



PHOTO BY DUSTY GLASS

Campus services general workers will no longer be allowed to take “sick days” without acquiring a doctor’s note; Tara Towery is pictured front right and Jake Teichmann is pictured back left

## No Rest for C.S.

### Campus Services implements department-specific attendance policy

By DUSTY GLASS AND JESS WILLARD

With 12 departments varying in size and responsibility, different needs must be met for certain positions. This semester, Campus Services (C.S.) created a new policy to address issues with shift attendance.

Campus Services assistant manager Ursa-Minor Matlock described the department’s current absence policy as being up to the supervisor’s discretion unless the student provides a note from a school-excused event or a doctor’s note due to illness. A student must also inform the supervisor 48 hours prior to his or her absence and, if possible, fill out a sub-slip for another person to handle the missing shift.

The previous system allowed each student to receive three sick days and

“It’s entirely up to each department to decide what their policies are going to be.”

**Robert Weis**

one personal day. Matlock explained that the reason for changing this system was to “cut down on the amount of no call, no shows” where workers would not show up for a shift without giving a warning to the supervisor. She added that the new approach seems

to be successful with noticeably less absences occurring in the department.

According to general manager Hollie Davidson and Matlock, the policy-making process lies entirely between the supervisor and student

See **New C.S. Policy**, page 2



PHOTO BY ASHLEY HOBAN

## Beavers Can’t Wait to Watch the Debates

By GARY LOWDER

Students gathered in the Demuzio Campus Center (DCC) on Sept. 26 to watch the first debate between presidential candidates Hillary Rodham Clinton and Donald J. Trump. Students began filing into DCC a couple minutes before the debate began, getting food from the Snack Bar or eating refreshments provided by catering.

Students watched the debate with great interest, some clapping when one or another candidate made a good point, or stating their disapproval of a certain policy. When asked his opinion on who won the debate, sophomore

education major Austin Ives responded, “It really depends; as far as explaining policies, I think Hillary did really well. However if you were looking for the more exciting speaker Trump definitely won that part.” Many students made it clear that they didn’t approve of Trump interrupting Clinton or dodging questions; others praised Trump’s high energy and his points of the U.S. not needing to act as world police. The debate was separated into six 15-minute sections and lasted 90 minutes.

After the debate was over, students discussed who performed better, and

who had greater enthusiasm. Despite differences in political ideologies, many Blackburn students chose to be involved, and watching the debates in a group helped them be more interesting and exciting, but also helped students decide who they might cast their ballot for. According to Gallup Inc., a company known for their public opinion polls, over 63 percent of voters (both Republican and Democrat) watch the debates. And according to the Campus Vote Project, a company that states its mission as “working with universities,

See **The Debate**, page 3

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# Barney’s Barstool Open a Success

By Patrick Benedict

This year’s Blackburn Homecoming included a new addition to the wide range of activities offered to the returning alumni. On Saturday, Oct. 1, from 2-6 p.m., the Alumni Board held Barney’s Barstool Open, a play on the classic bar walk but with the addition of mini-golf holes at each bar. Students and alumni formed teams of four and took to the bars of Carlinville to try their hand at this mini-golf competition. With a total of 45 participants, the bars were packed with alumni eager to drink and putt away the afternoon. The barstool open was formed to help raise funds for the Alumni Board. Each participant paid \$25 to play in the competition.

According to Alumni Board Vice President and organizer of the event Autumn Warren (class of ’04), the event was created to “not only help the board raise money so we can continue to do things like hosting the senior banquet, but it also fills a need engaging a younger group of alumni who may not otherwise be inclined to be involved.” The Alumni Board works to organize various activities and maintain relationships with the alumni of the college. The event was helpful for making money for more events like the barstool open in the future.

Teams were transported to the eight holes at various bars around town including Lucky Dog’s Alehouse, The Wood Duck and The Cozy Corner. While participants were not required to

drink, those that did were safely moved around town in a party bus provided by the Alumni Board. After completing the competition, teams were taken to The Anchor Inn for the awards ceremony and after party.

Warren believes that the competition gave alumni and students “a reason to socialize” and that it “breeds a good environment.” According to one of the participants in the barstool open, Jacob Conder (class of ’15), the event was a great success. However, Conder also had his criticisms. He believes that if they do it next year that “they should push it back later to like 4 or 5 p.m.” Conder seemed confident that the event would have more participants with a later start time.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT  
Alumni Jacob Conder (Class of '15) observing the final green in Barney's Barstool Open at The Anchor Inn

## Figuring out FAFSA adjustments

By Dusty Glass and Jess Willard

The Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that can be filed by both prospective and returning students. It is completed annually and determines a student’s eligibility for federal financial aid. Two major changes were made to the FAFSA this year: the filing date and federal income tax data input.

The Obama Administration executed the recent changes made to the FAFSA in an effort to allow the process to be more efficient and effective.

The earliest date students can file FAFSA has changed from Jan. 1 to Oct. 1. Additionally, students can fill out the form using the previous year’s income and tax information. These changes provide students with more time to file and add another layer of ease to the filing process. In years prior, students had to estimate their tax information and update it after taxes were filed. The process stretched over a lengthy period of time, and student estimates resulted in errors.

Director of Financial Aid Jane Kelsey explained that this year’s FAFSA would use the figures from the tax return that was filed this past April, even though it reflects the numbers from 2015. Essentially,

returners will use the data retrieval tool. They will be asked to prove that they filled out the FAFSA last year, and their previously recorded information will be automatically entered into the form. Kelsey recommended that students know their Federal Student Aid user ID and password. She also said that students should double check the information they are using to authenticate themselves with the information from their tax return.

Kelsey did note that there were downsides to this process. “You’re filing the information that you entered in 2015, and now, it’s 2017, and your parents may have gotten a divorce or someone has lost their job. There’s a lot of changes that can happen over that period of time,” she said. “The way that you remedy that is you bring your information to the Financial Aid Director, and then, I might be able to make a professional judgement.”

Students that have questions regarding the FAFSA changes can contact the Office of Financial Aid by calling (217) 854-5511, or they can email Kelsey at jane.kelsey@blackburn.edu or Assistant to the Director of Financial Aid Karissa Seago at karissa.seago@blackburn.edu.

“What works in one department might absolutely not work in another department.”  
Robert Weis

## C.S. Policy

Continued from page 1

manager of the specific department, unless input is requested from crew heads and assistants. Furthermore, the policy of each work place can change if a new supervisor is hired or adjustments need to be made.

Blackburn lacks a general attendance policy that covers all work departments, but the punishment policy for not adhering to the rules is systematic through campus. Punishment progresses in severity depending on the amount of write-ups a student receives.

Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis explained the policy change system further. “Supervisors in direct consultation with the manager have the right to say, ‘This is how I like certain processes and procedures to operate in the work program,’” he said. “As long as it doesn’t impact and affect the overarching processes and procedures we have outlined in the ‘B-Book,’ it meets the expectations of what a

supervisor can do. It’s entirely up to each department to decide what their policies are going to be.”

In regards to C.S.’s policy specifically, Weis was under the impression that the new guideline was addressed in the department’s orientation this semester. Therefore, all workers would have been aware of the change.

According to Weis, managers of the 12 work departments implement new guidelines and refine their current policies, so their specific workplaces can thrive. He added, “What works in one department might absolutely not work in another department.” Weis additionally clarified that if it was a work policy that applied to the entire campus, then the entire work committee would have had to approve it.

Campus Services manager Phillip Johnson chose not to comment on the department’s policy.

