.

Most other athletic groups have banned the use of it by their players.

The National Football League, the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association do not allow the use of ephedra.

The most recent player to pass away was Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler. Bechler was apparently taking the drug Xenadrine to battle against off-season weight gain. He collapsed Feb. 16 and died a day later at spring training.

Bechler was only 23. That seems pretty young to me, for someone who is supposed to be a professional athlete, to collapse on a field and die from a heart stroke.

Another young athlete that died possibly from using ephedra, was Northwestern football player Rashidi Wheeler. Despite the ban on the use of ephedra in the NCAA, Wheeler died two years earlier in 2001 and was only 22 years old. In a statement made by Northwestern University President Henry S. Bienen, Northwestern University linked Wheeler to using over-the-counter stimulants the day of his death. The two stimulants were Xenadrine and Ultimate Punch. Ultimate Punch is an energizing pill.

Both Xenadrine and Ultimate Punch contain a Chinese herb known as Ma Huang. Ma Huang contains ephedrine, which is banned in the NCAA.

Even a high school athlete has died possibly from the use of ephedra.

SEE HUSSEY ♦ Page 11

Here's lookin' at you, Henry

♦ Senior guard turns heads as season's end comes nearer

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior guard Henry Domercant might be getting closer to achieving his goal of playing in the NBA each day.

This season, Domercant has received considerable attention from professional scouts of teams, including the Indiana Pacers, Memphis Grizzlies and Orlando Magic.

Orlando might be a good fit for Domercant. The Magic will be in the market for a shooting guard to come off the bench, after trading guard/forward Mike Miller, forward Ryan Humphrey, a first-round draft pick in 2003 and a second-round draft pick in 2004 to the Grizzlies for forward Drew Gooden, guard Gordian Giricek and money.

Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said the Magic have been in contact with him and have asked him several questions about the Panthers star.

"Orlando has been making kinds of inquiries that are very positive," Samuels said.

Magic officials did not return *The Daily Eastern News'* phone calls.

The Pacers and Grizzlies have sent scouts to Lantz Arena this season to see Domercant.

Samuels also said scouts have attended other Panther games away from Charleston, but wasn't sure how many scouts have seen Domercant.

"I've been aware of a number of scouts at games, home and away," Samuels said.

Domercant said he does not always know

about scouts attending Eastern's games.

"I'm not aware every time they're there, but every, once in a while, someone will tell me they saw one," Domercant said. "I just try to go out and play and make sure my team wins, and the scout stuff will take care of itself."

Samuels said the professional attention Domercant is receiving has increased since last summer, when Domercant considered entering the NBA draft last summer.

While Domercant was considering entering the draft last year, he played in Chicago-area pick-up games that featured several NBA players, including Michael Jordan, Antoine Walker and Michael Finley.

This season, Domercant has proven he made the right decision, returning for his senior year of eligibility. He is currently third in the nation in scoring, averaging 26.8 points per game. He trails New Mexico's Ruben Douglas (28.5) and Oakland's Mike Helms (27.2).

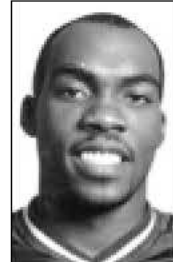
If he finishes in the top five in scoring this season, it will mark the third year in a row Domercant has accomplished that feat. He would become the 11th player in history to do it, placing his name among NBA greats Larry Bird, Bill Bradley, Pete Maravich and Oscar Robertson.

Another chance to scout Henry

Domercant will have a chance to show scouts what he can do after the season is over.

He has been invited to compete at the Portsmouth (Va.) Invitational Tournament, a college all-star tournament with 64 players from around the nation. The players are divided into eight teams, which play against each other.

Marty Blake, NBA director of scouting and a member of the Portsmouth selection committee, said Domercant was invited to play in the tour-



Henry Domercant

"I just try to go out and play and make sure my team wins, and the scout stuff will take care of itself."

namment, but he has not heard back from Domercant yet. Blake is in Atlanta and will be in Portsmouth later this week. Samuels said Domercant's acceptance was faxed to the tournament officials last Friday.

"We are holding one spot for him, but we won't hold it forever," Blake said Monday. "(NBA teams) want to see him handle the ball at Portsmouth."

Another postseason game the athletic department is trying to get Domercant to play in is the National Association of Basketball Coaches All-Star Game. The game is played April 6 in New Orleans, with a team of 12 college seniors playing against the Harlem Globetrotters.

In 2001, former Eastern guard Kyle Hill was named MVP of the NABC All-Star Game.

Samuels and Blake have been in contact, trying to get Domercant into the Chicago Predraft Camp. Blake said the NBA creates a list of about 210 players who do not receive much media attention and sends the list to each team in the NBA. Each team is allowed to select 60 players they want to see at the camp. The players who receive the most votes are invited to the camp.

SEE HENRY ♦ Page 10

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers hope to end skid at TSU



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Senior center Brooke Gossett protects the ball in a recent home game at Lantz Arena. The Panthers will try for their first win on the road this season at Tennessee State.

By Michael Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

The Eastern women's basketball team will travel south Thursday to take on Tennessee State University, in an important Ohio Valley Conference game.

The Panthers, who are in the midst of a five-game losing streak, will need a solid team effort in "The Volunteer State" to keep their season from going south as well. Currently, the Panthers are in a logjam for positioning in the OVC Tournament. Eastern (5-20, 4-10 OVC), Tennessee State (8-18, 4-11) and Murray State (4-20, 2-11) are all competing for the final two spots.

While the Panthers may be percentage points ahead of the Tigers in the OVC race, head coach Linda Wunder knows the road showdown will be tough.

"Tennessee State is a very difficult place to play," Wunder said. "We know that we are walking into the Gentry Center, which is a very hostile environment. We just have to be ready to play."

The Panthers and Tigers met once Feb. 1, when Eastern coasted to a 77-68 victory in Charleston. But Wunder knows that with an OVC Tournament bid on the line, Tennessee State will pose a threat.

"Tennessee State needs two wins to qualify for the postseason tournament," Wunder said. "They know they need to beat us, and they will be fired up."

When the two teams met a month ago, the Panthers enjoyed quite possibly their best game of the season. After falling behind in the opening minutes, the Panthers rallied to take the lead eight minutes into the game and never trailed the rest of the way. Freshman Megan Sparks had her finest day in Panther blue and white, when she posted a career-high 23 points in 39 minutes of action. Although she is a freshman, Sparks has become a top option recently for Eastern.

"Megan started the season a little slowly, but she has gotten much better as the season progresses," Wunder said.

Wunder credits Sparks' turnaround with being more accustomed to the game at the college level.

"She has gotten more comfortable," Wunder said. "The college game is much different than high school. College is much more competitive than the high school game."

Another Panther who has been performing well, despite the losing skid, is senior center Brooke Gossett. The West Frankfort native has averaged nearly 11 points and five rebounds over the last two games. Wunder has praised Gossett's ability all season long.

SEE SKID ♦ Page 11