

# THE BURNIAN

The Award-Winning Student Newspaper at Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL • Oldest College Newspaper in Illinois, since 1881

## A Midsummer Night's Dream (Come True)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLACKBURN PERFORMING ARTS

By Jazilyn Colon

Two actors in Blackburn's recent production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" were selected to compete for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. This scholarship provides recognition and financial assistance to outstanding student performers wishing to further pursue their education in any field they choose. Freshman art major Mary Kline (who played Helena) and sophomore art and creative writing

double major Sara Hyneman (who played Bottom) were both selected to compete for this scholarship by Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Principia College Dr. Jeffrey Steele. "Through the generosity of the Provost, I was able to enter this fall production in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, the regional level of it. We entered and the first step was to have

the respondent come," explained Theatre Professor Dr. Kate Roark. "We got assigned a respondent [Steele] who was a really good fit for this show. He came and saw the show and he had the option of nominating up to two students to go to the regional festival and compete for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship." According to Kline, "He [Steele] selected us kind of privately, then

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## Students Serving the World Around Them

By Jess Willard

Members of the campus community gathered in the lobby of the Demuzio Campus Center on Nov. 13 to donate their time and items to Operation Christmas Child. This project is housed under the Samaritan's Purse, which is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization that provides aid to people around the world. A new group on campus known as Gathering for Fellowship and Service introduced the project to the campus community to get students involved. The group is part of the work ministry intern Jenny

Hardin is doing with College Chaplain Erica Brown. They requested that Blackburn students, faculty and staff bring small items for the shoeboxes they were sending to the organization. Hardin's internship with Blackburn is part of the Master of Divinity program through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. She is focusing on ecumenical and interfaith cooperation. She said this will be the first of many service opportunities that will be available to the campus. "[This] means I hope to work to bring together

students from many different faith backgrounds to work for a common goal of service to the Blackburn community, the Carlinville community and the world," she said. One of the ways she is implementing this is through helping student leaders with their ideas for service projects. "Each month will have a student leader who helps develop an idea for service and organize the gathering," she added. "And, the service project we do will change from month to month." Hardin strongly believes that service will foster a greater sense of community on campus. She hopes that new friends and fun will happen in the process.

Brown's role in Gathering for Fellowship and Service is providing support to help Hardin and student leaders complete their goals. She thinks there is much need in the world and wants to find ways to fulfill those needs. In her opinion, Operation Christmas Child was doable for

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## What's the Hold Up with Campus Maintenance Revisited

Statement from Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Residence Life Abbey Hardin

Dean Heinz and I met with our new service representatives on Nov. 18. Our previous service representatives were not consistent with their responses to our concerns. They were based in Chicago, so it also wasn't easy for them to get down to us on a regular basis. The maintenance serviceman was from St. Louis, however, and he made weekly visits and service calls when maintenance issues were reported. Our previous reporting procedure was to call into the company and let them know the problem and the machine. The company has significantly better technology, but our representatives hadn't told us about it. So, we were using outdated, slow processes.

After voicing our concerns to company administrators, we were reassigned to a service provider out of St. Louis, who immediately set up a meeting.

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**"I believe that the process of coming together and seeing the difference we make as a community is a positive."**

**- Erica Brown**

# Students Serving

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college students since the gifts were small and inexpensive. Brown understands that it can be difficult for students to give with their limited funds. “I believe that the process of coming together and seeing the difference we make as a community is a positive,” she said.

Sophomore professional writing major Shelby Rainford was the student leader who chose Operation Christmas Child as the project for

November. She had been donating to the cause since she was a little girl and it held good memories for her. She said, “It’s easy, inexpensive and doable for a large group.” To her, giving to kids in other countries who usually wouldn’t have a Christmas speaks volumes. She believes that Gathering for Fellowship and Service will “help students to use skills from here to benefit the world around them.”

In addition to the monthly

service project, Hardin provides other ways for students to get involved with Gathering for Fellowship and Service. She hosts a Bible study in the Mahan atrium every Monday at 7 p.m. She also has a small group meeting in the Mahan atrium every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. The group will be exploring beliefs and faith backgrounds. Everyone is welcome.



Erica Brown sorts through donated gifts to Operation Christmas Child, while Jennifer Hardin wraps shoeboxes

## Midsummer Night’s Dream

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Dr. Roark told us afterwards at the cast party and announced the two people that won.” Roark stated that Steele was a professional actor who studied in the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham. “He is a Shakespearean scholar, actor, and director,” said Roark. “The experience of having the respondent come

work of every actor in the show. There wasn’t a weak link. They were a true excellent ensemble.”

When the two women found out that they were selected to compete for this scholarship, they were shocked. According to Hyneman, “I cried excessively. A lot of the cast were saying

response. She stated, “I cried; I cried so hard. I didn’t think I was going to get it because when the guy came and talked to us, he was telling all of the other actors how well they did and also things that they can improve on, but mostly was giving them compliments. He only talked to me just the tiniest bit and barely looked at me. And I was like ‘man, he didn’t like me’ and then at the cast party they told me and I just started crying so hard.”

According to Roark the next step in the competition is for her to find the means to get these two nominees and some other students to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Regional Festival which will be held Jan. 5 through Jan. 9 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Roark stated, “It [the festival] offers so many more opportunities to get feedback in all areas of theatre.”

Kline had a similar

“I’m very proud of the work of every actor in the show. There wasn’t a weak link.”

- Kate Roark

has been hugely beneficial. As a one person department, you know I’m the only one giving them feedback and so they get used to what I have to say. A new perspective that enforces a lot of what I’ve been saying was really valuable to the students... I’m proud of the

# B-I-N-G-O was His Name-o!

By Kyle Kutak

Platinum bingo, hosted by the Campus Activities Board (CAB), is the most popular event they host each semester. Senior CAB worker Natasha Anthony said, “Everybody comes to this event. When we held it in Bothwell, it was completely full. People will come to this event like an hour before to get a seat and a bingo card.” This year’s platinum bingo will be held in Demuzio Campus Center on December 12. Since many people arrive early, CAB workers will hold a lip sync battle before the bingo games start. Many incoming students also already know about this event because of upperclassmen tales. Freshman molecular biology major Caleb Huffines said, “During summer orientation I remember my orientation leaders telling me about platinum bingo, and how it was one of the biggest events on campus and everyone goes.”

There are difference prizes each year. Past items included a TV, iPad, iPod, Xbox, Visa gift card (to the bookstore), refrigerator filled with food, Beats pill, futon, laptop and Android tablet. CAB student workers have yet to decide the platinum prizes for this year’s event. This semester, winners will only know what they’ve won once they unwrap their prize. Anthony said “If everyone knew what the prizes

were...the TV would be the first to go.” Previous winner Morgan Baldner said, “I won a 32 inch Samsung smart TV last year. To win this, I had to draw a rubber duck and the number on the bottom corresponded with a present.”