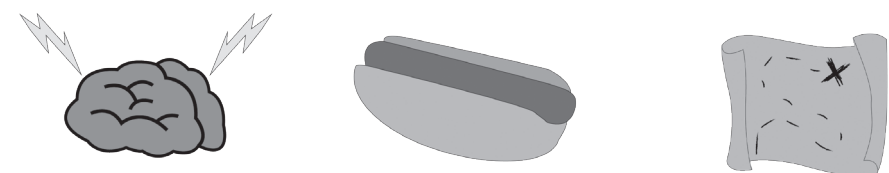
# Student Senate fixates on APS questions and concerns

By Jess Willard

Blackburn College’s Student Senate met on Sunday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. in the Student Life Conference Room. The meeting was mostly focused on inquiries and issues with the new Automatic Payroll Systems, Inc. (APS) clock-in software. General managers Nate Kinnison and Hollie Davidson visited the senate to elaborate.

Senate member Benjamin Fletcher wanted to know if it was possible to round time with the APS software. Davidson explained that there is no rounding system right now, but it could be added next year. Kinnison suggested that students behind hours can pick up an extra shift. He added that if students work in a department where extra shifts are not readily available, then they should speak to their department manager.

Student Senate faculty advisor Dr. Mark Armstrong said, “One thing I heard that kind of alarmed me was that over in P. Plant [Physical Plant] people are having to wait in line [to clock in and out], and they’ll be in line for how long? 15 minutes? Half an hour?” Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz explained that Physical



Friday Night Trivia

Family Picnic

Campus Scavenger Hunt

The next campus-wide event that is being hosted by Student Senate is “Family Weekend,” which will take place on Friday, Oct. 21, and Saturday, Oct. 22

Plant workers have to sign in through kiosks and can only access the clock-in system within the building. There are three kiosks available. Kinnison discussed the idea of putting two computers in the building, so there would be more places for students to sign in and out. Davidson said it would also be possible to give assistant managers and crew heads mobile access.

“Do you think we jumped into this too early? Do you think we should’ve done a test run for a semester?” asked Student Senate member Laurel Petri. Kinnison explained that Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Morris wanted to start this system right away for administration efficiency purposes. “The paper system, when it came down to it, it took up a lot of time. This is our first year, and that’s

also taking up a lot of time,” Kinnison added. “But that’s what the first year is for. It’s gonna be rough. It will get better with time.”

The rest of the meeting involved a discussion of old business.

Student Senate president Kaitlyn Pugh brought up a concern about storage in regards to the Student Senate gift to campus. Previously, they had decided to purchase stone furniture for the Claire Jaenke Alumni Center’s patio. Pugh asked the rest of the members if they wanted to store the furniture in Stoddard Hall’s basement or leave it on the patio year-round.

Armstrong thought it would be more important for the group to formalize who’s responsible for furniture storage and upkeep as well as find a way for future senate members to keep track of the decisions made

regarding the furniture. Pugh said she’d make a to-do list for future presidents.

Pugh gave the representatives homework at their Sept. 18 meeting. It encompassed asking students what they would want to see Student Senate do. Several projects were mentioned, such as getting lamps and brighter lights for campus in addition to expanding the Jones parking lot.

Students also wanted to see more events hosted on campus. One idea was a volleyball tournament, which Fletcher noted had been done in the past and was a success. Pugh put together a committee for this event, and the tentative date is set close to Halloween.

Event updates were given in regards to “Mock Elections” and “Family Weekend.” The mock elections subcommittee\* will meet on Thursday, Sept. 29, at 10 p.m. to discuss further details for event setup.

Senate member Casey Dolen is in charge of organizing “Family Weekend.” She discussed a potential event line up as well as potential conflicting events, designated who would contact Sodexo for catering services and asked Armstrong to contact faculty members.

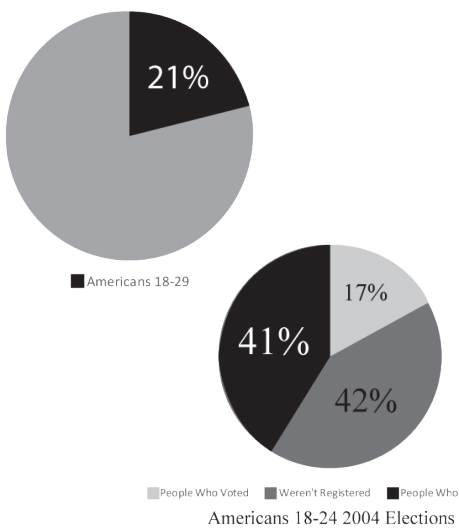
\*[Note]: The author of this article is a member of the mock elections subcommittee.

## The Debate

Continued from page 1

community colleges, faculty, students and election officials to reduce barriers to student voting,” adults ages 18-29 make up 21 percent of the voting community. Out of this number only 17 percent of adults ages 18-24 voted in 2014’s presidential election. That same year 42 percent of people from this age range were not registered to vote.

On Oct. 28 Blackburn College is going to allow for students to register to vote and vote for their favorite candidate in DCC. Ives, who helped put together the debate watching party, believes it is important for students to be involved in choosing the next president. Ives said, “I know not everyone likes these candidates, but I would encourage those who are displeased with the system to get involved now, take part in this election... and maybe next election we won’t have candidates who are so disliked by younger people.”



## No Tolerance for Zero Tolerance

By Gary Lowder

An Illinois law passed in 2015 took effect two weeks ago. This law requires Illinois schools to limit long-term suspensions and expulsions and also eliminates zero-tolerance policies that might be used to punish students for particular offenses. Senior elementary education major Kevin Loveless believes the new Illinois law has the potential to help. “This law helps the students who could currently be in a bad place in life,” he said. “Instead of school administrations and teachers kicking the students out of school and forgetting about them, they will start supporting these students and helping them through this [hard] time in their young lives. It keeps the students in school and keeps them doing their work and learning.”

The American Psychological Association (APA) defines a zero tolerance policy as a “philosophy or policy that mandates the application of predetermined consequences, most often severe and punitive in nature, that are intended to be applied regardless of the seriousness of behavior, mitigating circumstances, or situational context.” Most zero tolerance policies involve bullying or racial slurs. Zero tolerance policies have been under fire since they were first implemented across the country in 1994 after federal legislation required states to expel any student who brought a weapon to school. The law eventually evolved to cover drug abuse and violence in general. Many educators find the policy too generic punish the guilty

“Zero tolerance has not been shown to improve school climate or school safety.”  
American Psychological Association

and help the innocent the way they are supposed to. Blackburn’s Director of Teacher Education and Licensure Officer Terri Reid said, “Any sort of law or restriction that is very cut and dry can prove problematic when you are working with people in general, but especially developing adults in secondary school.” Sophomore education major Austin Ives seems to agree with her. “As educators we should be able to look at every situation separately, something we can’t do with these policies in place,” he said.

Implementing zero tolerance in schools was heavily supported by Congress after the Columbine High School massacre. Congress argued that most adult laws are cut and dry and that these policies are simply preparing students for the future. They also argue that it reduces the risk for favoritism. However, in 2008 the APA conducted a study of schools using zero tolerance policies, and concluded that “Zero tolerance has not been shown to improve school climate or school safety.” A more recent study in 2013 conducted by the American Academy

of Pediatrics stated that, “the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) does not support zero tolerance policies and recommends that student suspension or expulsion should be considered on a case-by-case basis.” The APA and AAP criticize these programs because they leave no gray area or way for students to defend themselves from school policy. As Reid explained, “Zero tolerance can be very excessive; a student may come to school and not even know that they have something in their car that could be noted as a weapon. If this “weapon” is discovered they could get in huge trouble for it. That just doesn’t seem right...” This type of extremism is illustrated in many cases. Students have been punished for being in possession of nail clippers, rubber bands, plastic knives and even a backpack with non-gang affiliated graffiti on it. One of the more famous acts of zero tolerance was Park Elementary School’s “Pop Tart suspension” in 2013 during which a 7-year-old boy in Baltimore was suspended for eating his breakfast pastry into the shape of a gun.



