

THE BURNIAN

Blackburn College
Carlinville, IL

Oldest College Newspaper in
Illinois, since 1881

WELCOME WORK COLLEGES!

By Jordyn Smith

Each year, the seven Work Colleges in the United States gather at a host institution for the annual Work Colleges Consortium. This year, on November 6-8, Blackburn has the privilege of hosting the six other Work Colleges in order to promote and learn about the

success of the work program. What makes Work Colleges so special? Students learn valuable skills that can be used both professionally and in everyday life. Such skills include time-management, leadership and critical thinking. According to workcolleges.

7 Unique Institutions in the Nation: One Thing in Common

org, “83% of all Work College graduates credit their work experience with making them effective problem solvers.”

The conference is designed to promote professional development as well as cultivate student leadership. It is also intended to inspire

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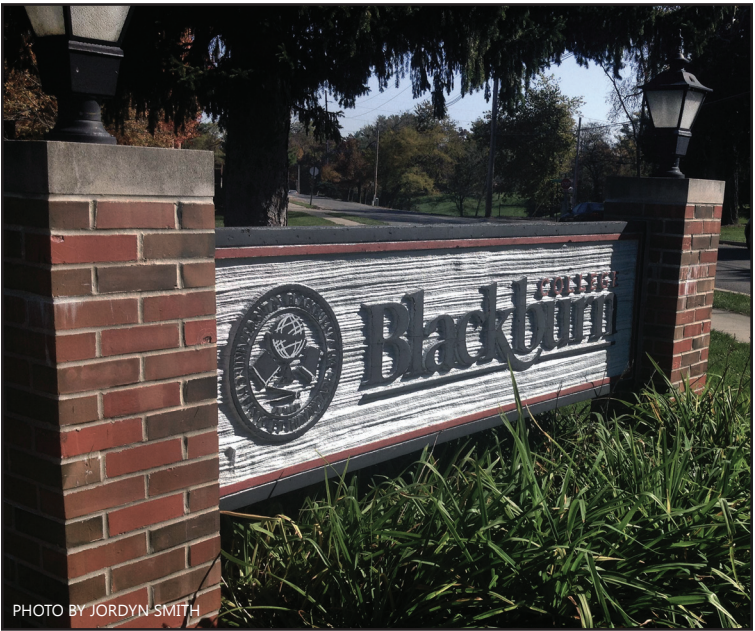


PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Stay Updated by Finding
Us on Social Media



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Yik Yak: What the Frick Frack?

By Courtney Egner

Blackburn has had its fair share of social media mishaps in the past year. Blackburn Confession, a Twitter account where students could send in anonymous posts, mysteriously disappeared last year only to reopen this year. Since then it has lagged in activity. With the instability of the confessions Twitter page, our campus is now using a social media app that is taking colleges across the country by storm: Yik Yak.

Launched in 2013 by Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers Tyler Doll and Brooks Buffington from Furman University in South Carolina, Yik Yak is a social media app that was specifically made for college campuses because of its anonymous format. All you have to do is download the app and you can start posting. You do not make an account and it

does not ask for any personal information. It pinpoints your exact location and shows your posts or “Yaks” and any others that have been posted within a one and a half mile radius of your location.

The app was made to have fun, random conversations and thoughts with those around you, according to Droll and Buffington. However, Yik Yak has been accused of facilitating cyberbullying, harassment and bomb threats. In September, a disturbing message appeared on the social media app on the University of Southern Mississippi threatening a school shooting. Within hours, the poster was tracked down and arrested. Bomb threats and other violent posts against schools on the app have become such a problem in high schools that Yik Yak has now blocked 85% of high schools

in the country from using it.

But just how anonymous is Yik Yak? It pinpoints your exact location, and at a school as small as Blackburn you may not be as anonymous as you think. Dr. Kevin Coogan, professor of Computer Science, weighed in on the topic. “The app is pin pointing where the post is coming from and there is a lot of information in there. If you know a person has a particular class at a particular time in Hudson and the post came from Hudson, you can start to narrow down the people.” Moreover, Blackburn is a small enough campus that if someone says they posted something, word will spread fast. “With the right amount of data someone could deanonymize a post,” Dr. Coogan warns. To read about what has been posted on Yik Yak, go to page 7.



PHOTO BY LINDSEY BECKER

Art Ark: Aesthetic Darwinism

By Lindsey Becker

If you’ve walked past the visual arts center gallery lately, the colorful work inside has probably caught your eye. The pieces inside are a series of paintings by artist Bruce Linn titled “Survival of the Meaningful: Aesthetic Darwinism Metaphorically Explored.”

Linn studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and is well known for his paintings, though he was also the front man and lyricist for bands such as Folks on Fire and

Adult Entertainment. He was invited to exhibit work at Blackburn by art professor Craig Newsom, who met Linn while working at the David and Alfred Smart Museum in Chicago.

Aesthetic Darwinism, referring to Charles Darwin’s survival-of-the-fittest theory, applies this concept to art. Featuring large scale images of boats weighed down with architectural icons and famous works of art, Linn’s work explores the cultural value

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Ebola in the U.S.

By Ben Nichols

Last month, the United States had an unpleasant shock when it was reported that a man with the Ebola virus had been hospitalized in Texas. Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian who was visiting family in the Dallas area, had contracted the virus by working with and helping transport sick individuals in the Ebola stricken area around the Liberian capital of Monrovia. After being hospitalized, it was reported that two healthcare workers

who had been in contact with Duncan were infected with the disease. The fear of Ebola was heightened even more when it was discovered that one of the individuals was allowed to board a plane. This was further raised when details emerged on the lack of set protocol for treatment of Ebola at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital where Duncan was treated.

Since then, many in the U.S. have wondered if the Ebola virus will become an epidemic in the country.