Also, to win these prizes you have to play many different variations of bingo. Many of the popular ones played are regular bingo, blackout (where the whole card has to be filled), diagonal (which is a diagonal row marked), the “X” (where an “x” is marked from both diagonals) and the postage stamp (which is a box made by four covered numbers located in the upper right hand corner of the bingo card).

“This is such a reward for the students at the end of the semester, to go out with a bang,” said Anthony. This is not only incentive for the students, but an event that encourages the whole campus to join as one. The cost of the event changes from year to year because of the prizes offered. CAB student workers choose gifts each year that they feel are needed in students’ lives. These gifts are not necessities but wants the students might not be able to afford. CAB’s whole purpose of organizing events like these is to keep students busy and give them something to look forward to each semester.

BINGO				
14	28	41	47	69
12	27	32	54	61
5	17	FREE	49	75
2	20	39	48	74
4	19	44	58	65

NEWS

JOIN US!

The 'Burnian is looking for students with ink in their veins to join the staff of the oldest college newspaper in Illinois. Help serve the Blackburn community by writing with us!

Please prepare your résumé and writing samples and email us at burnian@blackburn.edu.

THE BURNIAN

# Dude, What a Drag!

By Mary Kline

Blackburn’s LGBTQIA club hosts quite a few events throughout the year, including informational meetings about sexuality, a World AIDs Day meeting and, most recently a performance of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” In order to make enough money to support all of their events, the club has to hold fundraisers. Spectrum’s main fundraiser is their annual drag show, which will take place in Woodson next March. It is open to all students and for the first time, it will also be completely open to the community as long as accompanied by a Blackburn student, faculty or staff member.

“I am very excited! This is a chance for Spectrum to become more known, show how the campus is diverse and accepting of anyone and it will of course bring in more money being that it’s a fundraiser for the club that helps members to improve the club, pay for events and buy books or other educational materials as well for the club,” said sophomore communications major, Blade Williams. “I would be lying if I said I do not have concerns. I do not know how many people to expect or anything, but I put my faith and trust in Courtney, the performers, the club members, and Security that we will have a successful

show this upcoming March! I hope to see everyone there! The night will be a divine one no one should miss.” Williams performed in last year’s drag show and was known as “Dame Divine.”

A lot of work goes into the setup of the drag show. Preparations start immediately after “Rocky Horror” and continue all the way up to the day of the event. According to Spectrum president Courtney Egner, the club hires professional drag queens who both participate in the show and help students learn the ropes of drag. “Every year our main problem is finding queens to perform in the show. This year, our host, Velvet Love, has found queens for us already and we have at least seven professionals that will be helping with the show,” stated Egner. Once Spectrum has both student and professional queens, (and kings for women who wish to perform in the show as well) lights and sound have to be set up for each of their performances. A performance at a drag show usually consists of the lip-syncing of a song along with a dance. There are typically three songs done together by all the participants of the show and then individual kings and queens do at least one performance of their own.

Spectrum has had a lot of difficulty getting administration to allow them to have professional queens come in to assist the students in the past. For example, last year each student that participated in the drag show was only allowed to have two outside guests. Both guests were required to wear bracelets and had to be chaperoned by the student that they were with.

As drag queens make money through tips, the show is set up so that the queens and kings can come down and interact with the audience. The people that come to the show bring dollar bills and tip the queens or kings that they like the best. All the tip money goes to supporting Spectrum. Last year, Spectrum made \$1,200 and they’re hoping to at least match that amount during this year’s show.

“Be prepared, you’re going to have people touching you, one year when I did it I had to have five people binding me with binding tape. If you’re a dude, be prepared to wear makeup, we’re going to put you in a dress, heels—everything. We will make you a queen,” Egner said. For students interested in participating in the show, the level of preparation time is immense and takes lots of dedication. On the day of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY EGNER

Courtney Egner and Blade Williams at last year’s drag show

show queens usually arrive to begin their makeup at 3 p.m. and typically undergo at least 5 hours of beautifying according to Egner. Students and community members that wish to be a king or queen must attend four informational meetings prior to the show, the first of which took place in early November.

“I partake in the Drag Show hosted by Spectrum here on campus because I have a passion to entertain. It’s not because I myself am part of the LGBTQIA community. Anyone, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, can perform in a drag show provided that women are

comfortable enough to awaken their inner Drag King and men are comfortable enough to bring out their inner Drag Queen,” said Williams. “I have always had a fondness of playing dress-up and acting since I was younger. I love being in plays and shadow casts and acting. It’s different, it’s fun and given the right dress and stilettos and song I can rock the stage, which is what every entertainer has a passion and loves to do.” The cost of admission is \$3.00 for students, alumni, faculty and staff. For community members, admission is \$5.00.

# The Wait is (Finally) Over



ILLUSTRATION BY NOAH DAUM

With faster internet speeds, students, faculty and staff can access files and work on projects more efficiently

By Kyle Kutak

Have you noticed a change in the speed of the internet on campus? The internet runs at a bandwidth (information flow over time) of 70 megabits per second (mbps). Director of Technology Services Jason Cloninger said, “That is a fast

speed, but due to the increased usage of internet on campus, Blackburn has decided to work with Frontier, the internet service provider currently used, to design a new contract to almost double the 70 mbps to approximately 140 mbps.”

Cloninger also stated, “Blackburn is already paying about \$2,200 per month for the internet service. Improving the wireless internet will increase the price to about \$2,600 per month. A gift from an anonymous donor is where the

money to fix the internet issue will be coming from.”

Torrenting, or file distribution in mass quantities, is something that can contribute to the slowing of the internet. This has been a problem on the Blackburn campus in the past. Cloninger said, “I do not see as many people torrenting as they used to. It does affect bandwidth and this is still an issue, but when we educated them in the past, I feel that they responded well. I do however feel the biggest consumer these days is video. Cisco did a study in the U.S. where in the last 5 years, Internet Protocol traffic has increased 5 fold.” Together, Netflix and YouTube make up almost half of the bandwidth used for downloads in 2015.

Professor of computer science Dr. Joshua Gross stated, “From a professor’s point view, it is a struggle when the internet is slow because I use Google Docs a lot in my classes, and when all the students in the whole class are trying to access the same document at the same

time it gets frustrating. I cannot analyze the documents as quickly as I would like for this reason. There is nothing I can fall back to that is readily there, hence why I use google docs.”

A period of rest, also meaning a break from the internet continuously running, between the late night hours of 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. may be implemented to minimize the usage of devices not in use.

Freshman environmental science major Samuel Scheid stated, “The internet is a big part of all the student’s lives here on campus. Many of us do use it for Netflix, YouTube, Pandora, etc., but we do need it for our homework. It sometimes very frustrating when the internet is slow because you cannot research the things you need to research within a timely matter.”

The internet is proposed to be upgraded over the winter break, so it is anticipated that the internet will be up and running when students return for the spring semester.

