

Interview keywords/topics: Ireland and Appalachia, Community

Interviewer: CS

Interviewee: EB

CS ([00:02](#)):

All right. Uh, I'm CS and I'm here with EB. It is April 18th, 2024. We are in the Belk Library at App State. And this interview is part of an oral history project for WRC 2202, a Spring 2024 course by Ireland and Appalachia. And this semester we discuss different ways of using and understanding historical information, and we are creating our own historical documents in this project. So I will start off with the questions. Um, what do you think are the broad social perceptions of your generation being gen Z? And are you aware of any stereotypes or assumptions of your generation? Uh, ones assigned by older generations. And what are your thoughts on the validity of those stereotypes or assumptions? And do you have any friends across different age groups? So I guess we can kind of go piece by piece. So like, what do you think are the broad perceptions of our generation?

EB ([01:07](#)):

Um, that we rely on technology, um, and like we don't know how to function without it. Mm-Hmm. And then like in school, that's where we mainly use technology, but we're, we're capable of, you know, paper and pencil and just figuring out ourselves and being independent. And I always dislike having to rely on the internet. And then, I do have friends of multiple age groups, some that are like, uh, middle aged, like from forties to fifties, um, all the way up until like eight years old. So, I've been around large groups of people with different ages and, uh, it's kind of interesting to me because they all function a little bit differently so you can kind of like learn from each of their ages.

CS ([02:02](#)):

Would you say that these people are vocal about their, assumptions about your generation, or do they tend to try to not be as like, vocal about their, their prejudices?

EB ([02:16](#)):

Um, I would say it's more so like the older generations and not as much as the younger, like they tend to not really care as much, but than like the older generations I feel like have more of an opinion or a stance on that.

CS ([02:30](#)):

All right. Uh, and what are the main current events or political topics of 2024 that you're interested in? And this can be local or national or global events.

EB ([02:44](#)):

Um, mainly just like taking care of our earth, I guess. Mm-Hmm. And then just not like letting it go to waste. Um, I would say like, again with the technology thing, not letting AI [00:03:00] just take over, um, being in like try to be more independent if possible. Yeah.

CS([03:11](#)):

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Are there any like local issues that have been going on that you've been like keeping up with? Or is it mainly just like the, the Bigger?

EB ([03:16](#)): Mainly just global. Okay. I haven't really been keeping up with local.

CS ([03:21](#)):

Yeah. Okay. That's fair. And then, uh, like how do you get the news, uh, and information about like, what's happening, um, like globally and, and like statewide and everything? And would you consider yourself well informed about these issues?

EB([03:37](#)):

Um, typically from social media or friends or family, and I wouldn't say I'm that informed because I'm typically not paying close attention to what I probably should be. Hmm. But no.

CS([03:56](#)):

Would you say that social media is like a good way of, um, like getting information out there? Do you think that it tends to make things kind of biased and like, you know, harder to understand the truth about things?

EB([04:11](#)):

Um, I think it's a good way to get it out and spread because I feel like everyone has some sort of social media, but I would say there's a lot of bias and it's not always accurate as well. Um, because there's just so many, like different voices and I don't know if like everyone can agree on just one thing to really put out,

CS([04:34](#)):

Especially with like what you were talking about, like AI and that kind of stuff. Like starting to kind of become more mainstream so that can kind of influence, uh, like information and stuff like that. So. Um, all right. And then the next question, uh, what are you proud of so far in your life?

EB ([04:54](#)):

Um, that I haven't given up. Uh, I just kept going even though that I'm not like entirely sure of what I want to do with my career. I'm still like going to school trying to figure it out and, you know, I feel like eventually if something will kind of like almost fall into my lap and, uh, I'll be able to pursue that. Nice.

CS ([05:20](#)):

All right. So now I got some like app state specific questions. Um, so is your college experience what you expected or were led to believe in high school?

EB ([05:30](#)):

Um, for the most part, yes. Actually, um, I, it's actually pretty fun. I would definitely recommend going, um, it's a, it's a good like social, um, part of it. And then you, all the classes are a little bit different than what I was expecting, but I mean, it's still a pretty cool experience. Hmm.

