

THE BURNIAN

Blackburn College
Carlinville, IL

Oldest College Newspaper in
Illinois, since 1881

1994 Called; It Wants Its Email Back

By Bryan Bethel

Can you imagine a time without instant access to the internet? With high-speed wireless internet today, all kinds of information is only a few clicks away. Twenty years ago, however, internet connection was in its infancy. Chuck Sutphen was the Director of Academic Computing at BC then and

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PHOTO BY JONATHON NARVEY

Blackburn Ghosts: Fact or Fiction?

By Courtney Egner

Even though Halloween has passed, telling ghost stories and discussing local haunts is popular year round. The idea that Blackburn is infested with paranormal entities leaves some students skeptical and others amateur ghost hunting around campus. We have all heard the stories of Lady Bothwell haunting the

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PHOTO BY MATTWILSON

What Will It Be, Thanksgiving or Thanksgetting?

By Jordyn Smith

Every year, millions of families gather together on the fourth Thursday of November to celebrate their blessings with feasts and quality family time. Wait—that’s what they used to do.

Thanksgiving, a time of being thankful, has evolved into a time of shopping. Black Friday, the day after

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PRESIDENT HOOVER

By Katrina Jahn

Blackburn College’s new Student Senate President is junior Ben Hoover. He is a criminal justice major with a minor in computer science and also plays on the Blackburn soccer team. One of his proudest moments in life was when he finished the soccer team’s 76 hour game earlier this year. The game was held to raise money for the St. Louis Children’s Hospital. In high school, he played soccer and swam for four years, played tennis for three years and was in student council for one year. Here at Blackburn, he’s played soccer for three years, he’s been on Student Senate for a year and a half and has been a crew head for campus security for the past two years.

Between school, work and soccer, Hoover does not get much free time, but when he does, he likes to sleep. He also likes to relax and sleep to the sounds of the Spa channel, which he highly recommends. As a kid, he once halted a church sermon by getting his elbow stuck in a pew while playing with a toy horse. He has helped his mom set up 36 Christmas trees in their house. He also has a dog whose name is Honey Bunches of Oats Hoover.

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PHOTO BY PATRICK DB

Seminar: Tips, Tricks and Fair Warnings

By Lindsey Becker

For many juniors and seniors, one word is enough to strike dread into their hearts—seminar. For all the youngsters out there who haven’t reached this peak in their academic career, seminar is the capstone of a student’s time at Blackburn—a final project of sorts. Seminars differ from major to major and may

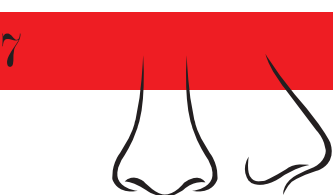
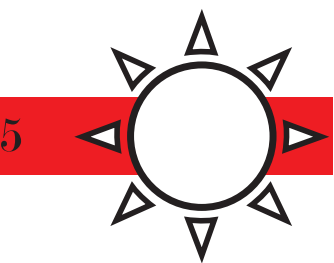
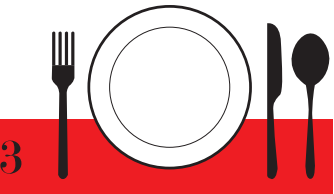
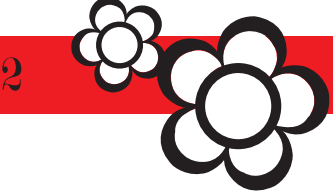
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PHOTO BY EUNICE

Read Tim Morenz’s 9 Ways to De-stress on Page 6

“Some stress is good and productive. Chronic stress is not.”



COLLEGE, SPORTS
AND TAILGATING:
THREE PEAS IN A POD



PHOTO BY DANIELLE ANDERSON

A student prepares a musical playlist for the tailgate.

By Jon Griffel

What is the best part about attending a sporting event? The tailgating before of course! This year this time honored tradition has come to Blackburn College. The first ever Beaver Madness Intra squad Scrimmage was held November 6 at Dawes Gymnasium. Before the scrimmage was a tailgate party to help kickoff the basketball season. This CAB sponsored event was conceived by softball and volleyball coach Suzannah Toresdahl and her assistant junior Lauren Rhodes. The idea behind this event was to raise school spirit for the upcoming men’s and women’s basketball seasons. After Homecoming, a lot of school spirit is lost, but a rally event like this is a way to combat this lull.

There were food based events such as a hot dog eating contest, a Chubby Bunny contest (a contest in which competitors see how many marshmallows they can force into their mouth) and a milk chugging contest. One of the main events was a raffle that had different school pride related prizes. Every student that wore Blackburn gear was

given a raffle ticket. The prizes for that raffle were Beaver Brigade shirts and items from the bookstore. The concept of an event like Beaver Madness has been used in Division 1 basketball for a while. Major programs such as Kentucky, Michigan State and Kansas utilize this event for recruiting and a way to get the fans excited. The most famous of these types of events is the one held at Kentucky, where celebrities and former players alike come in droves to see their new team.

While Beaver Madness was not an event of that proportion, it still was a success. “All the food was eaten and it was really successful. Everyone would like to see it happen again!” said Rhodes. Interim Athletic Director Mark Hopping remarked “It was a very energetic, positive event. The involvement of faculty and students in the various events provided great entertainment. This was a good way to showcase the athletics and cheerleading at Blackburn.” It looks like we have the beginning of a new tradition here at Blackburn College.

Blackburn Says Goodbye to
Mary DeMoss

By Deja Bell

A/V and Media Services Supervisor Mary DeMoss has worked at Blackburn College for 26 years. How did she get here? “The short story is I went through a divorce, and I had to go to work, so I just sent applications everywhere,” said DeMoss. “I sent one here and I got word back from the secretary to the president at that time that an opening was coming up and I got it.” She has worked more places on campus than just in the Commons. “I worked several years in the education office, and actually came from the education office to the library because a full-time job had become available here. I kind of had my time split there, so I applied for the job here and got it,” said DeMoss.

Working at Blackburn she has seen many things change. “There have been a number of changes since I started to work at Blackburn in 1988. Technology would be the big one. Internet, Wi-Fi, cell phones, and email were big and wonderful changes. Thankfully floppy discs, 16 mm film projectors and VHS tapes are a thing of the past, and students were required to work 15 hours a week instead of the 10 hours they work today,” said DeMoss.

Her favorite part about working here was the students, which is also what she said she would miss the most about Blackburn. “I liked my job here, and even working in the different departments, sometimes filling in; I worked in the records office and the business office when they needed extra help. You get to know people and working with people, there’s been good times and bad times, good experiences with people and not so good.....I’ve always liked it here,” said DeMoss. Her daughter Melissa went

to school here at Blackburn and she studied psychology and graduated summa cum laude in 1997. DeMoss said about working here while her daughter was a student, “I got to really know the students. The experience of her going to school here while I worked here was fun.”

DeMoss has a collection of Elvis memorabilia that started when someone asked her if she knew the answer to a question on the New York Times crossword. DeMoss explained, “I made an off handed comment saying if it wasn’t about Elvis probably not. Others heard that comment and Elvis things began to appear. I’ve always loved Elvis and I especially love the fact that over the years students, faculty and staff have been kind and caring enough to contribute to my collection. It shows the kind of people I have been lucky to work with for the past 26 years.”

The hardest part about

her leaving is having to say goodbye to the AV Department. “I hate to leave the AV Department behind. I developed that job, and I’ve been lucky to have students that worked in that department and I hate to leave them. I sort of built that from the ground up and that makes it hard to leave,” said DeMoss. After the winter is over, she plans on going to visit her family who live throughout the U.S. including Idaho, Utah and Washington. What she looks forward to the most is just being able to sleep in.

“It’s been great working with her; she’s like the mother of our department and we come to talk to her about everything. I’m sad to see her go; no one is ever going to be able to replace her,” said junior computer science major Matthew Pfannenstiel, who worked for DeMoss for almost 3 years.



PHOTO BY KELSEY MORELAND

Mary DeMoss poses for a fun photo with her AV staff.

The Oldest Restaurant on Route 66 Gone Forever?

By Jordyn Smith

Historic Route 66- everyone from the area has heard of it. But perhaps just as famous a landmark is the Ariston Café in Litchfield located on the iconic road.

When Pete Adam moved from Greece to the United States in 1905, he had no idea that the candy business he started in Carlinville would soon transform into a family-owned and operated restaurant that would last for the next 90 years. In 1924, Adam founded the Ariston Café in Carlinville. It was relocated to Litchfield

six years later.