Blackburn Breaks Out Winter Working Opportunities

Take Some Pride in Your Halls



Benjamin Nichols hopes to work during winter break to gain further experience

By Mary Kline and Jess Willard

Winter break work gives students the opportunity to have a job on campus after the fall semester ends and before the spring semester begins. Students can stay in the residence halls for free but they will have to provide food for themselves. The dining hall will not be serving food during this time. Twenty-three different departments offer job positions although many have already been filled. Applications were due on Nov. 20. However, Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis believes that some departments should have openings through December. “Most likely campus maintenance and campus services will have openings,” he said.

According to Weis, break work has been available since he arrived here thirteen years ago. “This allows supervisors to get work done that they couldn’t get done during the semester,” he said. Typically, winter break work lasts two work weeks but students will only work seven days this year. Weis said this change was

implemented due to double instruction period ending on Dec. 18. “It’s looking like students will be working from the fourth through the eighth,” he added. Campus closes on Dec. 23 through Jan. 3 so students cannot work during that period of time. Some departments may have their students work Dec. 21 and 22 but Weis thinks that working only the week before the spring semester would be less of an awkward transition. Students will be paid \$8.25 an hour. He said, “It depends on the department but the general expectation is eight hours a day.”

Sophomore graphic arts major Kelsie Smith was hired to work this winter for the Office of Marketing and Public Relations. She also worked for the department last spring and summer vacations. “I like being on Blackburn campus,” she said. “I don’t want to be stuck at home.” Smith believes that break work provides students with many benefits including extra work experience related to their

majors. She will be creating posters, flyers and banners. These work assignments will allow her to apply her graphic design knowledge. Junior communications major Patrick Benedict worked in the Office of Marketing and Public Relations during last year’s break. He appreciated that living on campus gave him a large quiet space to stay. He also got to know his supervisors better since there were less students around. “Any opportunity to work is a good opportunity,” he said.

Senior environmental biology major Benjamin Nichols wasn’t happy about working in a position unrelated to his major last winter. Certain departments fill up quickly and many students end up working in physical plant. Nichols worked for HVAC (heating, vacuuming and air conditioning) but said, “It didn’t help me grow as a worker.” Weis suggested that it would benefit students to apply as soon as possible. They should fill out the break work application in the work office and follow the directions on it. They must turn in the application to the supervisor of the department they want to be hired by. “Make certain you know the requirements of the job and that you can work,” he said.

Weis recognized that Blackburn benefits from students working after the semester ends. “Professionals could do the work more efficiently,” he said. “But break work gives students the opportunity to understand the work program better.” Weis stated that students tend to work in a different department than they are usually in. These students often learn to better appreciate other positions on campus. He was shocked that supervisors aren’t getting more applicants for the winter. Blackburn announcements show what positions are open so students can check if their preferred department is still hiring.

By Angela Andrews and Karlee Brimberry

Jewell Hall, the all-freshmen dorm, has had many complaints about cleanliness this semester, specifically in the bathrooms and kitchen. Many students are not happy with the dirty conditions and believe that people should clean up after themselves. Freshman Tyla Ross, who lives on the first floor in Jewell and is also a worker in Campus Services (CS), says that it’s the result of immaturity.

In early November, the kitchen in Jewell was shut down for a week. Jewell’s Resident Assistant, senior Morgan Baldner, stated that the kitchen was closed down because students would leave dishes and pots with food still in them for days. The rules state that you have 24 hours to take your dishes and pots out of the kitchen or they will get thrown out. The decision was made by all members of residence life in Jewell Hall, including sophomore resident assistants Jourdan Greene, Ben Fletcher and Casidy Mefford, and Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Residence Life Abbey Hardin.

This decision highlighted a huge discrepancy for some students. According to Freshman Deja Luckett, there are dirty kitchens in other halls, including Stoddard. She is a CS worker and cleans Stoddard Hall as a part of her work duties, which is how she knows the cleanliness of other buildings. Hardin stated, “There’s not a good system for cleaning the kitchens in Stoddard and Jewell, or the microwaves in any other hall. Campus services sweeps and mops the kitchens. Residence life tries to wipe down counters, wipe out microwaves, etc. However, with the volume of use these items receive, it’s not enough to keep up and keep them clean.”

Luckett feels that not every student should be punished because of how unclean other students can be. “The biggest

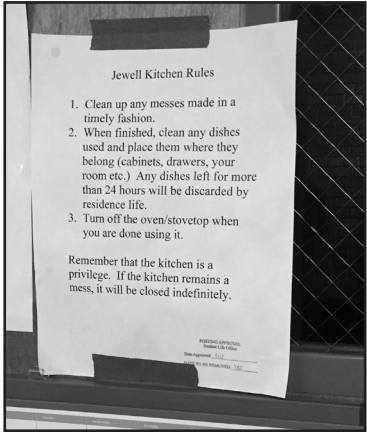


PHOTO BY ANGELA ANDREWS

**The Jewell Hall kitchen rules explain to students how to maintain cleanliness and warn them of the consequences if they don’t abide**

problem with having the kitchen closed is that some residents might not have time to go to Ding, which leaves them hungry,” said Luckett. She also believes that the rules in Jewell Hall should be enforced more.

“It is not CS’ responsibility to clean the kitchen, it’s the responsibility of the residents,” said Baldner. Baldner said it took a week to clean the kitchen up, and also stated that even though students were upset about the kitchen closing, they do have the rules posted on the door in the kitchen. Hardin stated, “[Residence Life], and other students, rely on the students using the facilities to clean up after themselves. Unfortunately, that doesn’t always happen, and in the case of Jewell we closed the kitchen for a week after the Jewell Residence Life staff cleaned it. This prompted the Jewell house council to come up with a plan for cleaning it regularly. Kyle Kutak, the house council president can provide that info to you.”

The kitchen is currently open again but Baldner says that if students fail to keep it clean, then there is a chance it could be closed down for the semester. Ross feels that students should show pride in their dorm halls by keeping them as clean as they possibly can and picking up their messes when they are made, not hours or days later when someone complains about it.

What’s the Hold Up with Campus Maintenance Revisited

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At that meeting they toured our facilities, discussed options for getting rid of coin operated machines and provided us with technology options.

In short, our relationship with the company has improved significantly. We are in the process of moving to a procedure where students can download an app on their

phone and immediately report maintenance issues with the machines themselves by scanning the barcode on the machine and outlining the problem. They can also request a refund through the app if the machine takes their money.

Further, we’re in the process of evaluating other options than the coin operated

machine. The company offers options for inclusive laundry (students pay one cost in addition to their room or board and then laundry is “free”), a debit/credit option where students use their card at the machine or a smart card option where students load money on a card and then use that card at the machine. We’re also

looking into an additional service where students can view machine availability/how much time is left/how long it’s been since the machine’s cycle ended via a website/app. This also lets you set an alarm to notify you when machines become available.