## Campus Q&A: Blackburn Professors

By MICHAEL TROUTT

“Do you have any hobbies or interests that aren’t related to your area of education?”



**Dr. Edward Boamah:**  
“I enjoy running...a lot of Ghanaian movies...I like watching them during the weekend...”



**Dr. Elizabeth Zobel:**  
“Sewing, making quilts...I love doing it, playing with the color...”



**Dr. Chris Morin:**  
“Hiking in the mountains...I’ve recently started rock wall climbing...I run a couple half marathons a year...”



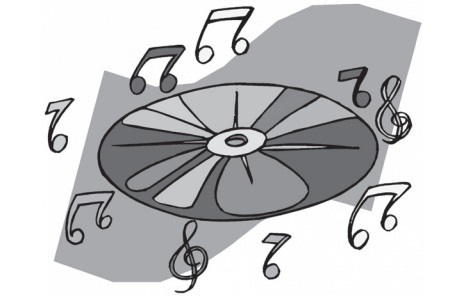
**Dr. Laura Wiedlocher:**  
“I love theatre.” “I like Hollywood Insider...I will totally pick up a magazine when I’m in line at the grocery store and skim through it.”



**Dr. Edward Zalisko:**  
“Project Runway...prior to that, I thought fashion was quite silly...it’s clearly a creative field, an artistic field.”



**Professor Craig Newsom:**  
“I like grilling kale.”



**Dr. Jan Zimmerman:**  
“I like the blues...Jeff Beck...I’ve seen him twice in concert...”



**Professor Barbara Clark:**  
“I’m an avid Chicago Cubs fan...I grew up in the city, just blocks away from the ballpark...I always have been, and always will be an avid Cubs fan...”

# Cyberchondria: Reading is Believing

By MICHAEL TROUTT

Hypochondria is an anxiety disorder linked to an obsession with having a serious but undiagnosed medical condition. Combine hypochondria with an excessive use of the internet to fuel the obsession, and you get “cyberchondria.”

Over the last 20 years, technology has become an increasingly important part of everyday life. From computers to smartphones and tablets, society has become dependent on these new tools to communicate and share information on a global scale via the internet. The advent of the internet, along with its widespread accessibility, has led to a vast accumulation of information that is readily available to anyone. According to Harris Poll, a renowned source of marketing information based



Be careful what you search for

on public surveys, well over 100 million Americans use the internet every year to research health-related information. While some individuals use the internet to become more informed about their existing medical conditions, researchers believe that a majority of Americans use the internet to research symptoms or self-diagnose.

## Intercourse Resource

By VERONICA MILLIGAN

Statistics about sex can be found online with a simple Google search, but finding reliable information from a trusted source can be challenging. For Blackburn students there are on and off campus resources and reaching out for help is an important first step if you have concerns about your sex life.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that about 10 million people between the ages of 15 and 24 are diagnosed each year with a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Over 2 million college aged women (18-24) become pregnant each year. Among all new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections, four out of five occur in males.

At Blackburn, one of the most obvious resources are the baskets of condoms in the residence hall bathrooms. These can be taken anonymously and are freely provided in the hopes of encouraging safe sex. Counseling services offers both male and female condoms along with informational fliers and pamphlets.

Assistant manager of peer counseling Dallas Newman discussed several ways that counseling services is working to help students navigate a safe sex life. Students can ask for condoms or information anonymously. The department is teaming up with other groups like residence life to promote subjects like STD awareness through fun games and events.

Other resources include the residence life and counseling staff who are all available to discuss concerns you might have. Students might be curious about how confidential their concerns or requests are. All residence life student staff and counseling services are mandated reporters. This means that anything that might need to be addressed on a larger scale - sexual assault for example - must be reported to supervisors. Stoddard Hall Residence Director Magin Judd said, “My way of handling anything people want more information on in an anonymous way is to leave a notepad outside my door. If anyone would like more information about something, they can easily write me to tell me what it is and slide it

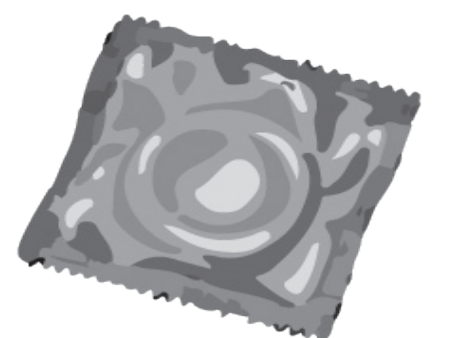


PHOTO BY VERONICA MILLIGAN

Free condoms is just one of the available sex resources on campus

under my door. I would then work on making a pamphlet or handout to be slid underneath everyone’s door in order to not single anyone out.”

If a person feels uncomfortable in confiding to someone on campus or doesn’t want to request information on campus, there are other local options. The graduate student intern in the counseling department, Nicole Quarrels, mentioned that Springfield has a few places for students in need, including Planned Parenthood, the Pregnancy Crisis Center and the Phoenix Center (Springfield’s LGBTQ community center). In Carlinville, the Macoupin County Maple Street Medical Clinic offers many services. According to their website the clinic offers services regardless of insurance coverage. Services they offer include routine well woman check-ups, Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Programs, nutritional counseling, STI screening, prevention, education and treatment and behavioral counseling services. The website is [www.mcphd.net/general\\_information\\_medical.php](http://www.mcphd.net/general_information_medical.php).



## Tina Hall: Great Expectations, Even Better Results

By PATRICK BENEDICT

It’s no secret that the life of a college student is extremely different from the years spent in high school. However, the expectations about college life can be drastically different from what actually occurs. College is not the party that movies like “Animal House” and “Van Wilder” make it out to be, but it’s also not a daunting monster that some describe it as (at least not completely).

Some students find that the reality of college is far better than what they had pictured in their heads. Take freshman psychology major Tina Hall, for instance. Hall expected to be extremely stressed in her first semester at college but has found it thus far “disturbingly easy.” While Hall is sure that as time goes on her academic work will become more difficult, she describes her semester at this point to be easier than what many of her teachers and counselors back at high school predicted.

Hall has even found that her experience in the college’s work program has been simpler to balance than she initially anticipated. “With the work program and everything, I thought that would be really hard to balance in with my schedule. That was one of my main concerns and they [work managers] are really easy about working around anything you need,” commented Hall.

Because some of her past teachers and counselors discouraged entrance into certain majors due to their low earning potential or success rate, Hall expected that her college experience would not allow her to find exactly the



PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT

Freshman Psychology Major Tina Hall

major that was right for her. “Now that I’m here and I see how helpful the teachers are and how much they offer that I basically can do any major that I want,” remarked Hall.

Hall was delighted to discover the benefits of a small campus size. It was very important that she did not feel like just a number and that she could easily approach her professors for help. Furthermore, Hall has found it easier to make friends at college than she initially thought. She finds that because her classes are smaller, she can make conversation with many of the other students about various assignments that form into deeper conversations and friendships. Hall does find this unusual considering she describes herself as “not a very outgoing person.” However, it seems that she has found a niche at Blackburn that allows her to be more expressive and find more friends than she initially thought possible.

