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PHOTO BY REBECCA SPRINKEL

BLACKBURN’S NEW REIGN

Allie Matt and Ashleigh Clendenny have been selected as the General Managers of the Work Program for the 2015-2016 academic year. More details to come in Issue 3.

SPECTRUM IS THE NEW BLACKBURN COMMON GROUND

See Page 2 for article



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY EGNER

Spectrum President Courtney Egner and Treasurer Emily Nelson attended the Midwest Bisexual Gay Lesbian Transgender and Ally College Conference at ISU. It’s the biggest LGBT college conference in the nation.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

BUILDING MORE THAN JUST HOUSES

See Page 4 for article



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLIE MATT

FILM CLUB RETURNS

By Jess Willard

Film club has been reintroduced to Blackburn campus by its new president, freshman Blade Williams, with the help of faculty advisor Dr. Mark Benedetti. The rest of the film club’s council consists of vice president of production Donovan Williams, vice president of screening Patrick Benedict, secretary Anna Heleine, treasurer Ashley Sparks and Campus Activities Board (CAB) liaison Courtney Egner. Film club plans on going in a different direction this year—instead of just showing movies, they want to also produce their own short film. According to Donovan

CONTINUED ON PG 6

GET IN THE FLOW OF THINGS

By Bryan Bethel

The hula hoop club formed by sophomore biology-chemistry major Veronica Milligan is getting a makeover this year with the introduction of “flow arts,” a movement-based art form that incorporates dance, creative exploration of movement and skillful prop manipulation. The new prop in this case is the contact staff—a long, slender pole often with reflective elements or LED lights that make interesting patterns when spun around. Members of the club, now appropriately named the Flow Arts club, will be mixing the hypnotic movements of “hooping” with the flowing movements of the contact staff. This new addition to the club gives

CONTINUED ON PG 6

Spectrum is the New Blackburn Common Ground

By Jess Willard

Blackburn Common Ground (BCG) is completely revamped and now known as Spectrum. BCG used to mainly represent the LGBT community, but now they want to branch out and represent all of the students. Its new council consists of President Courtney Egner, Vice President Alexander Kelly, Secretary Donovan Williams, Treasurer Emily Nelson and Event Coordinator Blade Williams. At their second meeting of the semester members were asked what the new name change meant to them. Responses included “no discrimination against anyone”, “accepting”, “inclusivity” and “moving forward.” Members are concerned about the club’s reputation on campus and

wants students to know that everyone is welcome no matter what their gender, sexual orientation, race or belief system is.

Spectrum also organizes one of its biggest events of the school year this semester—the third annual drag show, scheduled for March 27. Former Blackburn Provost Arthur Darken referred to drag as “an art form.” He said, “It is performed all around the world, and there are thousands of people who do [drag].” Students are welcome to perform in the show and must contact Egner to do so. There was one workshop for the show this month on Feb. 5 and there will be another held on Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the ADRs located in DCC. This

will help prepare students for the show and help them feel more comfortable. This year Spectrum has the biographies of the kings and queens who will be volunteering to perform in the show These biographies allow the students of Blackburn to see the actual lives of professional performers instead of just their personas. One of these professionals is Dusty Michaels, an 80 year old Drag Queen from Alton, Ill. and is coming out of retirement for this show. Junior Spanish major Jordan GeRue is from a rural community where there is a lot of stigma behind drag shows. “They don’t really know what it’s about. I enjoy having the drag show on campus because it promotes open-mindedness.”

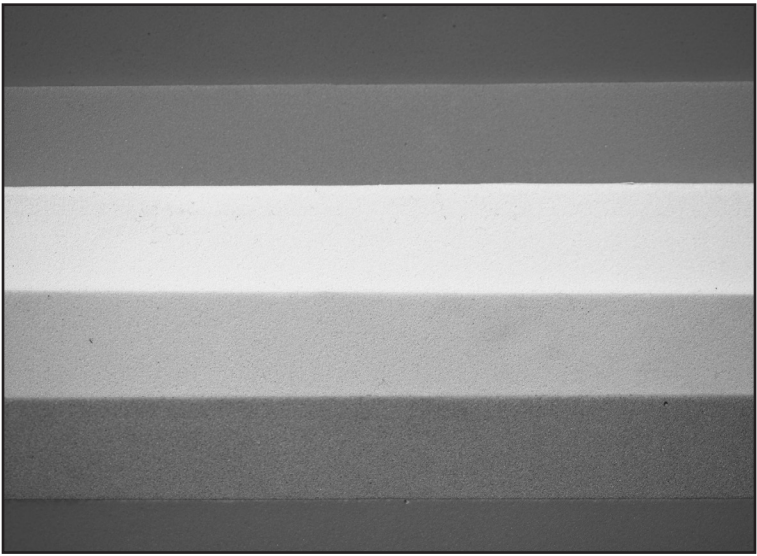


PHOTO COURTESY OF PURPLE SHERBERT

Spectrum is advocating inclusivity and acceptance with its new changes.

In addition to the drag show, some important topics discussed at their second meeting of the semester included gender inclusive housing and buckets. If not enough people sign up, then gender inclusive housing will no longer exist. For those who wish to participate in gender inclusive housing, you must contact the Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Jarrod Gray, by emailing jarrod.gray@blackburn.edu. Buckets are actual buckets filled

with anonymous questions that a person selected at a previous meeting answers. This gives insight on the different people in the club so a sense of togetherness can be established. Confidentiality is very important and anything shared at the meetings stays at the meetings. Spectrum gets together on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. in the basement of Stoddard.
Note: The author of this article is a member of this club.

NEW SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICIES

By Bryan Bethel

At the beginning of the current academic year, changes regarding substance abuse policies took effect. The policies pertain to the circumstances in which a search may be made of a student’s dorm room, person and/or vehicle, as well as the disciplinary actions that would take place if a student is found to be in possession of a controlled substance. “The reason behind these changes was the result of a series of overdose deaths of current and previous Blackburn students, said Assistant Dean of Residence Life Abbey Hardin. “We strongly felt that if we took a stronger stand on how we work with students who are suspected of using illegal substances, that we could help to prevent death or serious medical issues,” she added. The new rules state that if a student has been reported for suspicious behavior or suspected substance abuse more than once, they may have their person and room searched. If students are found guilty of possession of a controlled substance, they will receive at least a \$150 fine and have their parents notified. In addition, that student will now be required to submit to

random drug tests through the Adult Probation Department and pay for the tests if they come back positive. If these tests come back negative though, Blackburn will cover all costs. This new testing policy will cover ten of the most common drugs of abuse.