CS ([05:56](#)):

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Is there something like specific about like App State that like you think is very specific to like the app state experience that like other colleges, like don't experience as much?

EB ([06:06](#)):

I feel like we have more of an oppor opportunity to be outdoors and experience like, uh, skiing for example, or snowboarding that like other colleges may not get to experience because they're like warmer weather. And we also have beaches and, uh, hiking trails that are fairly close. So we're kind of like, uh, pretty diverse where we] can do like multiple things.

CS ([06:33](#)):

Um, what's been the most challenging aspect of your time at App State?

EB([06:39](#)):

The first part of, uh, my freshman year, like being more social and making new friends because I didn't have like any other friends that came,

EB([06:50](#)):

From high school. So I was basically like a whole brand new start, but then once you get past that, uh, I was for the most part pretty fine. And then, uh, going to class every day and trying to like, uh, study a lot more than in high school.

CS ([07:09](#)):

Is there anything that you did to kind of like try to push past that, that barrier? Or did you just kind of like let that kind of happen naturally?

EB([07:16](#)):

Um, I put myself out more. I try to join, uh, some clubs and then like other things that I'm interested in, like basketball, I, uh, started playing that like three to four times a week and then eventually I'd meet the same people there and so we became friends and even like joined a league.

CS([07:37](#)):

Nice.

CS ([07:40](#)):

Um, what do you think has changed the most since you arrived here?

CS([07:47](#)):

How, how have you changed the most? Not, not just what has changed the most?

EB ([07:52](#)):

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I've just become more social. Probably I was, I still, I guess I am, uh, fairly quiet, but I've become a little bit more talkative] and,

EB (08:02):

More social around others and I don't just like sit in my dorm room or anything. I actually like go out and do stuff. Hmm.

CS (08:12):

Um, and if there was one thing you could change about App State, what would it be and why?

EB (08:21):

Maybe providing like more hands-on things instead of having to rely like, um, on a computer to um, either take her a test or do our schoolwork because I feel like I can learn more that way, actually, like, experiencing it instead of just being told what it is.

CS (08:42):

So do you feel like technology's starting to like, take away from the like true co college experience a bit?

EB (08:48):

Um, I would say overall, yes. In some ways it's good, like for presentations or papers or something like that, but overall I would rather just] not have it, I guess.

CS (09:01):

You think, um, like technology is like a means of like, um, becoming like more social. Do you think that's like a, a, a benefit you'd say of technology or do you think that that also kind of like takes away from like, um, like meeting people? I guess?

EB (09:17):

I think it's good for meeting people to like know who they are, kind of, but then if you don't ever actually like see them in person mm-Hmm for like more than you do and like text them or whatever, then I don't really think it's worth it because you're not like actually having like a real relationship.

CS(09:38):

Um, alright. And then I got one last question. Uh, what does the Appalachian and Appalachian State University mean to you right now?

EB(09:47):

Um, it means a lot. It's like gonna be a big part of my future and like once I did get my degree, uh, that'll basically me saying that I did it and I have commitment and I can use that towards my career later on.

CS(10:10):

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Um, do you think like the Appalachian part of like Appalachian State University, do you think like the, the region that it's like located in is like important to the culture or do you think that like, as a college that we're like somewhat separated from like the Appalachian culture in a way?

EB ([10:26](#)):

Um, I feel like we're, uh, not isolated or anything, or I feel like we're, we have like a large span of like, I think it goes across like 13 states, I'm pretty sure. So I feel like we have a large group of people to connect with and, you know, not feel isolated.

CS ([10:50](#)):

So you'd say that like App State is like integrated within the community? It's not like, kind of like its own thing, like this is kind of like within like the greater Appalachian community that's kind of just like its own thing, like separated from it? Yeah.

EB ([11:03](#)):

Okay.

CS([11:04](#)):

Mm-Hmm. All right. Well I think I'm out of questions. Um, thank you for answering all my questions and yeah.

EB ([11:16](#)):

Yeah. Thank you.