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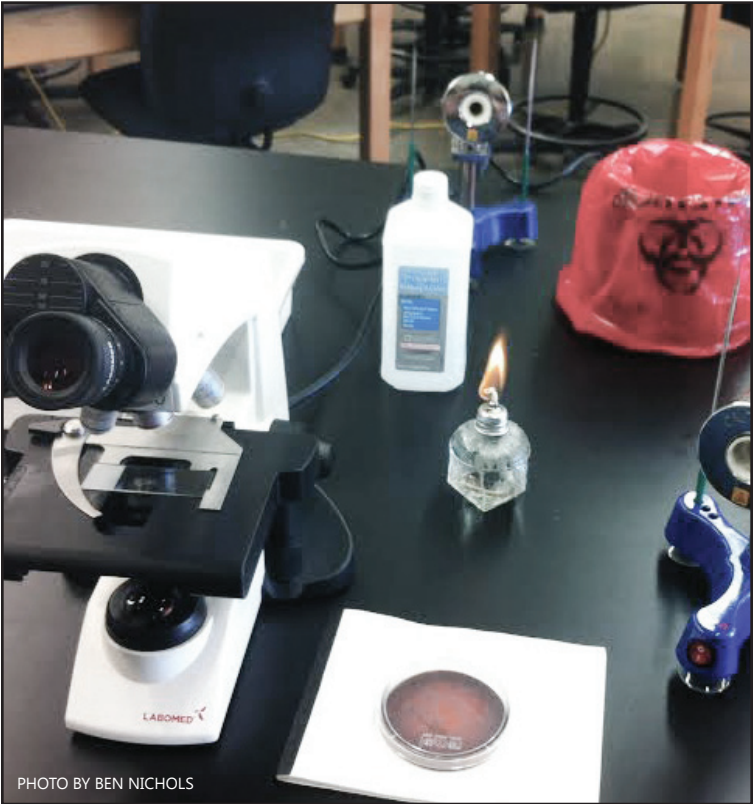
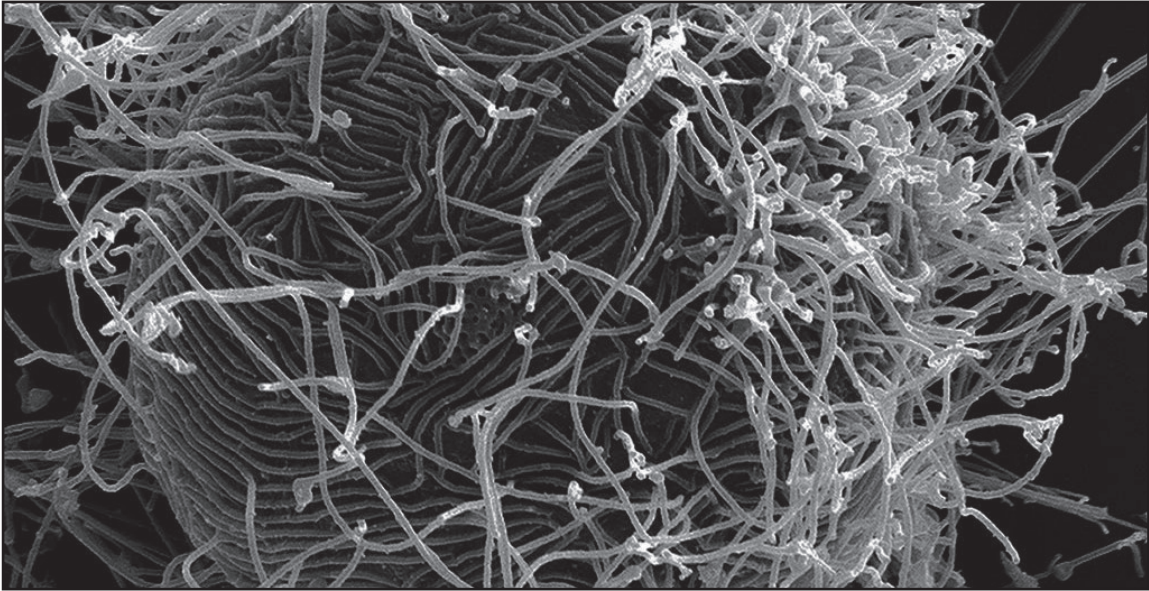


PHOTO BY BEN NICHOLS

Ebola in the U.S.



An upclose view at an Ebola Virus cell

PHOTO COURTESY OF NIAID

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Curious for answers, the media went out to contact experts in the field of viruses and biological hazards. CNN journalist Anderson Cooper had the chance to talk with Dr. Joseph McCormick, who is the Dean at the University of Texas School of Public Health. When asked about the situation Dr. McCormick stated, “I think we rely too much on technology. It overcomplicates things. When I dealt with Ebola, we used bleach to disinfect our gloves and aprons then reused them.” McCormick then went on to say that he does not believe it will become an epidemic.

At Blackburn, Biology and Chemistry Professor Dr. David Reid weighed in on the situation. “I believe the Center for Disease Control’s

response to the situation went really well and really poor. On one hand, they’re not lying to the public and being transparent. But it was a huge mistake to allow the health worker who had contact with Duncan to be allowed to board the plane.” When asked about the possibility of an epidemic or a chance Carlinville could be affected, he responded, “I’m pretty confident this won’t become an epidemic. Our healthcare system is too good for something like that to happen. I do think that the case in Texas will be a wake up call for our system.”

However, would Carlinville be prepared for an individual infected with Ebola? In regards to the local protocol for a potential Ebola victim,

Jessica Barkley, the infection preventionist at Carlinville Area Hospital, said, “We are following along with Center of Disease Control guidelines which have recently been changing. We have a series of screening questions we use to identify if the individual has the possibility of being infected with the virus. We have been training our staff on isolating potential patients, and to try and transfer the patient to a major hospital for treatment.”

So should Ebola be something students should be concerned about? Unless you’re traveling to West Africa for spring break, the experts are confident that we have little to worry about.

Art Ark: Aesthetic Darwinism



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG NEWSOM

An example of Linn’s work

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

society ascribes to different material objects and discusses what art objects will stand the test of time and remain relevant. Though the work is concept-heavy, his use of a wide color palette and brushstrokes bring a lot to the table.