“Searching a room or searching a vehicle are intrusive things,” said College Counselor Tim Morenz. “There has to be legitimate and documented reasons for us to breach someone’s privacy like that.” According to Morenz, although students may be

concerned about their privacy, they have nothing to worry about if they have nothing to hide in the first place. “The new policy seems like a huge invasion of privacy,” said freshman communications major Deja Bell. “I understand why they chose to include the

new rules, but that doesn’t mean I’m happy about it.” If students are insistent on continued use of controlled substances, it is advised that they keep any substances and paraphernalia off school grounds. “The situation with the new policy is one of the fairest and most equitable situations I’ve ever seen,” said Morenz. “I understand that people will decry it a lot of times and I could understand why, but I believe this is a very honest and fair approach that Blackburn is taking.” For students interested in learning more on the new changes to the substance abuse policies, check out page 25 of the B-Book.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW WALSH

Security will be cracking down on students in posession of paraphernalia this semester.

**Students
have nothing
to worry
about if they
have nothing
to hide.**

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PROVOST

By Karlee Brimberry

In 2014 Dr. Aper resigned his position as Provost for Blackburn College. Dr. Kelly Chaney stepped in as Interim Provost. Now Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs, Heidi Heinz and a committee of students, faculty and staff have begun the interviewing process for a new Provost.

When President John Comerford compiled the search committee, their first task was to evaluate the position description. What does a Provost do? The two main responsibilities of a Provost are to be a cross department leader for the entire campus and also the Chief Academic Officer. The Provost's main concern is supporting faculty, staff and student learning experiences. The Provost is second to the President. According to the Blackburn College website, there are many requirements including an earned terminal degree, preferably a doctorate, an excellent background in teaching, research and service and also experience with student academic support programs, instruction and information technology, developing programs to attract new student populations and other revenue streams. After going over applicants' credentials, the search committee narrowed down the pool of candidates.

According to Heinz, 35 candidates applied for



GRAPHIC BY BRYAN BETHEL

Who will be the next Provost of Blackburn College?

the position, the committee selected 11 individuals for phone interviews in early November. After the phone interviews took place, the committee was left with three candidates and interviewed each of these in person. Heinz stated that the committee plans to bring the final candidates to Blackburn College so that students, faculty and staff can meet the potential Provost in hopes to get everyone involved in the hiring process.

Seniors Jacob Maag and Haley Welch, who were selected to be the student representatives, have been very helpful in the hiring process.

They are both involved in interviews, reviewing applications, reference checks and many other responsibilities that involve being on the committee. Maag stated that being on the board means they have weekly meetings to attend and that they are "just as much involved in the hiring process as the faculty and staff are." Although the hiring process is very long and arduous, Heinz and the rest of the committee are determined to find the best fit for the position. Heinz stated that if all goes according to plan, the committee should have their decision made by March.

RUMORS DISPELLED ABOUT THE SMOKING BAN

By Jess Willard

There have been several rumors on campus regarding whether or not smoking cigarettes, cigars and e-cigarettes will be banned from campus. Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz confirmed that the campus will not become smoke-free this semester, but she believes it will eventually. This potential change is inspired by a piece of legislation signed by former Gov. Pat Quinn on August 17, 2014, requiring state-supported colleges and universities to go smoke-free by July 15, 2015 (www.illinois.gov). Even though Blackburn is a private school and is not required by law to go smoke-free, the idea is appealing to the administration.

Due to the legislation still pending, there is no definite date for the ban on smoking to go into effect. College Counselor Tim Morenz does plan on offering cessation programs for students. Morenz is already doing these programs on a small scale to

help students who currently wish to quit smoking before the ban is implemented. Questions such as whether students will have areas to smoke on campus or will have to smoke off campus altogether will be decided by the Student Life Committee, which consists of staff members and one student. "There is a ton of information available through the American Lung Association with resources that will allow the consumer to make informed choices," Morenz said. "As we wait and are patient, I am sure we will see the rest of the plan unfold in front of our eyes." His opinion is that the earliest this will take place is July 2016. While the administration is fond of this idea, many students are outraged that this is a possibility. Amber Campbell, freshman psychology major, said, "It will cause more stress for students. They will have to leave campus just to smoke a cigarette to relieve stress from all their homework and exams."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATZE OTT

According to the administration, the smoking ban might not take place until a year or so from now.

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

By Karlee Brimberry

It's almost that time of the year again, when Blackburn College's Performing Arts department will be organizing their next musical. This spring they will be performing the Tony Award winning musical "The Drowsy Chaperone."

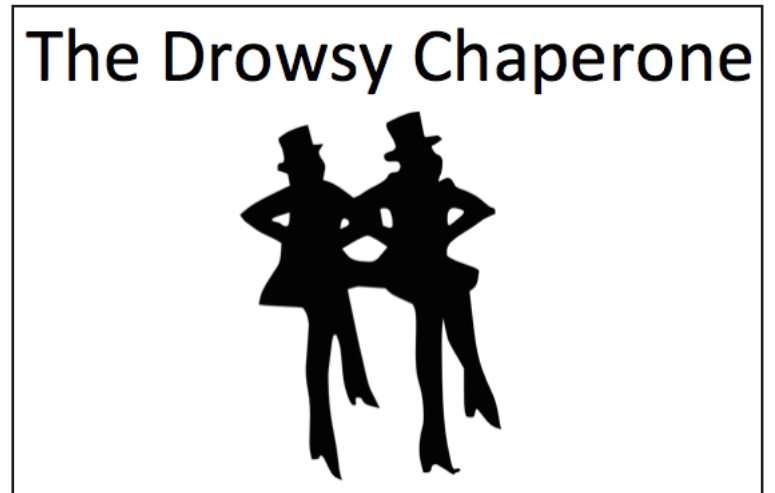
"The Drowsy Chaperone" was written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar with music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison. According to one of the largest Broadway databases, Playbill Vault, a character known as Man in

Chair narrates the musical while he provides the audience his own amusing opinions and includes trivial details about each character during the Jazz Era of the 1920's. Theatre Professor, Dr. Kate Roark stated that she is very excited to start practicing for the play. Auditions were held last month and the cast was confirmed.

In previous years the Performing Arts department has never fully incorporated a lot of choreography into its productions. This year will

be different. Freshman Ajay Minton who will be playing the role of George is bringing something new to the table. Minton, who has been in dance since the age of 7, will be one of the cast members to perform a tap number. Minton stated he is very excited about this particular show because "it is going to be different than any other musicals in the past." He elaborated by stating that they've never really had choreographers previously.

