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Eastern Progress - 26 Sep 1996

Eastern Kentucky University

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Perspective

▶ Editorials

Lot abuse shows immaturity

When the gas station across from Combs Hall on Lancaster Avenue was levelled, it provided a prime parking lot for Eastern students. It was within walking distance to the Combs Building and other buildings on that side of campus. Not to mention it was better lighted than Eastern's Lancaster Lot only yards away.

For a while, students were careful not to block entryways or streets and watched that they didn't block fellow students' cars in.

But as all good things must end, students, in a rush to make it

to class on time, began to disregard others' rights. Cars were blocked in, driveways were made impassable and finally, driving was made hazardous.

Richmond Mayor Ann Durham, owner of the property, said she wanted to let students use the lot for parking until construction began on the new convenience store being built there, but could not continue to let the parking problem obstruct public safety.

It is disappointing that students could not be courteous to one another and to other drivers.

That is not to say that only students are discourteous. All drivers are discourteous at some point or another, it is just that this time, students gave others ammunition to be called discourteous, uncouth and poorly mannered.

Reportedly, four girls rolled a car into the street to get their out.

This behavior is not fitting to adults, who students repeatedly ask to be treated as.

Furthermore, students should ask to be treated as individuals. Each case should be looked at individually and those who say only students would behave in such a manner should realize that adults can be discourteous, too.

Courtesy is not age-related. It is maturity related. And the students who abused the parking in the lot on Lancaster showed an excess of immaturity.

Too many students use nothing to do as their excuse for not getting involved.

D.C. offers chance to remember

Truths jotted down on the back of a Washington D.C. subway ticket:

■ There were rats there, just like the Republicans said.

A stroll around the White House last Friday on a convention trip showed me maybe Newt Gingrich knows what he is talking about.

After hearing the pitter, patter of little animal feet coming across the gravel path, my initial thought was "Aaahhh! A White House squirrel."

Then when noticing the squirrel's tail wasn't thick and full, but instead was thin and tattered, it was obvious the animal was from a different group of the rodent family.

Particularly the rat family. Kinda changes the complexion of the presidential race, huh?

■ If the flame burning at the John F. Kennedy and family grave site at Arlington Cemetery doesn't move you, you're probably not American.

The stone walls filled with some of the young president's more notable comments were inspiring, even to someone who is often uninspirable by the political forum.

The idea that one person, so young and full of ideas, can capture the hearts and souls of a group of people, decades after his death is a small example of how far-reaching the effects of history can be.

■ Our nation's capital is full of memorials of war — from the walls commemorating those who died in the Vietnam and Korean Wars, to the acres and acres of graves in Arlington Cemetery of soldiers who paid the ultimate price for their country.

Too bad countries have to fight wars and humans have to die in order to be honored for their loyalty to their nations.

■ It's easy to take our home for granted.

After telling probably 100 fellow journalists where I come from (Paintsville), nearly every one of them commented on how beautiful the land in eastern Kentucky is in the fall of the year.

That's true. Something else that helped me learn to appreciate the friendly confines of eastern Kentucky was the cost of living in D.C.

Consider this conversation: Unwitting country boy: "I'll have a bratwurst, fries and small drink." Restaurant attendant: "That'll be \$8."

My father's first car didn't cost \$8. Sometimes it's hard to find entertainment in the foothills of the Appalachians, but what's out there is usually fairly cheap.

■ When you think about it, the one thing that sets America apart from other countries socially is its ability to tolerate diversity at least semi-peacefully.

While racial and religious lines become battlefield lines in other countries, America, while not perfect, can at least talk about its problems without the aid of a cease-fire.

■ This is our country, and we're all free.

Even those nasty rats at the White House.



TIM MOLLETTE
Seven Turns

▶ Campus Comments

Q. What do you think of election coverage so far?

On a trip to Washington D.C. last weekend, we asked this question of some people who perennially cover elections.



Name: Jane Pauley
Title: Dateline NBC news anchor
"I don't really have an opinion yet. It doesn't really seem to have started."

Name: Sarah McClendon
Title: Washington correspondent for Texas media noted for her bold questions during presidential press conferences



"I'm bored to death with it. It's too long. Put Perot in the debates. The independent vote may be a surprise."