“At first it was just like

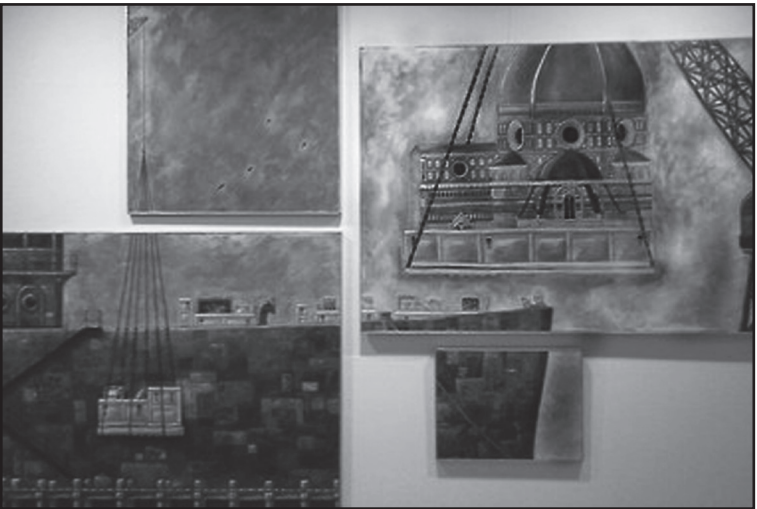


PHOTO BY LINDSEY BECKER

Linn blends architextural and cultural icons to portray a message

‘wow those are really pretty, the colors are really nice.’ But then you look at them and it makes you think,” said senior business major Maggie Best. Linn relates his art to music. “It made it easier to explore the medium when I began to see my paintings as ‘songs.’ Like songs, the content and form created a more memorable and complex experience when brought together than if I focused only on one,” he said.

The playful nature of the colors and form juxtaposed with the philosophical content

is not an accident. “I often approach content looking for ideas that will make me laugh—but, profoundly. My laughter gets me into more interesting places than I consciously understand or could hope to get to through theories or formulas,” said Linn.

The artist will give a talk at 4 p.m. in Visual Arts Center on Friday, November 14th, followed immediately by a closing reception until 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the campus and community.

SODEXO FEEDS THE HUNGRY

By Chris Cole

From Oct. 1 until Nov. 30, Sodexo has been donating and will continue to donate \$0.08 for its Stop Hunger Campaign when you purchase a Kellogg’s Cereal-In-A-Cup at snack bar. Since its inception, this cause has contributed more than \$22 million to help end childhood hunger. According to the Sodexo Stop Hunger website, 49 million people in the U.S. are at-risk of hunger, including 16 million children. This means every one in five kids. This is not because there isn’t enough food; it is that some

and will continue to collect donated canned goods from Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. at Ding and Snack Bar. Chef Manager Joe Piechowski said, “The choice was between cash donations or cans. We figured cans would be easier for college students to give.” Piechowski also stated, “The Cereal-In-A-Cup is just another one of the many ways we help the Sodexo Foundation end child hunger.”

To donate, bring canned goods to Ding and Snack Bar and place them in the red boxes

“The people at Blackburn are very generous. Many people will give even if it’s only a little.”

DEREK HAUSER

people just can’t afford to buy it. Hunger is a worldwide problem. However, there are people who make the effort to feed the less fortunate and give them access to the food they need so that they can lead normal productive lives.

Now we also have the chance to make a difference. All we have to do is purchase a Cereal-In-A-Cup at the snack bar. Simple, right? Satisfy your hunger and help feed the world at the same time. The money will be donated to the Sodexo Foundation to end child hunger. Although, if you feel like a more direct approach or if you’re not a fan of cereal, Blackburn Dining Services has been collecting

located in the Demuzio Center. The cans will be donated to the Central Illinois Food Bank, which will distribute the cans to local food banks in 21 counties across Illinois. Dining Services General Manager Derek Hauser said, “The people at Blackburn are very generous. Many people will give even if it’s only a little, so we think the food drive will be a success.” Sodexo’s mission is to make America a hunger free nation, but they need our help to make this goal a reality. If you have any questions contact Sodexo general manager Tim Lucas by email at tim.lucas@blackburn.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Derek Hauser, 2014-2015 Food Services Manager

CRIME

BLACKBURN COLLEGE BEAT

Chris Cole

Between September 9th through October 5th, 22 incidents were handled by the Campus Community and Safety department. Some of the aforementioned offenses are listed below. All issues are handled by Residence Life, Campus Security and Carlinville Police when necessary.

10/06/2014 At 10:15 a.m., there was a hit and run car crash in a student parking lot. Incident handled by Campus Security.

10/08/2014 In the evening, students were playing basketball in Dawes Gym. One student was upset after the game and threw the ball in the hallway. The ball ended up hitting the ceiling causing

a couple of tiles to fall to the ground and break. Incident handled by Campus Security.

10/09/2014 At 12:14 p.m., noise complaint against a student in a resident's hall. Incident handled by Residence Life.

10/10/2014 During the day, an anonymous complaint was filed that there were inappropriate comments posted on a social media application. Incident handled by Campus Security.

10/12/2014 At 1:26 a.m., a complaint was filed about a couple of students having a loud argument in a residence hall. Incident handled by Residence Life.

10/13/2014 At 2:35 a.m., a noise complaint was filed

Incidents
Residence Life,
Campus Security,
and sometimes
even local police
have to handle

against a student in a resident's hall. Incident handled by Residence Life.

10/15/2014 At 11:58 p.m., a report of harassment and a threat via social media and cellular devices between two students was filed. Incident handled by Campus Security and Residence Life.

10/17/2014 At 10:00 p.m., a student filed a complaint against other students who started rumors about them that were not true. Incident handled by Campus Security and Residence Life.

10/20/2014 At 12:05 p.m., a third party made a complaint against a friend's significant other being too aggressive and forceful with them. Incident handled by Campus Security.

Know any crazy characters, high achievers, role models on the rise or quiet campus gems?

Submit their name -- or write a profile -- and send it to The 'Burnian at burnian@blackburn.edu!



A common logo for Dudeism, styled after "The Big Lebowski"

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVERFISHY

My Words Abide By "The Dude"

By Patrick Benedict

Throughout history there have been numerous religions practiced all around the world. Most of the religions practiced today are rooted in thousands of years of tradition and are based on deities established long ago. But what about a

the church's founder (often referred to as The Dudely Lama), claims that "Following Dudeism helps you to keep in mind what's important in life, what actually makes people happy instead of what makes them insane." The religion

“ Following Dudeism helps you to keep in mind what's important in life, what actually makes people happy instead of what makes them insane. ”

THE DUDELY LAMA

religion based on a movie?