With many new faces



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF KARLEE BRIMBERRY

from the freshman class and also many returning actors, Roark is very eager to bring something new. April 16-19

is when you can catch Minton and the rest of the cast on stage.

Mentor, Teacher, Friend

By Logan Early

While waiting outside of the office, I could hear her coming from several rooms away. She greeted everybody around with a warm welcome and a laugh. When she walked in and saw me, she excitedly acknowledged me and gave me a hug. When I was given the opportunity to interview my grade school principal turned adjunct professor, I jumped at the chance. She’s always been a very positive woman who is extremely easy to have a conversation with.

Dr. Rice graduated from Illinois State University with a doctorate in education administration and has over 40 years of experience in the field of education. She taught English in Texas for many years before moving back to Illinois. There she found a job as the principal of Roodhouse Elementary School in Roodhouse, where she was the principal for about 20 years. Every morning, she came into the auditorium where all of the students gathered with a smile on her face and a joke at the ready.

Rice, in her first year, explained that what attracted her to Blackburn was the size



PHOTO BY LOGAN EARLY

Dr. Rice is seen here smiling for the camera.

of the school. She cherishes the opportunity to interact with and get to know students on a personal level. When asked how she felt about the college so far, she immediately replied, “I love it. I really do.” In addition, she expressed approval for the Beaver mascot, laughing before saying, “It’s awesome... I really do like it, it’s unique.”

It was immediately clear that she cared deeply not just about teaching classes, but also about every individual in class. She emphasized that her favorite thing about teaching is the students. “It doesn’t matter

if there are three or twenty-three, I love to learn from them and... exchange information,” she added.

Rice is also a firm believer in the importance of family. If she had six months left to live, she would spend it with her family. “Not traveling or anything like that?” I asked. “No,” she replied, “not traveling. I would relax and spend time with my family... and pray.” This speaks to just what kind of a woman she is; she deeply cares for those around her and will do anything to help them in any way she can.

Building More Than Just Houses

By Logan Early

If you’ve ever wanted to feel like you’ve made a difference in the community, then the organization Habitat for Humanity is for you. Created in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, it is a nonprofit group that seeks to help others by donating time and effort into repairing and building homes and businesses to benefit the community. Blackburn College’s chapter is affiliated with the Springfield chapter. Its current president, Allison Matt, described Habitat for Humanity as “a way for Blackburn students to get together and build friendships while building homes.”

The number of people in Habitat has dramatically increased, in part owing to one of the largest freshman classes in recent history. So far this year, Habitat has raised over \$850 by working within the community and from donations. The ultimate goal of these fundraisers is to raise enough money for a weeklong trip to Jackson County, Fla. to aid in building a house over spring break. Members who go on the trip will work on building the exterior of a house, as well as applying paneling. “Jackson County is known for its poverty-stricken neighborhoods,”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY’S CROWDRISE FUNDRAISER PAGE

Members of Habitat for Humanity helped clean up Carlinville for a fundraiser.

Matt explained, “so it’s super special because they’re in need... and we get to hang out with college friends.”

When asked if she has ever considered going to another state for the annual trip, Matt replied, “Actually, we have.” Matt, who is about to undertake her third trip to Jackson County, elaborated by saying that the hardest part would be to leave behind everybody that she and other members have gotten to know over the years.

Blackburn’s chapter still needs to raise some funds to finish paying for all 25 student volunteers who are going on the trip. To donate, visit www.crowdrise.com and

search for Blackburn College’s Habitat for Humanity group.

FLAILING OR FAILING?
FACEBOOK FLOPS

By Bryan Bethel



PHOTO BY MARCO PAKÖENINGRAT

Facebook has seen a decline in teenage users in the past few years.

With Twitter becoming increasingly popular, the question of what will become of the social media site Facebook is up in the air. While Facebook still boasts over 1.2 billion people using their site, over 3 million teenagers have left the website for other social media networks in the last four years according to The Huffington Post. The drop in teenage users has been baffling for Facebook researchers who have been scrambling to find new ways to entice members in this demographic.

The need to see what friends are doing on Facebook has been described as an addiction, and Discovery Channel News reports that the need to check in on social media is “even more addictive than cigarettes and alcohol.” Although so many people are hooked on Facebook, the cracks in the social media giant’s foundation are beginning to show. The biggest concern, and one reason members have been deleting their Facebook accounts, is the disturbing advertisements. While Facebook is still a business and has to make

money, many users have been put off by the intrusive ads. Senior computer science major Geary Crom said, “I occasionally still use Facebook but the one specific that drives me away is that the majority of my newsfeed is products I’ve ‘liked’ and obnoxious targeted ads.” Freshmen psychology major Amber Campbell had this to say: “The main reason I still get on is to connect with family and friends from back home, but other than that I try to stay away from Facebook as much as I can.”

According to consumer technology website cnet.com, Facebook is becoming too complicated and overrun with parents to be appealing to younger audiences. Scrolling through pages of ads and random videos shared by other users is tedious. “I would rather use Twitter because there’s always more interesting current events going on,” said junior biology major Kayla Liebman. For Facebook to survive much longer as a social media giant and stay relevant, it is clear that changes need to be made to better appeal to a younger generation.

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Hungry Student

By Jon Griffel

Taylor's Mexican Chili, tucked away on the northwest corner of the square next to The Anchor Inn, is the place to go in Carlinville on a cold day. This restaurant has been a local staple since it opened in 1904, and it holds true to its promise of using only the highest quality ingredients. Taylor's has changed locations several times in their history, and now share a space with

The Anchor Inn.

As I walked into the restaurant, I was hit with the nostalgic feeling of a small town restaurant, as there are small tables and the faint sound of older rock'n'roll. As I settled into my seat, I noticed the placard in the middle of the table that constitutes the menu. At first glance it seems small, but upon further inspection, it becomes clear that there is



PHOTO BY JON GRIFFEL

much more than just plain chili. They offer multiple takes on their chili, as they have their signature Taylor's chili,

butter bean chili and vegetable soup. The signature chili is spicy, so many customers utilize the mix option that Taylor's offers and mix the butter bean and signature chili. Another popular option is mixing your chili with other foods, as Taylor's offers chili cheese dogs, tamales, chili mac, chili nachos and for the lighter palate chili taco salad.