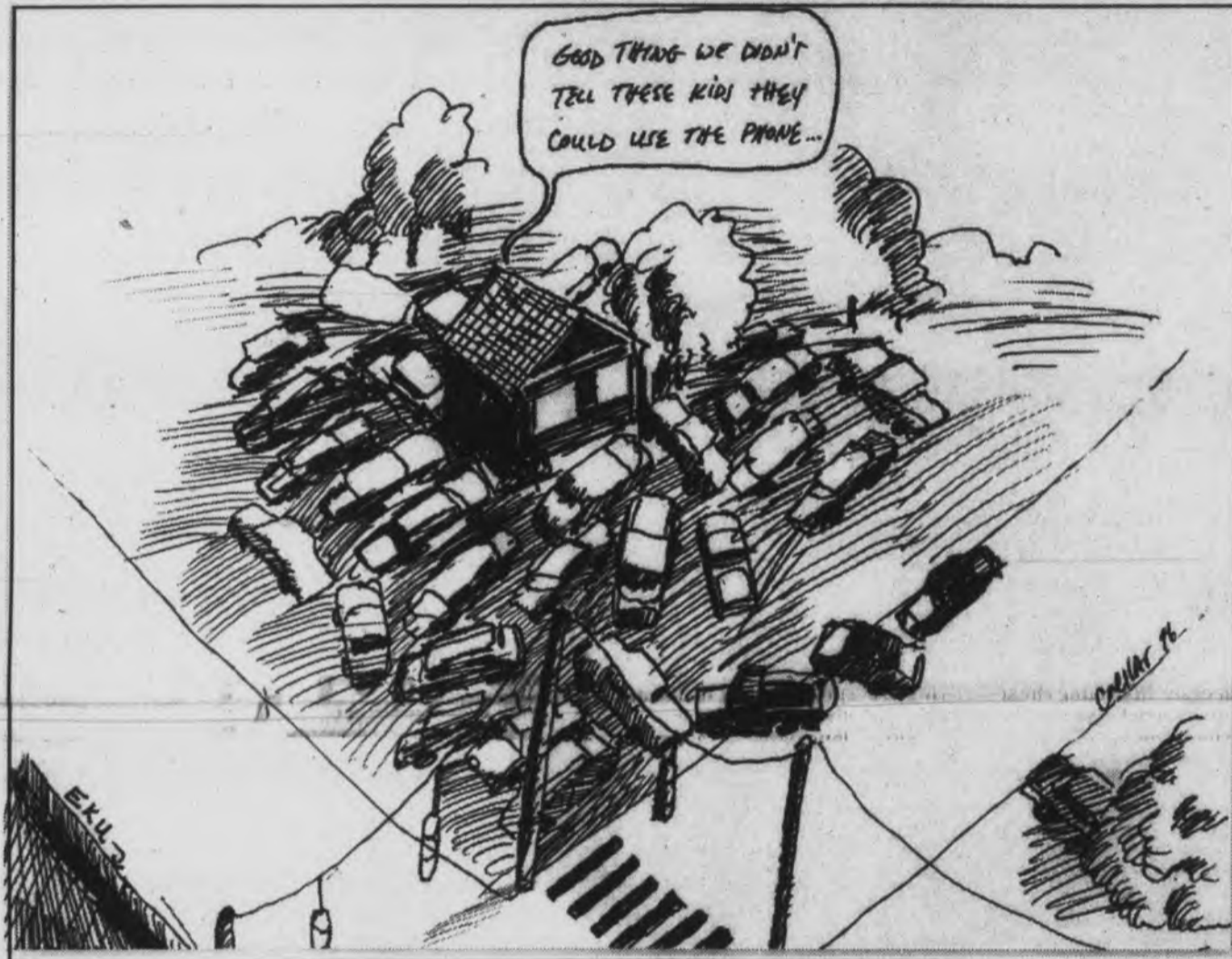


Name: Ray Walker
Title: News editor, Knight-Ridder Tribune News Service
"I have been amazed at how fair the coverage has been."

Name: Jody Powell
Title: Former presidential press secretary for Jimmy Carter



"There is an excessive interest in politics. Some newspapers have been better, in that they are attempting to tell us exactly what was said."



Profs produce winning streak

Award-winning professors offset football team

By this point in the fall semester, most folks outside of the area know Eastern for one reason and one reason only — 'dem Colonels can play pigskin.

