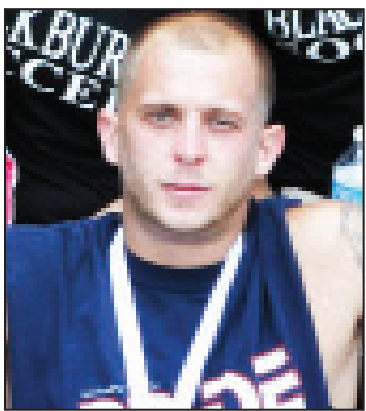




THE 'BURNIAN

Vol. 8, No. 2 Feb. 2013

Through Friends' Eyes: Remembering Josh Ramza (1988-2013)



Close friends Aaron (left) and Josh (right).



Good friends Josh (left) and Courtney (right).

“Josh always knew how to put a smile on someone's face. He will always be remembered as the ‘party animal,’ but Josh really had a great side to him other than partying. His love was soccer and sports. You could always find him watching a Bulls game or Bears or White Sox game. He would brag how they were so much better than your favorite team. We know him for cracking the funniest jokes and having the best personality ever. He was recently obsessed with “Duck Dynasty.” His favorite character was Si, and he got me hooked on that show. He was a one-of-a-kind person that we will never get back. He would text me everyday about his day, and now that he is gone I will always save these texts and reminisce about all the good conversations we had everyday. He will be truly missed and never forgotten.”

— **Aaron Guzman, close friend**

“I never had to tell Josh twice what needed to be done at work. Josh was loyal to us at Physical Plant. He was always willing to work over ALL BREAKS!!! Josh was never afraid to learn how to do different things at different jobs that he had here on campus. Josh was a joy to have around. He was always smiling. Josh, as I said before, was a worker. He also had a job off campus at Reno's. We at Campus Services will miss Josh but will never forget him! On February 4 Campus Services had chili for donations to be added to his Fundraising Soccer Tournament.”

— **Millie Abeln, Campus Services Supervisor**

“The first night I met Josh, I fell down a couple of stairs and ended up breaking my ankle. I will never forget how much Josh laughed and made fun of me for it. The Monday before Josh passed away he was telling me how funny that memory was and that he's never seen anyone fall the way that I did. Josh was always the person having the best, wildest times. He truly lived life to the fullest and always did what he wanted to do, when he wanted to do it. Josh is a person that I will never forget and I know a lot of people can say that as well.”

— **Courtney Loizon, close friend**

Special thanks to all who contributed photos and thoughts.



Tunnel of Oppression set for March

by Michelle Lee

Interim Director of Intercultural Programs Donisha Clemons is excited to bring “Tunnel of Oppression” to campus on March 28.

Tunnel of Oppression is an interactive guided tour that exposes participants to different types of oppression. It is a hands-on experience with simulated scenarios on topics such as body image, racism and disabilities. “The goal of the tunnel is to educate students about different issues to promote meaningful and respectful dialogues about the issues and to raise awareness about the different oppressions that people actually portray, give away or experience on a day-to-day basis,” Clemons explains. “They will know how to deal with people from different diversities, different areas of life and different walks of life.”

Clemons is excited to bring this event to our campus so that the worldview of Blackburn students might be positively changed and widened. The event has happened once on campus in the past, but Clemons plans to revamp the program. Instead of relying solely on visual aids

like posters, she is currently recruiting students to write and produce interactive skits or simulations to pull the participants in. She feels as though actually experiencing these oppressions will help Blackburn students gain a stronger understanding of cruelties they may not otherwise encounter. At the end of the tour, students will have the opportunity to participate in a debriefing process to discuss the emotions that they experienced during the simulation. Counselors from both the Blackburn campus and Carlinville community will be available for guidance during the debriefing process.

The response to this event has been great. About two months away, the sign-up sheet is almost filled. Any interested student is urged to sign up as soon as possible.

The Tunnel of Oppression will take place on March 28th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Woodson Hall. The sign-up sheet is on Clemon’s door in the Student Life Office in Demuzio 124. For further information, email Clemons at donisha.clemons@blackburn.edu.

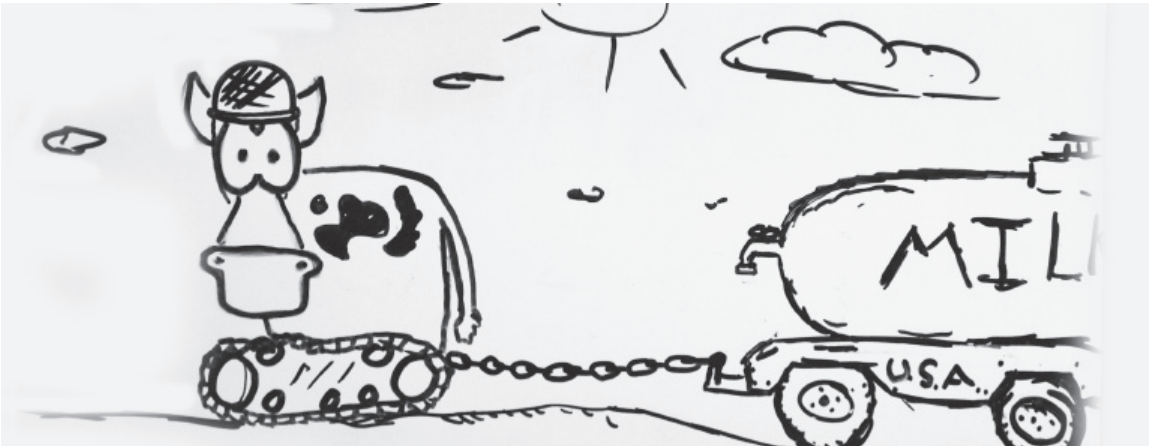


ILLUSTRATION BY TRACI KAMP/BRYAN BARTON, PHOTO BY AARON SZERLETICH

Campus Activity Board looks ahead to Valentine’s Dance, Siblings Weekend and more

by Clayt Scheller

On Thursday, January 31 at 9 p.m., members of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) assembled in the Student Life Conference Room to coordinate forthcoming on-campus events.

As the first order of business, board member Kelly Erwin recruited members of the group to help serve food and “mocktails” at Dueling Pianos the following evening.

After noting a lack of planned activities for Friday, February 8 and the following evening, the group brainstormed ways to fill the gap. Among the ideas pitched were a talent show, a fashion show and a visit by hypnotist Chris Jones. The group ultimately decided on Friday

night karaoke and Saturday night bingo.

