

FEATURES

Adam Turner, Editor

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CASE FILE: "THE CITIZEN CANINE"

By Adam Turner

The Brief:

"Did Eastern once have a campus dog/mascot?" Given the number of felines currently roaming campus, many have wondered if the university ever had a pooch to call its own.

The Facts:

Back in the 1950s-60s, Eastern did in fact have a campus canine named Mozart, or Mo for short. Born October 15, 1947, Mozart was born by a cocker-spaniel mongrel mother and a black-Irish setter father on the farm of Charles Boyd. He was rumored to have followed a janitor onto campus one fateful day and never looked back. He quickly became a cherished member of Eastern. Mozart had a particular passion for music and spent most of his time around the music department. Former department head James E. Van Peurseem was once quoted as saying, "Get a crowd together and Mozart was known to attend class right alongside the students and would often act as an alarm, standing up and walking out right before the bell would ring each class. He led a long life and died a few months shy of his 17th birthday on August 14, 1964. He is now buried behind the Ravine, where a tombstone marks his grave. It is now rumored that if you plant flowers near his grave on his birthday, you will have good luck for a year."



Courtesy of University Archives

FACT

CASE FILE: "THE LADY IN BLUE"

By Elise Svoboda

The Brief:

"Is Keen Johnson haunted by the ghost of the Blue Lady?" The legend of the Blue Lady, an alleged former drama student at Eastern who was rehearsing in Keen Johnson when she hung herself, dates back to the 1950s.

Some say she liked to hang out in the bell tower, and others say she was often found rehearsing in Pearl Buchanan Theater adjacent to Keen Johnson.

The claims for the Blue Lady include seeing a blue mist and random lights on in the dressing room area of the theater, along with unexplainable noises.

The Facts:

Opinion on the ghostly entity's existence seems to be split.

Some argue the Blue Lady is not real because they have not seen her on campus over the past several years.

"I personally have never seen her, so that is my own way of not truly believing in something until I see it," said Eric Thomas, 22, biology major from Berea. "Also, it seems too erratic, too irrational to have a Blue Woman."

Tre Jackson, 22, psychology major from Hopkinsville and a student technician for Student Life, said there have been recent huntings for the Blue Lady in the past at Keen Johnson with surprising results.

"The Office of Student Life hosted a ghost hunt last year with Chris Moon," Jackson said. "We went in Keen Johnson just ghost hunting in general. We didn't get to speak to the Blue Lady, but we did get to speak to some of the other paranormal spirits that were present. I think she might live in the bell tower or something. A lot of the time us riding in the elevator we might hear her or hear different sounds. Maybe we should say thank you for riding the elevator."

As with all good ghost stories, this case of the Blue Lady will go unresolved.



THE EKU FILES



Samantha Toy/Progress

FACT

The Brief:

"Are there tunnels that run under campus?" Rumor has it there are tunnels that run from the Keen Johnson building to the Powell building and from Sullivan Hall to the cemetery. There may also be a bomb shelter from the Cold War era and a tunnel under Model Laboratory School.

The Facts:

Accompanied by James Dantic, Model Laboratory School principal, this reporter toured the bomb shelter and tunnel of Model. The tunnel entrance resides behind a small locked door in the choir room and runs to the machine room. The bomb shelter contains two rooms. The first room is now used as storage for the drama department. The second room is where survival materials, such as containers labeled "Survival Biscuit" packaged in 1962 and Department of Defense "Sanitation Kits" litter the floor. Beyond that is the tunnel leading from the bomb shelter to machine room.

The tunnel that runs from Keen Johnson to the Powell Building also exists as it is used by food services to transport food between the two buildings.

The tunnel running from Sullivan Hall to the cemetery was undiscovered and rumored to be sealed off, but the search continues.

CASE FILE: "THE HIDDEN TUNNELS"

By Samantha Toy

Chapel of
Meditation = UFO?

Whitlock or Werewolf?

Bigfoot sighting in
Ravine?

