



STEVE BEAMER/Verge photo editor

The "E/R" staff holds a dress rehearsal Wednesday night for the upcoming performances

Homecoming weekend. The show will open at 8 p.m. Friday at the Doudna Fine Arts Theatre.

## Set mirrors Chicago hospital

By TINA CREAMER  
Staff writer

For more than a month, the set crew for this weekend's play, Emergency Room, has been hard at work.

The deadline for the set construction was Tuesday, which is also the day of dress rehearsal.

The play is set in one room, the emergency room. Even though the set consists of only one room, it may have been one of the more difficult sets to construct.

To make the set more realistic, actual medical equipment is used. Sarah Busch Lincoln Health Center, Eastern's Health Service and two medical assistants, Dr. Jerry Heath and Dr. Richard Larson, helped in supplying equipment and medical advice.

E.T. Guiotte works behind the

scenes as the lighting supervisor. Lighting and sound effects can be very difficult depending on the play's needs, Guiotte said.

Money is always a big factor, Guiotte said. Every year the Apportionment Board decides how much money the department will receive for the entire year.

This money has to be budgeted for all the plays presented throughout the year. About two thirds of the money comes student fees, the other one third is brought in by the sale of tickets.

Promotions Director J. Sain said the play will cost about \$50 to run the first night and \$40 each night after that. This money is paid as a royalty to show the play. The opening night costs more for the simple fact that it is the first night, Sain said.

A large crowd is expected since the play runs during Homecoming weekend, Sain said. For past plays, attendance has been as high as 300 for each performance.

Sain said, "Attendance depends on the type of performance. A popular musical has a larger crowd."

Homecoming does draw the largest crowd because "many students have their families down and don't know what to do with them," Sain said.

Also, the play is set in a Chicago hospital emergency room. It is expected that many of Eastern's students from Chicago will see the play.

The auditions for the next play will be Oct. 21, the day after the final showing of Emergency Room.

## 'E/R' opens its doors Friday night

By JUDY WEIDMAN  
Activities editor

Eastern's Theater Department hopes to keep its audience in stitches as the fall production of "E/R" opens at 8 p.m. Friday in the Doudna Fine Arts Theatre.

"E/R," a comedy set in a Chicago hospital emergency room, was conceived by Dr. Ronald L. Berman.

Ticket prices are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

The play focuses on the events that occur on a "typical"

Saturday night in a hospital.

Director Jerry Sullivan said; "I think it's a very funny play. It ran for three years in Chicago, so it has had success in the past."

He said there are 35 cast members, but only five of the characters are on stage for any major length of time.

However, Sullivan said there are several "juicy small parts" in scenes where members portray special patients including a bag lady, drug addict, an abused child, a hypochondriac and an

insomniac.

Promotions manager J. Sain said he has sold almost 200 tickets for Friday night's performance.

"I don't have an accurate count, but we have sold more than half the house," Sain said.

He said the theater seats 372 people.

The play will be performed again 8 p.m. Saturday, Monday and Tuesday and a 2 p.m. matinee will be performed Sunday.