As it turns out, Chris Jones is tentatively scheduled to return on Friday, March 1. On a similar note, the CAB intends for mentalist Christopher Carter – whose January 19 was canceled – to return later in the semester.

Moving on, the group shifted its focus to the Valentine’s Dance — to be held on Saturday, February 16 in Woodson 100A/B. Group volunteers will decorate Woodson in preparation for the dance on Friday, February 15.

The CAB also has ideas for Siblings Weekend, which will take place between Friday, April 19 and Sunday, April 21. Over the course

of the weekend, the CAB intends to hold two movie screenings, a trivia night, Jeopardy and another round of the Duo Game. They have also expressed interest in procuring an inflatable bounce house for the weekend.

To round out the meeting, Director of Student Activities Abbey Hardin asked members of the CAB what activities they would like to see this semester. The idea of a karaoke contest – “Blackburn Idol” – piqued the interest of many board members.

CAB meets each Thursday at 9 p.m. in the Student Life Conference Room, and students are always welcome to share ideas and voice their opinions.

Shout Outs!

Send your shout outs to burnian@blackburn.edu

Lynn Armstrong:

CO 498 students appreciate your mad research skills.

Dr. Crummy’s WR 112 class:

You should all try out for American Idol.

'Burnian staff:

The paper is looking better each time it comes out!

Carol Schaefer and the library staff:

Thanks for adding “Mother Jones” to periodical subscriptions.

Suzanne Krupica:

We appreciate your support.

Traci Kamp:

For adorning our campus with cute little donkeys.

Dollar General:

For stocking Rice Krispies Treats to fuel the 'Burnian editorial staff's late nights.

That one cat outside

Lumpkin Library:

We saw you punch that squirrel. And it was awesome. (True story!)

Donisha Clemons:

For hitting the ground running in her new position.

Student Senate looking to go public

by Kayla Koyne

Senate meetings – which are held every Sunday night at 8 p.m. in DCC – are open to the student body; however, a lack of student involvement has become a concern. In an attempt to increase awareness and student involvement, Student Senate is now considering several options.

One possible solution discussed in a recent meeting includes holding meetings in the ADRs. By doing this, there would be more room for students to come and participate. The next Senate meeting — Sunday, February 17 — will be in the ADRs to see how effective this solution can be.

Another potential option

to raise student awareness is to include meeting agendas and minutes in email announcements to students. This way students will have the option to come to a meeting if a particular issue interests them.

A third possibility to improve the relationship between Senators and their constituents could be to include the names and photos of each Senator on the cube in DCC. The hope is that doing this will make the senators more visible to the student body.

While Senate is more than ready to include students, you as students of Blackburn College need to do your part as well. Your student Senators are

there solely to represent you. This becomes more difficult when students are hesitant to make their senators aware of their opinions and wishes. Senators would love to make your voice heard and vote according to your wants on a variety of topics; however, they simply cannot do that if students do not hold up their side of the relationship and voice their opinions to senators.

Love these possible changes? Hate them? Let us know what you think or if you have any other ideas to make it easier for you to get involved with Student Senate. Email your ideas and opinions to: burnian@blackburn.edu.

New Student Senate At-Large representatives elected

by Kayla Koyne

After Jacob Maag assumed the position of Student Senate President and Tim Erton stepped down, Student Senate advertised two open positions at the end of the fall semester.

On January 31 and February 1, Student Senate held elections for these two open At-Large positions.

There was a wonderful response, as well as a wide range of candidates for voters to choose from. Those running

were Masey Blasa, Justyna Dorniak, Edia Mushundusi, Cecil Rowe, Amber Smith and Ashley Spears.

After the ballots were counted, Masey Blasa and Ashley Spears were selected by the voters to be the two new At-Large representatives.

At-Large representative is a unique position because, unlike dorm representatives, they are elected by the larger student body.

Student Senate President Jacob Maag shared his thoughts on the elections: “I would just like to include a ‘Thank you’ to everyone that ran. We had a great group up for the At-Large positions, as well as a ‘Thank you’ to all those that took the time to stop and vote.” The new senators have taken office and will begin their duties in the upcoming meetings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASEY BLASA



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY SPEARS

Loss and learning to accept the diversity in expressing grief

by Ron Smith

Even if we see it coming, death is still unexpected. On Saturday, January 19 there was no thought or expectation of Josh Ramza being found dead in his room, and the tension was thick as the absence was felt.

I did not know Josh personally, but as I was standing outside watching the EMTs, I was reminded of John Donne's words, "Any man's death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind; and therefore, send not to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

I do agree with this, but I do know that this diminution is a heavy weight upon those who are personally connected with the death. Grief is worn like clothes, and as people wear different clothes so people express their grief differently. There is no right or wrong way to grieve; you wear what you wear as you feel what you feel.



When my father died from stage four prostatic bone cancer he was in his home, and my mother held a wake two hours later. Friends and family came over with food and drink.

We told stories and jokes, and laughed in his presence. Later, we held a memorial service and had a big send off with pipers, whiskey, and tobacco. For my family, death is a reason to come together and have a party to remember the ones who have gone before us, and to warn Heaven that we will soon storm its gates.

To the outsider this may seem irreverent and crass, but this is how we cry.

I tell you this to reiterate the point that there is no "correct" way to grieve, and there is no set time when the grieving ends. Do you need to cry and wail? Then cry and wail. Are you not a crier? Then don't cry. Do you laugh as you tell funny stories about the one who is gone? Then tell stories and laugh. It is important that you do not expect others to grieve as you, but give others their space to say goodbye.

During this time, though patience is needed for those who are feeling the loss, those who are experiencing the loss need to have patience with themselves. Emotions can be raw, and memories can be triggered by the most unlikely things such as a change in the wind or a word overheard in passing. One moment you're fine and balanced, another

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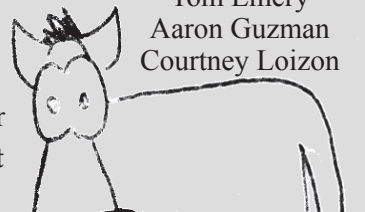
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moment you're a ball of erratic, irrational emotions and in the next you're quiet and lost in a memory.

You won't get over the loss per se. One day you will

go about your daily business and realize this person who is no longer in your life is a part of you—the footprint on your path that never faded.

What's up with all the donkeys?

by Traci Kamp

Have you seen any identity-confused farm animals lurking around campus lately? Chances are that if you've been in Graham, Stoddard, Jones, Hudson, the Visual Arts Center, Rahme or the Demuzio Campus Center, you have. I have left several hundred cartoon donkeys—which many believe to be cows—on any white board with enough space. I've done this since my first year here, and now that I'm well into my third year, I think it's time for me to come clean.