If students have any concerns about moving

away from coin operated laundry please contact me directly with those concerns! Similarly, if they feel strongly about moving away from coin operated laundry please let me know so I can provide information to the appropriate decision makers.

# Blackburn Softball Team Will Drive You Quizzy

By Mary Kline

Last month, the Blackburn softball team hosted their Trivia Night and Silent Auction fundraiser in Mahan. According to Softball and Volleyball Coach and Senior Administrator Jordan Barton, the money from the event went to support the team’s annual trip to South Carolina. The team will be going to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina during spring break to participate in a softball tournament.

This is only the second time that the softball team has held this fundraiser. The first time occurred three years ago and was fairly successful, making about \$1,000. According to Barton, the softball team came up with the idea themselves and needed very little motivation to set up the event. “It’s great to see people having a good time and supporting the team,” said Outfielder Abby Sutton.

There were several categories for the trivia section of the event including a Disney section, a sports section and a “get to know your softball team” category. Both Barton and the softball team hoped that by hosting this event, people would get to know their team better and perhaps even show more support for the team. “The girls were really excited and couldn’t wait to meet the people that participated in the event,” said Barton. In order to join in on the trivia portion



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Students gather in support of the softball team by participating in Trivia Night

of the fundraiser, students had to pay \$100 for a table and worked in teams of about 10, splitting the cost so that it was \$10 a person to participate in the game.

For those that wanted only to participate in the silent auction part of the event or who just came to watch the trivia competitors, it was \$10 at the door. There were 10 rounds of trivia throughout the night. ““I want to see if we can get any questions right,” said Sophomore Delanie Casto, who came to support the girls. The winner of the trivia night was the team that scored the most points by the end of the night which just so happened to be Casto’s team. The prize awarded to the winning team was \$10 back to each person on the team and \$15 gift certificate for the team shop. The team shop sells Blackburn apparel

for the season that friends and family can buy to support the team. The silent auction ran throughout the whole event. In order to participate, bidders write bids down and others come after them and make them higher until the end of the event at which point the highest bidder wins.” The money donated is appreciated. We can accomplish what we’ve wanted for a long time,” said Barton.

Free snacks were provided at the softball team’s silent auction for participants to munch on while they placed their bids. According to outfielder Abby Sutton, students that were 21 received one free drink ticket. People who were of age and wanted to use the cash bar were given wrist bands.

# Transferring Credits

By Angela Andrews and Jess Willard

There has been controversy on campus with rumors spreading about credits not transferring after a student’s freshman year. According to freshman Elizabeth Johnston, “When I first came here, upperclassmen would tell me that if I didn’t transfer after my freshman year that all my credits after that would not transfer.” Director of Transfer Admissions John Malin said that claims like these are definitely rumors because it depends on the classes you take to see which credits do transfer or not. Malin, who is in charge of transfer students, says that Blackburn accepts credits from accredited colleges and universities as long as you earned an A, B, or C. However, the college does not accept anything below those grades unless you have an associate’s degree. For example, if you obtained an associate’s degree with 60 credit hours but two of your classes were D’s, Blackburn would take all credits. However, if you didn’t obtain an associate’s degree and transferred with 55 hours and two D’s, the credits for the courses with D’s would not be accepted.

Registrar and Advising Services Coordinator Dianna Ruyle also negated the rumors, saying it’s an urban myth that there are many issues with transferring credits to Blackburn. The most common issue she faces are transferring credits when the student

earned a grade below C minus because, as Malin stated, Blackburn will not accept them. Another issue she has faced is transferring vocational credits. “Office technology, specialized or vocational courses will not be transferred,” Ruyle said. “This is not to downplay the importance of these courses. They simply don’t transfer towards a degree here.” She recognized that outside of these issues, not all transferred courses will be a perfect match. However, she said professors are good at working with students to make up for deficiencies in certain areas and added that if any students have questions about transferred credits, they should feel free to talk to her.

According to Malin, the process is as follows: Official transcripts are requested and reviewed to see if any credits match up with similar classes provided at Blackburn. Malin stated that as long as the courses are going to a similar type of program, or by keeping the same major, there should be no problem with credits transferring. According to Malin, Blackburn has purchased a software package that the school is now working on installing. It is an all-automated system that matches courses electronically from school to school with the purpose of making it simpler to get students into classes similar to what they are already taking.

# Sodexo Pizza is the Pizza for You and Me

By Jazilyn Colon

There is a policy between Sodexo and Blackburn College that has been in effect since 2009 that states if dorms or clubs want food for an event they must go through Sodexo first. According to Sodexo General Manager Tim Lucas, “We have in that policy between those two entities a clause that’s called an exclusivity clause ... Anything that happens on the college campus we have what’s known as exclusivity for those events where we are the primary contact for all those events.”

According to Jones hall Resident Assistant Laurel Petri, “I do not like it. I think we should be able to choose what food or pizza we want for our program and not be forced to get Sodexo food.” Jewel Hall Resident Assistant Ben Fletcher stated, “I think [the policy] is kind of ridiculous. Yes, Sodexo provides the food for the school, but...no one

really wants to go to an event if the free food is something they can get in Ding twice a day.”

Lucas responded to the criticisms, stating, “We work closely with groups to develop menus that are unique to their wants and tastes. We provide a wide variety of food items that are not provided in Ding or Snack Bar ...While this is a long standing policy at Blackburn, I do not insist on a strict application. I simply ask that groups come to me first.”

Stoddard hall house council president Ashley Spears, who recently had Sodexo cater an event in her dorm, stated that, “They [Sodexo] were very helpful, and the process was pretty easy. Nothing too complicated. The prices seemed decently reasonable. Overall, I did not have any complaints or problems with Sodexo.”

According to Lucas, “If

you’re having an event, here’s the way I do it: I ask everybody to give me a chance to do a bid on your event. Let me see what I can do for you ... There are some times where they want a particular something we don’t do, but I just simply ask ‘hey, can I have at least first shot?’ Let’s see what we come up with. I might be able to save some money for your organization.”

In order for dorms and clubs to have Sodexo provide food for their events, they need to fill out an event form which can be found in the administration, bookstore, public folder on the shared drive, which a staff or faculty sponsor of any club has access to. They also would need to let Sodexo know at least a week in advance before any event. For more information contact Tim Lucas at tim.lucas@blackburn.edu.



Though the semester is not yet over, there have been 10 clery reportable incidents on campus.

During the month of September there were three clery reportable incidents: one alcohol offense that took place in a residence hall and two reports of stalking, one in a residence hall and another in a residence hall, campus property and in an academic building.

There were five clery reportable incidents during the month of October. There was one report of stalking in a residence hall, two incidents with controlled substances located outside of a residence hall and off-campus and two

reports of sexual assault, both in residence halls.

Two clery reportable incidents occurred during the month of November. There was one alcohol offense in a residence hall and one report of stalking and intimidation in a parking lot.

