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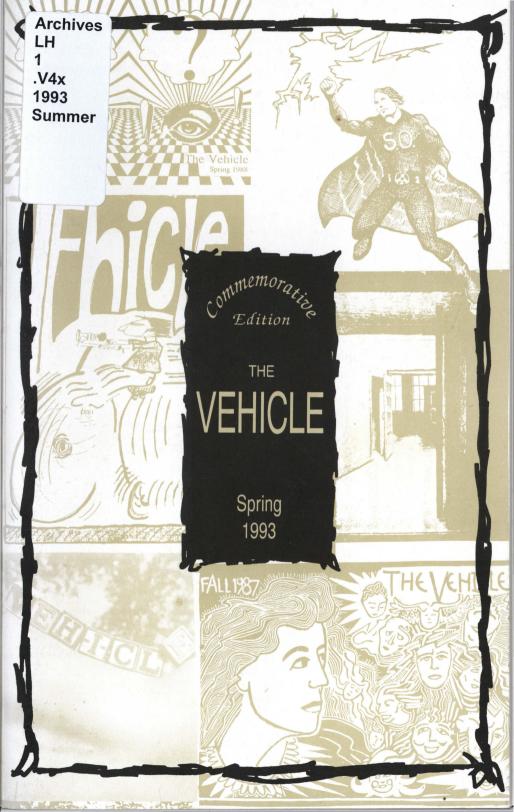
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The Vehicle

1993 Commemorative Edition Celebrating Thirty-five Years

PRODUCED BY
SIGMA TAU DELTA
International English Honor Society

Eastern Illinois University **Summer 1993**

The Vehicle 1993 Commemorative Edition

Celebrating 35 Years

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The Vehicle Editors' Lineage

1959

Fred L. Miller

1960

Robert Mills French

1961

Joe Bangiolo

1962

Christine McColl

1963

Larry Gates

1964

Daun Alan Legg

1965

Elaine Lance

1966

Avis Eagleston William Moser

1967

Samuel J Fosdick, Jr. Janet Nelch Anthony Griggs Cathy Jo LaDame

1968

James T. Jones Astaire Pappas

1969

Paula Bresnan Nick Dager James T. Jones

1970

Nick Dager Mike Dorsey Jay S. Trost

1971

Jay S. Trost Verna L. Jones

1972

Verna L. Jones

1973

Catherine M. Stanford Jann Briesacher

1974

Jann Briesacher

1975

Ray Schmudde Bill Vermillion

1976

Kay Murphy Mike Dean Greg Zuber

1977

Bruce Goble

1978

Bruce Goble John Fisher

1979

Laurel Anzelmo Anette Heinz

1980

Laurel Anzelmo Anette Heinz Bob Goesling Shiela Katty

1981

Bob Goesling Elizabeth Crist Shiela Katty

1982

Elizabeth Crist Lenore Howard John Stockman

1983

Sara Farris

1984

Keila Tooley Maggie Kennedy Michelle Mitchell 1985

Maggie Kennedy Michelle Mitchell John Fehrman Tina Wright

1986

John Fehrman Tina Wright Bob Zordani

1987

Bob Zordani Eileen R. Kennedy Elizabeth A. McMeekan

1988

Eileen R. Kennedy Elizabeth A. McMeekan Monica Growth Rodger Patience

1989

Monica Growth Rodger Patience Valerie Kirk Joe Mullin

1990

Nancy Holschuh Denise Santor Anthony Smith

1991

Anthony Smith Matt Kelly Beth Yates

1992

Matt Kelly Beth Yates Larry Irvin Gail Valker

1993

Larry Irvin
Gail Valker
Catherine DeGraaf
Mindy Glaze

Milestones

Change, currently a "buzz word," has evidently become one of those enigmatic, abstract ideas such as love and justice. Since change is difficult to pinpoint and define in the abstract, let's assert that the workings of a pen and the written language are the main catalysts for this thing called change. It is the use of the pen that makes any proposition for change official, and the repeated uses of pens that make sentiments recognizable and legitimate.

Change can be observed through writing, whether the writing be in newspapers, magazines, journals or books, and regardless of genre. The writing in this volume encompasses the differences between and among student writers, between past and present.

Eastern's student literary magazine has evolved throughout the years, in terms of budget, format and production (from glossy magazine, to newsprint in leaner times, to its current journal form). It has been published by the Departments of Journalism and English, and over the past fifteen years by Sigma Tau Delta Honorary English Organization (the last two years with the help of the Student Publications Board). It has survived an attempt in 1977 to abolish it due to lack of money and interest (saved, by the way, with a written petition and numerous student signatures). Presently, *The Vehicle* is experiencing a resurgence, the growing number of submissions reflecting the change among students' interest in creative expression.

We have not experienced what past generations have. Part of the attraction of these re-published works is that they express sentiments so foreign to us; they express points of view that are seemingly no longer present in today's student writers. Yet, some of the works from past decades could have easily been written today. We have attempted to publish a magazine which celebrates *The Vehicle's* history and evolution; this is, we hope, the allurement of this 1993 Commemorative Edition.

The Vehicle is certainly a part of Eastern that has endured change, and change beyond just the world of Eastern is present within these pages. We leave you to sort through this, and to remember, relate, or appreciate.

The 1993 Commemorative Editors

BIGGS CLEANERS

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LAMPERTS

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CLUB



"A night of good drinking is worth a year's thinking." —Charles Cotton (1668) PIANO BAR Nightly

N. 15th Street

Mattoon

The Vehicle

Euler Charles in in charles

CONTENTS

Aunt Ora: Helen Lee
Ethnocentriem
Fashions: Linds Lyons
On Giving Up Auden in Despair: Helen Lee
The Vagartes of Compliance: Helen Lee
The Storm: Jean Nightingale
Sonnet to Subject: Wayne Nelma
The Killing of Mr. Kit: Al Brooks 1
Shorts: C.B.S



Vol. 1, No. 1

APRIL, 1959





Editors' Notes: The Sixties

1960, Robert Mills French

The Vehicle claims the right to satirize whatever in its estimation seems ridiculous. It affirms, however, that good taste has always been, and will always be, one of its guiding principles. It has no intention of smirking, or guffawing or being perverse. It does not intend to laugh at anything that cannot be helped or ought not to be changed. Satire is always a little cruel, and heaven knows The Vehicle does not even like to be cruel. But no reform was ever wrought by any writing to which people were totally indifferent. So if somebody squeals because the shoe fits, we ought not to care.