The donkeys are a way to let myself know where I've been—because the sidewalks

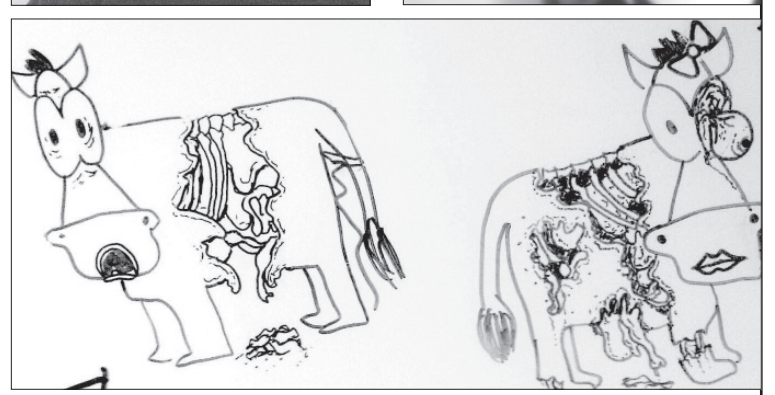
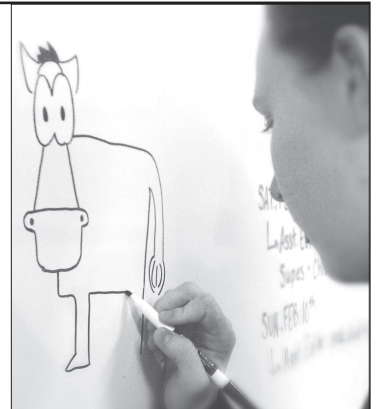
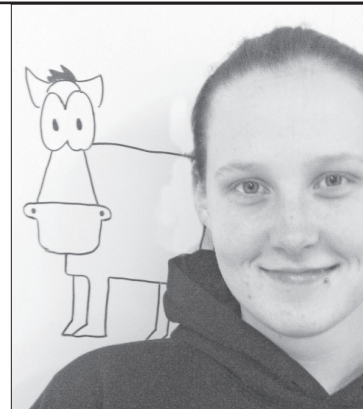
on campus are an intricate maze to nowhere—and to let others know I've been there, too. I started drawing the cartoon donkeys on a late security shift my first year, and I discovered I had a knack for drawing them.

Drawing the donkeys, for me, is more personal and unique than writing "Traci was here" in classrooms or on my friends' whiteboards, and it gives those who spot them the chance to have some fun back. Though no one has ever drawn a companion for my donkeys, some have taken the time to edit the drawings. Senior computer science major Bryan Barton is the most prominent collaborative artist that comes to mind. He often mutilates the donkeys I leave in Graham,

exposing their insides and even their skeletons in fantastically morbid detail.

I've been leaving these donkeys behind me ever since I learned to draw them that late night working security in 2011, and I don't plan on stopping anytime soon. As the layout editor of the 'Burnian, I have taken it upon myself to hi-jack this issue and hide donkeys throughout it. I invite you to spot all of the donkeys I've hidden in this issue and send the correct count to burnian@blackburn.edu to receive special recognition in the next issue!

Now that you all know my secret, I may have to start leaving different traces of myself around campus. Maybe armies of paper cranes...



PHOTOS BY TRACI KAMP/KATIE WARD

BC student interns in Panama

by Clayt Scheller

Blackburn student Marcella Polera has entered a spring internship at the Kalu Yala Valley in Central Panama this semester.

As an Organizational Leadership for Public Service student, Polera will help develop a sustainable community in the mountains outside of Panama City. Internship venues include building the town's foundation in the Kalu Yala Valley, fostering relations with neighboring town of San Miguel and working on logistics in Panama City.

Polera joins Kalu Yala's Biology program, which

will have her developing the village's infrastructure and contributing to its overall sustainability.

Since the summer of 2010, interns from thirty-nine states, thirteen countries and ninety-two colleges have worked at Kalu Yala. In addition to the overarching goals set by the Program Directors there, interns are encouraged to devise their own projects to benefit the village during their stay.

Kalu Yala promises its interns a highly unique experience abroad, and Polera's time there is certain to be memorable.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCELLA POLERA

Marcella Polera poses for a quick photo during her Kalu Yala internship.



PHOTO BY TRACI KAMP

Bryan Barton (above) adds a scene to a donkey drawn in Graham hall uppers. Barton, who sternly believes the donkeys to be cows, adds a full shipment of milk to the donkey and named him "the Milk Man."

How to tell if your professor hates you (and what to do about it)

by Kayla Koyne and Katie Ward

Every student at one time or another has wondered if one of their professors hates them. There are several ways to tell if your professor truly hates you or if it is all in your head. You can rest assured at night that you are not paranoid and your teacher hates you if they have done any of the following:

- “Misplace” your homework and make you re-submit said homework multiple times.
- Ignore you every time you raise your hand in class.
- Run in the opposite direction every time they see you.
- Give you detention... even though you are in college.
- Insist on calling you by the wrong name and/or mispronouncing your name... during every single class for an entire semester.



Never fear: there are plenty of ways to cope with a teacher who hates you.

- Skip class and leave the teacher to wallow in their own venom.
- Highlight errors in their syllabus and hand it back with a letter grade.
- Draw donkeys all over your course evaluation form at the semester end.
- Smartmouth the professor until they become emotionally unhinged.
- Refute their every point with “Prove it!”

OR, if you don’t want to throw away your education, why not set up a one-on-one meeting and have an honest conversation with the professor? It couldn’t hurt to put up a white flag and make some sort of good faith gesture. Think it over.

Dr. Pamela Danker joins Blackburn College Psychology Department

by Taylor Hess

As many of the Psychology students have noticed, Blackburn has a new professor. Luckily for us she brings tons of clinical and teaching experience. Dr. Pamela Danker can be found in her office working on class lectures or conversing with numerous students majoring and minoring in the broad field of Psychology. She even has a plate of candy which students gladly pick from each time they pay a visit to her during office hours.

Dr. Danker (also referred to as Dr. D by students) had originally never heard of Blackburn until she was looking for a full-time teaching position. However, after visiting Blackburn for her interview she was “hooked,” citing everyone’s enthusiasm and commitment. Dr. Danker hopes to bring the knowledge she has gained working in a clinical practice to the classrooms to help students gain a better understanding of

Clinical Psychology.