Many college freshmen do not have the same outlook on their upcoming years of college as Hall does. According to [usnews.com](http://usnews.com) college ranking, Blackburn’s average freshman retention rate (how many freshmen make it to sophomore status) is 68 percent, which is only a few points above the national average for all colleges. There are a large number of freshmen that statistically will not make it to their sophomore year (at least at Blackburn). These freshmen leave for many reasons, including having a college experience that is not what they expected.

## The Icelandic Adventure

By DUSTY GLASS

Biology professor Dr. Edward Zalisko and his wife Amy recently journeyed to Iceland to observe the geological effects of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Zalisko presented his story of the trip detailing their observations to students and faculty on Sept. 26.

This expedition is the latest of a series of summer trips Zalisko has taken; however, these trips are not simply vacations for Zalisko. “It’s not about a bucket list or a check list, but it’s about really trying to see the world to understand the world around us,” he said. Each journey he and his wife take is another pursuit to continue their education and help teach their students. In this case, Iceland was chosen due to it being the only island on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge as well as its glacial influences. Zalisko’s presentation consisted of slideshows with him explaining what each picture meant and narrations of his trip.

The trip to Iceland lasted June 14-30, during the height of the summer there. As such, the time spent in Iceland was under constant sunlight. Zalisko’s journey skirted the entire perimeter of Iceland in order to experience the different areas of the island and see how the glaciers and volcanic activity changed the landscape.

According to Zalisko, Iceland is



PHOTO BY DUSTY GLASS

Dr. Zalisko highlights some of the volcanic activities that influences so much of Iceland’s geology and culture

a hub of volcanic activity due to its position on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the boundary between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. This ridge is slowly spreading apart, resulting in the plates creating new land masses via magma hardening. As such, Iceland is covered in fumaroles, geysers, hot springs and volcanoes. The level of geothermal energy is to the point in which Iceland simply pipes hot water to many of its cities to use without the need to heat it.

## Bad Math Skills Not Adding Up

By MICHAEL TROUTT

Math is found everywhere in life, from color-by-numbers to the measurement of time itself. Math explains the beauty of nature through Fibonacci numbers, constructs computer programs through code and expresses the value of goods and services through currency. Indeed, a world without math would be confusing, disorganized and illogical. The importance of math cannot be overstated and is the exact reason why it is held in such high regard.

While the importance of math is reflected in the education system from kindergarten through college, the U.S. is ranked 27th in the world in mathematics, according to the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reported that 36 percent of students entering high school are considered proficient in math, while the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported that only 26 percent of high school seniors are proficient in math. So, why do so many students perform poorly in math?

The National Mathematics Advisory Panel of the U.S. Department of Education reported that math anxiety severely affects student performance despite levels of proficiency. While

all students retain a limited working memory, which plays a crucial role in calculation, math anxiety tends to dominate working memory space with thoughts of failure. When students should be engaged in their calculations they are obsessed with feelings of insufficiency. Furthermore, it is believed that math anxiety is the result of embarrassment. When children are asked to solve a problem in class, and they don’t get the correct answer, they often feel ashamed of their performance due to the absolute nature of math: right or wrong, there is no middle-ground.

The nature of math in the classroom increases student perceptions of math being a talent as opposed to an acquired skill. Children who do well at math are often viewed as gifted while the remainder of students buy into the old mantra: “I’m bad at math.” Blackburn professor of mathematics Dr. Chris Morin agreed and stated that students “convince themselves they can’t do math...and that affects the way they perform.”

When students continue to believe that they have limited abilities, they’re actually fostering a self-fulfilling prophecy; if they believe they are bad at math, they will be. Inevitably, students live up to their low expectations.

$$1 + 1 = 3$$

the snow, melt in the summer, leads to Iceland being covered in a stunning amount of waterfalls and rivers. Zalisko described one of these remote fjords as his favorite experience in Iceland, specifically the western fjord known as Borgarfjörður because “It was in every way an inspirational place. It was so peaceful.”

The next trip Zalisko plans to take is to the island of Newfoundland in Canada in order to further study geology. He plans to visit Mistaken Point National Park due to its unique fossils and its “wild” environment.



PHOTO BY DUSTY GLASS

Dr. Zalisko presents several specimens of volcanic material he and his wife collected from Iceland



## Shades of Antiquity: The Blackburn Chronicles

By **Dusty Glass**

The Minton Observatory, otherwise known as the “Pill Box” due to its shape, was funded by Professor Robert Minton who taught mathematics from 1860 to 1887 in order to begin Blackburn’s astronomy program. Construction on the observatory was finished in 1885 when Everett W. Loomis of Carrollton installed the telescope. Loomis was immensely important to the process as he designed and built the entire telescope and clockwork mechanisms in order to suit the needs of the college.

During this time, any student interested in the sciences had to study the stars. However when Blackburn became a two-year college in 1918 instead of a four-year college, astronomy was dropped from the course catalog. With no further use for the observatory, the building was used for storage for years. At first it was simply for equipment for the astronomy class before the school decided on the permanent dismissal of the class. After the decision to close the class for good, the “Pill Box” became a silo for cow feed with all the mechanisms left inside except for the lenses which were placed into a safe.

The most important and expensive part of the telescope, the lens, sat in a safe gathering dust until in 1942 when local physics professor Larry Christopher began to clean the lenses for use. Quickly realizing the task was beyond himself, Christopher contracted the job out to Fred Holtz who was the chief engineer of the Sangamon Electric Company and an amateur astronomer. Holtz also crafted several additional lenses to have various levels of magnification. This telescope was a portable model, with moorings available to mount the telescope on outside of Dawes Gymnasium for several years.

After being reduced to a farm feed storage bin, Blackburn decided to raze the Minton Observatory in 1942. The



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

The observatory once on Blackburn's campus

Blackburn farm was lost to a fire, thus removing the need for the storage bin. Plans for a plaque to be installed where the building once stood were introduced by student director Leslie Shaffer in 1960. The only remains of the building today are a handful of photos taken by students and faculty which show the observatory as a popular place to hang out and pose for photos.



## Bacteria Superbugs: The Reason You Need to Wash Your Hands More

By **VERONICA MILLIGAN**

Every year common infections become more challenging to treat. More people are sick for longer periods of time and there is little medical professionals can do about it. Antibiotics are becoming less and less effective as treatment options for these infections. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are a serious public health concern according to both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are bacteria that cannot be killed by specific antibiotics. Currently there are several well known strains of bacteria that are resistant to some types of antibiotics and a few that are resistant to all antibiotic treatments. A common staph infection can take a turn for the worse if it becomes Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The name is self explanatory; MRSA cannot be treated with methicillin because that antibiotic cannot kill this strain of bacteria. It is also resistant to penicillin, oxacillin and amoxicillin. “Antibiotic resistance occurs naturally, but misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals

is accelerating the process,” said the WHO.

Professor of biology Dr. David Reid said that there is currently nothing we can do about this bacterial evolution. According to Reid the best way to prevent getting sick from infectious bacteria is to practice good hygiene, especially washing your hands often. The CDC provides the following guidelines for washing your hands properly:

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Some bacteria are capable of sharing DNA molecules called plasmids. If the plasmid contains the gene for a certain type of antibiotic resistance this could potentially spread to other bacteria. For example, the resistant gene in a VRSA plasmid could then be transferred to a bacterium that causes pneumonia which can then replicate and infect people. Then we have people with pneumonia who cannot be treated with several antibiotics because they no longer have any effect.

Blackburn does have policies in place to handle a situation where an individual or several individuals acquire an infection like MRSA or VRSA.



PHOTO BY VERONICA MILLIGAN

Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Student Life Abbey Hardin said, “The first thing I do is make sure you’re receiving appropriate medical treatment... then I talk with Torry [Grady, the Campus Services Supervisor] to talk about what additional cleaning procedures we need to put in place... and advise the student on how to talk about it with their roommate.” Hardin stressed that the very first step in this process is a student informing her or a member of residence life about the situation.