The current owner/ operator of the Ariston Café is Pete’s son, Nick Adam. He and his wife Demi have run the family business for the past 48 years.

The oldest restaurant on Route 66 according to Adam, the Ariston attracts visitors from across the world. According to the Springfield State Journal-Register, last year the Ariston served customers from 43 countries including France, Germany and Australia.

It also attracts hungry visitors from Blackburn College, including junior accounting and financial mathematics major James Zeitler. He said, “The Ariston is definitely one of those places that even after eating a whole meal, I always make room for dessert. Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of eating at Ariston knows that after a meal they bring you a huge tray of dessert options, which is pretty cool in my book.”

October marked the 90th anniversary of the food joint.

But it also marked the end of an era. The Ariston Café was put up for sale.

Some may question the need to sell the restaurant when its popularity is apparent. Adam said, “After 48 years I’d like to retire. It’s just time for somebody else to take over.”

It’s not just the food that makes the Ariston Café so special. “The warm environment and friendly servers really make you feel welcome every time you visit,” said Zeitler. “I hope that whoever ends up buying keeps

the place nostalgic, because that’s honestly the best part about Ariston.”

“It’ll be bittersweet,” confessed Adam. “It was a very difficult decision for the family to make. If it does sell, I’ll be happy about that. It’ll also be the worst day of my life.”

The asking price of the Ariston Café is \$1.2 million. So what happens if the Ariston Café doesn’t sell? “It’s not going to close,” said Adam. If it doesn’t sell, I’ll still be here.”

CENSORSHIP DOESN'T FLY

By Jon Griffel

By now, everyone is aware of the situation that occurred in Ferguson, MO last August. However, in the last couple of weeks new information has emerged that paint the police and authorities in a new light. Journalists and news reporters revealed that the FAA, or Federal Aviation Administration, declared Ferguson a no fly zone for media. Police say that while they enforced the action, it was suggested by the FAA. Captain Kurt Frisz, a county police helicopter pilot for the last 25 years, was the one who made the suggestion to the FAA. The complete lockdown of this airspace was only in effect for 9 hours, but the airspace was restricted for 12 days. This action shut out all the eyes in the sky for news and other journalists. This information has appalled many, as there are already quite a few conspiracy theories bouncing around regarding the riots and police actions.

This is not the first time that the government has censored reporters and individuals. In 1917, there were sedition arrests that led to people being imprisoned for speaking out against the draft. While the Ferguson riots didn't result in arrests



PHOTO BY TONY WEBSTER

Police tape applies to not only civilians but also the media in the case of Ferguson.

for censorship, this new piece of information is shocking. According to Reporters Without Borders world rankings on press freedom, the United States ranks 46. That ranking is down 14 positions from 2013. Finland tops the rankings, while Eritrea was on the bottom. Finland has been at the top of the rankings for two straight years.

The Ferguson Police claim that this decision was made for the safety of the people, that it would help calm the neighborhood and

the protestors. In memos that were since released under the Freedom of Information Act, one of the reasons given for the airspace shutdown was so that the media couldn't take aerial photographs. An additional reason was that there were shots reportedly fired at helicopters in that area. The Ferguson Police, as well as the State Police, remain on high alert with the impending grand jury decision on whether or not to charge Officer Darren Wilson with any crime.

Adieu to the AV Department

By Chris Cole

There is one less department in the work program. As of Monday Nov 3, the Audiovisual department was dissolved. It was primarily responsible for handling the projectors in the classroom and assisting teachers with that equipment. Director of the Learning Commons Spencer Brayton said, "The intention here was to shift Blackburn to more of an information technology oriented direction. By centralizing these responsibilities it would make

it easier for students, faculty and staff to get assistance."

The decision was made when former AV/Media Services Supervisor Mary DeMoss retired. The duties will now be split between Technology Services and Public Relations. So what does this mean for the students who worked in the department? One student will remain in the Commons. One student will join the staff at The 'Burnian, and two workers will go to PR. Learning Commons Manager

Kelsey Moreland said, "I think the new move makes a lot of sense. There was a lot of overlap between the duties of the AV department and Tech Services, and PR used the AV department to get photos so it makes sense to split the duties between the two." Pre-Med student Nathan Boulch, who transferred from the AV department to Tech Services, had this to say, "I can understand why they dissolved AV, and I honestly wouldn't have minded it if they would've done it the right way. I don't feel letting us know a week in advance in the middle of the semester that we are not going to be working there was the best way to go about it."

When asked if the AV department would be brought back Moreland said, "No, everyone involved in the decision seems to think it was a good choice." Boulch said, "As much as I'd like that to

What Will It Be, Thanksgiving or Thanksgetting?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thanksgiving, is traditionally marked as the start of the holiday shopping season. But as years go by, Black "Friday" is coming earlier and earlier. Most stores open around 6 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving, but some are opening as early as Thanksgiving Day. According to KPRC (NBC affiliate), this year "experts are predicting the Black Friday shopping will start in the morning hours of Thanksgiving Day." Families who once spent the holiday together are being torn apart. Instead of enjoying time together, people are worrying about all the deals they can get on 72-inch TVs.

In recent years, shoppers has become out of control. There have been crimes from stabbings and shootings to death by trampling. Since 2006, seven deaths and 90 injuries have been recorded according to the informational Blackfridaydeathcount.com. One 2013 headline from Time

reads, 'Calm Black Friday: Only 1 Death, 15 Injuries Attributed to Big Shopping Day.' When did we reach the point of describing shopping deaths with the word "only?"

On the other hand, many sources argue that Black Friday, or Black Thursday, has become much safer. Because many stores are opening on Thanksgiving, shopping malls are less busy and sales are more spread out through the weekend. Retailers say that the competition is tough in the shopping industry, but consumers are also turning to online shopping, specifically to a phenomenon called "Cyber Monday." People who shop online have no risk of getting hurt, plus they get to enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.

Whatever happened to traditional Thanksgiving dinners with our dysfunctional families?



PHOTO BY JOHN HENDERSON



PHOTO BY DAVID HAINES

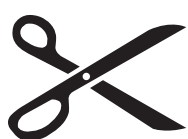


PHOTO BY CHRIS COLE

Director of the Learning Commons Spencer Brayton

be the case, I've no reason to believe it will be." However, everyone will still be able to get help if they need it. For

the workers who work in the departments, there is a good chance that you will be seeing a new face or two.



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A TRIP THROUGH A REALLY BIG HOLE

By Dr. Ed Zalisko

If you ever stood at the rim of the Grand Canyon, you could easily tell it is quite a hole. But how the canyon changes throughout its length, and the diversity of landscapes formed by erosion, await the lucky few who travel through.

Such were the fortunes of my wife Amy and me. (Amy teaches Earth Sciences at nearby North Mac High School.) Supported in part by a Blackburn College Instructional Improvement grant, we joined a dozen others as we rode a 38-foot inflatable raft along all 270 miles of the Grand Canyon. The trip began just below Lake Powell Dam, where the Colorado River reforms along its turbulent journey of raging rapids that frequently dump small rafts and boats. Our raft was powered and controlled by an experienced captain working for the Grand Canyon Expeditions Company. Navigating some of the toughest rapids demanded extensive maneuvering and at times, required that we float the rapids backwards!

The trip was a special 8-day adventure joined by Dr. Johnny MacLean, Professor of Geology at Southern Utah University. Every day, for 4-5 hours, we sat with MacLean and discussed the strata we would pass. The diverse layers, composed of so many types of materials, eroded differently, carving scalloped surfaces in one location, highly eroded crumbling shores elsewhere, and in the deepest 1.6 – 1.8 billion year old Vishnu Schist,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED ZALISKO

Dr. Ed Zalisko and his wife Amy traveled through the Grand Canyon.

a hard, dark and foreboding steep shoreline cradled some of the most dangerous rapids of the adventure.

Every evening we would all unload the 2 rafts (each with 14 passengers), set up our cots on a wide sandy beach next to the river and prepare for another long day ahead. After dinner, MacLean would hold an evening talk discussing the geology of the particular part of the canyon we had just traveled.

I was particularly interested in this adventure in support of the geology I discuss in my Zoology and Evolution courses, when fossils, fossil formation and plate tectonics are considered to understand how life has evolved and responded to a dramatically changing planet. It was the most amazing field experience of my life. Talking with MacLean as we floated

gradually down 2,000 feet of Earth's history, extending from just before dinosaurs existed at the top of the canyon to 1.2 billion years before any multicellular life ever existed, was phenomenal. Then, my wife Amy would join in, or engage in her own questions, as we both learned so much more from our geologist floating with us, surrounded by this monumental geology.