In 1998, Joel and Ethan Cohen wrote and directed a film called "The Big Lebowski." The film told the story of an aging "dude" by the name of Jeffery "The Dude" Lebowski (played by Jeff Bridges) who wanted nothing more than to soak in his tub, drink his white Russians and listen to whale sounds. His peaceful and carefree life gets disrupted when some men come and "deface" his rug (which incidentally tied the room together) trying to convince him to pay a debt he knew nothing about. It turns out he'd been mistaken for another man with the same name and now he's got to go deal with the problem.

Throughout the film he gets sidetracked and often shrugs off the problem and moves on by just taking it easy. The way "The Dude" lived his life in the film inspired journalist Oliver Benjamin to form "The Church of the Latter-Day Dude." The church practices an adapted form of ancient Chinese Taoism and other Religions/Belief Systems, which they call "Dudeism." With no actual physical place of worship, let alone any form of strict rules or even difficult guidelines, Dudesim is more of an ideology on how one should live their life.

In an interview with CNN in 2013, Benjamin,

primarily exists on the internet with a singular website riddled with references to the film and clever integrations of the word "dude" into other terms. The site (dudeism.com) actually does have a full forum section and plenty of articles concerning life's biggest questions. Underneath all the fandom of the site there are actual intelligent remarks about life and its many mysteries.

One of the most fascinating aspects of Dudeism is that it is actually recognized as a religion by the United States and actually has the capability of ordaining ministers. Ministers of the Church of The Latter-Day Dude even have the capability of officiating marriages and funerals or just kicking back and relaxing. The tag line of the site is "Just take it easy, man," which embodies the fundamental principles of Dudeism. Issues with the term "Dude" implying men spurred the founder to add a section clarifying that "Dude" (or Dudette if preferred) can be used to refer to any gender.

All in all, Dudesim is viewed, at least on its surface, as a fan's tribute to the film but it does actually hold stock in other well-established religions and ideologies. It may be something to consider if one is looking for validation for taking it easy.

THE BURNIAN

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MISSION STATEMENT

The 'Burnian is a student-run newspaper at Blackburn College. Our mission is to deliver accurate, interesting and timely news to the Blackburn campus as well as the Carlinville community in an ethical and professional manner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters under 500 words may be sent to burnian@blackburn.edu, or mailed to The 'Burnian, 700 College Ave., Carlinville, IL 62626.

GUEST COMMENTARIES

Editorials featured on the opinion/commentary page of The 'Burnian contain staff members' opinions. We welcome guest editorials between 400-500 words. The 'Burnian does not endorse featured opinions. All submissions to The 'Burnian may be edited for length and grammatical clarity at the discretion of the editors; however, authors will be contacted if content revisions are necessary.

CNN COMES TO BLACKBURN



CNN conducted many interviews while they were on campus on October 23rd. Here, sophomore biology major John Esparza talks with the crew.

Welcome, Work Colleges!

appreciation and knowledge of the culture of the host school. As Blackburn celebrates its 101-year-old work program, the visiting colleges will be able to learn about what makes Blackburn unique. Although Blackburn is one of seven institutions in the nation that implements a work program, it is the only one that is student-managed.

During Saturday’s conference there will be several breakout sessions in which all Blackburn students are welcome to attend. The sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the Blackburn College Student Management Panel in Bothwell room 132 and ending at 11:15 a.m. with “Managing your Work Stress—Meditative Practices” with Tim Morenz in the Learning Commons. The full schedule of events can be found in the daily

announcements.

Academics Manager Haley Welch added, “Students are also encouraged to attend events that weekend such as Dueling Pianos, because the visiting schools will be at those events. During that time we encourage students to come meet our visitors and socialize. It is truly a great opportunity to learn a little more about the Work College Consortium and all we are gaining from being work colleges.”

According to General Manager Carly Vunetich, Blackburn’s student managers will help run the program. They will be attending meetings and getting to know the other schools’ students. They will even complete a community service project together at Beaver Dam. Student ambassadors, including Haley Haynes, Jacob Maag, Allie

Matt, Tim Hillis, Ben Hoover and Mary Chamberlain, will be hosting the schools by showing them around, answering any questions they may have and making their overall experience enjoyable.

Students have the opportunity to learn about the other schools as well. “Some of the schools grow their own food, others run hotels and the list goes on and on,” said Welch. “Blackburn, though, is the only school that has student managers doing things that the other colleges have paid staff doing, and I think that is something we should really be proud of.”

“I’m so pumped that it’s happening while I’m here,” said Vunetich. “It only happens every nine years at Blackburn, so I’m blessed and thankful to have it here.”



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Talk to Tim

By Tim Morenz

Greetings and Salutations, Blackburn College!

I was walking across campus the other day and saw falling leaves and trees changing color. Fall is upon us (I know, we just had Fall Break! Sometimes I am Captain Obvious!) and mid-terms are past us! In the midst of your reading, writing and studying, don’t neglect 2 things: make time for yourself by doing the things you enjoy and make time for other people showing gratitude, compassion and kindness! Little things add up and can make big results!



Tim Morenz, College Counselor

Let’s proceed to our question for today:

“Dear Tim, I was at a recent party and a guy was hitting on a girl and you could tell she didn’t want anything to do with him. She eventually stood up for herself, but what tips do you have if I wanted to step in and intervene? Alcohol was involved, which made it worse. Help!”—Helpless

Dear Helpless,

Thanks for keeping an eye out for those who can’t or couldn’t or were in a place to not help themselves. This is what makes Blackburn a super cool place. It sounds like your situation was a close one. Sexual assault and alcohol are difficult things to face at Blackburn as well as at colleges and universities worldwide. President Obama has recently launched a campaign to end sexual assault and dating violence on campuses called “It’s on Us.” The fact sheet has some pretty sage advice:

- 1) Talk to your friends honestly and openly about sexual assault.
- 2) Don’t just be a bystander. If you see something, intervene.
- 3) Trust your gut. If it looks like a bad situation, it probably is.
- 4) Be direct. Ask someone who looks like they may need help if they are OK.
- 5) Get someone to help you if you see something.
- 6) Keep an eye on someone who has had too much

- to drink.
- 7) If you see someone too intoxicated to consent, enlist their friends to help them leave safely.
 - 8) Recognize the potential danger of someone talking about targeting someone else at a party.
 - 9) Be aware if someone is deliberately trying to intoxicate, isolate or corner someone.
 - 10) Get in the way by creating a distraction, drawing attention or separating them.
 - 11) Understand that if someone cannot or does not consent to sex, it’s rape.
 - 12) NEVER BLAME THE VICTIM!