Before coming to Blackburn, Dr. Danker was an adjunct professor at Rose State College (Oklahoma), and worked at her private psychology practice. Dr. Jake, Blackburn’s other Psychology professor, was on the committee that hired Dr. Danker. He explained the reasons that made her so appealing: “She has considerable teaching experience...and she has extensive clinical practice in counseling. Those are skills she can bring to the classroom.”

When asked to describe her teaching techniques Dr. D explained, “In lower division courses where there is a lot of information to cover I lean toward lecturing although I do try to incorporate some discussion activities.” Psychology students should not fear, though, because, “In more advanced classes I am more laid back and we do more interactive things,” she added. Sophomore Brianna

Starck, who was enrolled last semester in Dr. Danker’s Child Development course, notes that “she does care if you pass or fail.”

Dr. Danker encourages her students to participate in class discussions and promises that they will not be ridiculed for their thoughts or answers, claiming that, “it is excruciating for faculty to try to get a discussion going in a class full of people who refuse to talk.” So the ball is in our court Psychology students: participation goes a long way with this professor!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Quick Facts

- Degrees:** Bachelor’s degree Michigan State University; PhD Texas Tech
- Office Location:** Hudson 209D
- Office Hours:** Monday 11-12, Wednesday 9-10 and 11-12, Thursday 1:30-3:30
- Her Advice to Students:** “Find the aspects of psychology that interest you and research graduate schools doing research in those areas. You should look for a career doing something you enjoy.”

BC art students show work in Chicago gallery

by Clayt Scheller

On the evening of Friday, February 1 a group of eight Blackburn artists attended a reception of their work in an exhibition at West Chicago’s Gallery 200.

Students Amanda Johnston, Megan Adamski, Abby Walls, Asher Bentley, Haley Rosentreter and Joseph Malin, along with faculty members Chris Day and Craig Newsom, were given the opportunity to share their art with the Chicago public. Their work spanned a variety of media, including drawing, photography, painting, digital media and ceramics.

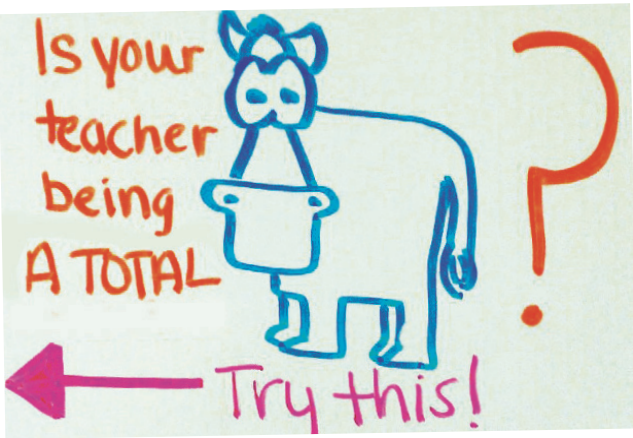
The exhibition was made possible by Gallery 200 founding member and Blackburn alumnus Fredericka Krauss Howard ‘54. With her daughter Tina Gsedl and Tina’s husband Uwe, Howard helped the group hang their work. Afterwards, Howard and co. treated the Carlinville group to lunch and a trip to the West Chicago City Museum, where they learned about the city’s history.

At 6 p.m., the gallery’s reception began and interested members of the Chicago public entered the gallery to examine and discuss the fruits of Blackburn’s art program.

“It was exciting to see people actually viewing and discussing your work outside of a classroom,” says student Amanda Johnston. “I even had a few people come up to me and talk about my work.”

The following day, the artists paid a visit to Howard’s house to pick up a printing press which Howard donated to the college’s art department. At the end of the trip, the group gained some first-hand experience at Uwe Gsedl’s photography studio, where student Abby Walls volunteered to sit for a few portraits.

“It was amazing to see the professionals at work, and definitely a valuable experience for anyone who wants to pursue a career in art after college,” says Amanda Johnston.



Twentieth Annual Creative Writing Contest Submission Information

General Guidelines for ALL Categories:

All entries must be:

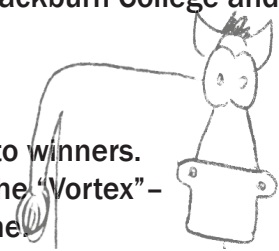
- an original unpublished work of the student.
- written in English.
- typed on standard typing paper.
- clearly labeled Drama, Personal Essay, Poetry or Short Story.
- submitted to Hudson 303 by March 22, 2013.

Contestants:

- may make one entry into each category, excluding poetry, which permits up to three.
- must provide a title, their name, and school or home address on the cover page of each entry.
- should retain copies of all entries, as none will be returned.
- Entries are the property of Blackburn College and can be used accordingly.
- Please number pages.

Prizes:

- Cash prizes will be awarded to winners.
- Winners’ work published in the “Vortex” – Blackburn’s literary magazine
- Winners’ names will be recognized in the “Communiqué” and “The ‘Burnian.”



The judges’ decisions are final. (The Department of English and Communications reserves the right to determine whether prizes will be awarded in the various categories.)

Please contact Mr. Roy Graham (ext. 4248), Dr. Ren Draya (ext. 4313), Dr. Karen Dillon (ext. 4384), Dr. Naomi Crummey (ext. 4270), Catherine Young (ext. 4385) or <catherine.young@blackburn.edu> or stop by Hudson 303 for additional information.

Kiss and Tell: Blackburn students (and faculty!) talk about their first kiss experiences

by Haley Welch

The music crescendos, sparks fly and the first kiss magically goes without a hitch. That is how most of us picture it but is rarely how it plays out. Often we are gangly teens unaware of the problems our noses were about to pose. But despite its awkwardness, the first kiss is memorable, whether it is magic or an “epic fail.” With the spirit of Valentine’s Day in mind, some brave Blackburn students and faculty shared their first kiss moments from the awkward, the adorable and the atrocious.