I chose the chili mac and was very impressed. It was a delicious combination of the signature chili, noodles and Mexican style shredded cheese. The waitress was very friendly and the food delivery was exceptionally fast. It took less than 10 minutes after I was in the door to receive my food. This service speed is very important to working college students, as it provides

a quick sit-down meal option. If you are of age, you can order an alcoholic beverage from The Anchor Inn side of the business, but seeing as how it was lunch on a weekday, I decided not to partake. The Anchor Inn offers both draft beers and mixed drinks.

Another way to meet your chili needs is by calling in a takeout order. I have done this before and found it to be a very quick, efficient exchange. The only downside to Taylor's is that the food is only available at lunch time, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. So next time you need a warm, delicious meal, think of Taylor's Mexican Chili right here in Carlinville. Just don't forget to bring cash, as they don't accept credit cards.

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PHOTOS BY JORDYN SMITH

"Can we just have another eating holiday like Thanksgiving? Who doesn't love family events with large amounts of cooking? It should be in June...ish."

"We should have No School on Monday once every three weeks."

"I would have a day called National Disney Day where everyone has to dress and act like a princess or prince."

"Stop Being a Butt Day: Everyone would be required to donate five dollars to charity."

FILM CLUB RETURNS



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

The film club council (with the exception of the president, Blade Williams) pose for their first meeting of the semester. Pictured (from left to right): Ashley Sparks, Donovan Williams, Patrick Benedict and Anna Heleine

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Williams, the production will be a “mini-flick” that runs between 5 minutes and 30 minutes. The club has another big plan to use the campus-wide big screen at the end of the semester to show a rather controversial film. Benedict claims that this plan is “just an idea until [they] get the permission [they] need to show it,” but they want to exhibit “The Interview,” a recently released controversial film. The big idea around showing this movie is due to its “media exposure and content,” Benedict said. Snacks and a popcorn maker are two more ideas they are considering as well as getting their own club t-shirts.

When asked about the kind of movies that film club would show, Blade Williams said, “The films for the actual club have not yet been discussed, but we expect to explore a wide variety of genres of film. [This way] we can better learn and dissect what goes into making a film, what goes into executing the specified genre and of course, watching a diversity of films with different themes, cultures, and stories involved.” He went on to mention that teaming up with CAB could mean more showings than originally planned. Film club plans on meeting twice a week—one day to show movies and another day

to analyze them. They currently meet on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in Hudson 306. Blade Williams offered some final input about his plans for film club. They include “getting more people to come experience the club, while learning more about the processes of film and other aspects [in] a fun atmosphere [as well as] preparing everyone [in] the club to bring in their ideas and film knowledge in order to expand onto a bigger project [he has] in mind.”

Note: The author of this article is a member of this club.

The Dish on

By Jordyn Smith

Shelly Pepper is not your average criminal justice professor. Although she grew up in a small town in Ohio, Pepper has been all over the world.

Pepper first pursued an undergraduate psychology degree at Kent State University in Ohio. After graduation, she was unsure of what path to take. She then joined the Peace Corps and spent two and a half years in Niger, West Africa, where she says the experience “appropriately shook up” her life. After that she traveled internationally throughout West Africa and Paris before working for a year at a bookstore in San Francisco. She finally decided to go to law school at Cleveland State University in Ohio. There she pursued a master’s degree in public administration. However, she felt that wasn’t right for her so she went back to earn a doctorate in urban studies where she finally found her path.

While finishing up her doctorate, Pepper spent time teaching at the University of

Texas at Dallas. The next eight years of her life were spent teaching master’s students at Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York before she made the transition from life in the city to rural life in Carlinville, Ill. Pepper thought it would be substantially different teaching undergraduates as opposed to master’s students. However, coming to Blackburn hasn’t been a huge transition for her, or at least not yet. “No matter where you are you have good students who are really committed and then students who need a little bit more of a push,” she said.

After living in the expensive state of New York, Pepper says she was ready to leave. She finds Carlinville to be an attractive place to live. “Buying the house really solidified the commitment,” admitted Pepper. “Living the dream with me and my mom and my cat,” she joked.

Although this is only her second semester, Pepper sees herself at Blackburn long-term. She was pleasantly surprised

SEEING SNOW FOR

By Noah Daum

Blackburn is a small Midwest college, and most students come from the region. Because of that, those students know the weather conditions quite well: wild. On the other hand, there are students that have not seen snow until

coming to campus this school year. After seeing snow falling for the first time, freshman environmental studies major Samuel Lomanto who lived in California until coming to Carlinville recounted, “It was fantastic! I ran outside, touched

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Get in the Flow of Things

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

members a new way to dance, explore and interact with the world around them.

With his funky-fresh afro and mesmerizing flow, sophomore communications major Donovan Williams is the member behind most of the new changes. “I’ve been practicing with the staff for almost ten years now,” said Williams. “It’s relaxing and meditative in a way, and I always enjoy

learning new tricks.” Williams can perform many tricks such as “The Helicopter” and “Kickups,” and is anxious to teach any newcomers interested in learning.

With the addition of the contact staff, the Flow Arts club hopes to attract new members who aren’t only interested in hooping. When asked about the changes, biology major and vice president of the Flow Arts

club Megan Williamson said, “We are still a relatively small club so it’s awesome to have a new way to draw people in. Donovan is a really nice guy so we are excited to have him on board.” Anyone interested in joining the Flow Arts club should contact Milligan or Williams for meeting times and locations.



PHOTO BY WALTER JARVIS

Walter Jarvis takes his first ever snow-selfie.

Professor Pfeffer



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

After only one full semester, Pfeffer says she can see herself staying at Blackburn for the long-term.

by the class sizes as they were actually larger than she expected them to be. She teaches a variety of courses, including introduction to criminal justice, criminal law, constitutional law, as well as a series of leadership classes, including conflict resolution, leadership theory in practice, leadership seminar and introduction to public administration. Her background allows her to be more flexible between the three related fields of criminal justice, organizational leadership and political science.

An avid sports fan of

Ohio State and “Cleveland everything,” she spends her spare time reading, repurposing old furniture and enjoying off-the-wall art and movies, such as “Donnie Darko,” “Requiem for a Dream” and “Being John Malkovich.” She also has friends all over the country that she likes to travel with and visit. As for her work at Blackburn, Pfeffer hopes to help transform the criminal justice program into a form of justice administration. According to her, department members are contemplating the need to tinker with the curriculum in order to eliminate redundancy in the program.

Pfeffer believes she took the long way around to get to where she is, but she says it’s been a good learning experience. “It’s great to have a goal,” advises Pfeffer. “But don’t get so tunnel-visioned on that goal that you miss the opportunities that come up. You have your whole life to work. Travel, travel, travel.”