Every day the raft would stop a couple times to allow everyone to take a side hike up one of the canyons carved by tributaries of the Colorado River. We frequently encountered lizards, tadpoles and even a rare crustacean called a tadpole shrimp. On most occasions, the hikes ended at some turbulent or majestic waterfall, where the group members took turns getting their daily showers.

The trip was an unusual

experience of isolation, not by being far away or perched high up a mountain, but by being



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED ZALISKO

Zalisko navigated the Grand Canyon by raft.

Some holes are more than just empty space - the Grand Canyon is definitely no exception

deep, yet with tremendous access to the sky. We rarely saw the rim of the canyon and even more rarely saw any structures created by humans. For 8 days, it was just us and sometimes others we passed in their small boats or rafts. On the last day, one of our boatmen told us that we needed to start thinking about returning to life on the rim, a phrase that really had meaning for me. We bathed in the river, slept by the river and road with the river for 8 long days through the Grand Canyon. It was a trip of immersion, understanding Earth's history and great tutoring by a most talented young geology professor. As others assured me it would be, it was a trip of a lifetime.

Cheap Gifts from the Broke Student

The holidays are quickly approaching and you're strapped for cash - Now what?

By Katrina Jahn

Too many people to buy presents for this holiday season? Too little money? No problem! Here are some ideas for gifts on a college student budget. For a low cost present, one of the best things you can do is look on Pinterest. There are hundreds of ideas for handmade or simple things to pull together including a huge board by Lauren Williams called Great Budget Gifts. It has ideas like making a cup out of a glass bottle, filling empty bottles or jars with someone's favorite candy, easily transferring a meaningful picture to a beautiful piece of art and more.

If you're crafty enough, you can find simple things to knit or sew for someone like a hat, scarf or even a little egg that turns into a turtle. You can also go old school and make a mixed tape, CD, or playlist for someone with songs that they like or songs that have some kind of meaning.

Freshman business management major Shelby Rainford suggested, "You can make origami boxes from old books to put the gifts in or you can go to Goodwill and find items there that you can turn into gifts like making scarves out of old t-shirts or things like

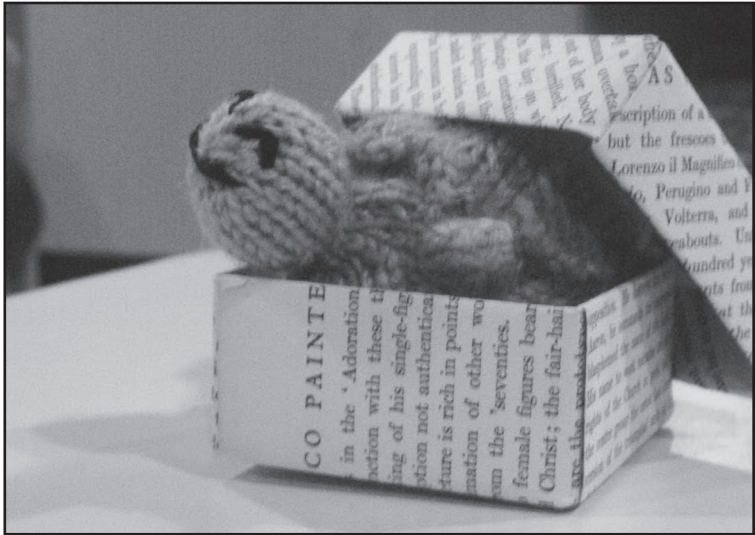


PHOTO BY BRYAN BETHEL

Homemade gifts like this knitted turtle make great options for tight budgets.

that." Even cards are easy to make on your own rather than buying them at the store. You

can use some regular old paper and write whatever you like and decorate it just like when

we were kids. People still like that stuff because it's almost more thoughtful than going out and buying something that's already made.

There are practically endless possibilities of gifts that one can buy or make on a low budget. You can find old t-shirts that aren't used anymore and make a quilt out of them. There are a lot of tutorials on how to easily make things like that. You could even just cook someone's favorite meal for them on that day. Don't lose hope, just put some thought into it and it will be appreciated.

The Toll It Takes

By Ben Nichols

Depression can take a serious toll on a student’s grades, friendships and even personal health. Worst of all, depression can lead to the point of no return: suicide. College students along with military personnel are the two groups who are at the highest risk for developing depression and committing suicide. But what are the factors that lead up to this, and how can students take action to heal themselves and prevent depression from ever occurring?

According to worldlifeexpectancy.com, a nonprofit that utilizes numbers released by the World Health Organization and medical databases, the second cause of death for males and females between the ages of 15-24 in the U.S. is depression-based suicide. This can be due to numerous factors, including home or relationship issues, anxiety, uncertainty about the future as well as the other stresses of young adult life. Junior psychology major Jesse Medina, who works for student counseling and lives in Jewell Hall, explains how often he sees depression here at the college. “One of the common occurrences I see around here is a stress reaction. The stress of everyday life on campus can really push things over the edge,” said Medina.

When asked how students can try to prevent falling onto the path of depression,

Medina said, “Take some time to yourself, do something to decompress, take some breaks from studying after a few hours. Take care of yourself would be my big golden rule.” Students can also use their connections and personal relations to help prevent depression from developing. Medina suggested, “Don’t be afraid to talk to someone: your mother, a friend, a professor. I can guarantee that there will always be someone who will listen.”

Some of the major signs of depression include difficulty concentrating and persistent feelings of sadness, emptiness, worthlessness or irritability.

If depression does occur, however, do not be alarmed. Unlike the outside world, campus counseling services are free for all students. The staff, including Medina, consists of professionals and students who are knowledgeable and are more than willing to help a student with depression or any other issues. “Students can come by anytime to talk or email Tim Morenz for an appointment or any of us peer counselors for that matter,” Medina said. “If you don’t want to sit through an appointment you can just stop by and we have a plethora of resources and information we can provide.”



PHOTO BY RYAN MELAUGH

It’s easy to be overwhelmed when you suffer from depression.



BLACKBURN COLLEGE BEAT

By Chris Cole

Between Oct. 21st and Nov. 5th there were a total of 13 incidents reported to campus security. The list below was compiled by Director of Campus Security Tim Reents.

10/21/2014 At 7:30 p.m., there was a suspicious green van driving around a campus parking lot. Handled by Campus Security.

10/24/2014 At 11:07 p.m., there was a medical emergency with a student in a residence hall. The student was transported to Carlinville Hospital by ambulance. Handled by Campus Security and Residence Life.

10/25/2014 At 6:00 p.m., Residence Life received a complaint of the smell of burnt cannabis. A guest of a student was found in position of a small amount of cannabis. Handled by Campus Security and Residence Life.

10/27/2014 At 11:00 a.m., two students filed a complaint about another student who improperly touched one of the students and was displaying inappropriate behavior. Handled by Campus Security and Student Life.

10/30/2014 At 8:05 a.m., the Director of Campus Safety saw ammunition and a possible weapon in a guest’s car in a campus parking lot. The

vehicle was towed. Handled by Campus Security and the Carlinville Police.

10/30/2014 At 2:35 p.m., a complaint resulted in a student’s room being searched and drug paraphernalia was found. Handled by Campus Security and Residence Life.

10/31/2014 At 1:01 a.m., a student was found vomiting in a residence hall bathroom. One student needed to be taken to the hospital via ambulance. Handled by Residence Life, Campus Security and Carlinville Police.

11/1/2014 At 3:47 a.m., an alcohol violation occurred with two students in a residence hall. Handled by Residence Life and Campus Security.

11/2/2014 At 1:42 a.m., a student was found vomiting in a residence hall due to intoxication. Handled by Residence Life and Campus Security.

11/5/2014 At 2:42 a.m., a student was found throwing up due to drinking excessive amounts of alcohol. Dunn Ambulance responded. The student refused to go to the hospital. The student received an alcohol violation. Handled by Residence Life, Campus Security, Carlinville Police, and the Dunn Ambulance.

Phillip Johnson
Freshman
History Major



What is your favorite part about Thanksgiving?

“The food.”

Jorge Riedle
Junior
Communications Major



What is your favorite part about Thanksgiving?

“Pumpkin pie because it tastes good and it’s the only time I get to eat it.”

Jessica Baalman
Freshman
Accounting and Marketing Major



What is your favorite part about Thanksgiving?

“Definitely being home with all my family. Plus the food and football.”

Shandra Pearson
Junior
Business Management Major



What is your favorite part about Thanksgiving?