## Remedy

By **PARKER RAMAKER**

Judging people by their appearance is so easy to do and we all do it as we observe people for first impressions. I have been fortunate to meet so many people from many walks of life. I have come across homeless people, thugs, millionaires, drug dealers and professional athletes. The perception we have of certain types of people builds a negative wall that can prevent you from experiencing something really profound. I have made it a point to approach people I do not know or would not associate myself with and

start a conversation for the reason to learn or experience something new. I am happy for the results. Many fear change because of the unknown, but if you do not venture into the unknown, then you must be content with where you are in life. Everyone deserves growth and fortune in their lives. Getting to know someone or communicating with someone you do not know can potentially give you that growth and fortune.

I attended a Catholic institution until eighth grade. Everyday on my way home, there was this homeless man named Clarence who would be on the corner just hoping to catch a break, catch a meal, catch a hope. My dad, sister

and I always loved to stop and give him some snacks and a Pepsi. Clarence was always grateful and we always had a little conversation with him to lift his spirits. Many look down upon the homeless, but do not know their story. Clarence taught me at a young age that even though things are not going as planned, there can be something to look forward to. He greeted us with a smile because he knew that we were coming to him with positive intentions, conversation and food.

If my dad had taught me that homeless people are all dirty and worthless, then I would not have learned such a valuable lesson. My dad

instead taught me that no matter their appearance, everyone deserves to be talked to and with that open mind comes potential rewards. Randomly, Clarence was not on the corner anymore. We have no idea where he went, but he made for a great learning experience for me. I was fortunate to be raised to be open-minded and have a giving heart. It is my choice to carry on the goodness. The significance of this lesson is that you can benefit from stepping out of your comfort zone and learn something new from people who look like they can be harmful or weird to your standards. The outside may not look attractive at first glance, but life is not about looks.



## Beneath the Ink: Autumn Cardinal

By **GARY LOWDER**

With their long neck, and alien-like eyes on their 180-degree pivoting head, the intelligent-looking praying mantises are interesting bugs. According to the National Geographic Society praying mantises are formidable predators and their long bodies and stick-like appendages allow them to camouflage themselves so they can stalk prey, using the hinged front legs they are named for to snare smaller insects.

Freshman art major Autumn Cardinal has a tattoo of a flowery orchid mantis tattooed on the front of her right thigh. Cardinal said the tattoo symbolizes “a million” things. Cardinal doesn’t have the fondest

memories of her birth mother. “I don’t remember much, but what I do remember is that she really didn’t like bugs...” she said. “I can remember going into the backyard and capturing praying mantises.” Cardinal would then proceed to place the insects in her mother’s bedroom and on the bed itself. Cardinal said, “I remember being nine years old and feeling super smooth about scaring my mom, and I always thought it was so funny.”

“When I turned 16 I wanted a tattoo that symbolized that sort of small rebellion in my childhood,” she remembered with a smile. According to a 2013 study by Pew Research Center, almost 40 percent of college age people have a tattoo somewhere on their body, and according to

the U.S. National Library of Medicine 73 percent of adults with tattoos say they got them in college. This increase in body art has led to employers loosening up on no-tattoo policies and even dress codes. Cardinal explained how the insect also represented female empowerment. “I’m not sure how familiar you are with praying mantis’ mating habits, but after the females have sex they typically eat off the males’ heads...I think it’s a great symbol for my ‘take no nonsense’ attitude.”

“Ultimately I chose the orchid mantis because I love the way they look and I believe it represents me and my experiences, and I had never seen another person with a praying mantis tattooed on them,” Cardinal explained. “I just wanted something that was undeniably me.” The Pew Research Center’s study also stated

that the recent popularity of college tattoos is rising because most students want to feel independent and tattoos help them achieve this feeling. Others use body art to cover scars from accidents or spots they find unsightly. Getting a tattoo also helped Cardinal’s self esteem. “I chose to get the tattoo on my thigh because it was such a prominent place where everyone could see it, but also because I had a lot of self-esteem issues with my thighs and the rest of my body, and I know a lot of other girls do too. The mantis helped me deal with those issues in my own way, and helped me learn to love my body.”



## YOUR DAM OPINION:

How do you feel about the new snack bar items?



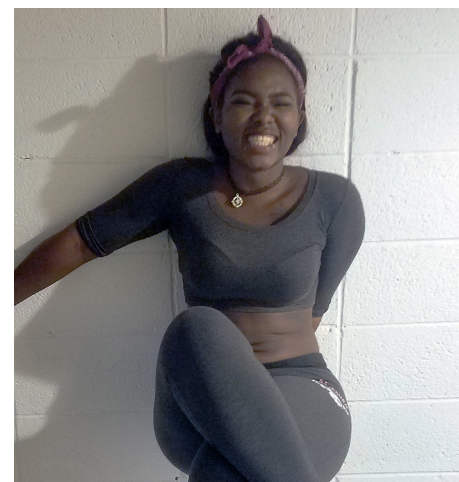
*“I think the new items are fantastic!”*  
James Zeigler  
Senior  
Accounting and  
Mathematics major

*“I feel its great, the changes snack bar is making. They’ve done a lot since I’ve first started coming to Blackburn and I’m really proud of them.”*

Bryan Bethel  
Graduate of Blackburn/  
community member  
Graphic Design Major



*“They a’ight! Viva la nachos.”*  
Deja Bell  
Junior  
Communications major



*“I didn’t know there were new options, but I think its great that they’re expanding with new options in their food.”*  
Danielle Jackson  
Junior  
Business Administration  
Major



*“I’ve heard good things about those actually, but I haven’t gotten them yet.”*  
Riley Judd  
Sophomore  
Computer science Major



*“I like the idea, but I haven’t ordered them yet.”*  
Andrew Fox  
Junior  
Business Management  
Major



PHOTOS BY DUSTY GLASS

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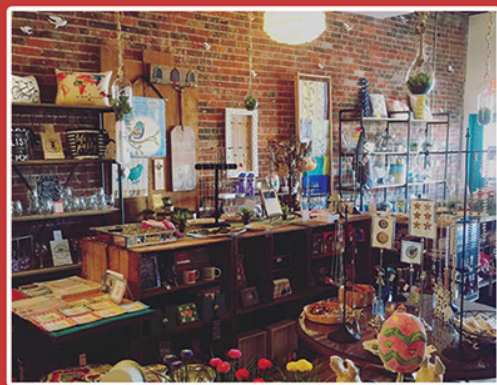
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# Good vibes from “Bad Vibrations”

By JESS WILLARD

A Day to Remember had me at hello. Although their first album “And Their Name Was Treason” (2005) was lacking in technical quality, their lyrical content left me itching to hear more. As I listened to each of their albums over the past five years, I could hear the members of the band becoming better musicians.

Originally from Ocala, Florida, A Day to Remember formed in 2003. The band members have cited both people from their hometown and bands like blink-182 as their influences. They have performed with musicians ranging in sound such as The Devil Wears Prada, August Burns Red and Motionless In White. Across 13 years, A Day to Remember has released six albums to date.

However, “Common Courtesy” (2012) disappointed me; the album as a whole was missing something. It moved away from their typical genre of music, post-hardcore. This genre is defined by putting a creative spin on hardcore punk. The band’s fast-paced, heavy riffs paired with guttural vocals



**A Day to Remember bassist Joshua Woodard rips out fast-paced bass lines throughout “Bad Vibrations”**

typify post-hardcore. The album was incredibly eclectic and flip-flopped between different sounds, leaving me confused.

