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November 3, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU INVESTIGATION LEADS TO AN ARREST

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University Police have arrested Martin J. Vagena, an EIU senior from Richton Park, and charged him with theft in connection with an investigation into missing mail at the university's Greek Court complex, according to EIU Police Chief Tom Larson.

"U.S. Postal inspectors have been notified of the arrest and have indicated that they will likely pursue local prosecution in this case. The case is also being referred to Eastern's Judicial Board," Larson said.

Larson said university authorities began an investigation into missing mail at Greek Court in early October after receiving complaints from several residents who said they were not receiving their mail.

Vagena was a mail clerk at Greek Court during the time that mail was reported missing, Larson said.

During the month-long investigation, Larson said university and post office officials have received a number of informal inquiries from individuals who expressed concern that they had not received some of their mail, but pointed out that the univer-

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INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST

sity police to date has received only five formal complaints which involve missing mail.

Larson said although the investigation has led to an arrest, authorities are still following up on complaints of undelivered mail at Greek Court and urge students who are missing mail to contact Detective Ron Miller at the University Police Department at 581-3213.

"In light of this recent incident, the university has taken a number of precautions so that this does not happen again," said EIU Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Hencken.

Hencken said mail clerks in Greek Court are now working in pairs so the mail is distributed promptly and "backing" has been placed at the rear of mailboxes to prevent individuals from reaching into other mailboxes. All locks to the mailroom that services Greek Court have also been changed.

In addition, Greek Court residents are now required to sign for and pick-up their certified mail at the Carman Hall desk.

Hencken said local post office officials have cooperated fully with the university's investigation and have offered to provide a training session for all EIU mail clerks in Greek Court and in the residence halls to inform them of ways to safeguard mail and to update them on new postal regulations and proper procedures for forwarding mail.