Blackburn is a wonderful place. Let’s keep it that way by intervening for our peers when we see something that needs our help.

Until next time, BEAVER NATION!

About the author: Tim Morenz has been in the mental health and substance abuse field for 23 years and has been licensed in the state of Illinois since 1997. He is located in DCC133 and is at extension 5759. Email him at tim.morenz@blackburn.edu He is learning that yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift. That is why they call it the present.

Winter Formal, Will It Happen or Do We Let It Go?

By Jordyn Smith

The Winter Formal at Blackburn will not be in December this year. According to Student Senate President Jacob Maag, “the change in the dance schedule is important because the December Winter Formal had been waning in attendance and was very close to Double Instruction Periods.”

The dance, which will now be held in February, will be organized by Student Senate with the help of the Blackburn community. The name of the dance is currently up in the air. When asked if this means that there would be no Valentine’s dance, Maag said, “Not necessarily. We are open to the idea of keeping it a ‘Valentine’s dance.’ The option is there, though, for not labeling it that at all.”

Students seem to have differing opinions. Junior communications major Allie Matt said, “I do think that Student Senate made a wise choice in cutting a dance out. Honestly I think dances are overrated in college. If you really want to dance most people go to a club/party. In high school you didn’t have that option.”

On the other hand, senior biology major Nikki LaMore admitted, “It’s kind of disappointing to only have two dances and them being so separated. I like beginning the year with homecoming and ending with Winter Formal and then having the Valentine’s dance. Homecoming and Valentine’s are more casual and winter formal is the really fancy one.”

The winter formal may have more to offer than you think. Students can always give song requests to the DJ, so “The music sucked” isn’t a valid excuse. Most students can enjoy dances, especially those

“Honestly I think dances are overrated in college. If you really wanted to dance most people go to a club/party. In high school you didn’t have that option.”

ALLIE MATT

who are underage.

How could attendance be improved? Matt says she enjoys dances that have “upbeat music, games and a place to sit and have drinks and snacks.” LaMore adds, “Advertise more and don’t scare the students



Katie Ward and Paul Kline won Winter Formal King and Queen 2013

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LAURA WIEDLOCHER: POLITICAL SCIENCE JUNKIE

By Deja Bell

Dr. Laura Wiedlocher, Blackburn’s new political science professor, didn’t always want to be a professor. “I actually wanted to go to law school in the beginning and I was wait-listed for the schools of my choice,” said Wiedlocher. “So when I was deciding if I would wait to get into those schools, if I got in, I did some free reading just for my own pleasure, and I found myself gravitating towards political figures.” The suggestion had been made to her to consider academia as a profession, but she shrugged it off. “I realized

my students,” she said. “I have seen this blaze of genuine kindness and compassion from my students. I have found them to be interested in the world around them and also to have real heart and passion for things. There are things going on in this world that they care deeply about, and so to provide them opportunity to learn more about those things and give them room to discuss it and ideas for what they can do about it to affect change in the world someday, that’s really cool.”

One random fact about Wiedlocher is her favorite

“I have seen this blaze of genuine kindness and compassion from my students. I have found them to be interested in the world around them and also to have real heart and passion for things.”

LAURA WIEDLOCHER

that I’m just a super geek who loves politics and maybe there’s a job for that, where I could be a political junkie and do research, ask the questions that I find interesting and still get paid.”

She came to Blackburn because she wanted to strike a balance between what she loved and what her husband loved. He works at Boeing in St. Louis, and he loves his job, so anywhere that she went she wanted that balance. “I mostly looked for schools that would give me an interview around St. Louis, within 100 miles or so, and Blackburn worked out and I’m glad it did. I like it; there’s good people here,” said Wiedlocher.

She would like to spread her passion for political science and research to the students while she is here. She wants to get people excited about doing research and interested in political science because the field is diverse. “My favorite part of my job is my students, hands down. I love

game is Settlers of Catan and college students are some of her most favorite people ever. “You’re in a very special time in life where you work very hard, you go to class, you study, do papers and labs. It’s intense, being in college but you’re also surrounded by lots of people doing the same thing so there’s natural camaraderie,” said Wiedlocher. “It’s not really the same, once you’re out in the real world once you get into the work force. You’re still in that place where your whole future is ahead of you. The process of college is learning how to shut doors, making decisions every year, what do you want to do when you get out? What are your goals? What are you trying to reach? You’re making these big decisions along the way and it is really fun and really cool to be a part of that but even just to watch that process happen, and I feel as a faculty member it’s my honor and my privilege to get to be there for that.”

“VERDIGRIS”
I WANTED TO LIKE IT

By Michelle Flood

The much-anticipated “Verdigris” opened on Thursday, Oct. 23, to a relatively warm audience reception. The playwright, “Supernatural” and “Deadwood” actor Jim Beaver, attended every performance. While Beaver wrote the show in 1985, three new productions have been slated with Blackburn College’s Performing Arts Department having the honor of being the first production in 29 years (the other two productions are in Alabama and California).

Set in the 1970s, the story centers on an older woman, Margaret Fielding, who is confined to a wheelchair. Between paying her caregivers and running dismal business ventures, she struggles to make ends meet and is faced with the looming possibility of being placed in a nursing home. Her employees and family members gravitate around her, as she is the nucleus of the plot.

Thanks to set designer Kyra Bishop, the set was beautifully designed and looked realistic as a multi-room house complete with a bedroom, a porch and a kitchen with a working refrigerator. Combined with the recent renovations in Bothwell, the theater-going experience was both comfortable and fresh.