When I heard about the release of “Bad Vibrations” on Sept. 2, I was initially hesitant. I didn’t want them to stray further from the sound I had grown to love prior to the release of “Common Courtesy.” Eventually, I decided to buckle down and just play through the entire CD. It definitely exceeded my expectations.

Junior criminal justice major Amber Campbell, who has been listening to the band for 11 years, described the album perfectly. “They sound like they



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHLOE CHAPLIN

**Vocalist Jeremy McKinnon has grown in his vocal ability during his time with the band**

are going back to something heavier, which is great. It kind of goes back to how they were when they started,” she said. The title track of the album was reminiscent of “Speak of the Devil” from their album “For Those Who Have Heart” (2007). It went from guttural beginnings to a melodic chorus and included the powerful breakdowns that act as an identifying marker for the band.

It was the lyrics “Bad Vibrations” presented that brought me back to their early days and had me excited for the band’s future. “We Got This” and “Naivety” featured an inspirational and nostalgic message that reminded me of

my high school years when I started listening to the band. Despite “Forgive and Forget” having a slower sound, it became my favorite song on the newest album. Each word wrenched my heart and left me in tears.

Senior accounting and financial mathematics major James Zeitler has been listening to the band for about 10 years. He said when he started listening to them, the music left him amped up for any activity he was doing. “Bad Vibrations” kept those feelings going for him. “Listening to ‘Naivety’ brought back memories of being a young punk cruising down the street on his BMX bike with a couple of friends,” Zeitler said, “‘Bad Vibrations’ feels like a collaboration of all the music A Day to Remember has produced in the last 10 years all on one CD.”

I agree with Zeitler. There are elements of each album on “Bad Vibrations,” but it still manages to produce its own unique sound by plunging further into the post-hardcore genre. If I had to rate this album, it would receive five out of five stars for the band’s ability to evolve as a music group, while paying homage to its previous tone.

## Talk Nerdy to me: Mad Max

By PATRICK BENEDICT

Conventional video game wisdom suggests that nothing good can come of a movie franchise turned video game. In the case of the 2015 WB Games title, “Mad Max,” conventional wisdom is quite wrong. “Mad Max” the video game came out in September of last year, a mere four months after “Mad Max: Fury Road,” the reboot of the 80s cult classic “Mad Max” series of films. Instead of an interactive retelling of the new film, the “Mad Max” video game is a fully open world experience set in the “Fury Road” universe. While the game makes reference to the events of the film, the only character that makes an appearance in both is Max himself. When playing the game, it becomes quickly apparent that the developers used the opportunity to expand on the story universe instead of relying on the plot already made in the film.

The basic premise is that the main protagonist, Max Rockatansky, a survivor of a horrible worldwide apocalypse, must fight to survive in what’s left of the Australian outback long enough to travel to the Plains of Silence (a place that Max believes will grant him peace). Max’s journey is impeded by Scabrous Scrotus and his War Boys who take Max’s car and leave him stranded. The player must take control of Max to help him find a new car and a means of surviving the wasteland. The player runs into Chumbucket, a hunchbacked mechanic of otherworldly skill that believes Max to be a Saint of the Angel Combustion (an automobile-based deity). Chumbucket offers Max his services and the Magnum Opus vehicle to make their way to the Plains of Silence.

The gameplay is divided up essentially into two sections: driving and on-foot exploration. The player travels across the large open map of



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF PATRICK BENEDICT

**Take on the role of Mad Max and cause Mayhem in the post-apocalyptic wasteland**

the game in a car gathering scrap to ultimately upgrade the Magnum Opus before reaching the Plains of Silence. In order to do this the player is encouraged to find scavenging locations, assist several settlement leaders, take over Scrotus’ bases and take on enemy drivers among a myriad of other tasks. Some of these tasks require the player to fight using weapons on the car but also demand the player to take on enemies in hand-to-hand combat (especially during base infiltration.)

The game offers so many activities that the player may spend around 40 hours to complete everything. The gameplay is excellent with a fairly simple hand-to-hand combat system that feels both satisfying yet challenging. The operation of the Magnum Opus is rather straight-forward and flows nicely with the weaponry the car has to offer. The game even employs a slow motion assistance system for the firing of weapons to keep aiming accurate and easier to handle. Overall, “Mad Max” has a lot to offer in terms of gameplay, story and well-rendered graphics. It is available for PC, Playstation 4 and Xbox One.



By CALEB LONG

King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard is a strange group - there’s no getting around it - but it is the strangeness that is so appealing to the fans. What makes them so strange is the way they combine two musical styles that are rarely seen today: punk and psychedelia. Most would not think these two styles would go together. In fact, punk served as the antithesis of lengthy, virtuosic psych bands like Pink Floyd. However, King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard make both of these musical styles work flawlessly together.

The seven piece group from Melbourne, Australia, consists of vocalist and guitarist Stu Mackenzie, vocalist and harmonica player Ambrose Kenny Smith, guitarists Cook Craig and Joey Walker, bass player Lucas Skinner and drummers Michael Cavanagh and Eric Moore. The band formed in 2010 and released their first full-length album “12 Bar Bruise” in 2012 on Flightless Records. Since then, they have been pumping out two albums a year: “Float Along. Fill Your Lungs” (2013), “Oddments” (2014), “I’m In Your Mind Fuzz” (2014), “Quarters!” (2015), “Paper Maché Dream Balloon” (2015) and their latest release, “Nonagon Infinity” (2016).

Much like 1960s garage rock band The 13th Floor Elevators, this band is a high intensity freak out. These guys know how to keep it weird. Anything

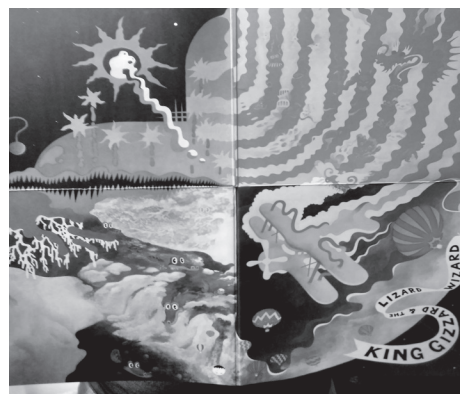


PHOTO BY CALEB LONG

**Album cover from the band’s 2015 album “Quarters!”**

they release, from their album covers to their music videos, is like something out of a whirling, colorful drug trip. Their discography has a wide variety of catchy gems like “Hot Wax” from 2014’s “Oddments” as well as long, sonic journeys such as “Head On/ Pill” from 2013’s “Float Along. Fill Your Lungs.” However, the individual songs don’t compare to the full-length albums. “I’m In Your Mind Fuzz” is an acid-fueled jam with something for everyone, while concept album “Quarters!” takes listeners through four powerful psych-rock epics, each clocking in at 10:10. This stuff is exciting and energizing. The band spends most of their time touring. However, the closest that the band usually gets to Blackburn College is Chicago.

If I were to criticise the band for anything, it would be that they revisit the same musical themes very often. Their latest record, “Nonagon Infinity,” is essentially the same four songs repeated over and over. The only variation in the songs are the lyrics and speed at which they are played. Another example of this is on 2014’s “I’m In Your Mind Fuzz,” where the first half of the record is the same song played for 20 minutes. While I personally love both of these records, some might find this repetition boring.