1963, Larry Gates

ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTORS . . . We are a gang of Uncrowned poets, fishing for the sun. Most of us have never been published up to now, unless you count the fact that we got our names in the student directory. None of us are famous outside of our own families. All of us think we have something to say. We are extremely interested in sunsets, silver fish, sneezes, cymbals, symbols, smiles, similes, cobwebs, wooden nickels and three dollar bills. Writing is down our alley and sometimes we strike out. Please handle our work with care, for all we know they might be master-pieces.

1965, Elaine Lance

Perhaps it sounds pompous to say that a sign of creativity is present at Eastern. Students, a small number but slowly increasing, are interested in writing. Perhaps it would be well to consider why and how creative writers at Eastern are developing. This cannot be finally resolved, but some general questions might be raised. Are poets and prose writers born, or do they evolve? And if the possibility of evolution exists, where and how does it take place? Who possesses the potential to become a writer? Obviously, these questions have been asked before and answers have been offered before. Answers are theoretical, and different answers appeal to different people.

1967, Samuel J. Fosdick, Jr. and Janet Neich

For the most part, the poetic manuscripts submitted this quarter seemed to take someone's catchy or plagfarized phrase and embellish it with some kind of rickrack considered by them to be poetry. The result, in some budding author's opinion, is a great classic which will survive the universality of time.

1969, Nick Dager

"A New Look" A new breed of people must take an objective look at the rules of writing and a new language must result. The arbitrary decisions must still be made. But today with the advanced printing techniques that we enjoy, these arbitrary decisions should be made by the artists. Let them decide if punctuation, capitalization, and other less common standards are really necessary for effective communication. Leave comma pushing to the printers and the outdated grammarians. Let's take the blinders off our language.

Excerpt from

"Sureness is Never"

Every pleasant night I walked over to Pemberton Hall to see her. We would start from 'Pem' and casually stroll down the large concrete walk that extended the length of the small, heavily shaded campus. The near night air began to cool as light breezes ruffled through the treetops. Slowly we passed each building, first the science building—she always teased me about my low grade in biology-which stood dark and foreboding in the near night air, then the dark gymnasium and as that building ended. the Student Union building. The Union was always illuminated, serving the recreational needs of the students. Down a flight of concrete steps we walked, passing the new dormitories and the beautiful Gothic library, to the tennis courts. Pausing long enough to kiss, we retraced our steps. The sun had now set, and as we walked we could see the landmark of the school, Old Main. rising massively above the trees, bearing likeness to a castle of the Middle Ages, its towers silhouetted against the black sky by a large spotlight on the ground below. Each building in turn slipped behind us until we passed between Old Main and Pem Hall, nodding to other students entering and leaving the dormitorv. We turned down a smaller walk which angled to the left and passed by a large semi-circular cement bench. This old bench. with its many cracks and chips, was ideally located for those in love. Sheltered by a grove of trees, it provided seclusion for those who wished only to be alone and away from unwanted eyes.

> by Don Shepardson Spring, 1961

Sophistication

```
black dresses
   white pearls
      glass heels
        long feet
charming smiles
   cloudlike steps
     alluring gestures
        correct posture
long ghostly nails
   smooth shiny hair
     plucked and replucked eyebrows
        strained curly eyelashes
locked jaws
   capped teeth
     puckered lips
        glass-covered eyes
soft sexy voices
   discreet little laughs
     exotic perfumes
        very dry martinis
fashionable clothing
  stylish coiffure
     classic features
        wan complexion
one cigarette
  (careful don't inhale)
     one grasshopper
       (don't leave a lip print)
one young girl
  one fashion magazine
     one decaying society
       one charming woman
it
 has
   to
    be
```

sophistication

by Benjamin Polk Spring 1961

A Sonnet

I do not dare to explore within my mind,
To search in every cave and hidden crack,
To lift up lids and fumble in the black;
I dare not, for I fear what I may find.
Monsters may lurk there, monsters of a kind
Far worse than I expect, things which lack
All virtues which I thought I had; a track
May lead through slime to horrors undefined.
Yet—"Know thyself," a wise old man once told,
"That comes first." Thus, I must go, and through
Those horrid halls, through those paths of night,
Find each ugly, crawling thing, and hold
It wriggling, squirming, up into my view,
And, grimacing, then lay it in the light.

by Mignon Strickland Spring 1961

The Twenty-Third Channel

The t.v. is my master; I shall always watch. It maketh me to lie down on Certa-Spring Correct Posture Mattresses: it leadeth me down the twilight zone. Ben Casev restoreth my soul: it leadeth me in Adventures of Paradise for the sponsor's sake. Yea, though I walk through Death Valley, I smell no gunsmoke: for Lassie is with me; thy crew and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a quick-frozen t.v. dinner before me in the presence of mine sponsors: thou anointest my head with Wildroot; my t.v. guide layeth before me. Surely commercials and ads shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will look into the eye of C.B.S. for ever.

> by Ben Polk 1962

Opposite Attractions

He straddled the equator Each magnetic pole Exerting an impassioned Pull.

The negative attraction Older, time accustomed, Yanked his mind, already Committed.

The positive attraction From the heart, ephemeral, Stabbed at his uncommitted heart Unceasingly.

He straddled the invisible line Of choice, leaned first Toward one pole Then toward the other.

Like a pendulum he wavered Always returning to the center, To self.

> by C.E.M. 1962



". . . A great university is always enlisted against the spread of illusion and on the side of reality."

—John F. Kennedy

Artist: Joel E. Hendricks 1964

The Girl On the White Pony

In the marketplace
A truck with a load of moaning cattle
Backs into a cart of oranges
That a white-aproned peddler
Has been trying to sell
To sweating pedestrians.
As his wares spill out
Onto the sidewalk
The peddler raises his fist
And swears that the cow-truck driver
Will pay for his oranges.
A whining siren is heard
Coming down Kirkwood Street
And the neighborhood kids kick one another
Trying to get to the front of the crowd.

In the monastery
A black-aproned priest
Kneels before a crucifix
And prays that the world might find
A peace like the peace that he has found
Up here in this artificial world
Set on the green hill
That overlooks the city.
Up here where every footstep is listened to,
And where one doesn't dare to raise his voice
For fear of waking up the angels.

In the university tower
A scholar with a loosened necktie
And wrinkled socks
Sits at a little desk
Cluttered with a thousand sheets of paper.
He is working
On a new allegorical interpretation
Of Spencer's Faerie Queen
For a doctoral dissertation.

