

# COLLEGE LIFE

not everything you thought it would be?

- Are you experiencing...
- ✓ Excessive Worrying
  - ✓ "The Blues"
  - ✓ Sleep Difficulties
  - ✓ Poor Concentration
  - ✓ Panic Attacks
  - ✓ Test Anxiety

## HELP IS AVAILABLE!

**National Anxiety Screening Day**  
 Tuesday, February 13, 2001  
 Nebraska Union  
 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
**Attend a free screening for anxiety and depression.**

Sponsored by:  
 Counseling and Psychological Services of the University Health Center 472-7450  
 Employee Assistance Program 472-3107  
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**Valentines Day**  
 Wednesday - Feb. 14th

**Love Potion #9**  
 We've mixed up a special Love Potion. Take a drink to see what might happen.

**Nuts & Bolts**  
 'meet your match' Everyone thru the doors will receive a nut or a bolt. Find the person who fits your nut/bolt and both of you will win a treat.

**Smacker Contest**  
 Plant your LIPS on the contest board. Judges will decide on the best looking smacker party begins @ 9

# American robot lands on asteroid

## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**COLUMBIA, Md.** — With its rockets firing, an American spacecraft floated toward Eros, hit once, bounced high and then settled onto the barren rocky surface as mankind's first robot visitor to an asteroid.

A strong radio signal, interrupted only briefly during the bounce, proved that the craft that was never designed to land had, in fact, come to a featherlight touchdown on Eros, more than 196 million miles from Earth, astounding even the officials overseeing the mission.

And it was still working.

It was the first time an American craft had made an initial unmanned landing on an outer space body, officials said. Unmanned Soviet craft arrived first on the moon, Venus and Mars.

"I am happy to report that the NEAR has touched down," mission director Robert Farquhar said in announcing the Monday

landing a few minutes after 3 p.m. EST.

"We are still getting signals. It is still transmitting from the surface."

The 1,100-pound NEAR - Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous - beat long odds to make its spectacular landing. Engineers had said there was less than a 1 percent chance of it surviving the impact and some NASA officials had forecast a "controlled crash," not a soft landing.

"We thought it would be all over when it hit," said Farquhar. "This was a landing, not an impact."

NASA administrator Dan Goldin said the achievement opened the way for later missions to asteroids and comets.

"They made a spacecraft that was only designed to orbit and then they put it down on an asteroid and it's still working," said Ed Weiler, NASA's chief scientist. "That is amazing."

Weiler said the NEAR landing taught valuable lessons that would help in future explo-

ration of asteroids and comets. Such missions, he said, could be important if an asteroid such as Eros ever threatens the Earth. A similar space mountain is thought to have killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

"This landing gives us a lot of practice," said Weiler. "We'll eventually want to land on comets."

NEAR achieved orbit of Eros, an asteroid named for the Greek god of love, on Valentine's Day last year. It's mission will officially end on Valentine's Day this year.

Operating on instructions loaded in its computer, the craft fired braking rockets Monday morning to drop it out of Eros' orbit and send it spiraling downward. Four more rockets firings slowed it further, with the final burst coming even as it touched the surface.

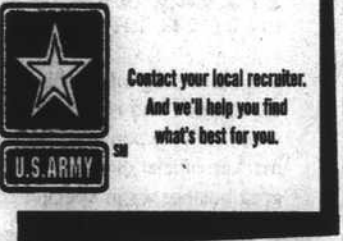
The last rocket thrust, along with Eros' minuscule gravity, allowed NEAR to bounce, perhaps as high as 100 meters, said some engineers, and then to settle on the surface.

## AN ARMY OF ONE

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# Group aims to jet humans to Mars

## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SILVERTON, Ohio** — Lyle Kelly greets a visitor to his home in this Cincinnati suburb with a button proclaiming "Mars or Bust" pinned to his tan cardigan.

As chairman of the Ohio chapter of the Mars Society, Kelly helps lead a drive to persuade the U.S. government to commit to human exploration and settlement of the red planet.

"We're really just chomping at the bit to see us make a start," Kelly said.

The society, founded in 1998, boasts 3,000 to 4,000 members who this month launched a lobbying effort to visit or provide materials to every lawmaker in Congress.

Robert Zubrin, president of the Mars Society, said the United States could have humans on Mars in 10 years at a cost of \$20 billion. He said his group's offensive has begun now, in part, to grab the attention of the incoming Bush administration.

"It is in the first year of a new administration that great initiatives are launched," he said.

Zubrin is the founder of Pioneer Astronautics, a Colorado-based space exploration research firm. He said he has spoken to some members of

President Bush's transition team about a humans-to-Mars project and gotten a positive reception. However, he said, they raised concerns about whether Congress would fund it.

Pete Sepp, spokesman for the National Taxpayer's Union, a government-spending watchdog group, said the society should look to the private sector for help in getting to Mars.

"We would view it as a waste of federal tax dollars precisely because NASA doesn't have a clue how to get there cheaply," Sepp said. "If they pin their hopes on NASA, they're going to be waiting a long time before a man or woman ever sets foot on Mars."

NASA plans six missions to Mars this decade, using robots.

"NASA does not have an ambitious Mars program," Zubrin said. "There's no comparison between what humans can do and what robots can do."

Kelly said the humans-to-Mars project would take up only 25 percent of NASA's budget and 0.2 percent of the total U.S. budget.

"It's affordable," he said. "It isn't abandoning defense programs. It isn't robbing Social Security. It isn't denying anybody their welfare check. But we're just

one contender for the money."

Developing a successor for the space shuttle and establishing a presence on the moon are other ideas competing for funding, along with the International Space Station, a 16-nation effort already under way.

Kelly said the society has taken some practical steps to demonstrate that human exploration of Mars is possible.

Last summer, the society built a research station on Devon Island in the Canadian Arctic. The station is designed to test Mars exploration equipment and procedures and what it would be like to live under conditions that would be similar to those on Mars.

"It's the most Mars-like place on Earth," Kelly said. "It's cold. It's rocky terrain." The 59-year-old Kelly, who has engineering degrees from the University of Delaware and Cornell University, worked at Proctor & Gamble in computer database administration before retiring in August. He was bitten by the Mars bug two years ago while attending a science fiction convention.

Kelly said reasons to go to Mars were to search for life or past life, learn how to better take care of the Earth and look for another place to live.

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\$5.25/15 words  
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Please apply by e-mailing your resume to [deaman@les.com](mailto:deaman@les.com) or applying no later than March 2, 2001 at:  
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 Human Resources - J-LA  
 821 Rose Street  
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 FAX: (402) 476-7598  
 E-mail: [hr@midspharma.com](mailto:hr@midspharma.com)  
 AA/EEO

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 Framing, carpenter, full and part-time morning positions available. Call 560-1425.

I'm a visually impaired student looking for a reader to assist me in two research projects. Interested contact Wes, 436-0740.

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