Incidents that occurred over the course of the semester that were not clery reportable include: suspicion of controlled substance, suspicion of theft, hit and run to vehicle, theft from public area, medical emergency, vehicle vandalism, vehicle crash, threat of physical altercation, emotional emergency, stolen bicycle, and harassment.





# Warframe: Free to Play, All the Way

By Bryan Bethel

For gamers who love new, exciting video games but hate having to pay actual money for them, “Warframe” is the game for you. Set far into the future where machines and cyborgs are trying to take over the solar system, the goal of the game is to eliminate these robotic threats from each planet. Players take control of a mysterious character called Tenno, a humanoid creature with a powerful suit of armor known as “The Warframe.” Tenno allows players to unleash insane attacks and wield weapons with extreme proficiency. Players have the ability to play solo, or they can connect with other “Warframe” players online to battle against the enemy factions.

Even though “Warframe” is free to play, the game has a system for players to pay real money for premium in-game weapons and suits. Players can alternatively create new suits, called Warframes, which give them boosts in either attack, defense, or speed and different abilities to unlock and upgrade. Creating a new suit unfortunately takes a long time

– sometimes several days just to craft the parts to make the suit itself – however, players can pay for in-game currency to speed up the process and buy a new suit automatically. While there is nothing in the game that players cannot unlock through repetitively playing the same missions over and over again, many people may opt to simply purchase new equipment to shorten the process.

While some are overjoyed at the fact that there is a futuristic RPG-style game that can be played for free, some people are less enthusiastic, claiming this game is just like other free-to-play games, such as “Candy Crush” or “Angry Birds 2.” Senior psychology major Joshua Thompson, who is one such gamer, said, “Yeah it’s [“Warframe”] free to play, but unless you start buying more powerful weapons, it gets difficult to keep up with other players. I was stuck in an online game where I had the basic starter weapons and the other guy I was playing with had bought one of the best weapons in the game – it

was more than upsetting, and I haven’t played since.” Other students are happy simply to have an interesting game that is free to play. Junior computer science major Christian Bailey said, “Even though I don’t have the most overpowered

weapon in “Warframe,” I still have a fun time. I just like to run around as a badass space ninja and kill everything.”

Even though gamers are on the fence about the in-game purchases, “Warframe” is still an exciting game, allowing

players to explore our solar system and destroy evil robots. “Warframe” is free to download on PS4 and Xbox One through the Play Store and on PC at WarFrame.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOLIDSMAX

Players get to shoot through space to save a dystopian solar system in Warframe

## Blackburn Hits the Stage

By Jess Willard

Two of the latest productions on Blackburn campus were the “Rocky Horror Picture Show” Shadow Cast and the 44th annual Madrigal Dinner.

The shadow cast took place at midnight on Nov. 13 and showed again at 7 p.m. and midnight on Nov. 14. “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” film was displayed on the projector while students acted out the scenes. Audience members were invited to

interact with the performers through callbacks and props. Freshman psychology major Austin Carter said, “The show was fantastic and I noticed most people loved it. I couldn’t imagine spending my sleep-deprived weekend another way.” Carter worked the spotlights for the production.

The Madrigal Dinner took place at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20 and 21. It featured music from Blackburn Voices and a skit called “The Sorry Tellers.” The

skit focused on a competition to find the best storyteller in the kingdom. Food was served throughout the show. While the music and performances change each year, the basic framework stays the same. Chair of Performing Arts Dr. Elizabeth Zobel directed the Blackburn Voices during the production. She said, “It’s a candlelit, magical experience. It’s nice to see the hard work come together.”



PHOTO BY DANIELLE ANDERSON

The Lords and Ladies of Songe sing a carol for the audience to enjoy



PHOTO BY DANIELLE ANDERSON

Jester cackles while Mertonsire doesn’t seem to get the joke



PHOTO BY DANIELLE ANDERSON

Performers pose for a wedding photo

# You May Now Deck the Halls

By Karlee Brimberry

Don’t get me wrong, I love Christmas as much as anyone else, but nothing annoys me more than seeing every store decorated for Christmas the day after Halloween and completely skipping over Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a very important holiday, not only because you get to eat endless amounts of turkey and mashed potatoes, but also because it is a time to give thanks for everything around you. We live in a consumer world where most people are more concerned with buying the next big thing instead of focusing on what they already have and should be thankful for.

Most stores open on the evening of Thanksgiving

in order for the biggest shopping day of the year – commonly referred to as Black



PHOTO BY KARLEE BRIMBERRY

The Blackburn Bookstore, along with many other stores, had its Christmas tree up since before Thanksgiving break

Friday. I’m sure some of you participated in Black Friday, as I did. My sisters and I even

thought about going all out and standing in lines the night of Thanksgiving. However,

but they do not decorate for Christmas until after Thanksgiving has taken

the three of us agreed that we do not support stores opening on Thanksgiving in order for Black Friday to take place. Those of you who participated in Black Friday may have noticed a few stores that were not open on Thanksgiving Day. According to the Huffington Post, those stores include: Costco, Marshalls, Barnes & Noble, GameStop, T.J. Maxx, Neiman Marcus, Burlington Coat Factory, Nordstrom, Dillard’s, REI, American Girl, Sam’s Club and Patagonia.

Many of the stores listed above all announced that they want their workers to be able to enjoy their holiday with the day off in acknowledgement. However, out of all 13 stores, I found Nordstrom’s tradition the most interesting. Not only does Nordstrom not open for Black Friday the Thursday evening of Thanksgiving,

place. I think this is great and I wish more stores would do this. Nordstrom’s sign on their doors says that they like the idea of “celebrating one holiday at a time” and that they will open their doors on Friday to welcome in a new season. I shop at Nordstrom for this specific reason during the holidays because I fully support what they are doing. I feel if more stores did this, more shoppers would respect them and possibly enjoy the holiday season a little more. Sophomore biology major Amber Elmore also participated in Black Friday shopping in the past; however, she does not take it to the extreme of going on Thanksgiving night either. “I think it’s ridiculous how stores recognize Christmas right after Halloween and completely ignore Thanksgiving. You can hardly ever walk into a store without hearing Christmas music in the beginning of November,” said Elmore.

Now that Thanksgiving is over, I am ready to take on crazy shopping malls while seeing Santa and his Elves, as well as all the Christmas music that goes along with the mall holiday spirit.

# The Problem With Profanity

By Ethan Leach

There seems to be an epidemic in our society when it comes to the use of profane language. Now when I make this statement, I suppose I could easily be mistaken for an elderly man, sitting on my porch lamenting how poorly behaved kids are these days. You may even expect my next statement to begin with “Back in my day...”

This image isn’t me at all. I’m a young student myself. I don’t think this generation is hopeless, and to tell you the truth, I’m actually not bothered by profanity. You could say I’m desensitized, and I don’t know—maybe I am. The truth is, I can remember hearing this language at a young age and while I certainly wouldn’t add these words to my vocabulary, I didn’t really find them

offensive.