“My first kiss was horrifying. In a dark driveway outside my best friend’s house. Felt like a slug had been stuffed in my mouth!”
—Dr. Crummey

“My best guy friend of 4 years kissed me and I said ‘about time. It only took you 4 years.’”
—Senior Amelia Kirby



PHOTO COURTESY OF NIKKI LAMORE

“I went over to his room and we watched ‘Horton Hears a Who.’ During the middle of it he started a tickle fight with me and somewhere in the middle of laughing so hard I was crying, he kissed me. It made my heart skip a beat and took my breath away. It was the best kiss of my life.”
—Sophomore Nikki Lamore

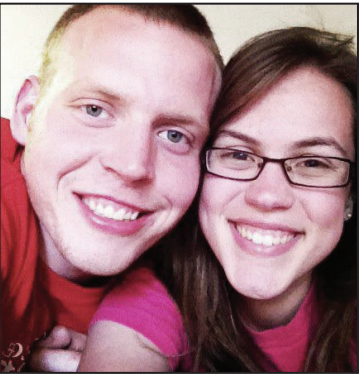


PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSEY LEACH

“I had had a crush on DJ since I was 12 years old. 4 years later he actually likes me back and I’m going to get to kiss him! He leans in and gives me a lame peck on the lips. Automatically, I said, ‘That’s it?’ Then I immediately regretted it. I just ruined my chances with the perfect guy! He laughed then went in for another one.”
—Sophomore Lindsey Leach

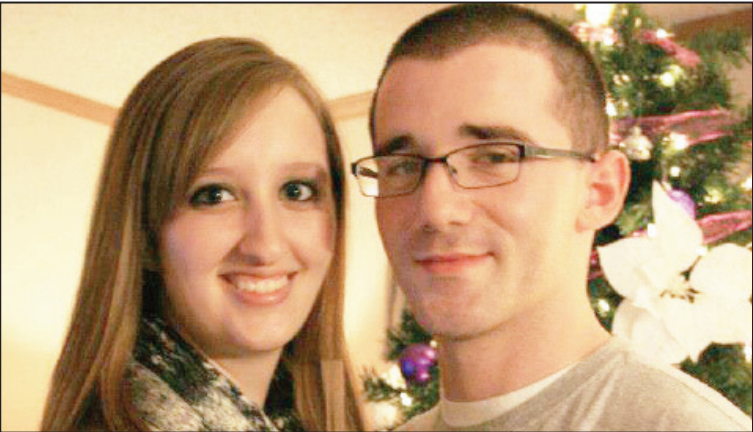


PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDI PUSTMUELLER

“After hanging out all afternoon, I knew we were going to kiss by the end of the night, but I was so nervous. We had been flirting like crazy and he would lean in to kiss me, but I always chickened out and turned my face away at the last minute. Finally, it was time for me to go so he walked me out to the car. I gave him a hug and we kissed - short, sweet, and to the point. Now, I believe that I initiated the first kiss, but he adamantly believes he moved in the 90%. We still bicker about who initiated the kiss to this day.”
—Senior Heidi Pustmueller

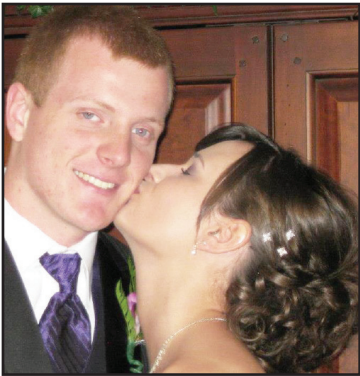


PHOTO COURTESY OF HALEY WELCH

“We started kissing and that transformed into making out... However she smelled and tasted like cigarettes, which was giving me an extreme headache. After a while my headache was too great and I excused myself to the bathroom. She thought I was going pee, but I was throwing up—a lot... So I finished, washed my mouth out with water, and went back and joined her on her couch where we continued making out, for she had no idea I had spent the last few minutes throwing up. It was our first and last date. Once I left her house I decided her smoking was something I couldn’t get past.”
—Junior Drew Rowe



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BARBARA CLARK

“This young man said to me, ‘Have you seen the new movie in town?’ I had—the night before with another young man—but I wasn’t going to let this opportunity slip by, so I said, ‘No.’ At some point during the movie, he leaned over and said, ‘You’ve seen this before, haven’t you.’ Busted! We did stay to see the end, then walked to the one restaurant in town for a snack. When we got back to the residence hall where I lived, we decided to take a walk because it was a beautiful evening. He walked me to the door (men were not permitted in the women’s dorms in those days) and said, ‘As I see it, we’ve had four dates today, so this isn’t really our first date. Is it okay if I kiss you?’ I knew he was special right then and there. No young man had ever asked for a kiss before—they had just assumed it would be okay. Of course I said yes. Forty-seven years later, the answer is still yes—but he doesn’t have to ask.”
—Barbara Clark

“My first kiss was a looong time ago! It occurred while sitting on the end of a dock on a lake in Wisconsin. My girlfriend wore glasses, which I thought I had to remove in order to kiss her. So, I took off her glasses, reached over and kissed her -- and, having lost concentration, dropped her glasses into the lake.”
—Dr. GregMeyer

My first kiss with my boyfriend Zach wasn’t straight out of a Disney movie either. After the first date I decided that Zach deserved a kiss and leaned in to give him one. His reaction? Backing away with a shocked expression. After he got over the surprise I laughed and gave him a kiss goodbye. Two years later, I still tease him about his reaction. So whether your first smooch was perfect or petrifying, be sure to kiss and tell; we all want to know.

Woodson Valentine's Day Dance 9P-12A Sixteenth

February

relationship

sweet

real

together

love

romance

pink

roses

compassion

eternity

red

cupid

delightful

feeling

flowers

beautiful

happy

true

gift

Brains for the Babes, Death for the Dudes: “Warm Bodies” Wins Over Both Sexes

He says... ★★★★★

by Clayt Scheller

When I was conscripted by The Powers That Be to watch and review “Warm Bodies,” I was prepared to write it off as “Twilight but with zombies” and call it a day.

The idea that a zombie with a heart of gold should rediscover love and gradually come back to life as a result struck me as kind of goofy. However, the movie is actually much cleverer and more intelligently directed than that synopsis might suggest.

Our hero, R (Nicholas Hoult), is a roughly adolescent zombie with mixed feelings about eating the living. Along with his friend M (Rob Corddry) and other shambling residents of the post-apocalyptic United States, R reluctantly feeds on the brains of the living. When he meets Julie (Teresa Palmer), though, he is stopped dead – geddit? – in his tracks. He saves her from the horde and then struggles to make her understand him – kind of like every other adolescent male.

R befriends Julie and gradually displays signs of life. The two set an unusual example for the rest of the horde, which also starts to liven up. Julie sees the possibility of a cure, but her militant father



(John Malkovich) and waves of conscienceless skeletons called “Bonies” complicate matters.

The movie clocks in at about 97 minutes long. Some movies in this range tend to move pretty quickly but run out of steam and ideas well before concluding. “Warm Bodies” avoids the need for a lot of padding simply by taking things more slowly than your average romantic comedy. It’s a nice change of pace, though it seems to unravel somewhat by the end.

