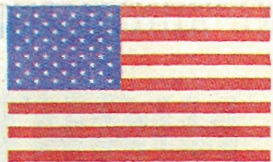


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**MELTAGE** Weather, Pages 2, 43

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2003

**Late Sports Final**

## **E2 NIGHTCLUB TRAGEDY**

# **DALEY WANTS JAIL FOR CLUB OWNER**

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BY ABDON M. PALLASCH,  
FRAN SPIELMAN  
AND SCOTT FORNEK  
STAFF REPORTERS

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The door to the E2 Chicago nightclub's building was ordered locked up Tuesday, but a judge put off city lawyers' request that the owner be thrown in jail.

"We would be looking for a period up to and beyond a year in Cook County Jail," Mark Limanni, chief assistant corporation counsel, told Cook County Judge Daniel J. Lynch.

It was just a day after 21 people died in a stampede started by the use of pepper spray in the jammed Near South Side nightspot—and now fingers of blame were jabbing the air.

Five victims or their relatives filed lawsuits against the owners of the club and building—the first filed just 32 hours after the tragedy, and another seeking to have all the defendants' assets put in a common fund to be "equitably divided" among the victims and their families.

"Realistically, at the end of the day, these defendants are going to have to be liquidated to satisfy the amount of injuries here," said Mike Kanovitz, a partner in Loevy & Loevy, the firm seeking a class-action suit.

Mayor Daley prepared to appoint an independent panel, possibly comprising former federal prosecutors, to investigate the