His dimly-lit room
Overlooks a little park
Cluttered with maple trees
Where a young married couple
And their three-year-old daughter
Who is wearing an apron
Printed with plum-blossom designs
Are all taking a stroll
Amid the spinning maple seeds.

The scholar stands
At his little window in the tower
And watches the family
Approach a cowboy
Who is holding the rein
Of a white pony.
As the young father
Lifts his daughter on top of the pony
The child drops like a rag doll.
Her young mother kneels before the pony
To pick it up
As a priest would kneel
Before a crucifix.

All up and down the skyscrapers
The people are leaning out of windows
And throwing pieces of confetti
That spin like maple seeds.
The crowd roars
Like the motor of a cow truck
And every once in a while
Somebody will shout
Like an angry orange peddler.
Kids on the street kick one another
Trying to get to the front of the crowd
And whining bagpipes are heard
Coming down Kirkwood Street.

by Larry Gates 1964 First Prize, Poetry Division

~15~ Commemorative Edition

The Times

A knoll upon a grassy plain: A monument to soldiers slain Lies broken.

Saigon: Five more American GIs were killed today by the Viet Cong.

Not far away the battle flares. It seems to me that no one cares About the past.

Selma: Negro marchers again lined up on the steps of the Court House to pray for members of the Ku Klux Klan.

We have learned lessons times before. Dear God! when shall this bitter war Cease among men?

> by W.D.M. 1966

Home Thoughts

The hate spewers spew madly, While the dove-eaters vomit the putrid command. I sit at the outcast depot of hindsight And cry for dead birds squeezed by a child's hands.

The checkerboard of "Modern Family Living"
Stares blindly at the door of dissolve.
The goldfish ram their heads against the transparent curve,
Their mouths ope' to bubble empty thoughts.

The beards rebel at flo-thru tea bags Instead of lost bread.
The paisley print of raped time stamps impressions In the blood pits.
The Fisherman cannot cast His net Because His bait doesn't appeal.

The great band-aid of false brotherhood Covers a wounded hypocrite. The pus escapes and infects the saturated air And the eye bleeds carbon. The ship of Faith brings hair spray to bombed villages.

The motorcycle treads strips of boredom to a Cherubim. The boxes remain a stationary hue While lawn mowers sing their tune, "Ignore, ignore, only this and nothing more."

The pod-peas line up, punch in, and roll through the day. The silver-spoons ski in jet cities
And swim in gallons of spiked life.
Time drips in light-second measures,
Faster in reality, but slower in man-thoughts.

The professors play hopscotch with degrees And "Publish or Perish" is the cry, While 256 students cram into a pie slice to hear the dead word. They later play fraternal games While the true brothers suffer and die.

The world of today will Drown in its own heat—
Or freeze in its own hate—
Or what is worse, may simply Ignore itself away.

by Jane Carey 1968 First Prize Poetry

1966

MONEY
WEALTH
SECURITY
HEALTH
LEADERSHIP
POPULARITY
FRIENDSHIP
MATERIALS
CONFORMITY
& god

by Roger Zulauf 1968

Nagging Thought

War is bad.

But so were the last two cartons of milk I bought.

I quit the dairy rather than risk

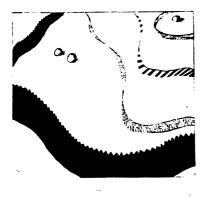
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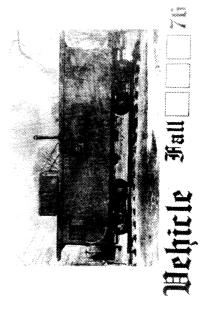
by Janet Andrews 1969

VEHICLE

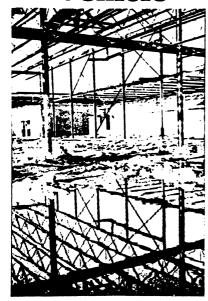
david brasmer lisa childress barbara robinson darlene sourile

gene brown r.bruce goble





Vehicle



Vadiola



Vehicle Fall '79

Editors' Notes: The Seventies

Spring 1970, Nick Dager and Mike Dorsey

Somewhere on campus there must be a student, male or female, who

just came to college to get an education.

Hampered by administrators. Greeks, freaks, student senators, dorm rats, and many other groups and clubs, he or she probably still manages to get an education.

Our magazine is dedicated to that typical person with the fervent hope that someday, somehow, that ordinary student will burst out of his quiet

shell to become Super Ordinary.

Fall 1970, Jay S. Trost,

To maintain the life of this publication it must have the support of the students. It is your magazine . . . for many, the only chance to ever see concrete evidence of their creative endeavors in print. I ask you to join me in helping to keep *The Vehicle* alive, constantly striving for new horizons and excellence in the areas of creative ability.

Spring 1971, Jay S. Trost

The Vehicle exists as a separate entity not only demanding but also providing a unique form of individuality amid the unavoidable stagnation found in our educational system. . . The Vehicle acts as an independent agent encouraging and promoting self-expression. This independence from the rigidities of frequently encountered forced expression in the classroom makes The Vehicle valuable.

Fall 1971, Verna L. Jones

The Vehicle, as a student creative magazine, captures and reveals through poetry, prose, art and photography of the many revolutions taking place on campus. Triumphs and fears alike are expressed in unique, individualistic forms, and The Vehicle transports these messages to the sensitivities of the reader. This magazine encourages constructive analysis of the developed emotions it represents, and recognition of a collegiate-centered attempt to define the rapid world metamorphoses.

Wrinkle
Your nose at me
Silly jump-up-fall kid
Giggling frogs fall off lily pads
You know.

Fall 1979, Laurel Anzelmo and Anette Heinz

The Upsilon Gamma Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, a national English honor society, was founded on Eastern's campus in 1932. Throughout the years, the purpose of Sigma Tau Delta at Eastern has been to promote the mastery of written expression, to encourage worthwhile reading, and to foster fellowship among English majors, as well as to provide cultural stimulation to Eastern Students. . . Sigma Tau Delta took over the production of The Vehicle in 1977. . . Members of Sigma Tau Delta take part in almost every aspect of the production of The Vehicle, beginning by carefully evaluating each manuscript on a point basts... In addition to judging material for publication, Sigma Tau Delta members assist in the technical production of The Vehicle.

Revolutions

From the raw earth comes the seeds for civilization.

They are taken by imagination heaped together, twisted, bent, stretched, shortened, and shaped.