A few standouts in the cast include lead actress community member Jami-Lynn Lewis as Margaret Fielding. Lynn brought depth to her character as well as humor with a crass demeanor and a side of wit. Her performance was unwavering even during minor set malfunctions and some obvious line dropping. Junior Brendan Riley Lersch



PHOTO BY MICHELLE FLOOD

Jami-Lynn Lewis and Rob Wingerter star in “Verdigris”

as Jockey Farrell played stock drunk very well. His delivery was delightful as it brought a bit of comic relief to the show. Freshman psychology major Rob Wingerter starred as Richard Muldoon, an aspiring actor with little aspiration. His ease on the stage was evident as he moved the audience with thoughtful monologues.

Some of the challenges of the show had nothing to do with the production, but rather the play itself. The plot is very slow moving and everything that happens doesn’t happen onstage. The characters deliver any sort of news through secondhand knowledge, which provides little engagement for the audience. It takes approximately two and a half hours to get a cranky old woman into a nursing home. That’s it. That’s pretty much all that happens. With the ensemble cast comprised of mostly stock characters, there wasn’t much room for character development. Any attempt at depth occurred abruptly and out of place.

One of the largest problems the show faces is its

inappropriate use of humor. This may be related to the fact that the show was written almost thirty years ago, but it didn’t ring true with its modern audience. Most of the jokes are made at the expense of loveable caretaker May Bee Burley, played by freshman Sarah Hyneman, as Margaret continually berates her with comments about her weight and physical appearance. While the audience laughed, this sort of humor is dehumanizing and cheap. When May Bee finally stands up for herself, it is only halfheartedly as she later recants her outburst. Fat jokes are easy to make and unfortunately any laughter from the audience is of the uncomfortable kind.

Despite these issues, “Verdigris” is a milestone for the Performing Arts Department. Opening night was very well attended. Opening night was very well attended as theater-goers flooded Mahan for a chance to meet Beaver. Both Beaver’s presence and the production have drawn much deserved attention from the community.

The Hungry Student
Visits H&V

By Jordyn Smith

As my food adventures continue, I decided to pay a visit to Hollywood and Vine.

Hollywood and Vine is a bar and grill that is easily located across from what used to be the Marvel Theatre here in Carlinville. When my guest and I arrived, there were few vehicles so we had plenty of room to park. The atmosphere when I walked in was smoky but friendly. We were greeted at the door and told to have a seat wherever we liked.

The joint has a cool setup. There are pool tables, furniture, TVs and lots of Hollywood-themed décor. It was pretty dark inside, but I could see well enough to tell that it was clean. There were only a handful of other customers there, but they all seemed satisfied.

Our server was very down-to-earth and friendly. He provided great customer service, although I overheard him mention that it was only his second day working there. I would have guessed he had waited tables for over a year. He took our drink orders then gave us ample time to look at the menu, but only after mentioning all the specials.

After taking quite a while to decide, I chose their bacon ponyshoe. My guest ordered buffalo wings and french fries.

After about a 25-minute wait, we received our food. My ponyshoe, complete with four big slices of bacon, french fries and Texas toast, was topped off with a white cheese. It was very delicious. My guest enjoyed the chicken wings as well. After gorging ourselves with amazing food, our server brought us wet naps, which were quite needed.

Hollywood and Vine is open Monday through Saturday 3:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and Sunday 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Families are welcome, but the grill closes at 9:00 p.m. to ensure underagers are gone in time for the night rush.

Hollywood and Vine had generally good reviews on their Facebook page from previous customers, and I would definitely recommend it for everyone. It’s pretty affordable with many menu items priced in the \$5 to \$8 range and had a great atmosphere for both families and college students. I will definitely be back for that bacon ponyshoe!



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

H&V has added a dining area near the bar

Superhero Comics Are History *But don’t worry, they aren’t going anywhere*

By Katrina Jahn

From comic books to movies, 1950s to now, superheroes have changed over the years. When the first hero comics started, they related more to what was going on in America at the time they were written. In a way, they can tell a bit of history. For example, Captain America came around during World War II and was featured on the front of a comic book punching Hitler while surrounded by Nazi soldiers. Wonder Woman was also featured during World

War II, but Spider-Man came about during the Cold War and represented adolescents in that time. As time went on, the heroes evolved more and more into what they are today.

Sophomore history and communications double major Patrick Benedict said, “They’ve become a lot more since then. They’ve become things that people relate to. They’re a lot more than just these super powered beings - they have faults and weaknesses just like humans

and they’re relatable because of that.”

A lot of people started to get more interested in these heroes once they became more like real people. It gave them a way to connect to the character. Senior business management major Michael Buck said, “Spiderman is where it started. You realize he’s like a normal person. He has problems he has to deal with like managing his superhero life, doing homework and getting a girlfriend - all that stuff. It’s

something that not a lot of people saw before that.”

Today blockbuster movies featuring superheroes are popular, increasing the fan base for the heroes. This fanbase includes the original comic book lovers along with people who weren’t really into the comic book scene. The fun action and comedy can pull in anyone who wants to see a good movie.

Movies are also starting to do a better job of including the minor sidekick-type heroes.

Rather than just making them disappear after they’ve served their purpose, they get more of a backstory. Characters like Catwoman and the agents of S.H.I.E.L.D who started out in other heroes’ movies have now gotten their own TV shows or movies. Junior graphic design major Bryan Bethel said, “[the backstory of sidekicks] gives a bit of insight into another universe that I wouldn’t have gotten otherwise.”