CRIME

BLACKBURN COLLEGE BEAT

1/12/2015 - At 10:00 a.m., there was in a theft report filed from a residence hall on campus. Handled by Campus Security.
1/24/2015 - At 5:22 p.m., there was a medical emergency in a residence hall. Handled by Residence Life and Campus Security.
1/26/2015 - At 10:00 a.m.,

there was a hit and run car accident in a campus parking lot. Handled by Campus Security.
1/29/2015 - At 1:03 a.m., a 911 hang up occurred. Handled by Campus Security.
1/31/2015 - At 5:45 p.m., there was a report that students were using illegal drugs on campus. Handled by Campus Security.



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it a lot and threw snowballs at people.” Lomanto claims that it was not like he had expected it to be. “It was a lot colder than I thought,” Lomanto added. Before coming to Blackburn in January, freshman biology major Walter Jarvis had only lived in California and Arizona and had only viewed snow once before. “Arizona weather was really hot,” Jarvis recalled, “The first day I came here I was freezing! But then I got used to it and it wasn’t too bad.”



PHOTO BY KELSIE SMITH

Sam Lomanto plays in the snow for the first time at Blackburn.

To Believe or to Not Believe

By Courtney Egner

At some point we have all thought about if we are the only ones in space and have questioned if we are alone in this universe or not. According to Signs of the Times, an independent news site for current events, a recent National Geographic survey said that 77% of Americans believe that aliens have visited Earth. So, are there extraterrestrials out there and have we come into contact with them?

15 years ago in January 2000, one of the most well documented and famous UFO sightings happened in Lebanon (50 miles from Carlinville) and Highland, Ill. In this sighting, a triangle shaped UFO with three bright white lights was spotted and reported to the Highland Police Department who then contacted the Lebanon Police department. An officer responded to the call and was skeptical until he saw the craft himself. Officers in Millstadt and Dupo, Ill. also saw the aircraft, according to UFO Evidence.

UFOs are simply defined as unidentified flying objects. According to New Realities there are on average 70,000 reported UFO sightings every year which is roughly 200 sightings per day. Most would agree that when we talk about UFOs we are referring to alien aircraft carrying extraterrestrial beings.



PHOTO BY ERIC LESLIE

Extraterrestrial is defined by Merriam-Webster as originating or existing outside the earth or its atmosphere. This definition is very broad and an extraterrestrial being is what we usually refer to as an alien. The topic of aliens and life outside of our own is often a popular one because most have an opinion on it.

Senior Jeanette Kelly is a firm believer in extraterrestrials. “I 1000% believe in aliens. If I had to choose a religion it would almost be the Ancient Astronaut Theory.” According to History Channel, this theory presents the idea that extraterrestrials with superior knowledge landed on Earth thousands of years ago and

shared their knowledge with early civilizations. “There are so many examples in history that show we are not alone. The show ‘Ancient Aliens’ make the history seem extreme and cheesy but the information is still there,” said Kelly.

Many believe there is evidence that we have been visited by unknown beings or forces and there are many people who claim to have come into contact with these beings. Whether or not you believe these claims and the evidence presented is up to you. Are we really alone in the universe or are there beings out there that have visited our planet?

The Big D About 1D fans

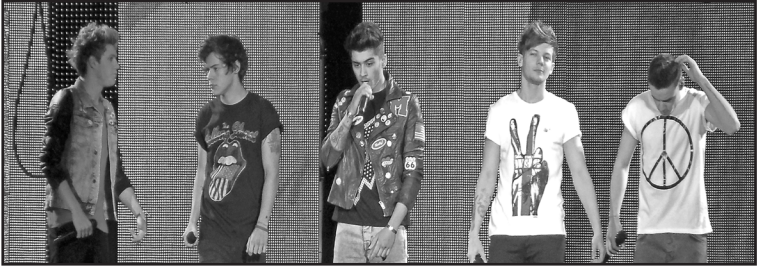


PHOTO BY AWAYWITHTHEPIXIES
One Direction performing in Dublin, Ireland.

By Lindsey Becker

If you’ve managed to talk to me for more than ten minutes, you’re probably aware of my slight obsession with one of the most famous boybands of our time—One Direction (1D). How did I come to love them so much? One minute I was singing along to “What Makes You Beautiful” on the radio and the next I was desperately blogging GIFs of Harry Styles. I have a hard time liking things casually, and most of the time people respond positively to my overzealous love for various media, actors and musicians. However, the reaction I get when my love for 1D is discovered has always been a little bit different.

People are confused, shocked even, when I tell them the news. Upon mentioning at dinner with my family that I wanted to see them in concert, one of my cousins exclaimed, “Wow, I always thought Lindsey was cooler than me, but I guess not.” I was, of course, devastated by my tarnished reputation (he likes Nickelback by the way, so who’s really the cool one here?).

I honestly never feel more ridiculed and infantilized than right after I tell someone that I love One Direction. Almost instantly I can feel a person taking me less seriously, because of course all 1D fans are screaming 15-year-old girls, right?

“I get made fun of all the time, though mostly it’s friendly banter,” said senior creative writing major and 1D fan Allison Funneman. “I’ll tell the haters ‘You watch the Bachelor,’ or whatever. That

usually shuts them up,” she added.

I notice this stigma around media that have fanbases comprised primarily of young girls (see also, “Twilight”). When I tell someone I like 1D, their mind goes directly to screaming teenagers—and they start to treat me like one. “Aren’t you a grown-ass woman?” is a legitimate question I’ve been asked. People think it’s not age appropriate, that I’m not in their target demographic and I’m too old to like a boy band. Let’s break this down a little bit here: All the members of 1D are aged 21-23—I’m 21. They’re right around my age, I can relate to them and they make music that’s pretty accessible to everyone. Most of the fans I come into contact with on Twitter, Tumblr and other social media are my age or older. What’s the difference between liking One Direction and any other pop act that plays on the radio right beside them?

The most annoying thing about being a 1D fan is that once people find out you like them, that’s what you’re reduced to. Your other likes, interests, hobbies, school or job are all irrelevant once you’ve admitted to liking a pop band. There are probably more 1D fans around you than you know, and they’re probably all sorts of people—professionals, teachers, service workers, adults and teenagers alike. If the worst thing I’ll be my whole life is a 20-something 1D fan, I’ll take it.



PHOTO BY CALEAN GRUENING
Hozier transcends the role of the everyday entertainer.