Nothing is sacred which stands in the way of progress Invention and improvement Become the signposts for the world

> Places once sterile now burgeon with the fruits of technology The functional co-existing with the aesthetic

The hideous with the sublime

The world striving for Utopia.

Confusion begins to erupt.

The equilibrium begins to disappear.

The steady roll of drums force the sounds of order and enlightenment throughout the desperate chaos.

Once potent, now reflects the blood and trials of armed dissent

Under the masque of freedom and progress. . .

progress and freedom fade slowly away.

Time soon takes its toll.

Reality becomes misery.

The old and wise stand alone unable to comprehend the crumbling, the deterioration

Those who will never see the remainders—the scraps.

The parts distant from what they once formed.

Old images become forgotten and dimensions disappear... among the stark realities.

Then someone dares to be different—

to stand in hell

of persecution

From the raw earth comes the seeds

by Steve Siegel Fall 1971

Untitled

For the world at a lonely hour May bring you away
To a new strength
Which the light of the past
Can't provide—
Never turn behind when it's
Too misty to see beyond—
Rest alone and accept
What is meant for you;
And smile to yourself
And believe in the smile—

by Kristine Kirkham Spring 1971

The Arithmetic Problem

Today's math problem is: Their forces have 100 men. If 35 are killed and 47 wounded, how many soldiers are fighting?

5 and 7 are 12.

Write the 2

and carry the

one.
3 & 4 are 7
plus 1 equals
8. eighty-two.
Children, we need to
kill or wound just 18 of them
to end the war.
That is your assignment for
tomorrow.

by Janice Forbus 1972

Willie Seeverson Threw a Worm at Me

Willie Seeverson threw a worm at me, once, When we were little.
It landed above my underdeveloped Breast, and I cried.
Can you imagine that?
I cried to my mother just because A slimy, squirmy worm touched me.

Willie threw a baseball
That hit me in the mouth.
My lip puffed up until
It stuck out as far as the tip of my nose.
And I ran home crying again
For my mother to fix it.

I hope I see Willie again sometime So I can thank him for helping me remember The summer of '58, When only worms and baseballs hurt.

> by Mary Pipek Winter 1972

a love poem (by approximation)

on calculating the relative differential between our two bodies. I find myself thinking in spherical coordinates. The tangent I make with your plane surface alters my arc length. seem uncertain about your idea of an upper limit and partial differentiation of our function reveals a confusion in you; I detect. as I suggest integrating from negative to positive infinity, an infinitesimal change, as your cartesians go polar... Somehow, I want to calculate the area beneath your curves, and sum it up.

> by Ted Baldwin 1975

Night and Summer in Two Worlds

1. Caught inside a car at night in a fog that made two worlds, a world inside a world. A world traveling in the midst of darkness and blue, sweeping shadows that made the windshield an eye with huge, fluttering eyelids that would lift suddenly to show the next approaching lid. That kept our faces turned towards each other, while we carried up like antiques from a basement names that were ideas—Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre—they tried to go beyond the world that was outside our world, and weaving between the fog and reason and darkness and wonder, clinging to the blacktop road and arguing the rationalizations for being allowed to leave the womb, the headlights reflected off waves of earth—bound clouds: we had stopped.

In a Dakota summer the grass is naturally brown, the hills are as rounded and smooth and yellow as warm ice cream on a plate and the ground is hard like the eyes of the Oglala Sioux Children who watch us dig holes in their reservation to plant bushes that will die before we even leave. The air is thin and dry, we do not sweat doing work in God's name.

Later, in a cool, ever-green forest we chop down dead trees with an Indian, who tells us if he were chief he would go with his rifle into the Black Hills to snipe at tourists until none returned, glancing at each other between axe-blows, silently gripping the axe—handle tighter until each chop sends vibrations along every nerve. A tree crashed between us and the Indian, Tom, straightening up, heavy axe in his hand, and offers us his canteen: we gulp it down.

We were on different steps of the same staircase, but as we stopped in the fog and as we shared the canteen we were both afraid to ask the same question. We leaned against each other somber and still like cattle in a storm and pushed, one against the other, like arm wrestlers in a tournament and tumbled around each other.

Yet, I believed I would die and he would not accept the same for himself, he frowned at this world while I laughed at it and him, his courage was loose, obvious and untenable as gravity, mine created and destroyed freshly each day and with each season: we were two worlds, always new.

by Barry Smith 1st Place Vehicle-Poetry 1976

Story of a Teenage Pickle

Ah dill... Once you were a fine young cucumber Peter Piper's pride and joy; then picked right at your prime, as if drafted to serve in some foreign relish right alongside those slant-eved onions. You died. They placed you in a Mason jar, tossing a bouquet of parsley on top (in such good taste), and lined the jars up in the cellar like so many mausoleums. You'll be brought up for a fancy cocktail party, and your home-grown story will really be the talk (spiced up a little, of course). And the old colonel will sagely say, with everyone nodding agreement, "We all lost a bit of pickle in that war." (The losses were gastronomical indeed.) A gentleman will nibble an olive ostensibly, like he nibbled his secretary's ear last week. And wish he could take her down to the cellar,

past the Tomb of the Unknown Pickle.

by Terry Louis Schultz Fall 1976

Danny Lonely, Danny Wild

See the tail-lights on the hill He's gone running like a child. Say a prayer to keep him safe— Danny lonely, Danny wild.

You don't know what you hope to find, Just know that it's down the way; But your dream is sinking fast, And it's no closer than yesterday.

Friends would ask you what was wrong; You would answer with your smile Though you fought a losing fight, Going down you kept your style.

Late at night when you're alone, Searching for where you went wrong, You sing solo in a duet— In a sad and haunting song.

You lay down and try to rest, Your latest friend is by your side. You got wheels to go somewhere, But all you want to do is ride.

You keep your suitcase close at hand, Your pack is filled with maps and dreams, Your motto is that Love is all And that Love is not all it seems.

> by Devin Brown Fall 1977

Always Tomorrow

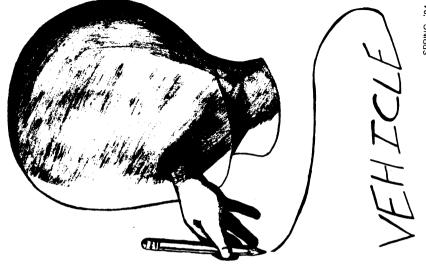
They meet at the door at five o'clock,
He, coming in,
She, going out, plants a whack on her thigh
tells him "Needalittleexercisedinnersintheoven
Billysatthehousenextdoor—
Be back soon."
She pedals the two miles to the edge of town,
Down the tarred lane that winds around West Lake,
Leaves the bike in a circle of dandelions
And sits in the grass with the sycamore.
She can see the two-lane highway, the only
road in or out of the town,
As she ties the longest stemmed white clover into a chain—
And waits.