That being said, however, I think it’s unfortunate that the stigma against profanity has largely disappeared. I know that if you swear, chances are your parents, friends or colleagues will tell you to watch your language. Often, though, this scolding only amounts to “Please don’t swear” or “I find that language offensive.”

I don’t think there can be any real ramifications for profanity because it seems that the vast majority of people use it. Sadly, this appears to be the result of a significant cultural shift. American society is no longer the idealized image of the 1950s. There is little acknowledgment of others’ sacrifices, little respect for authority figures and a lack

of basic manners instilled in today’s citizens. Profanity, then, seems to simply be an extension of these realities.

Now, I realize that not all profanity is used with disrespectful intent. Walk around any college campus, into a restaurant or down the street in a typical American city, and odds are you’ll overhear a smattering of profanity popping up in random conversations. And in most of these cases, the speaker doesn’t seem to be angry; their use of profanity is casual. But when did this happen? Why did it happen? Our elders would probably say that our generation doesn’t have any respect for others. They might even say we lack self-respect, and that profanity is simply one of the many

symptoms of this problem. I would contend, though, that every generation is seen by their parents as somewhat misguided or rebellious, and so I don’t think it’s merely a result of our desire to push the boundaries. After all, since profane language seems to have entered the vernacular, then you can’t really say that the use of profanity is outside of the norm.

Rather, I think the use of profanity is the result of many people not recognizing the sensitivity of those around them. They use these words casually and if no one comes forward to reprimand them, they have no reason to change what they say.

Now, as I said, hearing profanity doesn’t really bother me. I certainly notice it,

but I’m not about to scold a classmate who uses the f-word in every other sentence. If I did, I think in their eyes I’d instantly become that stodgy old man telling them to mind their tongue. I guess that, with respect to freedom of speech, the best way to encourage civilized speech is to lead by example. So for now, I’m happy to be branded the “College Student Who Doesn’t Swear.” I can live with that stigma. And when I do eventually turn into that old man, I suppose I can sit on my front porch and give advice based on the way things were when I was little. Because I remember a time when profanity was met with scorn and to tell you the truth, it really seemed to be a better time.

Talk To Tim

Facing Fears of Confrontation

By Tim Morenz

Greetings and Salutations, Blackburn College!

Before you know it, the semester will be over. Buckle down and get things done, the finish line is within sight. Let's dive in, shall we?

Dear Tim,

"My roommate is exhibiting some pretty self-destructive behavior. I am really starting to get concerned, but I hate confrontation and am really worried how they will react if I talk to them. Any advice? -Fearful

Dear Fearful,

You have not specified what kind of destructive behavior is being shown by your roommate, but I do think there are some helpful things to consider before, during and after the conversation.

Before the conversation:

1. Be clear about the

issue. What is the behavior that you want to address and what is its impact? What do you want this conversation to accomplish? Forget about winning an argument, rather think about what agreement or compromise you want to reach?

2. If you were in your roommate's shoes, what would you want to hear? Not hear? What assumptions are you making about this person and their behavior? About yourself?
3. Adopt an attitude of curiosity and inquiry. Remain open to what you might hear.

During the conversation:

1. Choose a neutral or shared location for the conversation.
2. Open the conversation with a statement of hope. Treat the other party with dignity

and respect.

3. Stay present to what is happening right now. Manage your emotions with the phrase: "I feel \_\_\_\_\_ when you \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Be comfortable with silence. Give the other party time to consider what you are saying and then brainstorm options rather than being set on your solution.
5. How might you solve this problem so that everyone's needs are being met.

After the conversation:

1. De-brief with an objective third party. What went right? What could have been done differently?
2. How will you track progress of the agreement that you reached?
3. How will you approach this party in the future? What guidelines or standards could

you set to prevent a problem in the future?

4. Consider your self-care and take care of your needs.

Conflict is a completely natural part of human relationships. How we resolve it says loads about our character. Our society and world is full of examples of hate and how not to peacefully resolve conflict. Join with me in having the hard conversation and choosing peace, won't you?

I hope this helps. As always, Counseling Services is here to serve you.

Until next time, BEAVER NATION!

About the author: Tim Morenz has been in the mental health and substance abuse field for 24 years and has been licensed in the state of Illinois



PHOTO BY AURORA GRIMMETT

**Tim Morenz, College Counselor**

since 1997. He is located in DCC133 and is at extension 5759. Email him at [tim.morenz@blackburn.edu](mailto:tim.morenz@blackburn.edu) He is learning the truth espoused in the Dhammapada, "hate cannot conquer hate, only love can do that."

Support the Athletes

By Robert Fagg

Volleyball season is now over and basketball season is upon us. This time of year also brings to us snow and time to be together with others. The snow and companionship of others is why getting into the gym and supporting the athletes is an important facet of college life, and something that needs to improve here at Blackburn.

Getting together with students and cheering on our athletes is a great time. Coming together as a community is another way students can get to know each other better. Instead of just seeing each other in the classroom or at practice, going to games provides a chance for students to get together in a different setting and have some fun. Being in a student section, a collaboration of students sitting together at games, is a time to be silly and show your personality; you can dress up in hotdog suits, school colors or Hawaiian attire, all while

cheering on the team.

Rather than just watching the game, the fans have a chance to get involved and can even impact the game. When a calm hush comes over the crowd and a section of students yells during a free throw at a critical moment, it can affect the shooter. When the team is up by two points with 10 seconds left in the game and the crowd is yelling "D, D, D, Defense" it fires up the team. When something great happens for the team you're cheering for and there is a rush of noise coming from other students, that pumps up those on the court. According to senior basketball player Jamie Moore, "When our bench is flat, the students fire us up and get us in the game again."

However, student support of athletes is lacking on campus. Instead of going to the games, there seem to be a ton of events that go on that pull the small number of students