# The inside joke everyone’s in on

By JOHN HUMMER

A meme in modern times is a repeated joke, image, video or anything that gets copied, pasted and shared all around the internet. Just think about all the humorous pictures plastered all over Facebook: the rage comics, the troll faces and more recently, the Pepes and Harambees. Most memes start off small, and are spread among a niche group of people, and most do not travel beyond that point. However, some gain enough traction and become mainstream. At that point, memes gain a life of their own, far out of reach of the original creators and communities that birthed them. Memes spread like an infection, mutating like a virus each time they are shared out of context. Years go by, and people continue to share these punchlines without knowing the original jokes.

During the early days of the internet, there were no mainstream social media sites. Memes were spread through relatively archaic means such as email and message boards. Before search engines like Google and big social media sites like Facebook, it was much harder for memes to spread.

Memes are now a staple of internet culture, and they are something I enjoy very much. However, it makes me sad when I see a 10-year-old joke from 4chan start making its rounds through mainstream social media. People spread memes without knowing what was so funny to begin with. On top of that, some memes are so old that it’s sad to see people using them at all. Have you ever seen your parents post a meme that was used to death years before? That is the feeling I get from most mainstream memes in general.

A top tier meme is essentially



MEME BY JOHN HUMMER

an inside joke. What makes a meme funny is that only a select few people understand why it’s funny. Naturally, people want to be part of the in-crowd of an inside joke, but once everyone understands the meme or the meme gets dumbed down to the point that everyone understands it, it is officially

dead.

I’m not saying that actively excluding people from enjoying memes is the right thing to do. What I am saying is that if you enjoy memes, do a little digging. Do a little research into your favorite memes, and join communities online like Reddit and

4chan that are famous for being their birthplace. Understand why memes are funny instead of blindly jumping on the bandwagon. Be there when the joke is told or be the one who tells the joke. There you can witness the birth of a meme and fully appreciate it.

## Bring back my paper timecard

By PATRICK BENEDICT

The campus has made a quantum leap forward by replacing the old paper time card system with fully electronic payroll software. But is it actually any better for the students? To me the system is overly complex and where it helps in some work departments, it hinders in others.

Prior to this change, many of the departments used various forms of timekeeping to record the hours of the student workers. Some were hand filled-out forms while others resembled old fashioned punch cards. Tech services was one department already using an electronic record keeping system. At the beginning of this semester Blackburn switched to APS, an online payroll system company, that keeps track of hours worked and (in the case of paid hours) creates checks for students.

However there are several issues that result from the new payroll system. For instance, it now obviously requires an internet connection and access to a computer. While all buildings on campus are equipped with Wi-Fi, there

is a tendency for that connection to malfunction, sometimes for hours at a time. Despite this, work must continue and student workers need some way to account for those hours. Certain members of each department including managers and supervisors can add on hours for students manually but this adds several tedious steps to the process. Students who are unable to clock in must then pay close attention to how many hours they have worked and report that to their manager or supervisor who then adds the hours manually. This creates extra strain on student workers, managers and supervisors.

The new payroll system works best for departments that begin and end their shifts in one place. This is because remembering to clock in and out when your job requires you to work outside of an office for small spurts of time is difficult. Accounting for those hours that are not as standard as the rest of the campus was easier with paper time cards. The situation becomes especially muddled when

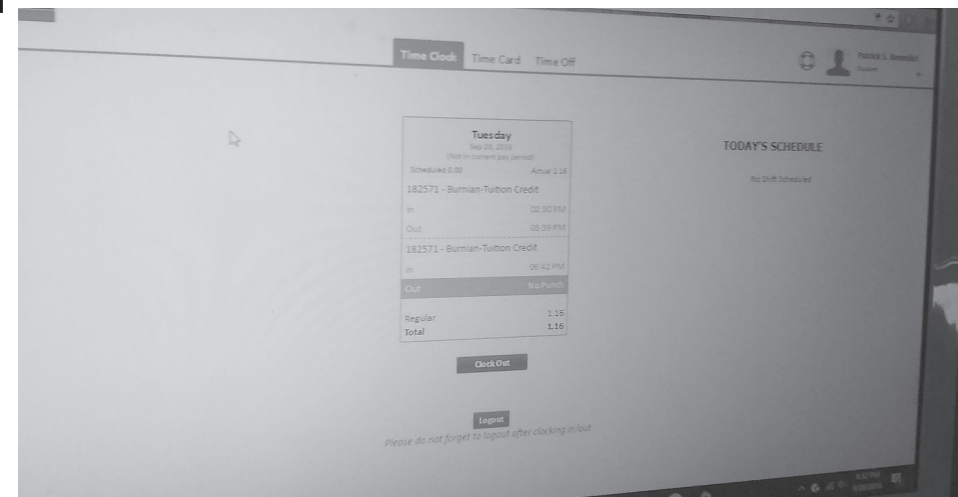


PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT

**Blackburn’s new payroll interface**

work takes students off campus. Take The ‘Burnian for example. It is rare that this type of work is done entirely on campus. Some of the articles require interviews that take place off campus. One could clock in, leave campus for the interview, return and clock out (which is what I would recommend in any situation where work takes you off campus) but it is one more thing to have to remember when conducting work. The new payroll system locks down

workers’ freedom by requiring every little moment of work to be accounted for. Simple activities such as sending work-related emails require you to clock in because there is no other way to account for such activities. The new system is just not as effective for the combination of working while learning. Balancing these two activities is now more difficult since the implementation of the new payroll system.



# Cheerleading: *More Than a Sport*

By JORDYN SMITH

You’ve heard the argument 1,000 times: Is cheerleading a sport?

Cheerleading, by definition, is “a sport involving the performance of organized cheering, chanting and dancing in support of a sports team at games,” according to the Oxford Dictionary. But cheerleading is much more.

Not only does a cheerleader encourage players to play well and get fans excited about the game, but a cheerleader also puts on a show. From kickoff or tipoff to half time to the game’s end, cheerleaders are responsible for entertaining the crowd through physical performance. Cheerleaders stunt and tumble, and risk their safety in order to do so.

Cheerleading is one of, if not, the most dangerous sports we have today. It “accounted for 65 percent of all direct catastrophic injuries to girl athletes at the high school level and 70.8 percent at the college level” between 1982 and 2009, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

However, according to naaa.org, cheerleading is not recognized by the NCAA as a championship sport. This is particularly frustrating for me during my college experience, where cheerleading is considered a “club,” thus implying that anyone can join. Though it makes me happy to see college students of all walks interested in the sport I have loved for more than half my life, it is also alarming because it is very difficult for individuals with no cheerleading/tumbling experience or athletic background in general to fulfill the mental and physical responsibilities required.

Although I am experienced in back-spotting, basing and front-spotting, the various positions of stunting, I have spent most of my years as a flyer. I am in no way afraid of heights or flying through the air, but let me be the first to tell you how scary of a practice it is to allow three rookie cheerleaders hoist you above their heads for the first time



PHOTO BY KRIS CARPENTER

and hope they catch you before you hit the gym floor. Stunting is a whole new level of athleticism and skill, and it can’t be done safely and successfully without educated, strong athletes who have good attitudes and who are willing to sacrifice their bodies for the sake of the flyer.

Aside from stunting, there are other major facets of cheerleading that require above average athletic ability. You’ll often see cheerleaders perform jumps and tumbling passes on the sidelines at a football game or down the court during timeouts at a basketball game. These skills require year-round practice for most teams. Dance experience is often a requirement as well.

I have been a cheerleader for 12 years. I started cheering for my hometown Junior Football League when I was in 5th grade, and I’ve loved it ever since. I particularly enjoyed competitive cheerleading in high school, although it definitely tested my persistence and strength. My small town team of 9 girls even placed at state.