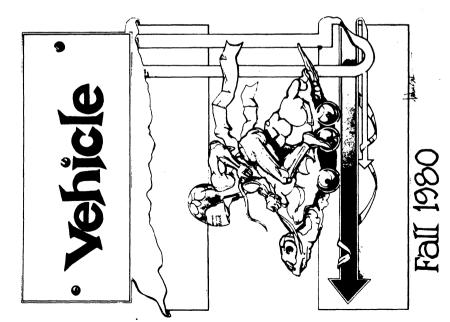
She feels for the clover between the strands of grass, Flicks a dragonfly from her shoelace, Turns her eyes to the north And hopes that John Joseph did know When he said that reality was only a word And not a game to be played, Waiting forever, For no one. . .

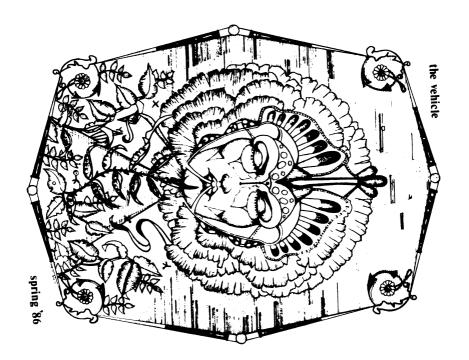
She ties another handful of clover. Turns her back on the couple walking hand in hand near the water's edge. Assures herself that there is a reason to wait. Shakes her head at the disbelief in her own voice And frowns at the two-lane highway, the only road in or out of the town. Knowing that Billy's in the cookie jar, The roast in the oven is dry— And she did say she'd be back. . . She parts her bike from the dandelions And pedals to the intersection, Giving, to the north, a last, long look. To the south Her chocolate-mouthed, skinny-kneed child, Her impatient husband poking a dirty fingernail into the oven— Home-it was.

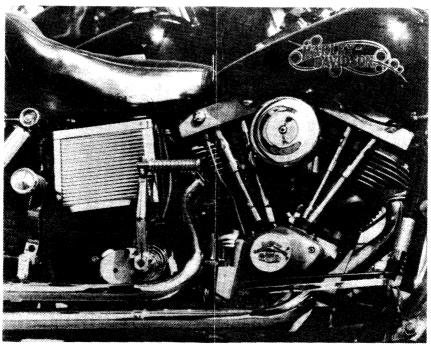
Her knees ache as she turns into the drive
And meets his "Where the-what the hell?" as he yanks at
the clover she wound absent-mindedly around her neck.
There's Billy, chocolate chips crammed into each hand,
That damn dry roast—
A tangled chain of white clover
And tomorrow.

by Mary McDaniel Fall 1978









vehicle fall 1988

Having Children

If there were only such a thing as a nanny like Mary Poppins who would work for nothing more than meals or movies.

Sure, then I'd have your babies and would love them and you so much when I got home from work.

We'll dress them up in crinoline and have birthday parties on weekends.

We'll give them your name your religion and my intuitions.

We'll travel on luxury ships to places unpronounceable as a family, yet, in our own compartments to promote that certain feeling of

Independence, but, lover, you know that nannies are extinct.
Polyester conquered crinoline. And, the only compartments are those, steel gray,

In this office where no one's ever heard of a pregnant, junior, corporate lawyer.

> by Devon Flesor Fall 1983

What is Unnatural Is Sometimes Magic

My brother was twelve when he tore a celluloid record out of National Geographic and invited me to listen to the sad song of a whale speeded up until it was the singing of a bird. What if from the rock bottom, a whale would gather speed and shoot toward the surface, becoming smaller as it shot, until it broke the water with a small explosion that turned fins into wings, and it flew, gaining certainty, ripping into feather, bursting colors, until it finally became tired enough to sleep for a while on a stick?

> by Angelique Jennings Fall 1984

If My Father Were A Writer, He Would Still Build

Everyone has a channel from the outside to the inside; it sucks things in and bubbles them through with interpretation, fountains them out again for others. My father's is blocked with wood dust, shingles, and twisted wire. If it were not, he would sit at the table in his socks and stack colored blocks around a core of words he wants to give me.

He would take things usually done without words and build paragraphs like dollhouses, cabinets, and couches, phrases that ring like a hammer on a spike. He would turn his heart over like making a new shed from an old barn.

He would write about hands that untangle twine: they do it to use it again, working knot loose, pulling bundle through it, a long strand threading under, fuzzing up, puddling on the ground; He would note the patience in hands that stretch grey twine and work as if they are carding wool, until it becomes a cat's cradle, a loop, a yarn, finally ready to be bound onto a piece of cardboard, but not tight enough to separate the strands.

He would speak of the danger of death in the small black snake of a wire, end bared with a penknife to show a copper tongue, he would tell a secret that lies under the skin of each dark scar on his arms. He would keep words, hot as the spark of a saw, rich as the dust of walnut, in a pocket beside his matches.

I am one place away from him, and it falls to me to take what he is and push it further, like moving furniture in the night. He does not think about thoughts; he likes things that have weight, and splinters, and sounds when you drop them, things that can be altered, things that grow more beautiful when left alone. He does not trust his dreams.

by Angelique Jennings Fall 1984

Photo Album

I. 1943

Overseas, in the nest of sandbags, a boy slaps his buddy's back. In the morning he wakes, bounces

sand from his boots, pinches a New Guinea mosquito buzzing him like a Messerschmidt.

Continents away, a girl cranes her neck toward the billboard, reads the parade of dead.

II. 1960

A man and a woman sit close on stone steps. The war is over. They smile in the shine of aluminum siding.

That night they bowled on the slick lanes, sucked Pabst from long neck bottles, sped home, spilled a lamp

making love on the living room floor.

by Patrick Peters Fall 1985

Poet Born in Pearl Harbor

Students ask for supplies of cyanide to prepare for the end of the world. I want it too. Because of the bomb drills: six vear olds with duffel bags, wash cloths, motel bars of soap, canteens of old water. Mine had a piece of adhesive tape. naming me. Remember the number of your shelter. Do not cry so loud you cannot hear directions. We were told we would survive. and could safely eat fruit that has been washed. Radiation is invisible but fall-out can be seen. like dandruff on the food. Where will you find water? In toilets, water heaters. cisterns. Squinting, I wished I would be home with my mother who wouldn't make me go out to search for food. Do not imagine women hauling children behind them, men stopping work to watch a cloud grow. The patterns of their clothes will be sealed to their chests. Do not color war. Sometimes I still play under the white warnings of jets.

