Little David North Puts Eastern on the Map: the 1954 Home Management House Controversy

He was only an infant when he came to Eastern, and “North” was not his real last name, but he made quite an impact during the months that he lived here. The young son of an unwed and ill mother, David was loaned to Eastern’s Home Management program, where he served as a “model” baby for a dozen students enrolled in the program, and where he was well cared for night and day by these surrogate “mothers” who were learning to become real mothers and home economics teachers. Even though Eastern’s program was far from unique nationally, it was investigated by Illinois’ Welfare Department, which claimed that having so many mother figures and no father figure would surely be detrimental to the child’s well-being. Eastern’s program was ultimately vindicated, but not before it and little David made headlines in the major wire services, and in Time, Newsweek, Life, Look, and Pageant magazines, as well as in some 800 newspapers nationwide.

Robert Hillman, professor, Booth Library, curator (North Lobby)

Go Blue: Eastern’s Finest Athletes at Home

Over the years Eastern has produced many fine collegiate athletes, some of whom have even gone on to professional sports careers. Depicted in this exhibit, drawn from 21 different sports programs, are current and past Eastern athletes who have made news. Individuals shown are among the finest Eastern players in their respective sports, both athletically and academically.

Sandy King, photographer and graphic designer, Athletics and Sports Information Departments, curator (North Lobby)

Newsworthy Visitors to Eastern Illinois University

What do the Cowsills, Bob Woodward, Tony Bennett, Christine Jorgensen, Timothy Leary, Maya Angelou, Steppenwolf, Harry Manilow, Vice-President Gerald R. Ford, the Bangles, Bet-ty Friedan, the Carpenters, Ralph Nader, Goo-Goo Dolls, Dr. Benjamin Spock, Harry Mancini, G. Gordon Liddy, the Fixx, Bob Hope, Nikki Giovanni, Bobby Seale, Simon & Garfunkel, and Burl Ives have in common? They have all been guests of Eastern Illinois University, performing or providing a lecture. Many other newsworthy individuals have also visited EIU.

Carl Luther, professor, Booth Library; and David Bell, associate professor, Booth Library, curators (Marvin Foyer)