BRAWL AT BLACKBURN

By Noah Daum

On April 19, 2002, the now defunct pro-wrestling company Gateway Championship Wrestling came to Dawes gymnasium and put on a show. This event took place as a fundraiser for the Blackburn football team. Since that day, there has not been a pro-wrestling event on campus. You could argue that this is due to the decline of interest in pro-wrestling since the early 2000’s. On the other hand, there are a lot of loyal fans still around.

Freshman theater major James Monegain said, “I watch it because of the energy: it can pump you up. It’s awesome, and also because of the divas.” Senior biology major Alex Greff, a lifelong pro-wrestling fan added, “The thing about wrestling is when it is bad, it is really bad. When it is good, it is really good. There’s no middle ground.” Greff said there are times he says that he will stop watching, but he never ends up stopping for good.

Although popularity has declined, pro-wrestling is alive and well, even in this area. St. Louis Anarchy Wrestling (SLA) holds very successful events eight times per year in Alton, IL. SLA booker and talent dealer Pierre Abernathy states, “I am very happy with Saint Louis Anarchy. SLA is 100% my vision of what pro-wrestling should be. Our

crowds have been growing since December 2012 and we continue to grow our online presence which we are always looking to do.”

Abernathy has wrestled for 11 years, booked events for eight years and deals with talent that includes former World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) stars, Total Nonstop Action (TNA) stars and even Japanese stars. He feels that they give the best live experience. “I know it may sound cocky to say, but there is not a local product out there that can compete with us when it comes to the total live event experience.” Abernathy

added. “I always promise people who have never been to an event that if you give us a chance you will not leave disappointed.”

Abernathy suspects that Blackburn would be a great place to host an event. “We would love to! Most wrestling shows’ crowds are made up of friends and family or kids. Our demo and most of the people that come to our shows are internet wrestling fans and college students.” SLA returns to Alton on April 17 and 18 for their first show of 2015, and perhaps, someday, pro-wrestling may return to Blackburn College.



PHOTO BY ZACH DAUM
At the 2012 St. Louis Anarchy Event Circus Maximus, Dingo (who appeared at Blackburn Brawl) performs a fireman’s carry on ACH.

What’s Hoziers Method to Madness?

By Calean Gruening

In December 2014, Spotify announced musician Andrew Hozier’s single “Take Me to Church” as the most viral track of the year. The Irish-born musician, simply known as Hozier on stage, also received his first Grammy nomination in 2014. Unfortunately it was the New Zealand-born artist, Lorde, that took home the Grammy for song of the year with her smash hit “Royals.” According to senior chemistry major Alex Martin, who experienced a live Hozier performance at the Newport Folk Festival, “Hozier didn’t have the stage presence I expected. He seemed nervous and sang in a very distinctive voice. He also seemed overwhelmed and honored to be playing at the festival.” Of his talent, she added, “Hozier displays such an introspective honesty towards the human condition.” An example would be lyrics from the song “Foreigner’s God,” which Martin quoted verbatim: “Her eyes look sharp and steady into the empty parts of me. But still

my heart is heavy with the hate of some other man’s beliefs.”

It’s no doubt that Hozier belonged in the conversation for song of the year; the man has inexplicable talent. He transcends the role of the everyday entertainer because his self-titled album offers a therapeutic anthem for the angst in us all. Also, Hozier has a real knack for creating lyrics that could be interpreted in many ways. Some lyrics are reminiscent of something quite intimate or romantic. Others may present the perspective of an individual who seems quite sad or separate from others. In an interview posted on Absolutepunk.net, Hozier said of his writing process, “I suppose it’s [writing about] awful things in a pretty way. I try and reflect on human experience as honestly as possible. I was trying to look at the more natural parts of being a person, how limited you are and how lost you can be, but also how there is a joy and a wonder in that.”

“The years leading up

to this album, I was thinking quite a lot about the legacy of the church and the history of the church, and it stems from frustration,” said Hozier when asked about the religious messages in his lyrics. Listeners gain a sense of Hozier’s Gospel roots and his sentiments towards religion as an oppressor of expression. An especially powerful lyric that relays this message comes from the hit song “Take Me to Church” when Hozier sings, “I was born sick, but I love it. Command me to be well. Amen. Amen.” That’s really just the tip of the iceberg, though. Hozier’s new single, “From Eden,” was recently released on the radio and is quickly gaining praise. Here’s a word of advice—don’t expect to recognize one thing (theme, emotion, plot) from any song on Hozier’s album. Listen to a track several times and experience something new and visceral every time.

Barbie 2.0

By Jordyn Smith

For over 45 years, the Barbie doll has been a staple toy in the homes of little girls across the world. In fact, Barbie dolls have become so popular that one is sold every three seconds, according to www.barbiemedia.com. The ultimate career woman, Barbie has done everything from being a gymnast to a veterinarian.

However, many critics have blamed Mattel for creating poor body images for young girls with the creation of the Barbie doll. With an unrealistic waistline and dark makeup, Barbie is quite controversial.

The many criticisms of the Barbie doll have led to the creation of a new doll company—Lammily. But unlike Barbie, the Lammily doll is seen as a realistic version of today's women. Created by

Nickolay Lamm, "Lammily," a combination of Lamm and family, was designed in an effort to promote a more positive body image.

With pronounced wrists, elbows, knees and ankles, the doll features little makeup and offers the body proportions of the average 19-year-old woman. So far, the Lammily doll has been well received. Lamm presented the doll to a second grade class in Pennsylvania and one little girl remarked, "She looks like my sister." "She looks like a regular girl going to school," said another.

According to Missosology. info, "Criticisms of Barbie are often centered on concerns that children consider Barbie a role model and will attempt to emulate her." But isn't that the point? The many careers of the Barbie doll demonstrate



PHOTO BY APRIL

to children that women can take on any role in society. Her clothes and makeup aren't meant to be realistic—she is made of plastic.

You can even purchase

"Lammily Marks," a collection of stickers to customize the doll. The stickers include scars, stretch marks, freckles, acne and cellulite. These stickers will give young girls the wrong idea—that you can just peel off your flaws if you don't like them. That being

said, perhaps freckles and other "imperfections" should have been included on the doll itself. Both the Barbie doll and the Lammily doll are unrealistic. They are not life-sized. They are made of plastic.