“Just being able to relax and eat food.”

PHOTOS BY JORDYN SMITH

THE BURNIAN

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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.

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

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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.

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Seminar: Tips, Tricks and Fair Warnings

By Lindsey Becker

include a paper, performance, exhibition or presentation. Across the board one thing remains true—a student’s seminar gives them the chance to prove their expertise in their field through rigorous study and preparation.

For many students, seminar can be quite daunting; however, there are a few universal rules that all majors can follow to ensure their seminar goes off without a hitch.

The first and arguably most important step in any seminar is simple—don’t procrastinate. This is definitely not the time to take “you can’t finish this assignment the night before” as a challenge. The stakes are a lot higher when it comes to seminar, and starting early makes it much easier to catch mistakes or bumps in the road before they become a serious problem. “Always be flexible because every day is different. You can start with a brilliant idea and in the end have something completely different,” said senior elementary education major Allison Bruss. Getting to work right off the bat will make your seminar go a lot smoother in the long run.

Starting early also gives you more time to thoroughly research your topic. Most seminars, from chemistry to art, require copious amounts

of research. To master your subject, you’ll have to immerse yourself in it. Look at what other people have done and written from all sides of your topic. This is a great time to utilize the resources in the Learning

and again and again. “Preparation is very important—do not let yourself get caught off guard,” said senior music major Vinny Watson. The more familiar you are with your material, the



Senior biology major Josh Bell presents his seminar on the human influences on ecology.

Commons—researching is a big task and you don’t have to tackle everything by yourself.

In the same vein, don’t be afraid to ask your professors questions. If you don’t understand something, don’t make it up as you go. Your professors are here to guide you and make sure you succeed—but you have to let them.

After you’ve gotten all the tough stuff done, it’s time to practice your presentation.

smoother your presentation will go. Some seminars allow for a Q&A portion of the presentation, so make sure beforehand that you know your stuff and are prepared to answer any questions.

Long story short, take your seminar seriously. It’s no small task and can feel overwhelming, but as long as you work steadily on it and cover your bases, it’s a mountain that can be scaled without too much struggle.

GHOSTBUSTERS BLACKBURN EDITION

By Courtney Egner

auditorium she is named after and that the girl who allegedly hung herself on Stoddard 3rd floor still makes herself known by dragging chairs on the floors. But is Blackburn really haunted by spirits who cannot crossover?

Freshman Lydia Lindsey works in Rahme early in the morning and has had unexplained things happen. “On the bottom floor of Rahme I swear I heard someone say hello and then the sound of feet shuffling. Everytime I looked no one was there and that was creepy,” said Lindsey.

Vocal performance major Vinny Watson has been scared numerous times while in Renner, the lone art building next to Rahme: “I have had at least six instances where I was alone in the building and I heard doors shutting and chairs moving. But upon inspection, no one was around. Even the art faculty tells stories of it being haunted.”

Security workers are notorious for experiencing the paranormal as they are often locking and unlocking the buildings in the early hours of the morning as well as late at night. Blackburn senior Traci Kamp has numerous stories. “I was working security and unlocking one morning my sophomore year with a general worker. We were ahead of schedule so we stopped in Bothwell’s choir room and played the piano. The worker and I were both getting up to leave when both of the choir room doors were slammed shut on us. I can’t imagine a draft being strong enough to force the doors off the door stops,” said Kamp.

More recently, Kamp and others in the computer science department have witnessed strange things in their new office. Kamp explained, “There is an old office beneath the Chapel in Hudson that the Spanish department used to have and is now used by the



Stoddard Hall is rumored to be home to several ghosts.

computer science department. On several occasions, Shane Nalezty, Caleb Long and I have experienced inexplicable phenomena such as lights and windows turning on and opening, doors slamming and strange noises. We refuse to go in there alone and we refer to it as ‘purgatory,’ because it’s between first and second floor and it IS haunted.”

As far as dorms are concerned, the stories of Stoddard being haunted remain popular, but what about other dorms? Junior Resident Assistant Maggie Anderson had multiple unexplained experiences in Butler last year: “I would be doing rounds and the light in the room with broken furniture would be on so I would key in and shut off the light. A few hours later I would come back and the light would be on again. There were other times where the same thing would happen and the furniture would be moved from where it was before. It was creepy because the door was always

black figure standing at the end and was able to capture it on camera. The photo became a popular discussion topic on campus. Jacinto was unable to be reached for comment.

According to the Huffington Post, 45 percent of Americans believe in ghosts. With the amount of ghost hunting shows on television like Travel Channel’s “Ghost Adventures” and Syfy’s “Ghost Hunters,” this number is not surprising. The idea of spirits captured on camera draws in believers and skeptics and has kept viewers hooked. “Ghost Hunters” has been through 10 seasons since 2004 and is still going. These shows have turned many skeptics into believers with the evidence that these shows present. Even if the shows are staged or faked as some skeptics claim, there is no denying that they are compelling enough to keep viewers coming back to watch.

Blackburn clearly has its fair share of ghost stories and unexplained phenomena in dorms and academic buildings. The paranormal is difficult to fathom and it is hard to prove whether or not these things exist. Do you believe the stories you have heard? Is Blackburn really haunted or is there a logical explanation? That’s left for you to decide.

By Ben Nichols

Thanks to Blackburn junior Jordan GeRue and Spanish professor Dr. Ruth Kartchner, studying abroad in Chile is now an opportunity available to all Spanish majors. A Spanish major himself, GeRue has been living for the past few months in the country of Chile as part of a study abroad program through the college. His experiences and the process of getting there have been of interest for his friends on campus, and to those looking into the possibility of studying there for a few months.

So why choose Chile out of all the Spanish speaking nations of the world? GeRue explained, “I decided to come to Chile rather than Spain because I’ve always wanted to come to Latin America. I’ve been interested in the region more than Spain itself ever since I started studying Spanish my freshman year of high school.”

GeRue also explained part



Jordan GeRue enjoys traveling through Chile.

of the process of being able to take his study abroad trip. “The process was relatively straightforward but demanding. The visa process is a pain. The process was a lot of running around. Background checks,

By Tim Morenz

Greetings and Salutations, Blackburn College!

It is certainly hard to believe that at the time of the writing of this article we are in the home stretch for the fall semester. Take some time for yourself in celebration of how far you have come and then buckle down and get to work! There is light at the end of the tunnel (and I promise that it isn’t from an oncoming train! Ha!)

Let’s proceed to the question for today:

Dear Tim,
“I am so stressed out! I am so busy that I can’t get anything done and I can’t make it to meditation. Any tips to reduce stress?” – Stressed out in Stoddard

Dear Stressed Out,
Ahhh yes, the curse of stress. We are hard-wired for the stress response for survival, but we have tricked our brains into responding acutely to a chronic problem. Therefore, all of our multi-tasking, technology fixes, multiple deadlines and increasing anxiety has us operating in semi-panic mode about 90% of the time. Some stress is good and productive.

Chronic stress is not. It is linked to heart disease, obesity and premature aging. Although we cannot control our stressors, we can control our response to stress. (Hint: all of it revolves around being present)

- 1) Reflect on the breath and do more to connect yourself to the present moment.
- 2) Add something beautiful to your life on a daily basis (flowers, music, pictures)
- 3) Walk, work and eat at a relaxed pace.
- 4) Take a short break or walk after meals to relax.
- 5) If possible, go outside at least once per day and notice simple things like the weather or the scenery.
- 6) Notice the tension in your body, breathe deeply, gently stretch and relax those areas.
- 7) When your mind races, breathe deeply and focus on something in the present.
- 8) Take off your shoes whenever you can. (There are more neuro receptors in your feet than you can imagine. This stimulates brain activity and growth.)
- 9) Avoid holding in your



PHOTO BY AURORA GRIMMETT

Tim Morenz, College Counselor

feelings day after day, but instead find a safe place to embrace, feel and express them. (Even if it is just writing them down.)

For more about the damage of chronic stress, check out Robert Sapolsky’s landmark work “Why zebra’s don’t get ulcers”. If you would like a mini, personalized introduction to meditation, myself or any of the peer counselors would be happy to sit down with you at any time. We are here to 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 an “eye for an eye” philosophy leaves the whole world blind.

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1994 CALLED: IT WANTS ITS EMAIL BACK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

knew that it was important for Blackburn to have access to the internet. Students at Blackburn can thank Sutphen for all his hard work setting up internet capabilities on campus.