The casts’ performances are generally solid as well – Nicholas Hoult’s droll narration and Rob Corddry’s one-liners add color to a bleak setting. Furthermore, by setting the film from a zombie’s point of view, the movie effectively lampshades a number of old tropes in a unique way.

It’s rated PG-13, so don’t expect George A. Romero violence. As a romantic comedy with zombies, “Warm Bodies” is not the next “Shaun of the Dead,” but it is interesting in its own right. It is – and I can’t believe I’m saying this –genuinely smart enough to be worth your time.

She says... ★★★★★

by Taylor Hess

The newly released film “Warm Bodies” at first glance seems like any other zombie film; however, this time there’s a twist. Main character R is a zombie who spends his days carelessly limping around, eating brains and collecting trinkets. His mundane existence as a zombie suddenly changes when he meets human girl Julie and falls in love. This love awakens the human in him and creates a change amongst the zombie population.

Overall I found the movie engaging. One of the aspects I found most appealing was the overall storyline. A zombie romance has yet to make it on screen and was quite refreshing in light of



the zombie craze. I also found that the film angles used throughout the movie gave the audience a great perspective to watch all of the action and danger. It also allowed the viewer to better empathize with the main character, who is a zombie. The last noteworthy aspect I enjoyed about the movie was the music. Each scene contained music that kept you in tune with the plot and characters’ feeling.

What I didn’t like was the plot disconnect at certain points throughout the movie. I found myself thinking “Well that wouldn’t have happened,” and at times those thoughts distracted me from the movie. Other than those few off moments, the movie captured

Composite rating:
★★★★☆

my heart with its romance and adventure.

If you are hoping to see a funny movie, think again. Math professor Chris Morin stated, “I was expecting a comedy. I wouldn’t categorize it as a comedy.” The previews give off a misleading comedic vibe when in actuality the movie is much more than that. A better genre description would be drama/comedy/romance with a sprinkle of horror. Anyone interested in going to see “Warm Bodies” should keep in mind that there are a few very startling moments.

However, with Valentine’s Day right around the corner this would make a great date movie!



PHOTO COURTESY OF RODOLPHO REIS

Dueling Pianos returns, falls short by Traci Kamp

Midwest Dueling Pianos is an organization of talented and well-trained pianists who bring comedy to a piano recital directed by the audience members. This intriguing combination draws large crowds, especially at colleges, which is Dueling Pianos’ most popular venue.

Hosting the event twice previously prepared the Blackburn campus for the performance style, but nothing could have prepared it for the performers. David Puzcewski was eager to get started, and

the sassy Alicia Brown gave him the spotlight for the duo’s first two songs. As the event began, Puzcewski expressed his love for the first song he played, Oasis’s “Wonderwall” and his disdain toward its diminished popularity.

Puzcewski played countless other songs as requested by both himself and the students, but he never seemed to leave the 1990s, challenging the organization’s boasted variety. As if trapping the student body in the last millennium wasn’t enough for

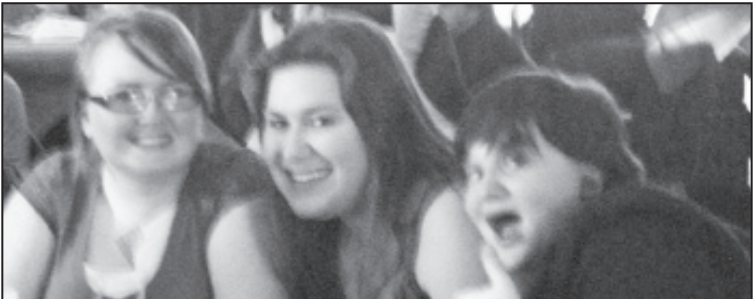
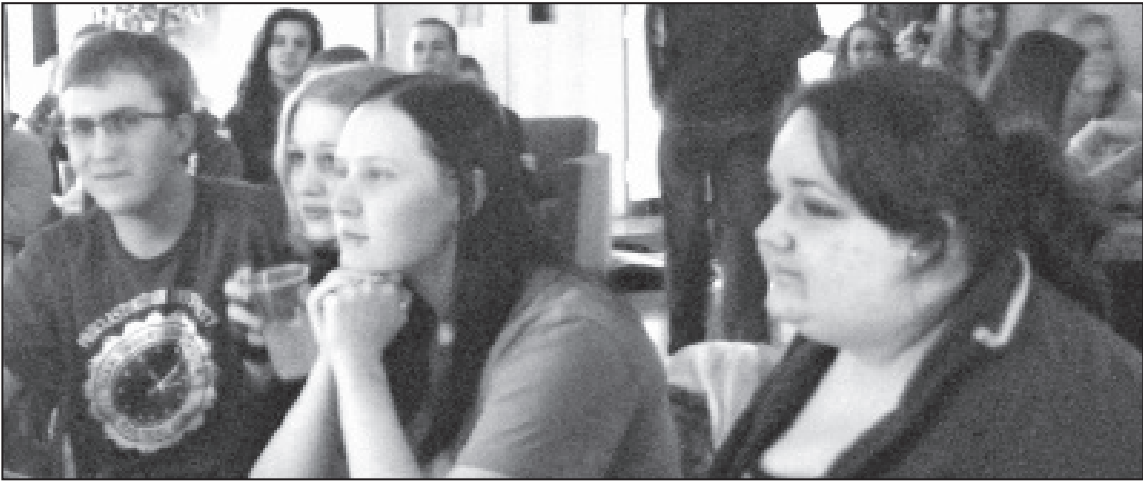
him, he continued to bring it back to its younger years with an alarmingly accurate vocal impersonation of Kermit the Frog that reverberates in my mind when I hear Goo Goo Dolls’ “Iris.”

Brown, on the other hand, brought much needed relief from the onslaught of Kermit’s reinvented 1990’s top 100 billboard hits. Her most memorable performances were Aretha Franklin’s “Respect” and Whitney Houston’s “I Will Always Love You.” Both of these performances engaged

and captivated the audience completely. The baseball players who requested the song were even admittedly blown away; some of them tweeting later that “dueling pianos is legit!”

Overall, the event was a pleasurable one as it usually is. The food and mocktails provided by the Campus Activities Board along with DCC’s temporary makeover

gave the event a more formal feel while welcoming an energetic atmosphere. Alicia Brown’s performances were superior— exactly what the organization’s website describes. David Puzcewski, on the other hand, could take a few lessons from Brown, or even the rest of us; we were born in the 90’s and have moved on.