THE EKU FILES



CASE FILE:
"THE WOODEN CEILING"

By Adam Turner

The Brief:

"Does Alumni Coliseum have the world's largest wooden ceiling?"

The Facts:

Serving as one of the main buildings on campus, Alumni Coliseum does indeed sport a very big ceiling. The building's construction was a momentous and, at times, catastrophic occasion. The roof collapsed early on in its creation, injuring two employees and setting back progress considerably. When the opening ceremony finally came, however, former President Lyndon B. Johnson broke first ground for the Coliseum. The ceiling utilized 626,276 board feet of lumber, forming the 170 beams and roof decking, stretching over 308 feet. Its southern pine is elevated 81 feet above floor level and, at the time of its construction, was in fact the world's largest roof of its kind. However, according to current building supervisor Dan McBride, Alumni Coliseum no longer holds that title. Still, it remains an impressive feat and a testament to the University.

MYTH



Sonya Johnson/Progress

CASE FILE:
"THE KILLER A'S"

By Tristan Meiman

The Brief:

"If your roommate were to commit suicide, would you get all A's for trauma?" For years, even at universities other than our own, students have speculated about this horrific scenario. But is there any truth to it?

The Facts:

Morbid, yes, but the answer is no. Contrary to popular belief, the death of your roommate gets you nothing but a single room. Suicide is a serious issue, however, so if you notice any signs in your roommate, or friend for that matter, lend a hand and talk to them. College can be a very stressful environment. The counseling center here at Eastern is more than happy to help those in need, so do not hesitate to contact them.

So ultimately, if it's finals week and you're failing a couple of classes, don't even think about how your roommate could "accidentally" fall out the window from your doom. It won't get you all A's, but it will get you about 25 years to life.

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CASE FILE:
"THE MAN WITH A GOLDEN TOE"
By Michael Emerson

The Brief:
"Does rubbing the Daniel Boone statue's foot give you good luck?" One particularly beloved urban legend (and pre-test ritual) at Eastern involves rubbing Daniel Boone's golden toes. But can that same shoe give you the extra push needed to secure that A or a date this Friday?

The Facts:
The statue, donated to the university in 1967, is moderately sized, weighing in at over 3,500 pounds and made of simple brass. Years of subtle friction on the statue's left foot has led to its golden gleam, inviting students to touch in the hopes of some good luck. Many have claimed that even though they didn't study, just a rub of that toe helped them ace the exam. Others have said they have put their fate in this toe only to be betrayed by the myth. So what can we infer from these accusations? That the successful students have a photographic memory, or there's a great conspiracy involving spies reporting to all the instructors about who performed the ritual for extra credit? Or, of course, it could just be a huge coincidence aimed toward people who believe in luck. Whatever the case may be, this statue and its famed good fortune still remains a campus mystery.

CASE FILE:
"THE RICH WALKER"
By Tristan Meiman

The Brief:
"If you are walking on campus and are suddenly struck by a vehicle, will Eastern pay for the rest of your college education?"

The Facts:
Well, I have some good and bad news. The bad news is no, Eastern will not pay for your school. The good news is who's stopping you from suing the actual person that hit you? Of course, this also depends on the situation. If you personally throw yourself in front of a car so you can sue someone for money, firstly, shame on you. Secondly, you really didn't think this one through, did you? While yes, you are a pedestrian and you do have the right-of-way, someone will obviously notice if you willingly throw yourself in front of traffic. So stick to the crosswalks and hope for the best. Bottom line, just remember what your mother told you: "Look both ways before you cross the street."

MYTH

THE EKV FILES

Sonya Jackson/Progress



*You are cordially invited to attend the
unveiling of a commemorative display
honoring
Eastern Kentucky University's
African American Firsts*

Titled:

"Breaking Down Barriers"

*Monday, February 20, 2012
5:00 p.m.*

In front of the Keen Johnson Building

*Reception immediately following in Walnut
Hall of the
Keen Johnson Building*

Event coordinated through the Office of the Associate Provost for Diversity Planning.

If you should have any questions, please call the University Diversity Office at 622-6587.