But with a tough schedule and some bad breaks, the football notoriety has slipped.

Enter Hal Blythe and Merita Thompson, a pair of Eastern educators who are stepping in and making sure this institution doesn't go unnoticed.

With the football Colonels struggling at times with opponents from Western, Troy State and Appalachian State, Blythe was able to hold off some major competition to win the Acorn Award last Sunday.

The honor is given by the Kentucky Advocates for Higher

Education to a professor who has a reputation for motivating students.

Blythe's competition was stiff, as he edged out finalists from Louisville, Kentucky, Morehead State and Georgetown.

At least two of those schools could give Eastern's football squad a good game, but none could stop Blythe's drive toward the award.

After 24 years as a professor of English and writing two books, Blythe's accomplishments spoke for themselves and spoke well for the university.

Thompson also knows how to pull out a big victory to represent her school and students.

The professor of health education received the Kentucky Advocates' award last year, but the presence of a dominant I-AA football team may have stolen a

little of her acclaim.

So, as the football team prepares to open Ohio Valley Conference play, Blythe and Thompson have shown that if the team continues to struggle, there are alternative methods of recognition for the university.

Blythe and Thompson have shown there are methods beyond football for recognition for the university.

With the supreme goal of any institution being education, those who excel at that task should be the individuals who grab the headlines.

But that's not always how it is. So, for at least once, victorious teach-

ers get the thumbs up and the headlines.

Congratulations and keep on doing what you're doing.

And the next time you're in the classroom, go out and teach one for the Gipper.

The Eastern Progress

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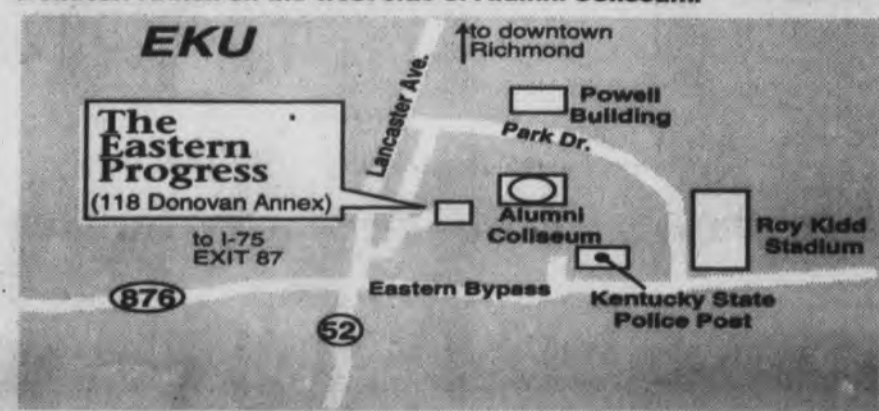
Victor Cuellar
Staff artist

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Opinions expressed herein are those of student editors or other signed writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the university. Student editors also decide the news and informational content.

Where to find us

▶ The Eastern Progress is located off Lancaster Avenue in the Donovan Annex on the west side of Alumni Coliseum.



Corrections Policy

The Eastern Progress will publish clarifications and corrections when needed on the Perspective pages. If you have a correction, please send it to the editor in writing by noon Monday before publication on Thursday.

The editor will decide if the correction deserves special treatment, or needs to be in the section in which the error occurred.

▶ To Our Readers

The Eastern Progress encourages readers to write letters to the editor on topics of interest to the university community.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and limited to 250 words.

If a letter has excessive spelling, grammar and punctuation errors, the editor reserves the right to urge the writer to make revisions.

Unsigned letters, carbon copies, photocopies and letters with illegible signatures will not be accepted.

The Progress reserves the right not to publish letters that are judged to be libelous or in poor taste.

Letters should be addressed to the newspaper and should contain the writer's signature, address and phone number. Letters for publication will be verified.

The Progress also gives its readers an opportunity to voice more detailed opinions in a column called "Your Turn."

Those interested in writing for this column should contact the editor prior to submitting the article.

Letters and columns should be mailed to The Eastern Progress. Letters and columns may also be submitted by e-mail at progress@acs.eku.edu.

English professor wins Acorn Award

By KRISTY GILBERT
News writer

An Eastern professor has walked away with the state's highest award for teaching excellence for the second year running. Harold Blythe is the 1996 recipient of the Acorn Award for college teaching.

