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CAMPUS | REMEMBRANCE

Students remember friend, brother

Service held Friday for Sigma Phi Epsilon member Jesse Mounce

JOHN IPPOLITO | FRIEND OF MOUNCE

"Jesse was a very radiant man and he knew how to make everybody laugh and smile."

By Cathy Bayer
Police and Courts Reporter

Any other day, Jennifer Swanson would have stolen Jesse Mounce's spot on the "roommate" side of the parking lot at Mounce's Ninth Street apartment without thinking twice. Swanson spent so much time there, she called herself the seventh roommate.

The apartment has minimal parking divided by a tree. One side is reserved for roommates, and the other side, they joked, was for Swanson.

But she wouldn't have it. Swanson continuously parked on the "roommate" side, and Mounce noticed.

He joked that she owed rent money first, then she could park there.

On Thursday, after last week's storms, the "other" side of the tree was flooded, so Swanson parked on the roommate side. Mounce asked if Swanson could move her car so he didn't have to get wet coming into the apartment.

"Any other day I would have laughed and told him no, but on that day, I said yes and moved my car so he could park on the roommate side," Swanson said. "It means a lot to me now to think about it because I let him have his way, finally, by park-

ing on the left side of the tree."

That was the last conversation Swanson shared with Mounce.

Mounce, 20, was found dead in his off-campus apartment Friday morning. A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. today at St. Cabrini Church in Springfield, with the Rev. Richard Chiola officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Park.

Friends insist that Mounce is irreplaceable. During the last few days, they've detailed memories to each other that prove this.

Mounce could light up a face with a smile. He was the go-to guy when a smile was needed. He was quick to poke fun at his friends, the life of the party and a persuasive referee when it came to the slip-and-slide at parties.

He was born May 14, 1987, in Springfield, the son of Mark and Mona Sullivan Mounce.

"He was a wonderful young man," said Ruth Mounce, Jesse's cousin, on behalf of the Mounce family. "We're very proud of him. He was everybody's best friend."

Mounce was a sophomore communication studies major studying public relations. He was also a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

His friends and fraternity brothers

will never forget him.

Stephen Johnson, Mounce's roommate and fellow Sig Ep, will remember the hours he spent with his roommate, talking about everything and nothing.

"Jesse's quick wit and nonchalant attitude made for some interesting conversations," he said in an e-mail. "He genuinely cared about his roommates and his friends and would do anything he could to help us out."

More than 200 people crowded the Wesley United Methodist Church Friday night to share memories, laughs, songs and tears.

Friends continue to write on the wall of Mounce's Facebook, sending messages that provide comfort. He was always smiling and made people laugh, one person wrote. And the people who knew him were lucky, another added.

All the stories John Ippolito tells about his friend end the same way: Ippolito on the ground, laughing, his stomach aching from laughing so hard.

"No matter what the situation was, Jesse always wore a smile on his face," said Ippolito, a member of Sig Ep. "He had one of the most contagious smiles I have ever seen. Jesse was a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jesse A. Mounce, seen here with his sister Stephanie, was a 20-year-old sophomore communication studies major.

very radiant man and he knew how to make everybody laugh and smile."

Nate Matthies, another fraternity brother and roommate, will miss the all night dance parties and sharing

jokes only roommates would understand. And Mounce was a great listener, Matthies said.

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CAMPUS | ENTERTAINMENT



KRISTY MELLENDORF | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

The Vagina Monologue of a 72-year-old woman is read to the packed crowd in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union last night. The event featured the monologues and a silent auction to stop violence against women. Proceeds from the event will go to SACIS and HOPE.

'Monologues' packs Union

Play about female sexuality attracts huge crowd to Grand Ballroom

By Emily Zulz
Activities Reporter

Andrew Luttrell came out of the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" with a new perspective of the vagina.

He said the monologues shared a whole new outlook with him.

The Women Studies Program presented "The Vagina Monologues" Monday night in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

"The Vagina Monologues," a play by Eve Ensler, addresses different issues relating to women and their vaginas.

The performance was delayed 20 minutes as a long line formed of

people waiting to get in. One hundred people were turned away after all 570 seats in the ballroom were filled.

The cast, dressed in black with hints of red, demonstrated issues of sex, menstruation, rape, orgasm, birth and love.

The audience reaction was just as varied as the subject matter of the varying monologues.

» SEE 'VAGINA', PAGE 6

UNIVERSITY | STUDENT POPULATION

Total enrollment drops slightly from fall 2007 numbers

Lower figure typical of second semester, says admissions office

By Stephen Di Benedetto
Associate News Editor

Eastern lost 877 students from the fall semester to the spring semester.

Tenth-day enrollment numbers were released for the spring semester, and Eastern's enrollment is at 11,302 students.

There were 12,179 students enrolled for the fall semester – the second highest figure in Eastern's history.

The difference comes from students graduating in December and a minority of students being dismissed from school for academic reasons, or choosing not to come back because of financial reasons, said Brenda Majors, director of the office of admissions.

She added the difference between the two enrollment numbers is typical for Eastern.

"There is no cause in alarm for that at all," Majors said.

Although the numbers have

BY THE NUMBERS

- 12,179: Fall 2007 enrollment
- 11,302: Spring 2008 enrollment – a decrease of 877 students

Some students graduate in December, and others may drop out for financial or academic reasons, explaining the decrease.

dipped, the official enrollment numbers for the academic year are the fall numbers.

Majors said the fall numbers are the official ones because the state of Illinois looks at those numbers, and fall enrollment numbers also influence net tuition revenue.

"It has a direct impact on our operating budget," she said. "That number does have an impact on what we are able to do financially for those students that year."

Majors did not know how many students graduated in December, but said 408 transfer students and 34 new freshmen enrolled for the spring semester.

Last spring, 307 transfer students and 30 new freshmen enrolled.

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