DCC was transformed into the CAB Café so Blackburn students could enjoy mocktails and snacks at the Dueling Pianos performance February 1.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PR

The Voice of Dissent

Senior History major Adam Trovillion brings you part-two in a series critiquing Americans' reaction to Sandy Hook.



Americans do not only defend or react with callous indifference to the deaths of children in faraway lands; by supporting ideologies and economic systems which make human suffering inevitable, Americans are also complicit in the deaths of children in the United States, offering less explicit rationalizations for the demise of fellow human beings.

On the day of the Sandy Hook massacre in December, twenty children were murdered in a single instance of traumatic, gut-wrenching horror. Following the incident, Americans responded with massive outpourings of heartfelt consolation and grief, expressing shock and dismay at the thought of anyone so apparently lacking in humanity that he would turn a weapon against a child.

But what of those children born into acute poverty, who die not in a single burst of violence but slowly from starvation or disease, their faces never gracing our televisions nor their names appearing in print? What of the children born in America's slums and ghettos, consigned to extreme hardship and high mortality rates because they were not favored by fate? Or the black and brown youths gunned down in the streets, doomed to die young but not to be grieved by masses of sympathetic Americans? What of those who fall seriously ill, but whose parents can't afford the medical treatments necessary to keep the precious spark of life from being forever extinguished?

The American people assume that the persistence of poverty is both natural and inevitable. In fact, it is neither. It is, however, a natural and inevitable consequence in a capitalist economic system which concentrates vast wealth in a small number of hands, bolstered by an ideology which demands of the poor and downtrodden that they pull themselves up by their bootstraps—whether or not they can afford a pair of boots.

If we were truly interested in lifting Americans out of crippling cycles of poverty

and saving the lives of thousands of children each year, our society possesses sufficient resources for the task. What this would require is a drastic redistribution of our country's wealth out of the bloated clutches of the ruling class and into the anxiously extended palms of our degraded underclass; a system of universal public healthcare predicated on the principle that access to medical treatment is a human right, not simply a privilege for those who can afford its skyrocketing costs; and a comprehensive social safety net including subsidies for education and job training programs, to name just a few necessary changes.

But Americans react to the prospect of such changes with fear, stridently denouncing them as un-American, communist or socialist, an intolerable affront to our beloved system of free enterprise. Even moderate increases in social welfare spending—or, more accurately, refusals to further defund what's left of America's welfare system after decades of savage cuts—are decried as anathema to our cherished way of life, a way of life that leaves millions with inadequate resources to provide for themselves and their families. (It is an almost comical irony that Americans trust their government to murder Pakistani civilians in the name of stamping out terrorism, but not to care for the country's needy.)

To prevent the deaths of our children requires Americans to look beyond single tragic incidents such as the Sandy Hook massacre and the Band-Aid solutions that have been proposed in its wake. It requires a critical examination of the structural realities of capitalism and the suffering it invariably breeds. Americans must overcome their ingrained prejudices and recognize the necessity of new forms of social and economic organization based not on relentless competition and individualism but rather responsible and benevolent cooperation. Human lives depend on it.

How to Survive Valentine's Day (aka Singles' Awareness Day)

On this holiday full of romance and mushy love, being single can turn even the sweetest person into a Valentine's Day Grinch. Never fear, however, because there are a few tricks that make stomaching the most romantic day of the year a bit easier for all you single people.

Remember that while you may be going through Valentine's Day alone this year it will not be that way forever. Even tomorrow you may encounter that next great love in true movie-like fashion. So instead of glaring daggers at that couple swallowing each other's tongues next to you, be happy instead; one day, you'll be that obnoxiously happy as well.

Be your own Valentine. Yes, I know that sounds lonely and pathetic. Just think though, no guy/gal out there knows what you want as well as you! So go out and buy yourself that special something you've had

your eye on. Enjoy it knowing that you don't have to pretend to love that not-so spectacular – no matter how well-thought out – gift from a significant other.

Above all else, on this Singles Awareness Day embrace your singleness! Be glad that you don't have to worry about getting a significant other something special and all that jazz. You are free to do whatever you please to celebrate your special "single" day. Get a couple of equally single friends and have a blast! Don't sit at home and have a pity party. Instead, throw a get-together with your closest single friends.

So, this year, don't be a Valentine's Day Grinch! Have fun with all your other friends on this Singles Awareness Day and let all those couples out there have their day of gag-inducing, mushy love. Yes, you could be grouchy and complain the day away, but

by Kayla Koyne

really what good is that going to do? Reverting to the Grinch of Valentine's Day and yelling "get a room" at every Romeo and Juliet that have suddenly come out of the woodwork can be entertaining to you and a good way to get revenge on their happiness; however, it won't make your Prince/Princess Charming appear. Instead, kick that mindset of being left out on Valentine's Day and proudly embrace being included on this Singles Awareness Day!

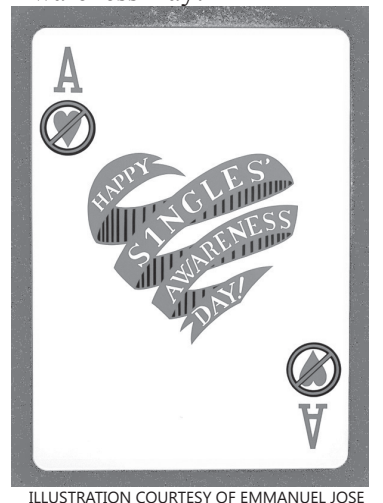


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF EMMANUEL JOSE

Letter from the Editor: *You're not a writer? Oh really?*

Dear Reader,

Although I typically only venture onto this page to talk about gender politics, it's time to address a topic even dearer to me: the stigma of being a writer. Thanks to the media, society sees writers as either neurotic grammar Nazis who have a bone to pick with the world or romantic poets with an inexplicable talent for capturing the world's beauty. These writers do exist but hardly represent the rest of us.

So many Blackburn students have great thoughts about our college and broader ideas including the economy, politics, religion and Little Debbie's snack cakes—yet for some reason when I encourage them to put their ideas in our campus newspaper, these same students shake their heads and say, "Oh no, I'm not a writer."

Whenever I hear someone say this, I'm tempted to make the easy argument that a writer by definition is a person who writes; therefore, every student at this college is a writer. But there's so much more to the issue that a tongue-in-cheek rebuttal just can't convey.

Forget what you think you know about writing. Being a writer isn't about "getting" grammar or mastering metaphors.