> by Angelique Jennings Spring 1985

The History of High School Basketball

Coozy on Opening Night

Coozy's shoes sizzle as he dances around defenders, jocks heavy with lead. Rebounds pop between his palms, and when each jump-shot, sweet and smooth as cream, curls the net, the band strikes up, bits of paper floating from the balcony like moths.

Coozy's Broken-Bone Blues

Cheerleaders scatter like jumped deer when Coozy dives after a ball.

Oohs and aahs rise in covies, a dozen mothers throw their hands to God as he's stretched from the floor, out for the season, wrist limp as drool.

The History of High School Basketball

Alone in the gymnasium, quiet and dark as a church without mass,
Coozy spins and cuts,
dribbles echoes across court,
hollowing the net
with lay-up after dancing lay-up.

Beneath the bleachers, paint-peeled and cracked, a cricket rubs its legs in applause.

> by Patrick Peters Spring 1986 Winnie Davis Neely Award

Banana Bread

I bake banana bread these days, (Cream shortening, mix with sugar) Even though I give most of it away. (Add eggs, beat until light and fluffy) Never had extra bananas before, (Mash the soft fruit, leave no lumps) There were always kids around, (Sift flour, soda, baking powder, salt) Eating everything, right out of the grocery sacks. (Add dry ingredients alternately with bananas) Didn't have much time to bake. (Stir just enough to combine) With P.T.A., Scouts, cooking, cleaning, washing. (Do not beat) One by one they grew up and left, (Turn into greased loaf pan) Ripe fruit gone from the tree, (Bake in 350-degree oven) Leaving me with time and bananas.

> by Gail Bower Fall 1987

Cover Letter

No one you know knows me. I have not published widely. In another state one poet told me not to burn out, impossible since I have no reputation to speak of except my record with women: the worst in the county. When I say hello women pretend they are foreign, in busted French say they are married. Today I ran over a squirrel, felt him thump off the Chrysler's underbelly twice and from the mirror saw him roll out deader than a bad joke. I kept going and turned the radio up. I tried to remember my last good deed and imagined myself Man of the Year. Then a little kid threw a rock at my car. Forget it, I said out loud, wheeling home without groceries, my trunk full of charcoal and hickory, nothing to roast but sacks jammed with poems no one could love.

> by Bob Zordani Fall 1988

Home Movies

Here I am running in a field I don't remember, the hillside flowering yellow. It is good with me now falling and laughing

mutely into the camera. There's Jim waving from the barn where the go-carts live. He's still too small to drive fast across the barnyard like me

but putts slow and crooked as grandma's creek. One day we will ride hard into those woods and come home hurt, heads busted,

noses streaming blood. For now we are safe, life simple as cows by that farm pond. Stand next to the oil tank with your muscles

flexed, skinny father. Be with him mother. Slide your hand across his hairy chest. Pinch his cheek. Smile, folks. Smile. We're watching.

> by Bob Zordani Spring 1989

MIGRATION

At the Museum of Science and Industry there is a heart large enough to walk through, its chambers big as rooms.

Stepping from one ventricle to another I expect to see my father tying flies in the circle of a bright lamp and my mother, who hasn't yet had her breast removed, teaching my sister to dance slow.

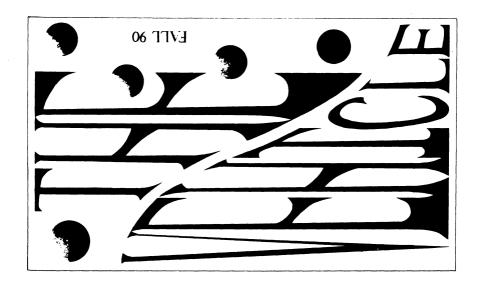
We are told mistreatment of our hearts leads to the grave. Fifteen billion beats to each of us. The unfortunate, less.

Malaysian monks believe each teaspoon of sperm subtracts a thousand beats from our already slim total. The equation is simple as third grade math: Beats minus X to the nth equals dust. We are doomed by love.

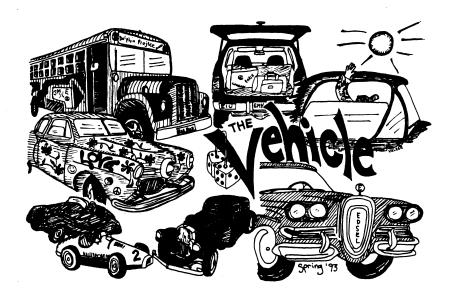
At night my new wife's heart amazes me, how her steady muscularity times our lives. Pressing my ear against her sternum I believe in the hugeness of the heart, its capacity for echo. I hear the heavy rush of wings rising up, see myself overlapping my hands into a call, pulling the swelling sky into the deep arc of my arms.

by Patrick Peters Spring 1989









BA, BA, BLACK SHEEP

I found my father alone in the living room one evening years ago, smoking in the dark, listening to some oldies show on the radio. "Staggerlee" was playing, a song my parents danced to the first night they met back in '58.

"Why are you sitting in the dark, dad?", I asked him, groping

along the wallpaper for the light switch.

"I'm thinking."

I flicked on the light and turned to ask him for permission to go to some party, then I noticed something wet on his cheeks and a redness about his eyes. I quickly turned the light back off.

Maybe life is like oversleeping, waking up startled, glancing at the years speeding by like rows of corn from a car window. You know, the sudden swell of anxiety and regret at having pushed the snooze button one too many times? You can either roll back over and say to hell with it, or jump up, panic-stricken, shower, dress, and run out the door in ten minutes flat. Chances are, you'll discover later that your socks don't match or that you forgot to put on deodorant, but at least you'd made an attempt.