Having tattoos and piercings doesn't make you any more or less competent than people without them

By Deja Bell

There seems to be a social stigma that people with tattoos and piercings are beneath those without. Although tattoos have become more popular they are far from being socially accepted. Many jobs require tattoos and piercings to be covered. Although there may be a line that needs to be drawn, a person's worth shouldn't be disregarded because of the way they choose to express themselves. "I have never understood why piercings and tattoos are seen as a sign of

pierced ears, only 7% say they have a piercing elsewhere on their body and 4% report having a facial piercing not on the ear. Tattoos are clearly more popular than piercings, but neither one of them is even close to being accepted. Unless you're a tattoo artist, being covered head to toe in tattoos and piercings can be seen as unsavory, but that doesn't mean that everyone who has tattoos or piercings should be written off. "I won't get tattoos because I don't like

work place shouldn't be so traditional any more. You can't judge someone's work ethic or ability off of the fact that they made the decision to get a tattoo, and maybe covering them up is more professional, but not hiring someone because they have a tattoo or piercing is discriminatory and wrong. "The generation that are the business owners still have the bias that was created when they were children and teenagers, so a more understanding group of adults are coming

Tattoo Taboo

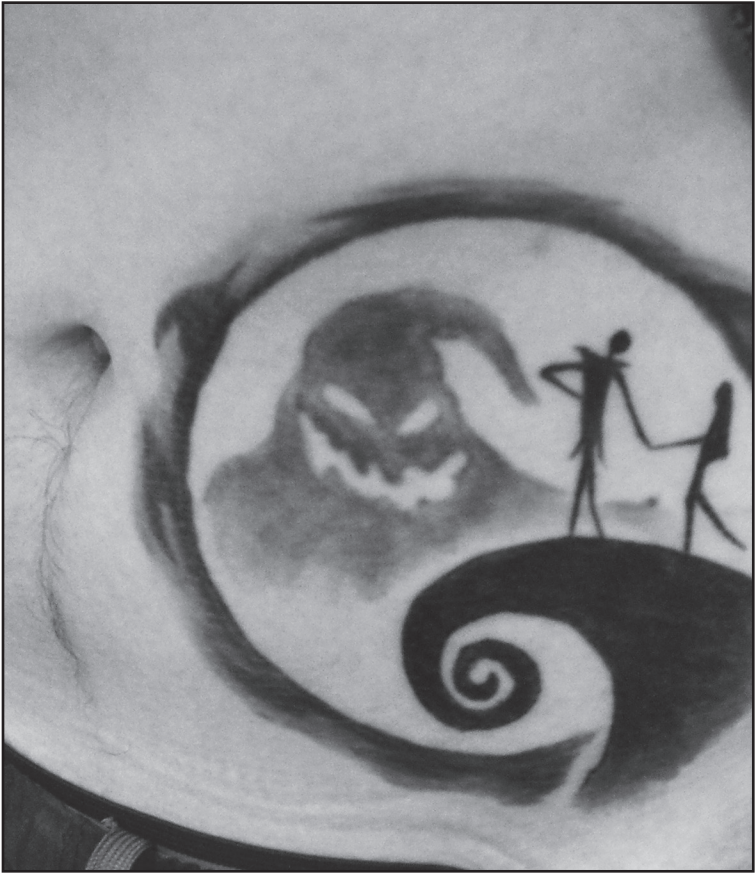


PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Brandon Martin shows off his abdominal tattoo of the Nightmare Before Christmas

As of right now people are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to getting a job because they have piercings and tattoos.

ANDREW BOUNDS

lesser quality. In this day and age we are still fighting for this right of expression and I find that ridiculous," said senior music major Vinny Watson.

According to a poll done on HarrisInteractive.com, a market research website, in 2012 one in five adults, or 21% of adults, have at least one tattoo. It also reported that 49% of U.S. adults have

needles. I don't care if other people have them, it's just if you're going on an interview you don't want to show sleeves or facial piercings," said junior computer science major Matthew Pfannenstiel.

I understand the professionalism that is necessary in a work place, but times are also changing. Maybe the traditional

in that are more accepting of it," said junior psychology major Andrew Bounds. "As of right now people are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to getting a job because they have piercings and tattoos."

Having tattoos and piercings doesn't make you any more or less competent than people without them. I believe tattoos will be socially

accepted before piercings will ever be, but that shouldn't stop you from getting them if you want. I feel getting a tattoo or piercing is the same as dyeing your hair an unnatural color; people will look at you weird

but that's how you choose to express yourself. "If we were more accepting of people with tattoos and piercings the world would be a much better place," said sophomore biology major Farida Soulama.

THE APPALLING TRUTH OF YIK YAK

F is for friends who aren't really your friends U is for ugly fat girls N is for no no one here backs up the shit they talk Down here at good old BC

32s

PHOTO BY COURTNEY EGNER

By Courtney Egner

Because Blackburn Confessions, a Twitter page where students could send in anonymous posts, was gone for a period of time, students needed a new way to gossip anonymously on campus. In the past few weeks Yik Yak became popular on campus once the confessions Twitter page disappeared for the second time. I downloaded the app just to see what it was and what I found was disgusting and disturbing.

The very first "Yaks" I saw on the app that had been posted by people on this campus were racist, rude and crude. There have been rape jokes, targeted

harassment and racial threats. It was shocking to see and it is appalling to think that people who say such disgusting things walk among us.

When I sat down with Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jarrod Gray, he had the same reaction I did to the posts on our campus, utter shock. "I am shocked and I am disgusted. I'm finding that for people who do hold a lot of hatred these sorts of things, whether it is this app or confessions, gives them an outlet for hate speech. It's appalling." Just like Blackburn Confessions this app has created an outlet

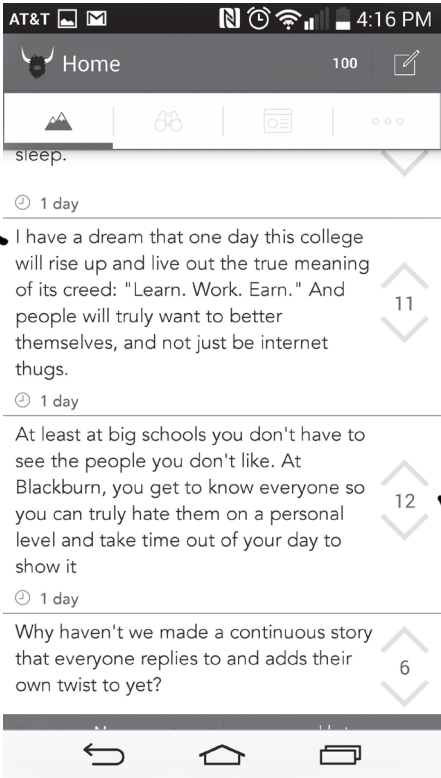
for harassment and nasty comments. There have been racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic and other offensive posts on our campus. This reflects negatively on us.