Up until that time, this technology had grown up at larger universities on specialized computers and is unlike anything that we are used to today. “Accessing things on the internet was very archaic, and required entering in several lines of text for just a simple command.” This quickly changed after the invention of one of the first web browsers called “Mosaic” which allowed people with little to no training to be able to access the internet with ease.

With this new advancement, Sutphen was able to set up and register the Blackburn.edu domain in 1994. Later that year, the first email was sent from the Blackburn website.

With the internet officially on Blackburn campus, students and faculty were required to take training sessions on how to access and properly use this connection. Students had limited access to the computers in the Hudson lab however, as there were so few of them to go around. Thanks to the help of Blackburn Alumni, a fund was started to purchase new computers and software to be able run more modern versions of Windows. With this fund, Sutphen was able to

lay the network infrastructure to connect the dorms, which were not fully connected until 1999.

Students today can look forward to reliable internet access and upgrades to Blackburn’s capabilities in the future, and would have a difficult time without these upgrades. Junior biology major Nathan Speckhart said, “Without the internet I couldn’t watch videos and relax after class.” Freshmen psychology major Amber Campell said, “With the internet I can play online games and connect with people across the world.”

The possibility of online schooling could be a reality in the future; however, there will always be a strong value for personal interaction in classrooms. Upgrades to the student portal can be expected in the near future as well, including a system which automatically allows students to check their work hours and information on paid hours at any time. Recently, a mobile site has been created allowing easier access to the portal system while using a smartphone or tablet. This can be accessed at portals.blackburn.edu/mobilitystudent. Sutphen does his best to find new advancements that can be added on to Blackburn’s repertoire, “Things change so much, it gets hard to predict where it’s going to go from here. It’s exciting and daunting at the same time.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIBLIOTECA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE ZARAGOZA

Before laptops, tablets and smartphones, emails had to be sent using ancient artifacts like this one.

Matt Brown: Continually Moving Forward

By Deja Bell

Technical Support Administrator Matt Brown is from Carlinville and has lived here for “all but about 5 years.” He has an associate’s degree in electronics from ITT Tech in Earth City, Missouri and he started working at Blackburn College in August. “Before this I worked for Watts Copy Systems, that is the copiers across campus. I was here working with Jason over the summer and he mentioned that the position would become available so I put my resume in and they picked me for the job, which is great because it puts me 5 minutes away from home,” said Brown. His favorite part about working at Blackburn is the nice relaxed environment.

“I want to keep everything running and help Blackburn advance technology-wise and

keep up with everything and be prepared for the future,” said Brown. “My favorite part about working with computers and technology is everything being on the cutting edge.” His interest in electronics started as a kid playing with and setting up different radios. He was curious about the functionality of how things work like car electronics.

“Being in something that’s continually moving forward there’s always something new out there. Something new to learn, something new to do,” said Brown. A random interesting fact about him is that he has what he likes to call a “mild collection” of jeeps and old cars. His collection consists of three Jeeps that run, an old Dodge truck that runs, another old Dodge truck that is going to be rebuilt and two

more Jeeps that are for parts. When he’s not at work he spends a lot of his time outside working on theJeeps or taking theJeeps off-road playing on big rocks.



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Matt Brown works as the Technical Support Administrator at Blackburn.

Sophomore Slump, It’s a Real Thing

By Jordyn Smith



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

Sophomores Kevin Loveless and Erin Huff are feeling the struggle.

Whatever happened to the crazy fun adventures of freshman year? Staying up all night, talking about nothing and watching movies to avoid studying? We all made unwise choices as freshmen. But that’s part of being at college.

It might just be the time of the semester, but there seems to be a grumpiness pandemic at Blackburn, particularly among the sophomore class. Everywhere you go, students are complaining about work, classes, schedules, roommates and of course homework. Yes, we are all closing in on the semester while trying to perform a balancing act. I get it.

So what has sophomores so down in the dumps? Perhaps we can place the blame on the transition between high school and college. Although not true for everyone, many students had a cushioned transition into college that made the jump from freshman to sophomore year that much harder. With significantly less dorm events than freshman year, it is much harder to socialize. There are tons of dorm events and other activities held for freshmen during the course of the year, but less so for upperclassmen. Socialization becomes much more of a challenge.

Another difficult adjustment is the residence halls. Most freshmen receive the opportunity to be pampered in Jewell Hall, only to be shell-shocked the following year. The rest of the dorms have seen their better days. Without a kitchen and in some cases air conditioning, residence life becomes a lot less attractive. As a result, many students move off campus. Some even dropout or transfer. According

to Director of Institutional Research Kristi Nelms, the retention rate of sophomores from fall of 2013 to fall of 2014 is 77.8 percent.

The “sophomore slump” isn’t just a Blackburn thing. Several institutions across the nation are going as far as developingSophomoreLiving-Learning Communities. Ohio State University, for example, created a Sophomore Learning Involvement Community which “focuses on the concepts of involvement, learning, and leadership and relates them to the unique needs of second-year students.”

What you may not know is that Jewell is a freshman Living-Learning Community (LLC). According to Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz, there are two sides to the LLC. Opponents of it argue that underclassmen should be integrated into the upperclassmen’s dorms. Then the rookies will be thrown in with the veterans who have already figured out what college is all about. Freshmen would have a better sense of time management and could catch on much more quickly.

On the other hand, proponents of the LLC maintain that an environment for like-minded individuals is the way to go. All freshmen are in the same boat when they first come to Blackburn because they are all experiencing the same adjustments.

“I think there’s a bit of a natural lull in any sophomore student,” added Heinz. As class loads are becoming increasingly difficult, students may be asking themselves, what they’re doing and wishing that graduation wasn’t so far away.



Hungry Student



PHOTO BY BEN NICHOLS

Nichols sampled the Parmesan garlic wings and beer at Full Throttle.

By Ben Nichols

Tucked into the timber a few miles south of Carlinville is the little establishment with the big reputation, and the big taste. Full Throttle is not your everyday run-of-the-mill place to eat. With the feeling of a roadside café and a smooth and relaxing atmosphere, this is one place that from the get go had the attention of this writer.

The first thing I noticed about the place was that it had the appearance of some southern backwoods bar. It looks like a little shack with a bunch of old trees growing in the parking lot usually accompanied by a big lifted truck with flood lights on the top. But walk inside and you're immediately drawn to the checkered tile floors, the bright neon beer signs, the slot machines near the entrance and the small wooden booths throughout the establishment. I was immediately greeted by the waitresses who were extremely friendly and very sociable. So sitting in my cozy booth, I sat down and looked at the menu.

The menu at Full Throttle is filled with multiple types of burgers, sandwiches and loaded up salads. But seeing as Full Throttle has a reputation for its specialty food, I decided to order their Parmesan and garlic wings with a beer. What came next was a ride my palate will never forget.

My wings came to me and they were huge. After dipping them into some blue cheese dressing and taking a bite, my hands were immediately covered with juice from the meat and the taste was simply stunning. While the wings did fill me up, I still had some room for the second part of the meal, the beer.

Like everything else at Full Throttle, the selection of beer is big. Carefully considering what would go down with the wings, I went for a Killian's Irish Red. Full Throttle serves it on draft and when served it is cool, smooth and very refreshing. It was definitely a better choice than having a pint of Budweiser.

Overall, Full Throttle is a must go for a student looking for a filling meal and a cool refreshment. With Wednesdays as their dollar wings and beer night, students have a place to go for a good time at a low cost. However, Full Throttle does have gambling machines, so it's a fun time only if you're over 21.

JUST NOT CUTTING IT

By Jon Griffel

The fall television season has just started. But for some shows, it's already over. Recently, a few major television networks have cancelled shows in their first season. ABC started the cutting with "Manhattan Love Story," a romantic comedy that originally aired on Tuesdays, will end after only 2 months of being on the air. ABC was the next company to announce that its new shows "A to Z" and "Bad Judge" will only live to see their maiden voyage, as they will not be continued after this year. "A to Z," another romantic comedy, is premised on detailing a couples eight month relationship. "Bad Judge" is based on a woman who is exploring her wild side while also holding a seat as a judge in a criminal court.

FOX dropped the final axe by cutting "Utopia," a futuristic reality show in which a group of people lived together for a year in hopes of creating a model society. FOX admitted that this was a stretch concept, but they decided to give it a try. "A to Z," "Bad Judge" and "Utopia" will all finish out this season. There is quite a bit of speculation that more shows could be cut. "Red Band Society," a FOX comedy-drama about sick kids in a hospital, is rumored to be on its way out.