I guess you could say I'm the black sheep of my family. I had a child out of wedlock and never had a steady boyfriend. I smoke, and I don't go to church because I just don't buy into that mumbo-jumbo anymore. I did, however, go last Sunday out of respect for my grandparents who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

I hadn't been in the church itself for years and as I walked into the vestibule, I felt like Scarlett at Ashley's birthday party. I sat between my father and my younger brother listening to the organist play "How Great Thou Art" with a heart so cold, I swore I could see my breath every time I exhaled. I couldn't bring myself to open the hymnal. I could hear grandma's shaky soprano making a joyful noise. I wondered why I spent all those Sunday mornings leafing through a Bible and cutting out prefabricated Biblical characters, pasting them onto a prefabricated background. The place still smelled like Elmer's Glue, crayons, and Doublemint Gum.

Everyone was praying, except for me. I bowed my head, but my eyes wouldn't close. My father was mumbling some holy hogwash with his eyes shut tightly. The woman in the pew in front of me bowed her head and closed her eyes in a serene sort of way. I couldn't help wondering if she was actually praying or trying to decide if she should make spaghetti for lunch or warm up the leftover pot roast.

I decided not to take communion. As I passed the silver plate of saltines to my father, he pushed it toward me with an urgent nod. I shook my head resolutely. I could see his jawline tense the way it does when he's about to lose his temper. I knew I'd be hearing more about my unacceptable behavior after the Doxology.

"Why didn't you take communion?"

"I wasn't hungry."

"Don't get smart with me. Don't you have a conscience?" (Ba, ba, black sheep, have you any conscience?)

My son is four years old. He jams to Led Zeppelin, knows what a bong's for, and takes showers with his mother. Sometimes I feel he's not connected to me. Occasionally, I see a glimpse of his other side—the half that isn't mine.

Many women say that they know as soon as it happens. I don't remember feeling any different the day after his conception. I only recall having bruised thighs and a horribly painful case of whisker burn.

It happened at 2:38 a.m. on December 28th. People find it humorous that I can pinpoint my son's conception down to the exact minute, but I was staring at the digital clock on the dresser the entire time, hoping it would all be over and done with so I could roll over and go to sleep.

I actually barely knew his father. My most vivid memory of him is watching as he trimmed his moustache in the bathroom mirror the morning after.

Men perplex me. I find some relief in knowing full well that I'm not alone in my bewilderment. I'm suffering from an emotional virus that plagues the entire feminine population.

Things were perfect with Tim. We'd sit out at Green Valley in his old LTD and giggle at our own giddiness. We made love on a slide in Center City Park at dusk. We'd sit in restaurants and entwine our legs under the table and feed each other french fries.

I was two months pregnant when I met him. He was one month married.

I feel love is basically a farce. It's like trying to catch a cloud. It's never close enough to grab onto and just when you think you

might have a hold, it slips right through your outstretched fin-

gers.

Mary and her husband stayed up all night last Wednesday discussing the divorce. My sister's leaving her husband as soon as the baby's born. Tom and Michelle have been married for ten years and haven't had sex for the past three.

My mother and father don't talk anymore.

It's like falling over the edge, hitting a drop-off. You don't even see it coming. There are, however, warning signs to look for: intense blushing, an erratic heartbeat, and insomnia, just to mention a few. You may even think you've mastered the art of walking without touching the ground.

The last one told me that I have beautiful hands, thin wrists and shapely fingers. He was fascinated by the quirky way I smile

with one side of my mouth higher than the other.

On Friday night, I'm smearing lipstick all over him. By Monday, we've runout of things to say to one another. A shameful silence, a sigh of disappointment, and one or two tears, then it's over.

She told me that men find me intimidating.

"You're too intense," she told me. "You met John once and scared the hell out of him. He says you're too smart for him."

She must have noticed that I'd tuned her out the way I always do when I'm forced to listen to something I don't want to deal with.

"Come on, you could have anyone. You just need to get out of this town. You'll never find anyone good enough for you here."

Good enough! Good enough for what? Good enough to fall in love with? Good enough to share a bed with? Good enough to accept me, shortcomings, neurotic tendencies, and all?

I sleep alone in a twin bed with my two cats next to me, one on each side. I lie on three pillows, under my great aunt's quilt, smoking and listening to Joni Mitchell. I can ponder life's questions without intrusion. I can shut off the phone for days and no one complains.

I can turn out the light and cry.

I'd like to make a bargain with God. I'm convinced that he must be a reasonable entity.

"Okay, Sir. Here's my proposal. Believe me, I know I haven't followed every rule, but I'm basically a good person, really. I've got a good heart. I feel that eternal damnation is, well, a little extreme. How about this: fix me up with a spot on Heaven's lower east side. I mean, just a hammock between two trees would be great. I don't expect much from the afterlife."

I stared at the preacher last Sunday, a young, single, and attractive man. I found myself wondering if he ever thought about sex, whether or not he had ever gone down on a woman. I wondered if inside that glowing Christian soldier there might be a horny young man with a mind full of demented sexual fantasies. Perhaps I should have felt ashamed, but it was too fascinating a thought. I even planned out what I'd do if I found myself alone with him. Seducing a preacher would be the ultimate victory. I could hear him screaming, "Oh, God. Oh, God," and feel his trembling fingers clawing at my back. I'd say to him, "So, your holiness, how does it feel to fornicate with one of the devil's disciples?"

I must have been wearing a wicked smile. My father was peering at me over his glasses with a look of contempt on his face. I'm certain he had no idea what I was thinking about, but could tell from the gleam in my eye that it was something less than saintly.

The bells rang and I hugged my grandmother. I shook the preacher's hand on the way out, blushing flercely when we made eye contact. I stood on the sidewalk with my brother and lit a cigarette. I saw my father in the vestibule, toting my son on his hip. He locked hands with the preacher, forming a poignant trinity.

I dropped my cigarette, crushing it with the pointed toe of my high heeled shoe, and walked home.

by Victoria Bennett Spring 1992 First Place, Prose

Daily Lessons

Imperative to watch the hands to ignore the agitated clench, unclench means certain surprise at the palm cast across your cheek.

So study the physiology of a swing—just how the muscles tense and rip, how the shoulder stretches in the joint,

and where starts the left, where starts the right the actual strike is unimportant—no memorization

required—the purple is X marks the spot, so you know where upon to aim your hits, scraping the wearing canvas until

it burns or bleeds your knuckles then switch to old methods. Yank the yarn stitched to the head, pound the cars 'til you imagine

the buttons begin to tear, or squeeze the limbs so the stuffing clumps and the ragged arms hang limp. Expressions are inherited.

No need to practice the thread white lips, the rolling eyes, the contorting juts of a determined chin.