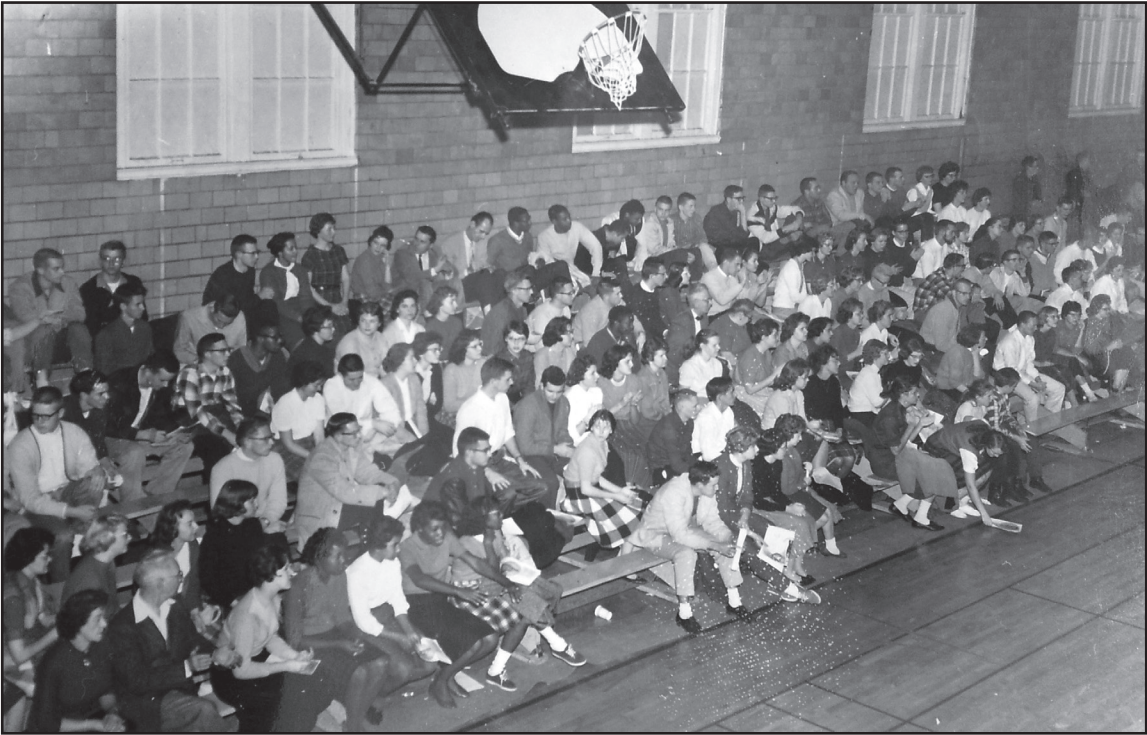


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

Fans used to line the bleachers to support the Beavers

on this campus in several different directions. Some go home every weekend, go to dinner or even do homework. A game doesn't take very long; an average basketball game is only around two hours.

We need to improve our level of involvement with our athletes. Our athletes aren't on TV and aren't famous because they were on "SportsCenter" the night before; they are in class with us every day,

they work with us, and we are around them everywhere we go on campus. We have personal relationships with athletes and we need to show that by supporting them at their games.

THE BURNIAN

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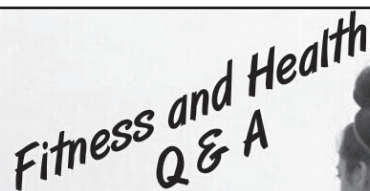
The 'Burnian is a student-run newspaper at Blackburn College. Our mission is to deliver accurate, interesting and timely news to the Blackburn campus as well as the Carlinville community in an ethical and professional manner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters under 500 words may be sent to [burnian@blackburn.edu](mailto: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.



**By Heidi Tyson**

A: Being internally motivated is very important when you are trying to stick with your fitness journey, but everyone has those days where they don't feel motivated at all. One of my biggest tips for staying motivated is to write down your goals, whether they are short term (like going to the gym five days out of the week) or long term (such as losing a set amount of weight). After you have established your goals, post them everywhere! Put them on your fridge, on your mirror, on your door and even set them as your background on your phone. This will force you to see your goals every day and keep you focused on what you are working towards.


However, Morenz recognized that there are other opportunities to practice yoga on campus. “My path is just a path,” he said. “There are fantastic yoga teachers here.”



Harp teaches classes at

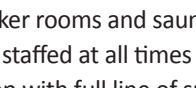
BodyFit Fitness Center in Carlinville. She has a regular yoga class on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. and chair yoga on Tuesdays from 10:15-11 a.m. She also teaches yoga at the Just to Dance studio in Carlinville. Her classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-9 p.m. Sophomore creative writing major Katrina Jahn started participating in Harp's yoga classes at the Just to Dance Studio last year around finals. "I did basic moves to calm down," she said. "It wasn't for any kind of fitness. It was more for 'me' time." She hasn't had time to attend her classes this semester but she has been practicing yoga three nights a week in her room. She will be taking the yoga/Pilates class next semester. "It's good for de-stressing. The class teaches how to do poses and the relaxation techniques that bring out the good in the yoga," she said.

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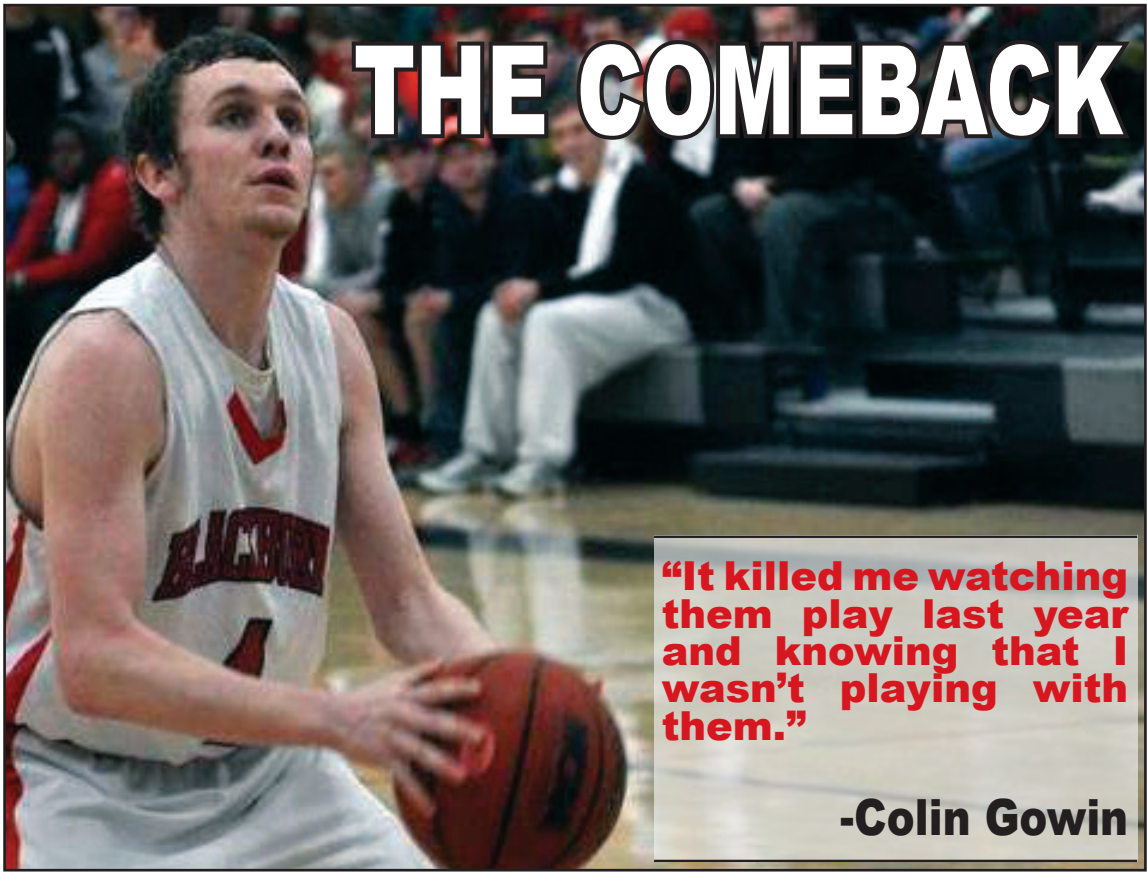
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**“It killed me watching them play last year and knowing that I wasn’t playing with them.”**

**-Colin Gowin**

PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

By Karlee Brimberry

This year the men’s basketball team at Blackburn College has made a lot of changes, from hiring an entirely new coaching staff and new players, there are also returning players that are expected to make big contributions to the team this season. One of those returners is senior shooting guard Colin Gowin.