NBC is eyeing "Mysteries of Laura" as another potential cut, as the show's ratings have been terrible and critics have consistently bashed the show for its unoriginality. "Mysteries" attempted to create a police comedy, a genre that has been poorly received outside of "Reno 911."

ABC has three additional shows "Selfie," "Forever" and "Black-ish" are all rumored to be on their way out. "Selfie" starring Karen Gillan and John Cho, a potential love story about a narcissistic woman learning about life from her male friend, was set up to fail from the start. All of these

Some things weren't made to last

shows have suffered under tired story lines and terrible reviews. By far the show that I am the saddest to see on the chopping block is FOX's "Gotham." This show follows James Gordon as he tries to police the streets of Gotham city pre-Batman. This show only made it a few episodes, and just because this cut is over doesn't mean that all other shows are safe. This is not the case. Wait before you get attached to a first year show. Or better yet, in true college tradition, wait until a show comes out on Netflix and then binge watch all of the episodes.



PHOTO BY CHRIS DEVERS

It's easy for anything, especially TV shows, to get cancelled.

Trix Are For Kids; Cartoons Aren't

By Deja Bell

When you are a kid, watching cartoons is normal, but there seems to be a stigma that once a person becomes an adult they can no longer watch cartoons and they need to grow up. Why can't cartoons be a part of growing up? According to Academia.edu,

36% of people aged 18 and above watch Cartoon Network with cartoons like "Adventure Time," "Regular Show" and "The Amazing World of Gumball." A lot of the cartoons these days have mature content and there is even a time slot between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00

a.m. where Cartoon Network goes off the air and Adult Swim comes on, which shows cartoons with mature content like "Metalocalypse," "Super Jail" and "Black Dynamite."

Can you ever be too old for cartoons? "No," said freshman Michael Slack. "I watch cartoons a couple of times a week, my favorite cartoon is 'Pokémon' and I don't feel like you can ever be too old for cartoons." Watching cartoons can be soothing, calming and nostalgic for some people. It can remind them of a time when they were less worried. "I watch classic cartoons to recapture some of those memories of my early youth from when things were simple," said freshman pre-med biology major Jacob Marsala. While reliving a part of your childhood is important, sometimes a person just wants to relax. Watching programming geared towards

adult age groups, such as "Law & Order," "Castle" and "Modern Family," is what you're supposed to do; sometimes you just need to sit back and watch a cartoon to get your mind off of the stress of being an adult.

Though it seems cartoons are targeted towards kids, there is an ample amount of adult humor that can be found in a lot of cartoons, which you never notice until you get older. Cartoons are drawn, written and voiced by adults. So why is it so unusual for adults to watch them? "I feel we stray away from cartoons as we age. We just lose the childish inhibitions about how everything is perfect and life always turns out well. But we will watch them again. Years down the road when we need to remember the joys of this world and when we choose to instill that joy into our children's lives," said Marsala.



PHOTO BY BRYAN BETHEL

Even college students have to get their cartoon fix.

THE MYTH OF THE
FAKE
GEEK GIRL

By Lindsey Becker

Anyone that's talked to me for more than 10 minutes knows that I can be kind of a geek—and "kind of" is an understatement. I don't like things casually, even when I was little I was always obsessing over something, whether it was Harry Potter or Pokemon (both of which I still enjoy). When I like something, I want to learn everything about it and consume every piece of media associated with it.

These days, I'm still pretty nerdy. I go to conventions and cosplay, I spend a lot of time on the internet making friends and discussing my interests through fandom—all because of my love for various geeky things, whether it be "Doctor Who" or Lord of the Rings.

In my many days in nerd subculture, I've noticed a strange phenomenon—the Fake Geek Girl. These girls consume nerd culture only on a casual level just enough to get them through conversations and make it seem like they know what they're really talking about. They only read comics so they can dress up in various skimpy outfits at conventions—they're way too pretty to actually enjoy them.

Why would these girls go to such lengths if they don't even like the subject matter? To impress men, of course. These Fake Geek Girls aren't really interested in comics or video games, they're just trying to like those things to seem appealing to guys. They're not intelligent enough to examine the complexities of various comic book plots or know all the lore of "Star Wars."



PHOTO BY LUKE BALDACCHINO

Despite what many may believe, geek girls don't like nerdy things just for attention.

They're just pretending. This phenomenon is truly disgusting and needs to stop. And I don't mean the girls themselves—I mean the people who perpetuate the idea that most girls aren't true geeks and are only clamoring for attention from guys.

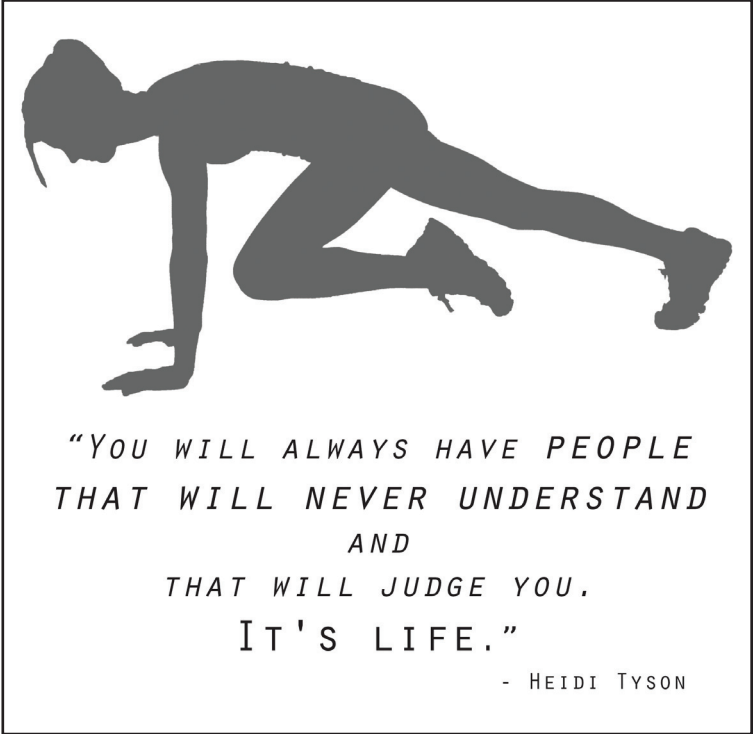
I'm here to tell you right now: girls don't like nerdy things for attention. They don't pull all-nighters reading a comic series for you. They don't spend hours creating intricate cosplays for you. They don't post long, analytical posts on their blogs for you. They do it because of their love and respect for the things they like.

Even if a girl doesn't have extensive knowledge about something she likes, so what? It's not a crime to casually enjoy something. If a girl wears a Captain America shirt, she shouldn't have to play twenty questions to get the respect of some hardcore fans. I don't see the same kind of standards being hurled at guys; if they wore the same shirt, it'd be assumed that they knew a lot about the subject.

I'm especially tired of hearing the argument that girls only like comics and other such nerdy things for the hot guys. If that's true, then why are there half-naked females featured in almost every comic series?

No one is enjoying something to please others—that defeats the purpose. There are no such things as fake geek girls, only women who enjoy nerd culture in varying degrees and different ways.

Enablers: People Who Make It Possible



GRAPHIC BY SARAH COLLMAN

By Sarah Collman

According to Fitness.gov, it is predicted that by 2030 over half of all adults in the U.S. will be obese. As it currently stands, less than 5 percent of adults are physically active for at least 30 minutes each day. Our nation is becoming heavier and heavier with every passing moment, so tell me again why it is okay for me to skip my workout today or why it couldn't possibly hurt to have that extra cookie?

Enablers are people who allow or encourage another to persist in self-destructive behavior, and they are everywhere. They can be anyone from your best friend to your worst enemy. They will often provide excuses for why the action is okay or they will devalue the consequences of that action. An enabler is basically the proverbial devil on your shoulder, but in the form of an actual person. Anyone who has ever pursued

weight loss or fitness goals can most likely understand just how destructive these people can be.

"Negative feedback doesn't always come in verbal form," said senior business management major Heidi Tyson. "Sometimes actions can negatively impact your life. Most times, friends will negatively impact your healthy lifestyle without even realizing it. Simple everyday things like going out to eat fast food or skipping the gym to sit around all day and watch movies can set you back in reaching your goals." While friends can be well intentioned, not recognizing any negative influences they have on you only makes you more susceptible to falling behind on your goals.