Blythe, an English professor, was selected from among 40 candidates.

This award is presented to a college or university professor whose particular strength is motivating students by the Advocates for Higher Education, a panel of Kentucky's business and community citizens.

Last year's winner was Merita S. Thompson, a professor of health education. When the Advocates for Higher Education called President Funderburk to tell him Blythe had received the award, the president said he was "surprised."

"I couldn't believe it," Funderburk said. "To win two in a row is unheard of. It speaks very well of Eastern."

Blythe received his bachelor's degree from Kentucky Southern College and a master's degree from the University of Florida; he



Harold Blythe, professor of English.

holds a doctorate from the University of Louisville. He has 30 years of teaching experience, 24 of those at Eastern.

"He has been a fine and strong instructor in our English department," said Dominick Hart, chair of the English department. "We are pleased that he received this honor."

During his spare time, Blythe has written a freshman composition textbook.

He has also written more than 30 novellas and more than 40 short stories for magazine

publication.

He has also written and published two nonfiction books with office mate and writing partner Charles Sweet.

The two co-authored a book that explained how to use fictitious names in writing and worked with local private investigator John Landreth on "The Life of a Private Investigator."

According to Blythe, he decided to join the teaching ranks mainly because of teachers he admired and who had inspired him through the years.

"Receiving this award was a great honor and a little bit of good luck considering the other good professors," Blythe said.

SGA: About 100 register for national elections

From Page A1

Greg Brannon, a senior pre-med major and the former president of the Morter Board, was one of those that took time out of his day to vote.

"I think voting is not a privilege it is a responsibility," Brannon said. "People take it for granted. Students were just given the right so they don't appreciate it."

Getting students interested in and eligible to vote in the national elections was a big emphasis for the day.

"I think we got about 100 people registered to vote," Mason said.

SGA was not the only group getting new voters registered. The Young Democrats manned a table from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help get people involved in the elections this year.

"I think we signed up between 80 to 100 (people)," said Angela King, the vice president of the group. "We'll be doing this for three days so hopefully we'll sign up even more people."

King, a senior political science major, said the group was not con-

cerned with what party voters support, just that they vote.

"The goal is to get as many people to vote as we can," she said.

For those who didn't get to register to vote, the Young Democrats will be set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today outside the Powell Building at the entrance by the bookstore.

Those interested in getting involved with the group can attend the weekly Wednesday meetings held at 4 p.m. in the Powell Building.

New Senators

Doug Martin will represent the college of health, physical education, recreation and athletics.

Kim Dorenbusch will represent the college of arts and humanities.

Noel Cox will represent undeclared students.

Matt Adkins, John Dickerson, Sarabeth White, Leslie Covington and Greg Hatton are the senators at large.

Awareness: 'I wouldn't wish feeling like I do to anybody'

From Page A1

"Abstinence is one choice, but there are other choices. It's based on the individual. Each person is a little different."

Rice said most Eastern students do make sensible choices about drinking.

"I think the big myth about alcohol on this campus is that everyone who goes downtown gets wasted, that that's what Eastern college students are supposed to do.

"And the reality is, 80 percent of the folks here on campus believe that you can go downtown and make low-risk choices."

Rice said those who do make unsafe drinking choices are jeopardizing others.

"It's those individuals that make high-risk choices who injure and kill others. It's the people who go



Ragean Coomer, pictured above with her boyfriend, Dana Peters, who was killed in an accident, is convinced drinking and driving is deadly.

out and get totally blitzed that tend to get hurt or hurt someone they care about," Rice said.

Those who do make risky choices about drinking are often not held legally responsible for their actions, either, said victim's advo-

cate Oler. "There is no satisfaction in the courts," she said.

Coomer, for one, would like to see stricter punishment for those who drink and drive.

"No matter what your age, no matter what you did, I think you should get your license taken," she said.

Coomer said a big factor in drinking and driving is that too many people don't recognize it as a problem.

"Last night I had a class ... my teacher said something about drinking and driving, about how that's against the law, and this guy pipes up and says, 'Well, that's not bad,'"

"I just felt like jumping up and saying, 'well look what happens, people get killed.'"

The death of her boyfriend has made Coomer more conscious of

how driving under the influence affects peoples' thoughts.

"It's just something that people don't need to do. But when you're like that, you're thinking about other things, you're not thinking about 'Am I going to wreck?' You're thinking about where you're going, where you're driving to."