WHAT YOU LEARN WHEN YOU LOSE WEIGHT

By Michelle Flood

Weight loss. Our culture is obsessed with it. Between the multibillion-dollar industry that preys on insecurity and constant idealized images in the media, the focus is on looking a certain way, not making healthy choices. Like so many other people, I've struggled with weight my entire life. I've never been obese, but I have been the target of fat jokes since the 3rd grade. My sophomore year of high school, a boy asked me to the homecoming dance and I was thrilled. Two days later, in front of a crowd of about twenty people, he uninvited me to the dance, saying "I'd never go with someone as fat as you." The entire experience wrongfully taught me that my sense of worth should be placed in my physical appearance and since then I've never once felt comfortable in my own skin.

Fast forward five years and a constant fluctuation of about 30 pounds, I decided to do something for myself. The tipping point was watching my only biological grandparent undergo her second open-heart surgery this summer. My grandma is only 67 and watching her struggle to

recover was terrifying. It was then that I decided to get serious about my health and to take care of my heart. It took six months but ultimately I lost 40 pounds, but more importantly I learned a lot about who I am and who I want to be.

As with anything, starting a diet and workout plan is a very personal decision. There are a few things you learn when you decide to lose weight:

You are capable of doing so much more than you think you are. Yes, you can run that extra mile. You can push for another rep. Stop stopping yourself because you think you can't do it. Getting up and doing something feels really good.

Everyone is going to have an opinion and they're going to make sure you hear it. Some of it's well intentioned; some of it is really judgmental. People will congratulate you and people will criticize you. Family, friends and even random acquaintances will tell you how much they think you should weigh or how you should look, but in reality it's no one's business but your own. Do whatever feels right to you.

You're still going to have

bad days. It does not matter what size you are, you're still going to have those days where you feel insecure. The scale is going to fluctuate and that's no indication of success or failure. I expected these bad days to magically disappear, but they don't. It's just part of being human.

Food is even better when you appreciate it. I'm more responsible about what I eat, but you'd be dead wrong if you thought that I don't still eat my favorite foods. In a weird way, being conscious about it makes eating even more fun for me. I'm grateful for my mom's homemade macaroni and cheese and savor each bite a little bit more than I used to.

You learn to love yourself. All of those things that used to make you insecure? You learn to love them even though they're not what you would consider perfect. My legs are not skinny, but they're strong and I'm amazed at how far they can carry me and how much they support me.

Finally, losing weight doesn't change who you are. I am still the same person I was before I lost the weight. The only difference is that I feel better all the way around.



PHOTO BY DAY DONALDSON

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.

PUTTING BEST TO THE TEST

By Karlee Brimberry

Most Matches Won and the 110% Achievement award are just a couple of honors that senior business major Maggie Best has achieved in her tennis career. Best, who has played for Blackburn since her junior year, is ready to kick off her final season this March.

Like any dedicated athlete, Best has not let her off-season be an excuse to slack off. She has been hitting the gym frequently to ensure she will be in the best shape possible come spring season. Best, who played tennis all four years in high school, brings many years of experience to the Lady Beavers Tennis Team.

After coming from a large tennis team in Jerseyville, Ill., Best stated it was a difficult transition going from a team where she was rotated from junior varsity and varsity to coming to Blackburn where

Maggie Best starts off her last year as a Lady Beaver

there are not nearly as many players. This season, Best will be ranked number two in the varsity line-up for singles and number one doubles along with her new partner Megan Williamson.

After receiving the 110% Achievement award her junior year, Best is ready to see what her final year of tennis has in store. A personal goal she has set herself this season is to finally get her killer serve down. Best feels once she is able to get the proper spin and quickness behind her serve, she will win more matches. She is determined to win more matches than she did last season and feels her teammates will as well.

In the fall season the Lady Beavers saw a few new faces on the court. Best said she is very excited to have more players this season. Although the team did not win many matches in the fall season,

the girls had a great time and created strong team chemistry.

Best personally had some strong matches in the fall preseason. Although she may not have won as many matches as she would have liked, many of her matches were close, playing deuce tiebreakers for nearly all of them. However, deuce matches are nothing out of the ordinary for her and she never gives up without putting up a hard fight. Best said that although she always tries to stay positive after every point, sometimes she has to remind herself. She explained, "After each point starts over, if I get too caught up in the fact that I've lost the last three points, I will get down on myself. So I always tell myself every new point is like a new beginning."

The Lady Beavers Tennis team will be starting up March 2 in hopes of a great spring season.



PHOTO BY KARLEE BRIMBERRY

Senior Maggie Best is ready to take on her final year as a Lady Beaver tennis player.

Why Talent Isn't Everything

By Calean Gruening

“You can’t teach size.” This is something frequently said in professional sports, especially in basketball. The NBA often drafts players based solely on innate attributes, such as vertical jump, speed, wingspan and height. Certainly these are factors that are affected by outside variables, like if you ate your Wheaties as a kid, for example. Seriously though, scouts recommend that general managers draft the best available player in the draft.

By best available they usually mean the most talented player. In this context, talent means the most athletic, the quickest or the largest person available. However, he will not always be the best (or the second best player) among the rest.

Take former NBA player Dennis Rodman for example. According to his biography on NBA.com, he was drafted 57th overall (3 shy of the last pick in the draft). This was no surprise because he was 6 foot 7 inches

tall. That's about four inches shorter than what teams usually seek for Rodman's position. He was given a chance and the results were baffling. He led the league in rebounds for seven consecutive years, won five championships along with various other accolades and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011. Recognizing he was shorter, Rodman said, "I'm hungrier than those other guys out there. Every rebound

is a personal challenge.”


It's no surprise to me that those of us who are deemed less talented will rise to a level of success that contradicts what is generally recognized or emphasized by those who dole out opportunity. Rodman and others like him reinvent talent through resilience and determination. In other words, the preferred standard of talent isn't always what it's cracked up to be. Shane Rogers, a senior chemistry major recently tried out for the Chicago Fire, a professional U.S. soccer team. "It wasn't what I expected. The people who made it through the first round of tryouts were mostly younger and foreign," said Rogers. Rogers continued, "These people had a certain charisma, like they knew they were good enough to stand out." He also said, "The judges were clearly looking for strong, lengthy, athletic players."

Undoubtedly, those who fit the standards have a social advantage. Similarly, I wonder how that has been the case with standards of intelligence. Malcolm Gladwell, the author of two international bestselling

books and a writer for the New Yorker, explains in his book “Outliers: The Story of Success” that success in US culture is highly associated with opportunity. Gladwell criticizes a widely used intelligence test called the Raven’s IQ test in saying, “The relationship between success and IQ works only up to a point. Once someone has reached an IQ of somewhere around 120, having additional IQ points doesn’t seem to translate into any measurable real-world advantage [competence-wise]”. Still, according to Gladwell, scores that exceed 120 have real world advantages in academia and the job market. In other words, the higher IQ is generally related to more opportunity, even when it poses no real advantage.