Tyson said that some of the more direct comments she receives on her health and fitness choices sound

something along the lines of: "You're already skinny, so why do you work out and eat healthy?" or "Nobody wants to see pictures of your body. You're conceited." While I'm not trying to say that anyone should be shaming anyone else's body, how is it that it is more common now to encourage confidence in a plus size woman than it is to encourage confidence in a woman striving to be healthy? "Honestly, I kind of get offended when someone says I don't need to go to the gym because I'm already skinny," said Tyson. "I work out to be healthy, to build a strong body, and to keep myself sane. Gym time is my therapy time. It's what I love to do."

I have been the person to jokingly tell my skinny friend that they need to eat a sandwich. I have also been the person trying to lose weight while my friends incessantly insist that I don't need to. Neither side is preferable. "I have dealt with issues in the past with friends who brought me down, and I still deal with it today," said Tyson. "But you will always have people that will never understand and that will judge you. It's life."

What I ask is that we all learn to take a step back. Before giving out our two cents we need to think long and hard about the judgments we are making. Is what we are about to say something that encourages someone else to stray from positive actions or a positive mindset? Are we being the devil on their shoulder? If so, maybe it's time to switch sides.

Like OMG, Abbrevs R Da Bes

By Michelle Flood

If you haven't started using abbrevs in your everyday vocabulary, you're def missing out on what is obvi the best way to bastardize the English language. Starting with its roots in texting lingo, talking in abbrevs has slipped into standard millennial vernacular. No matter how hard you fight it, abbrevs are going to creep into what you say. Between describing that latest puppy Vine as totes adorbs and feeling like you're gonna vom at the sight of your ex's new Instagram pic, you'll forget how to talk like a dec human being with a rudimentary understanding of your first language.

Why do we do this? It's def not any faster to omit a syllable that maybs only lasts

“The only time I've ever used abbrevs is to make fun of people who use them on a daily basis.”

ABBEY JONES

.25 secs. It's a bit ride and it def makes you look as though you didn't pass the 1st grade. But maybe we can't help it. Whether it's one word or 70% of every sentence you utter, it's legit becoming the social norm to shorten words to two syllables or less. It's the way all your friends talk, so you've obvs gotta follow suit.

It's totes cray that the way we communicate can change so dramatically. It seems as though this obvi switch in the way we speak happened

only within the last few years. Luckily, not errbody is down with it. "I think abbrevs are super stupid. I like to be grammatically correct. It drives me insane. The only time I've ever used abbrevs is to make fun of people who use them on a daily basis. It totes annoys me," said senior Human Resources major Abbey Jones.

And I hope, unlike me, you haven't lost any brain cells after reading this. But it's whatevs. Abbrevs is my bae.

FROM PITCHING TO INTERNING

By Courtney Egner

Finding internships is a struggle that many are familiar with while here at Blackburn, and finding an internship that aligns with your career goals is an even bigger struggle. For junior Lauren Rhodes this is not the case. Rhodes will be interning with the Chicago Bandits professional fastpitch softball team next summer.

Softball is considered a common sport. It is the female equivalent of baseball and proves to be just as competitive. A 2008 United States sports survey conducted by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association states that 1.2 million girls between 8 and 18 participate in fastpitch softball. There are 371,000 players on high school softball teams and 16,997 players on college softball teams. Only a small percentage of these girls move on to play on professional teams.

The professional softball league, known as National Pro Fastpitch or NPF for short, gets very little publicity. Softball is a rarely televised sport unless it is the college world series and professional fastpitch is rarely televised if at all. National Pro Fastpitch only has four teams currently competing: the Akron Racers, Pennsylvania Rebellion, USSSA Pride in Florida and the Chicago Bandits.

In October 2004, the Chicago Bandits softball team was created by Bill Conroy and Bill Sokolis. They got off to a huge start when they signed three 2004 Olympic team players-- three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Leah O'Brien-Amico and Jamie Clark from the United State Olympic team and Canadian Olympic pitcher Lauren Bay. Just two months later they signed Olympic Gold Medalist pitcher Jenny Finch who is perhaps the most well-known player in the

history of the sport.

Rhodes plays third base and is a pitcher for the Blackburn softball team, but unfortunately will not be playing in the upcoming season due to hip surgery in December. "I will still be part of the team and I will help out because I work for my coach, so I will still be part of the team but I cannot actually play," said Rhodes.

Rhodes is excited to intern with the Bandits as she has played the sport since she was six years old. "I think working with a professional program like the Bandits is going to be amazing," she said. She is a sports management major and biology minor and hopes that this internship opportunity will help in guiding her potential career goals. Rhodes explained, "I either want to coach college softball or be an athletic director at a college. That's right now, but doing this internship will really help me figure out what exactly I want to do."

During her internship, Rhodes will be doing a wide array of tasks such as game day operations and sales calls. "Game day operations is managing tickets, merchandise, and in game promotions. And then I will also be working in the office and I will help market for events and sponsorships and database entry. These are things that I eventually want to do in my career," said Rhodes.

Internships provide unique learning experiences in your field of choice. They provide hands on work experience and insightful tips on handling the work place. Finding the right internship can help pave the way to deciding on what career path to take. In Rhodes' case she has found the right fit to help her decision making down the road.



PHOTO BY RENEE LAMORE

Lauren Rhodes up to bat.

Fantasy Football, Playoff Edition



PHOTO BY TED KERWIN

Fans watch an actual Giants game before making their Fantasy Football picks.

By Jon Griffel

Fantasy Football Round 3: Playoff Edition

It's getting close to the most important time of the year for fantasy football players: the playoffs. This is the time when your dreams can be realized or crushed by a single point. This year has been a wild ride, with injuries and court cases derailing many of the best player's seasons. However, this time of year is exciting for another reason too: the emergence of players just in time to save your season. The first tactic that you should try is lowball offers to teams that are out of the running for the playoffs. Some people will bite at this chance to help out a fellow person and some won't. Either way, it is worth a try. The second option is to pick up players off the waiver wire and hope that they pan out. Below are a few players that should be available to pick up

in your leagues. These pickups could help you advance further and further into the playoffs, maybe even all the way to the championship.

Quarterback- Eli Manning, New York Giants- To say that Eli Manning is inconsistent is an understatement. He could either be the best or the worst quarterback in any given week. However, he has been known to go on late season runs, and with the Giants still within striking distance of the playoffs, there is a chance he will be at his best for the remainder of the season. He is owned in just under half of leagues, so he could be available in yours.

Running Back- Bobby Rainey, Tampa Bay Buccaneers- Rainey has had a couple of decent games in the last few weeks. With lead back Doug Martin out with an injury, and with his

ineffectiveness when healthy, Rainey has a chance to establish himself this season on a bad Buccaneers team. Look for Rainey to continue his current production with the hope of entering next year as a starter.

Wide Receiver- Allen Hurns, Jacksonville Jaguars- Hurns has slowly worked his way up the pecking order this season to emerge as the Jaguars top receiving target. Since Bortles has become the starting quarterback, Hurns has seen his receptions and touchdowns increase dramatically. The Jaguars have nothing to lose, so don't be surprised to see them air out the ball with Bortles.

Tight End- Lance Kendricks, St. Louis Rams- Kendricks has slowly started his career with the Rams, even making the transition to fullback last year. Since Austin Davis has emerged as the Rams starter, Kendricks has proven to be his top red zone threat. Don't expect a lot of yards from Kendricks, but his touchdowns will still earn points for your team.

Defense/Special Teams- Indianapolis Colts- Somehow, the Colts have rebounded from a rough start to their season, and their defense has been a big reason for that. They haven't generated many special teams' points, but their defense has come up with quite a few sacks and turnovers to compensate for that.

Misogyny in the PGA

By Jordyn Smith

At the end of October, Ted Bishop was removed from his position as president of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) of America for two comments he made on social media.

The posts were directed at English professional golfer Ian Poulter. Poulter apparently made remarks in his book "No Limits" about the Ryder Cup captaincies of Nick Faldo and Tom Watson. Bishop wrote a tweet that referred to Poulter as a "Lil Girl." "Really? Sounds like a little school girl squealing during recess. C'MON MAN!" he also wrote on Facebook. These comments are what ended his four-year career as a PGA professional. According to ESPN, Bishop is the first of 38 presidents to be removed, which means he is uninvited to future PGA Championships and Ryder Cups. He was one month away from ending his term as president.

Ironically, the PGA of America was in the middle of

hosting the 3rd Sports Diversity and Inclusion Symposium in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. According to Golfweek.com, just two nights before Bishop's posts, CEO of the PGA Pete Bevacqua commented, "For us, diversity and inclusion in golf is a strategic priority. It's critical that we get out ahead of this. It's critical that golf changes its own story."