"It may be in the back of their minds, but other thoughts are more important to them than what could happen. Until it happens to you personally, you don't really think about it."

Though tomorrow is the last official night of Alcohol Awareness Week, Coomer urges others to always think about the other people on the road when drinking and driving.

"I wouldn't wish feeling like I do to anybody."

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What's On Tap

TODAY SEPTEMBER 26

- 5:45 p.m. Whalin Complex 303 Graphic Arts Society meeting
- Brock Auditorium Kids Gala-orchestra.
- Begley Racquetball tournament
- 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Powell Building 1996 Homecoming Queen pre-candidate election
- Sept. 26 - 29 London, Ky 7th Annual World Chicken Festival

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27

- 4 p.m. Intramural Soccer default fee due
- 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. Keen Johnson Allied Health & Nursing Career Day
- 7 p.m. Volleyball, Eastern vs. Tennessee-Martin
- 2 p.m.- 5 p.m. Perkins Building Room 211. "Enhancing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Interpreting Profession"

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28

- 7 p.m. Football Eastern vs. Tennessee Tech
- 2 p.m. Volleyball Eastern vs. Murray State University
- 2 p.m. Versailles, Ky. Apple Harvest Festival
- Cincinnati, Ohio The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park "The Victorian Halloween Show"

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29

- 5:30 p.m. Catholic Newman Center Student mass and supper
- 2-5 p.m. Giles Gallery Transylvania Faculty Art Show thru Oct. 1

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30

- 3 p.m. RHA, Float week
- 4:45 p.m. Kenamer Room RHA meeting, Powell Building
- 7:30 p.m. Moore 127 Sports Medicine program Lecture Dr. Mary L. Ireland

TUESDAY OCTOBER 1

- 9 p.m. BSU Together in fellowship
- 9:15 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Giles Gallery Transylvania Faculty Art Show

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2

- 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Fountain Plaza Homecoming Tailgate Party
- 8 p.m. Gifford Theatre "Bell, Book and Candle" \$4 student, \$5 adult. Oct. 2-5
- 5 - 8 p.m. Arlington Mule Barn mandatory event for all aviation major students
- 7 p.m. Daniel Boone Statue Christian Student Fellowship meeting

UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct. 3 Begley 5K Homecoming Run early entry deadline
- Oct. 3 4:30 p.m. Wallace room 432 Kappa Mu Ep (math club) meeting
- Oct. 5 5K Homecoming Run
- Oct. 7 - 10 5- 8 p.m. Brock Auditorium Yearbook Club/Group photographs. reserve time call 2301.

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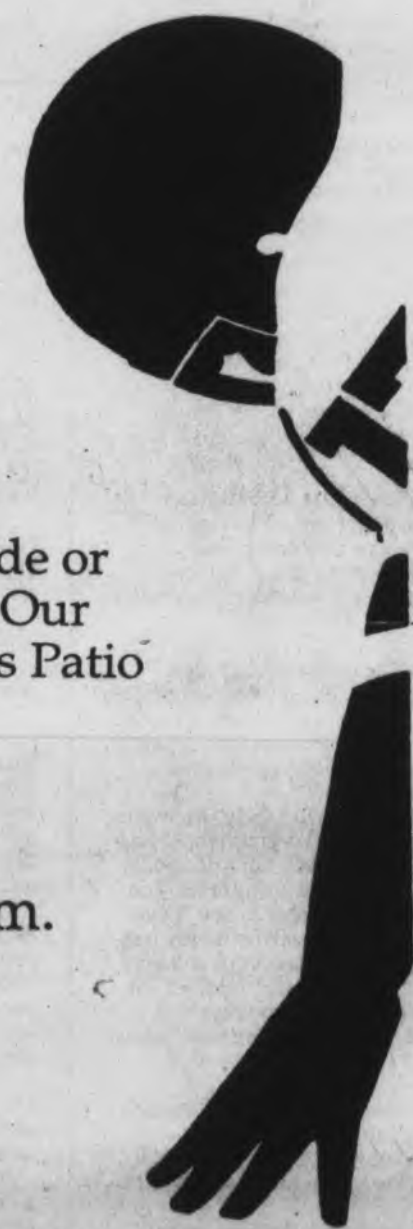
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