The major problem that I have seen on this app is that

is that on the Blackburn Confessions twitter page, a lot of people complained that it summed up the school perfectly. This suggests that the page and its attached drama reflected what the school is like. If you want campus to

we are the ones who have to stop it. If you want a drama-free Blackburn stop posting negative things about fellow students on anonymous pages and websites. It really is a simple solution.

The posts on Yik Yak



I have a dream that one day this college will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "Learn. Work. Earn." And people will truly better themselves, and not just be internet thugs.

At least at big schools you don't have to see the people you don't like. At Blackburn, you get to know everyone so you can truly hate them on a personal level and take time out of your day to show it.

users are so quick to defend it if someone gets upset or angry about a post. One post said, "I judge everyone who gets offended or mad at posts. It's just a joke." Well it's not a joke. These things are hurtful and absolutely unnecessary.

What I find interesting

be a better place, ending the misguided use of social media like the Confessions Twitter page and deleting Yik Yak is how to do it. The things that are posted are reflective of the school and if the complaints are so common that we are all gossip eating fools then

have become such an issue that school administration is currently working on getting the app blocked in the area. Until then, delete Yik Yak. Stop posting on it. Do not encourage its use. We are the only ones who can stop it and this is the first step.

JASON FARMER: From Deployment to the World Series

By Jon Griffel

Jason Farmer is a Blackburn Alumni and the sports editor for the Hannibal Courier-Post. However, there is much more to the story than meets the eye. At a young age, Farmer realized something that many sports fans have realized; a pro sports career probably wasn't in his future. Because of this, Farmer turned to sports writing, and it quickly became a passion for him.

Farmer first began writing sports articles in 1997 when he wrote a Top 10 list for a friend's Oakland Athletics newsletter. This article was mentioned in Baseball America and Farmer was credited for his piece. This was the point where Farmer became hooked. In the years following that article, Farmer began college. However, Farmer soon dropped out and enlisted in the United States Navy. Farmer served for 11 years in the Navy, with the first 8 being active duty and the final 3 being in the reserves. During his active duty, Farmer served as a corpsman on the USS Carl Vinson (aircraft carrier) for 2 tours and 1 tour in Iraq with the U.S. Marines. During his 192 days in the desert, he wrote a column every week for his hometown paper telling of his experiences in Iraq.

When he returned home



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON FARMER

Jason Farmer wears his press badge while covering a game

and began his time in the reserves, he moved to Illinois and began writing part time for the Jacksonville Journal Courier. Farmer completed his Associates at Lincoln Land Community College in 2010 and enrolled at Blackburn to finish his communications

degree. During his time at Blackburn, Farmer worked as a full time sports writer as well as a contributor for Sports Information on campus. He also wrote part time for The 'Burnian.

Farmer earned his current job in 2013, just a few

months after graduating from Blackburn. At the Hannibal Courier-Post, Farmer writes many of the sports stories and develops the format for the sports section. His writing covers local middle schools and high schools, as well as local colleges and professional

sports. Last year, Farmer had the opportunity to interview Mark McGwire, the former Cardinal and current Dodger's hitting coach. This was a special moment for Farmer, as McGwire was his favorite player growing up. The piece that he wrote about McGwire ended up being placed second as a sports package for the Missouri Associated Press.

The best on-the-job experience was attending and reporting on a Cardinals-Athletics game in Oakland last year. He said he was torn because as an Athletics fan, he wanted his team to win. In addition to covering that game, he has also covered the 2013 World Series and the 2014 All Star game. He recently covered the 2014 World Series as well, only adding to the list of memories. For all that he has accomplished as both a writer and a soldier, he thanks his family for their support. He is married and has four children, three boys and one girl. He said, "I credit my wife and family for allowing me to chase my professional sports dreams. They put up with my travel and being gone a lot. I couldn't do what I do without their support and understanding."

Broomsticks and Blackburn

By Ben Nichols

Imagine being in a theater around 2001. You are watching the first Harry Potter movie and the scene of the Quidditch match comes up. Your eyes expand in amazement as the



PHOTO BY BEN NICHOLS

Robert Norris practices a Quidditch broom stance

young wizards and witches fly around on their brooms in an intense competition. The little kid in you yearns for an experience such as this, but sadly it only takes place in a fictional world. Or does it?

Recently, campuses across the world have been forming

intramural Quidditch teams. While not the high-flying magical version seen in the films, it is however a sport that incorporates elements from the film onto the playing field. Players must have a broom between their legs at all times and score points by throwing the main ball called a quaffle through hoops defended by goalenders. Players called beaters try to defend the goal by throwing balls called bludgers. If an individual is hit by a bludger, then he or she has to return to her goal post or wait until a point is scored. A group of players called seekers are on the constant lookout for the golden snitch. This is usually a neutral player or ref with a golden ball who uses any means necessary to negate capture. The game ends once the snitch is caught, and the team with the most points wins.

So would Blackburn be up for a Quidditch team? Student opinions to the matter have been mostly positive towards the idea. Senior Wesley Phelps

said, "I wouldn't necessarily play it, but I surely am not against the idea of it." Sophomore Christian Bailey added, "I would support this." Junior cross country team member Nathan Wagner stated, "I would totally support the idea, and probably play it as well. We would probably need a club first before we got an actual team. Sophomore student Veronica Milligan, an avid Harry Potter fan, went into detail of what she thinks of the idea. "I think it would be cool but I think anyone who starts it should keep in mind that the International Quidditch Association is taking the game more seriously than ever and trying to make it a real, recognized sport."

Head of the Athletic Department Mark Hopping after reviewing game play of Quidditch at UCLA gave his insight towards the possibility of a Blackburn team. "My first thought would be over safety. There are a lot of risk factors that concern me such as the use of brooms between

Hey Harry Potter fans, listen up!

the legs," Hopping said. "I'm all for more active sports on campus, but as for potential funding, it wouldn't be up to me." Hopping also added, "I do

however support a Quidditch club on campus if the safety factors were addressed. It looks like an interesting sport that anyone can play."



PHOTO BY JOHN MORGAN

Many colleges across the country (and even worldwide!) have formed Quidditch teams out of student demand