Poulter definitely had something to say about Bishop's sexist posts. "Is being called a 'lil girl' meant to be derogatory or a put down?" said Poulter. "That's pretty shocking and disappointing, especially coming from the leader of the PGA of America."

While some think the PGA board overreacted, many believe that the right decision was made. Bishop's comment was unprofessional. ESPN says that the PGA of America has 27,000 members, and that approximately 1,100 of them are women. Bishop might have undone all the progress he has made with the franchise



PHOTO BY KEITH ALLISON

Ian Poulter in 2011 practicing before the 111th U.S. Open at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland.

in supporting the PGA Junior League as well as forming a new PGA/LPGA. According to Golfweek.com, Bishop stated, "I think when I wake up at 2:30 or 3 o'clock in the morning and I can't sleep, it's because I look at the things that I've done in my career for my girls, for women, from Day 1, and I think these things, they're flushed down the toilet."

NCAA PRESEASON BASKETBALL

68 teams will be fighting to be named the national champion... Who's it going to be?

By Jon Griffel

The quest for 68 begins. In a little under 5 months, the 2015 NCAA tournament will start, and 68 teams will be fighting to be named the national champion. Adding to the excitement is the number of players that decided to put off professional careers to further their college experience. Some of the biggest names in basketball have returned with their eyes set on the championship. The most hyped returners are all members of the 2014 NCAA runner up Kentucky Wildcats. They bring back guards and twin brothers Andrew and Aaron Harrison, centers Dakari Johnson and Willie Cauley-Stein and wing Alex Poythress. These returners are joined by a highly ranked recruiting class that includes freshmen Trey Lyles and Karl Towns. While it is shocking to see Kentucky have this many returning players, keeping players for 4 years is what Wisconsin does. Wisconsin returns 4 of their 5 starters from a year ago, and 7 of their top 8 players. The two top returning players, Frank Kaminsky and Sam Dekker, are legitimate NBA prospects. Kaminsky had a terrific year last year, and an even better NCAA tournament. He is my pick for 2014-2015 National Player of the year. Below are

my Top 5 preseason rankings, as well as my preseason All American Team.

Top 5:

1. Wisconsin Badgers- As I said above, the Badgers have one of the most experienced returning units in all of basketball. Bo Ryan, longtime coach of the Badgers, has proven over the years to run a defensively sound basketball team. However, last year they surprised everyone with their efficient offense. Kaminsky and Dekker should be able to take the next step and return this team to the Final Four.

2. Kentucky Wildcats John Calipari, championship winning coach of the Wildcats, has one of the most talented rosters of his career. He has an exceptional recruiting class joining a talented group of returners. With experience from last year's tournament run, and the abundance of talent waiting in the folds, Kentucky seems destined for another championship push. The only question will be how Calipari will incorporate all of the talent at his disposal.

3. Duke Blue Devils- Mike Krzyzewski, the Hall of Fame coach of the Blue Devils, faces one of his biggest challenges to date: replacing the scoring of Jabari Parker and Rodney Hood from



PHOTO BY JEREMY MKNIGHT

Fans get excited as Clemson plays Duke.

last year's team. However, he retains Quinn Cook and Rasheed Sulaimon from last year's team, and these two should provide leadership and experience. However it's the freshmen who will determine how far this team goes. Top prospect Jahlil Okafor has partnered with Tyus Jones and Justice Winslow to bring one of the best recruiting classes in the country. Okafor is a Player of the Year candidate, while Jones will run the point for the team. Winslow will bring perimeter scoring and athleticism to this team.

4. Arizona Wildcats- If this was any other season, Sean Millers team would be number one in this poll. But the size and experience that is returned by the other teams have relegated this team to number 4. But don't let this ranking fool you, when it is all said and done, Arizona could be standing at half court with the Championship Trophy. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson and Brandon Ashley return, and they are joined by another strong recruiting class and a couple of returning starters. If this team stays healthy, watch

out.

5. Kansas Jayhawks- How could a team that lost two top 5 NBA draft picks in Andrew Wiggins and Joel Embiid possibly be ranked this high? Returning talent and a very talented freshman class. Junior Perry Ellis should provide stability to this team while freshman Cliff Alexander and Kelly Oubre will provide the highlights. There might be some ugly early season games as the team gets used to each other, but by the end of the season they will be a force to be reckoned with.

Root Root Root for the Home Team

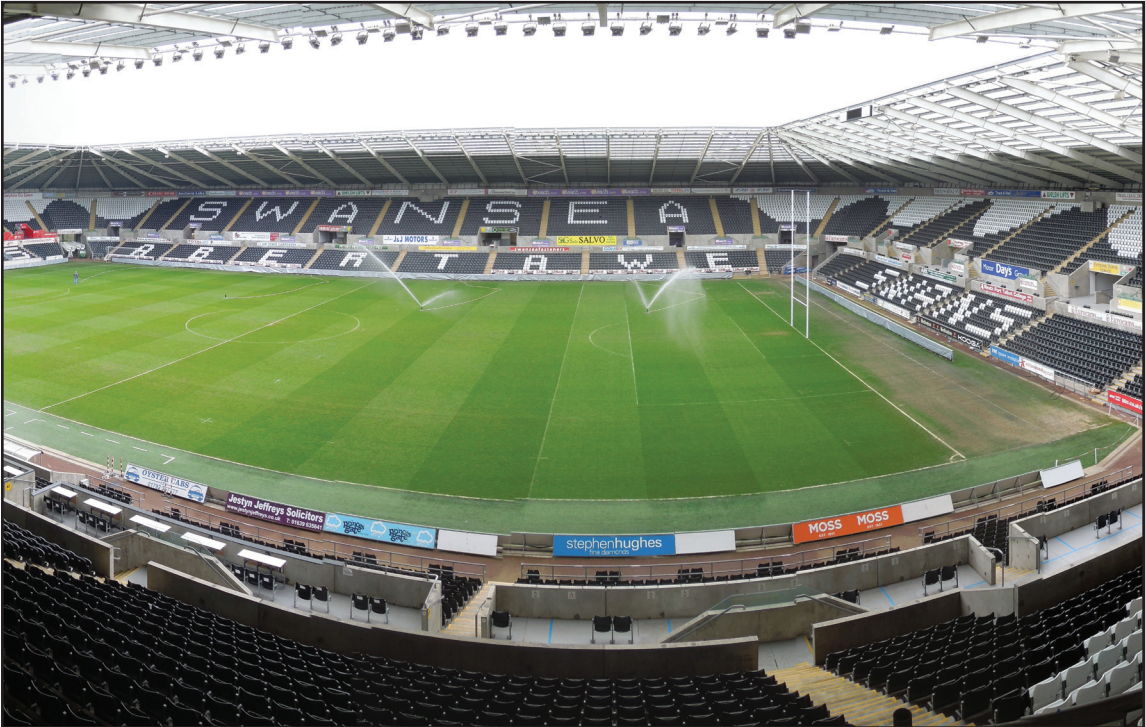


PHOTO BY ALEXANDER RIDLER

The Barclay's Premier League includes teams like Swansea and Arsenal.

By Ben Nichols

Going to a new place can be scary. New foods, new people, new customs and none of your sports teams from back home. This can be especially true for Blackburn students

taking the study abroad trip to Swansea, Wales. Living there for six months, students will want to become accustomed to rooting for a new team, and be familiar with the team as a

whole.

Swansea City A.F.C., also know as the Swans, is a football team within the Barclay's Premier League, and the only Welsh team in

If they don't win it's a shame!

the Premier League, the top tier division. The Swans have played since 1912 and their crowning achievement was winning the League Cup in 2013, beating Bradford City 5-0. The Swans are currently ranked third in the Premier League.

So what is it like for Blackburn students who have had the chance to experience rooting for a new team in Wales?

2014 graduate Paul Kline, who went to Wales in 2012, said about his experiences with a new team, "I guess it's like when you move anywhere else you know, like when you come to Blackburn you're a Beavers fan because that's where you are and you identify with them. When I lived in Swansea, it was the first time I lived in a town that had any sort of professional sporting

team. However, believe it or not, I heard more about people complaining about parking when there was a game than I heard about the team itself." As for cheering for the team at Swansea University, Kline said, "They don't have school spirit like we have school spirit because they don't have sporting events like we have sporting events. They only play another school once a year, and it's a big deal. They call it 'varsity.' University sport teams over there are more like club teams."

So while it will be different for those who have never experienced living in a different country, it seems that besides college sports, those studying in Wales should have no trouble adjusting to a new professional team. That's why this journalist says go Beavers and Swans!