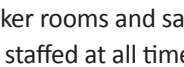
Either way, when it comes to sports or intelligence, one should wonder who is being omitted because they don't meet the standards. Additionally, would the have-nots be as good as or better than the standard if given the chance?

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America’s Delayed Reaction

By Jon Griffel

Soccer has hit the United States in full force. Soccer, or football as it’s referred to in Europe, has long been the world’s most popular sport. However, the United States has never shared this passion for the game, as sports such as baseball, football and basketball have captured the love of the fans. There could be a change on the horizon. The 2014 World Cup had more viewership in the United States than any previous year. According to ESPN, 9.6 million Americans watched the match between the United

States and Belgium. In comparison, the 2014 National Basketball Association Finals garnered 15.5 million viewers, which was a high number for that league as well. So why has this craze hit the U.S. now? The main reason is the development of Major League Soccer (MLS). This league was established in 1996 by a group of private investors. There were initially ten teams, but by 2000 financial hardship had forced two of the teams to fold. Most of the teams were playing in near empty American football stadiums

and drawing little interest from fans. In 2002 the league decided to expand to 19 teams, with another coming in 2015. The average attendance for MLS games in 2013 was higher than the average attendance for both the NBA and NHL. The MLS has even signed major television deals for the coming years to increase their exposure. In recent years there has been speculation that St. Louis could be in the running for an expansion team. St. Louis has hosted many exhibition games in the last five years, with national teams and MLS teams both coming to play. Junior soccer fan Nathan Wagner stated, “I would watch and support the heck out of a St. Louis franchise.” In 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina faced Argentina in a friendly match at Busch Stadium. This game sold out and showed that St. Louis can be a viable destination for MLS teams. The MLS took notice of this, as they recently announced



PHOTO BY BRENT FLANDERS

Eddie Johnson played in the USA vs Guatemala game, the CONCACAF qualifier for the 2014 World Cup.

that St. Louis would be home to a United Soccer League team. While the team doesn’t yet have an official name, they are currently hosting local tryouts to assemble their team. The addition of this professional franchise to St. Louis will serve as a test to

see if the MLS will create an expansion team in the city. The addition of an MLS franchise could help American football fans also, as there is discussion to split a new stadium between the St. Louis Rams and the potential expansion franchise.

Sports Events Schedule

Blackburn College Women’s Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Feb. 21	Greenville (Away)	1:00 p.m.
Tues, Feb. 24	Fontbonee (Home)	6:00 p.m.

Blackburn College Men’s Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Feb. 21	Greenville (Away)	3:00 p.m.
Tues, Feb. 24	Fontbonne (Home)	8:00 p.m.

Blackburn College Men’s Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Wed, Mar. 4	MacMurray (Away)	12:00 p.m.
Wed, Mar. 4	MacMurray (Away)	2:30 p.m.

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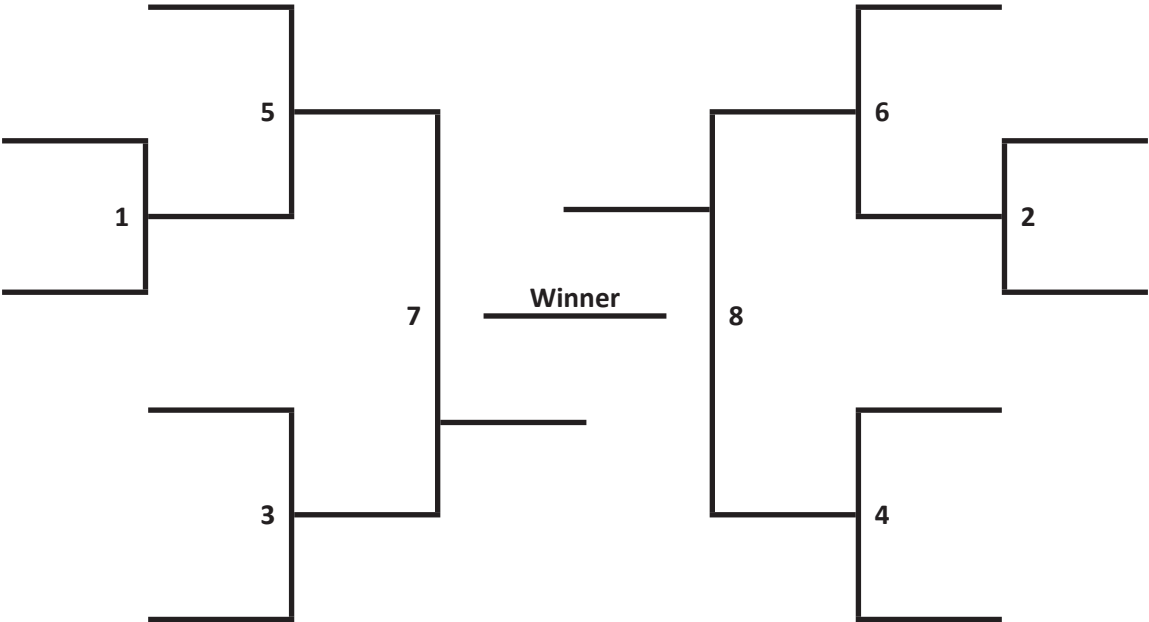
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Is Barney the Best? Here’s the Test

By Jon Griffel

We all know that Barney the Beaver is Blackburn’s mascot. He is very unique and close to one of a kind. But how does Barney match up with the mascots from other schools in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC)? To answer this question once and for all, The ‘Burnian is proud to announce the first ever mascot bracket. In the coming issues, we will watch as mascots are defeated until only one mascot stands triumphant. The winners of each matchup

and the eventual champion will be decided by you, our faithful readers. To vote on each of the mascots, just tweet at The ‘Burnian or post your picks to our Facebook page. Choose one winner out of each matchup and the mascot that garners the highest number of votes will win its matchup. Keep in mind that we are comparing just the mascots in this bracket, not comparing the schools themselves. Here’s a look at the bracket.



- Blackburn Beavers vs Eureka Red Devils
- Fontbonne Griffins vs Greenville Panthers
- Iowa Wesleyan Tigers vs MacMurray Highlanders
- Principia Panthers vs Spalding Golden Eagles
- Webster Gorloks vs Westminster Blue Jays

10 TEAM SINGLE ELIMINATION