Despite many nosebleeds, bruises and other more serious injuries, I have persevered. Cheerleading has taught me to never give up and remain positive, no matter what the odds are. It has taught me that people aren’t always going to appreciate you, no matter how much work you put into your routine. Above all, it has taught me the value of teamwork, competitiveness and sportsmanship. Because it’s a sport.

# Shhh!

## Why are Library Services So Hush-Hush?

By SHELBY RAINFORD

After working at a public library for nearly four years, I can say that libraries are a tremendously underappreciated source of information. Who wants to spend time in a building dedicated to outdated, dusty books anyways? What many people do not realize is that there is much more to libraries than books. According to the American Library Association, there are an estimated 119,487 libraries in the U.S. and these spaces are dedicated not only to books but to ideas, innovation, exploration, collaboration and the cultivation of new knowledge. Blackburn Cataloging and Reference Librarian Lynn Armstrong believes libraries are “social levelers,” allowing people with different circumstances unlimited access to information in a myriad of forms including print, digital, technological and service based.

Many people still do not use library services to their full potential. As a library worker, I am discouraged when I talk to students and discover that they still have the mentality that the items they can borrow from a library are limited to the library’s physical collection. If find this misconception very frustrating considering the vast sharing capabilities of libraries. The Blackburn Lumpkin Learning Commons is part of the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) which covers about 28,000 miles and serves a population just over 2 million. There are over 500 libraries in the IHLS consortium and over 300 participate in Sharing Heartland’s Available Resources Equally (SHARE) which gives patrons access to nearly 10 million items that can be ordered from their library or online. These services are not unique to print items, many

libraries also share digital items such as DVD’s and CD’s.

Another underappreciated service that libraries offer is digital services, which are key in narrowing the national and global digital divide - the void between those who have access to the internet and digital services, and those who do not. In July 2015, the Pew Research Center released a study which illustrated the digital divide in the U.S. by showing that 15 percent of Americans still do not have access to the internet. According to the 2013 Digital Inclusion Survey by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, nearly 98 percent of libraries offer free wi-fi services and 100 percent of libraries offer access to licensed databases. Libraries are narrowing the digital divide by adding new technology that patrons can learn and use for little or no cost. Technology like 3D printers, GoPro cameras and Kindles are becoming more widely available. By providing patrons with access to these new forms of technology, libraries are able to improve their local communities through technological education.

This is just a small overview of the myriad of services that libraries offer. People need to realize that there is much more to a library than four walls, a roof and some books. Libraries are truly a place where knowledge is abundant and everyone is equal. The library stereotype of a building filled with books and oppressive silence needs to change. Word of mouth is the best way to shatter this stereotype and it starts with you. Check out your library, take advantage of the services there and be sure to share your experience with a friend.



INFORMATION FROM THE IHLS WEBSITE  
INFOGRAPHIC BY SHELBY RAINFORD

# Division Dream

By PARKER RAMAKER

Division III athletics are unique because they are the only division that cannot offer scholarships. An athlete that decides to continue his or her career at a Division III institution chooses to play for a better balance of sport and academics. There are no special perks; there are no grand stadiums filled with thousands of fans; there is only the love of the sport.

Blackburn College is a Division III school that offers several sports for both men and women, including men’s baseball, basketball, soccer, golf and cross country, and women’s basketball, softball, soccer, cross country, tennis and volleyball. Freshman Skylar Bugar from Springfield, Illinois, plays women’s soccer for Blackburn. “[Playing Division III] means I get a chance to play a competitive sport that I love at a high level without a lot of stress that Division I or II athletes have to go through,” said Bugar. There is less pressure to compete in front of larger crowds, but a bigger emphasis on academics.

Americans have plenty of admiration for Division I sports. The majority of the money, television contracts and exposure go to these

Division I schools. Athletes that cannot play at Division I schools search for a school where they can finish their athletic careers. Division III opens new doors for athletes who did not get accepted into their dream school. Sophomore Lauryn Jackson of Tonopah, Arizona, plays women’s basketball for Blackburn College. She transferred from a college in Arizona to play a higher level of basketball. “I came from a small city in Arizona, and even though it is Division III, it is still collegiate basketball. I am still able to compete at the next level,” said Jackson. An opportunity was presented to Jackson when Katie Fonseca took over as head women’s basketball coach. She had played for Fonseca at Tonopah Valley High School.

The athletes that attend Blackburn College have a unique schooling experience because of the school’s work program. The combination of academics, athletics and work is a time-consuming schedule that students must learn to manage. Being a Division III school, student-athletes have a chance to succeed in that environment as opposed to a Division I school.

“[Playing Division III] means I get a chance to play a competitive sport that I love at a high level without a lot of stress that Division I or II athletes have to go through,”

Skylar Bugar

# Idolized Inspirations

By JORDAN WOOD

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the term “inspiration” as “something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create; a force or influence that inspires someone.” An inspiration is like a fingerprint. It is different for everyone.

Ask any athlete who inspires him or her, and chances are that they will name another athlete. Maybe the reason for this is that they wish they were that specific person, maybe for the money, maybe for the talent or maybe even for the fame. Whatever the reason is, people admire athletes. They look up to them and study their every move. They adore them. They are inspired. But if athletes inspire the average person, who inspires athletes?

Blackburn freshman basketball player Alexia Duncan’s inspiration is former first overall pick in the NBA draft, Kyrie Irving, and his journey from high school to college to the top of the league. “To see how he handles the ball well and to see how he can shoot... it gives me inspiration and lets me know I can become the best if I put my mind to it, if I put effort and dedication to anything I can do.

Most all athletes begin their careers

with a certain level of talent, but that talent can only take them so far. Talent alone cannot be relied on when there’s less than a minute on the clock in double-overtime. So if talent alone isn’t always enough, how do athletes get the job done? Inspiration.

Freshman soccer players Pietro Lentini and Steven Cowles spoke of how their team’s potential motivates them. Lentini said, “We have a lot of young talent this year and I feel like that and especially having our seniors, Nate and Chris, and we try and represent for them for their last year and try to give them our all, they’ve been giving the school their all for four years, so we’re trying to do our part now.”

Inspiration is not just something that a player turns to in times of need, but coaches as well. Women’s basketball coach Katie Fonseca draws inspiration from her desire to be the best and “being able to have something that I can attach my name to saying that we were able to come from this portion or we were here and now we’ve grown to this level no matter how long it takes is pretty cool and I think that’s what motivates me the most, is to be the best and to see growth.”

# Athletics Schedule

## Women’s Soccer

Sat	Oct. 8	Spalding at Blackburn	1:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 15	Fontbonne at Blackburn	1:00 PM
Wed	Oct. 19	Blackburn at Webster	5:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 22	Blackburn at Westminster	5:00 PM

## Men’s Soccer

Sat	Oct. 8	Spalding at Blackburn	3:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 15	Fontbonne at Blackburn	3:00 PM
Wed	Oct. 19	Blackburn at Webster	3:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 22	Blackburn at Westminster	7:00 PM

## Men & Women’s Cross Country

Sat	Oct. 8	at Principia	11:00 AM
Sat	Oct. 15	at Illinois College	1:00 AM

## Women’s Volleyball

Thu	Oct. 6	Greenville at Blackburn	7:00 PM
Tue	Oct. 11	Blackburn at Fontbonne	7:00 PM
Fri	Oct. 14	Blackburn at Eureka	7:00 PM
Mon	Oct. 17	Blackburn at Spalding	7:00 PM
Thu	Oct. 20	Blackburn at Westminster	7:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 22	Principia at Blackburn	11:00 AM



# the burnian

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

## GUEST COMMENTARIES

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

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



# BEAVERS HOMECOMING 2016

PHOTOS BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

## Men's Soccer



## Women's Soccer



## Beaverthon