Being a writer means answering the prompt. We are all surrounded by prompts every day. If you've ever taken a test or filled out a job application, you've answered one. You've identified what's being asked of you and responded. A writer looks at the world this way—as a series of unanswered questions—and takes the initiative to answer.

I encouraged a classmate to write an opinion piece, but she said, "I'm no writer. Grammar and me aren't on speaking terms." Don't stress about grammar. I do, but this is a personal passion of mine—a vendetta, you might say. Years ago a dangling modifier fell and crushed my grandmother. As if this weren't tragic enough, when I was a child a run-on sentence was left unchecked and took off, eventually making its way into my backyard and running over my dog.

Seriously though, grammar should be the last thing to scare you away from writing. Think of it this way: I'm an editor. That's what I'm here for! Quirky theoretical physicist Dr. Sheldon Cooper from the sitcom "The Big Bang Theory" tries rolling dice to save brain power he would otherwise waste on trivial decisions. I'd like to think of myself as a die for Blackburn writers to throw; questions like "Does the subjunctive apply here?" only hold up a writer. Get your ideas on the page in a way that makes sense to you and leave the rest to the 'Burnian editorial staff!

Non-writers also seem preoccupied with big words. This is another classic hang-up. Writing isn't about picking the big word; it's about picking the right word. A high vocabulary helps you control your message's meaning, but don't feel bound to big words. Tell your story *your* way.

This is to all the professed non-writers out there. I challenge you to write. Instead of letting another issue go by, take a stand on a topic that matters to you and write about it. Start a discussion or—better yet—ruffle some feathers!

Sincerely,

Katie Ward
'Burnian Editor-in-Chief

Send opinion pieces to burnian@blackburn.edu by Saturday, February 23 and see your piece in the March issue!



PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

Coach Jen Windmiller encourages women's basketball player RaShonda "Boom" Willis during downtime at a late January game in Dawes.

BC reaches 20th anniversary of National Small College Athletic Association championship season for women's team

by Tom Emery

The first week of March 2013 marks the twentieth anniversary of one of the hallmark events in the history of Blackburn College athletics – the National Small College Athletic Association championship season of the Blackburn women's basketball team.

In retrospect, the national title season was hardly a surprise. The Blackburn women's basketball program was at its zenith, coming off three straight successful seasons with some of the best players in the history of the program. The elusive national title was among the goals set for the 1992-93 season by head coach Jim Sexton, who had overseen the rise of Blackburn women's basketball since taking over the program

in 1981.

Certainly, there were championship-level players to lead the way. Scrappy guard Karen Tuttle was in the last season of a legendary career, while junior Lisa Pliskin ran the offense at the point. In the middle was 6'3 freshman Sara Frankford, who was about to open a career that would land her in the Blackburn Athletics Hall of Fame, while senior Marsha Campbell brought defensive strength to the small forward spot. Senior Lynn Whisenton added more strength in the frontcourt from a long and deep bench that also featured the likes of junior guard Teena Rhodes, a player who could have started for most other teams in the conference. All in all, it was a physically talented and

mentally tough group from top to bottom, and they knew what it took to lead the drive to a title.

In the tournament for the national title, Blackburn routed Ohio Valley 79-59 on March 4, 1993. Waiting for them in the semifinals the next day was Trinity, the top seed, who had beaten the Beavers in the title game a year earlier. With memories of that loss still fresh, Blackburn shot a blistering 62 percent in a lopsided 69-53 win to advance to the championship once again.

Their opponent in the title game on March 6 would be the hosts, Wilmington. The teams battled into overtime in a classic climax to an incredible season, and Blackburn prevailed 81-72 to come

back to Carlinville with the program's first national title.

The Beavers returned home in the midst of spring break at Blackburn, but the celebration lasted well into March. An enthusiastic pep rally was held when the students returned, and billboards across town offered their congratulations. Sexton was named Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Co-Coach of the Year, and the entire campus reveled in the success of their women's basketball team.

As two decades have passed, the glow of the 1992-93 national title at Blackburn is still evident. There is no doubt that glow will remain in the hearts of everyone who witnessed one of the most special seasons that any Blackburn sports team ever enjoyed.

Soccer tournament held in Ramza's honor

by Clayt Scheller

On Saturday, February 9 Carlinville residents and Blackburn students honored Josh "Bug" Ramza at a memorial soccer tournament at the Demuzio Sport Center.

Teams from Blackburn played Josh's favorite sport as spectators cheered for them.

Meanwhile volunteers sold memorial t-shirts and raffle tickets, raffling prizes every hour. Proceeds went to Josh's family.

Cecil Rowe, co-coordinator alongside Prince Koroma, said, "We've tried our best to keep Josh's memory alive... Soccer was his passion."

"I'm grateful that so many people showed up to support his family," added Rowe.

The words "Tomorrow is never promised" appear on the memorial shirts and summarize a lesson from Josh Ramza's life.



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE LEE

Blackburn College Cross Country coach suddenly resigns

Players' coach Mark Hopping resigned as Blackburn's head cross-country coach late January. He spent three years on staff with the program, first as a volunteer assisting then head coach Mike Williams and then succeeding Williams as head coach.

Coach Hopping's ascension to the head coaching position was originally brought on by popular demand and athlete input. He became a recognized runner in Carlinville with over thirty years of experience

in the sport and qualifying for the Boston Marathon 11 times. He was sought out by the team and quickly put on staff hoping to rejuvenate a struggling program. Coach Hopping delivered on that hope with his zeal and passion for the sport. He brought forth a new attitude and has created an environment filled with potential.

Between his full-time job as a P.E. teacher at the local elementary school and the tasks and responsibilities of the cross-country position, he felt that it was time to give

the coaching job to someone with the necessary energy. He said, "Coaching is a full-time job where you have to recruit nine months out of the year and coach for three. If I can't devote all of myself to it, then I would be doing the school, the program and the athletes an injustice."

Despite his departure Coach Hopping will not entirely split with the program next year. He plans on being a volunteer once again, easing the transition for the next head cross-country coach. Hopping said, "I believe in the school

by Christian Gagnano

and the program. We have the nucleus of a burgeoning team and I want to see them through next year. Blackburn provides a great education and gives

athletes the chance to compete at an NCAA Division 3 level, and both are important for future life success."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY SPEARS

Cross country team group photo. (Left to right) Top row: Ashley Spears, Coach Hopping, Nathan Wagner, Paul Kline, Nathan Speckhart, Drew Rowe, Jake DeRousse, Christian Gagnano, Chris Best. Bottom row: Kyle Henderson.