Gowin traces his passion for basketball back to fourth

grade, when he first began playing. He then attended Hermitage High School in Pittsburg, Missouri where he holds the record of being the All Time Leading Scorer. He also represented his school four times at All District and was an All Conference player throughout his high school career. At Blackburn, Gowin played in both his freshman and sophomore years and occasionally took a spot in

the starting lineup. However, former men’s basketball head coach Jason Baribeau asked Gowin to take a year off. According to last year’s interim Athletic Director Mark Hopping this was a decision made by Baribeau based on some issue he and Gowin had from the prior year. “The timing was not very good as the issue should have been addressed during the prior season,” said Hopping. When

Baribeau was contacted, he declined to comment. Although Gowin claims to not know why Baribeau made the request, Gowin is ready to play in his final season. “It killed me watching them play last year and knowing that I wasn’t playing with them. I just love the game and I love being around it. This is my last chance I have to step on the court so I’m just trying to make the best of it,” said Gowin.

During his year off, Gowin participated on the Cross Country team, which is why he got a bit of a late start this season. Now, Gowin is trying to get back in the groove of playing a team sport and also learning new plays with an entirely new team. Gowin feels this year is different in regards to team dynamic. He feels because of the new coaching staff that the team works harder and overall connects better on and off the court. Fellow senior teammate Jamie Moore said, “It’s nice having Colin on the team. He brings a great attitude, he works hard, and he will be a great leader for the players on this team because he’s played in the Conference before.”

This year, Gowin believes the team’s main goal is to have a winning season and finish higher in the Conference. As

for personal goals, Gowin says he knows his role as shooting guard on the team and he is trying to bring his best to every practice. “I’m an energy guy. I like playing defense. I like playing with sparks. I actually prefer coming off the bench so that when our starters get tired I can be that guy that brings it and brings the energy back up on the court,” said Gowin.

Although Gowin came into the season late, he says head coach Steve Kollar and assistant coach Zach Jadzak have been very willing to stay after practice and help him learn plays. Gowin noted that this wasn’t always the case in seasons past when former coaches were less willing to help. “The new coaches are intense and passionate about the game. They really care about the players,” said Gowin.

Gowin and the rest of the team play their first home game of the season Dec. 5 against Blackburn’s biggest rival, MacMurray College at 3 pm. “It’s going to be a rough and physical game because it’s always intense when we play MacMurray. Emotions are always really high. I expect the crowd to really get into the game, because everybody wants to beat their rival,” said Gowin.

## Smith Ready to Begin Last Year as a Beaver

By Angela Andrews

After spending four years at Blackburn, senior Danae Smith is ready to graduate. Smith is majoring in criminal justice and has been working on a minor in psychology. She is from Decatur, Illinois where she graduated from Eisenhower High School in 2012. Though Smith kept her options open while filling out college applications, Blackburn caught her attention when she and her twin sister Danique Smith were recruited to play for the basketball team. Danae Smith has been playing basketball since the seventh grade.

Starting her freshman year at Blackburn, Smith said it wasn’t that great because the team was really small and she felt no one really had the motivation to win. Then her sophomore year things got a little better because they won a couple more games. However, Smith tore her ACL and damaged her meniscus. She was able to return in her junior year where she faced many challenges, again due to a small team. Smith also stated that the previous coach didn’t really have the drive and motivation to make the team the best that they could be. With new head coach this

season Katie Fonseca, Smith stated, “I like her work ethic, plus you can tell she is very motivated into wanting to win and is very dedicated to making us a better team.”

Fonseca stated, “Danae is a wonderful young lady who values her education and her athletic talents. She is a great teammate, always encouraging and hardworking. She has improved her offensive game this year and is a huge threat for us. Defensively we rely on her to contain and shut down the opponent’s best players with her speed. The team and I are blessed to have Danae as part of our program.”

Smith is very excited to graduate but at the same time is sad because she met some new teammates with a lot of motivation to win. Sophomore teammate Candace Pollock said, “Danae never gives up on us. She’s a teammate that pushes and pushes and does her best to encourage those around her.” Though she is upset that she will have to leave them behind after one year of playing with them, she is also grateful for the experience. She can’t wait for the new chapter of her life to begin. She plans on taking an internship in the probation field although she

## Is it Football or Throwball?

By Robert Fagg

“Why is soccer called football everywhere else in the world, but yet in America we call it soccer?”

-Confused footballer (but I really mean soccer)

Soccer. When you use the term, you may assume that people know what you mean. But those who call the sport “football” may get confused when you’re talking about actual football. Soccer is the game in which you run up and down a field, kicking the ball

and trying to get it into the goal.

According to dictionary.com, the word “soccer” comes from shortening the appropriate British name for the sport association football. Football-bible.com says that students would call the game “assoccer.” They pulled out the “soc” from association and added -er to the end, to shorten the phrase. They eventually dropped the “a” to make it sound more fancy. Rugby

football was also very popular at the same time in Britain, and university students changed that name to “ruggers” to distinguish rugby from soccer.

So, America wasn’t the originator of the term “soccer.” It was actually the British, and they stopped using the term only about 30 years or so ago because it had become too Americanized. And you know how the British are about American things—especially since the Revolutionary war.

## Upcoming Sports Events

### Blackburn College Men’s Basketball

<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>MacMurray</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec. 8</b>	<b>at Missouri S&amp;T</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>at Greenville</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec. 19</b>	<b>Rose-Hulman</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Jan. 2</b>	<b>Webster</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>

### Blackburn College Women’s Basketball

<b>Dec. 5</b>	<b>MacMurray</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec. 12</b>	<b>at Greenville</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec. 19</b>	<b>North Park</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>Dec. 30</b>	<b>at Illinois College</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

is still undecided about being a probation officer or whether or not to attend grad school. “I enjoyed attending Blackburn

because it is a small school and it gave me an opportunity to have a relationship with my professors to where I could

talk to them about my classes,” said Smith.