Then banish dolly back under the bed where the cat peeks out, but does not paw the tattered trespasser seeking asylum. The lesson over—

Darkness stilled on the bedroom floor beneath the broken screen, where comes the quiet breeze that cools the running streams across your brow

and back, and hides the essence of onioned-stew for a second then return the heavy smells of sweat and supper while panting

slows into a triumphant smirk that begrudgingly acknowledges Mother, the only successful teacher.

> by Jennifer Moro Fall 1992

Folding My Own

I'm just like you Gram, I caught myself again folding up brown paper bags the way you do: smoothing out the crinkles, then re-creasing on the pre-folded folds, and flattening and stacking end to back, end to back. The way I take a bag of chips and cut open the top with scissors, ever so neatly. So, when I finish, I can fold the two corners in toward the center like wrapping leftover steak in cellophane. Then another fold down to the center, forming a trapezoid of neatness. It's the way you wrap the varn around your fingers folding stitch over stitch, that I see my own hands, just the way you taught me, stitch after stitch. until I finally got it right. Folding your patience, tucking it into your sleeve, like the handkerchief in your purse, you used to wipe my nose. Fashioning a quilt, I watch as you fold each piece to fit its pattern. The crease starched and crisped with the heat of your iron. And the way you fold your napkin to protect the table from the dew on your glass or the heat of your coffee cup. In half, then

in half again.

I often wonder how I unfolded into the woman that you are: folding my own.

by Laurie Ann Malis Fall '92 First Place, Poetry

About the Authors

Laurel Anzelmo graduated from Eastern with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1980.

Victoria Bennett received a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1991 and is completing work on a Master of Arts in English from Eastern.

Gail Bower attended Eastern during the early 70's. She owes much to John Kilgore, professor of English, as she still appreciates the encouragement he gave her. Her real-voice poem was written for Kilgore's creative writing class when she was a graduate student. And though she has not, since that time, been published for any other work, she can proudly say that this particular poem made a special appearance in a baking column in a newspaper.

Devin Brown graduated from Eastern in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Jane Carey graduated from Eastern in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and she received her Master of Business Administration in 1978.

Nick Dager graduated from Eastern in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Mike Dorsey graduated from Eastern in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education.

Devon Flesor, when she wrote "Having Children" in 1983, never imagined that she would someday be teaching in the English department, marrying "a professor," owning a big house, and having children—right here in Charleston. Though she recalls the poem as awkward, she is delighted to remember how she realized early that many working women in America are penalized for having children. They are passed over, demoted, and sometimes fired. Because they want meaningful careers, some women choose not to have children, while others have them much later than they and their bodies might wish. Even though this poem was written ten years ago, she says it is, unfortunately, still timely.

Janice Forbus, now Janice Jones, graduated from Eastern in 1972. She enjoyed Eastern; it was small, and there was a kind of "family atmosphere." She was very influenced by her instructors to write and to continue in the fields of teaching and library work. She still uses today all that she learned in college. She is now a senior high librarian at Pana, Illinois, and she has been a librarian for 21 years. She lives in Ramsey, Illinois, with her husband and 12-year-old son; the family "hobby" is continually remodeling their house which was built in 1789. She is the Secretary of the Public Library Board in Ramsey.

Samuel Fosdick graduated from Eastern with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1968.

Larry Gates graduated from Eastern in 1963 with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Joel Hendricks had a lot of fun in college, for Eastern was really involved with what was happening nationally. He remembers the mystery at the dawn of the Space Age and watching the television, when he was home for Thanksgiving, as Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald. As the 60's were full of uncertainty, he and his classmates had "high goals of truth" and goals to contribute and to participate; they also wanted change. He taught high school English for a few years, recalling a time when there were more jobs than people to fill them. Today he still writes and creates art, working for the Decatur Herald and Review.

Angelique Jennings graduated from Eastern in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and received her Master of Arts in English in 1986.

Verna Jones graduated from Eastern with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1972.

Kristine Kirkham graduated from Eastern in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater.

Elaine Lance graduated from Eastern with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1965.

Laurie Ann Malis is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in English (including Teacher Certification) with an emphasis in Creative Writing.

Christine McColl graduated from Eastern in 1963 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and she received her Master of Science degree in 1967.

Mary McDaniel graduated from Eastern in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and received a Master of Arts in English in 1982. She is presently an Administrator at Eastern. Her poetry and fiction have been published extensively in literary journals and anthologies. She was awarded Second Place in the Pablo Neruda Poetry Competition and First Place in the Hemingway Festival Fiction Competition.

Jennifer Moro is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing. She received the Winnie Davis Neely Award for 1992-93.

Bill Moser really loved his time at Eastern, which he attended from 1963-1967. His memories of his college days are powerful: he was taking his first final in his first year when he first heard that President Kennedy had been assassinated; his roommate had a foot blown off by a landmine in Vietnam; and on a brighter side, he met his wife here, and they have since been married for 26 years. He says about the 60's, which he feels are overly romanticized: "What a painful time, but what a good time." And today, he continues to write poetry, short stories, and articles. He belongs to a couple of writing groups in the south suburbs of Chicago, and he has been published. So, he believes, "There is life after college."

Janet Nelch graduated from Eastern in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and received her Master of Science in English Education in 1978.

Patrick Peters, who attended Eastern from 1984-1988, felt that college was a lot of fun. He liked it so much because at that time there was a "good community of people" in Charleston and at the University. His overall feelings about the 80's: "Despite Ronald Reagan and all of the greed, somehow poetry survived."

Mary Pipek graduated from Eastern in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Terry Louis Schultz graduated from Eastern in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and received a Master of Science in Education (Guidance and Counseling) in 1977.

Don Shepardson graduated from Eastern in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science.

Barry Wayne Smith graduated from Eastern with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in 1977.

Mignon Strickland graduated from Eastern in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science in English Education.

Jay Trost graduated from Eastern in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Bob Zordani graduated from Eastern with a Bachelor of Arts in English. He is presently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts at the University of Arkansas. His poetry has been published in a number of journals, and he is co-editor of the literary journal *Epiphany*.

Roger Zulauf graduated from Eastern in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education.

No information was available for Janet Andrews, Ted Baldwin, Robert Mills French, Anette Heinz, Benjamin Polk, and Steve Siegel.

Editors' Notes

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Finally, the editors wish especially to acknowledge their debt of gratitude to the Vehicle editors of the past thirty-five years, whose work we have so enjoyed and admired during the course of producing this edition. In truth, the work involved in editing this commemorative edition has been a very wonderful and rewarding experience.

L.I. G.V. C.D. M.G.

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