



THE 'BURNIAN

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IL Senate passes same-sex marriage bill, BCG members rally support

by Emily Rabida

On Wednesday, February 13 Blackburn Common Ground (BCG) had its regularly scheduled meeting. The topic being discussed that night was particularly exciting for the club. BCG is a gay straight alliance club that fundraises and brings awareness to issues concerning the LGBT community. Illinois senate was to vote on a same-sex marriage bill on Valentine's Day (Illinois already has civil unions). Jordan GeRue led

the discussion by handing out information on the bill. The bill is supported by Governor Pat Quinn.

If it is approved, Illinois would be the tenth state to legalize same-sex marriage. The media expected the Senate to be in favor of the bill because of its large number of democrats. Once approved it moves on to be considered by the House. Members of BCG discussed how excited they were for it to be passed

but they realized that many people still do not agree with same sex marriage. Vice President Ally Cozad stated, "Society likes labels. It has to be black and white. They do not know how to handle the gray area and same-sex marriage is that gray area for America." The discussion switched to the hot-button issue of being transgender, and some members were curious as to whether or not the bill will affect marriage rights

for transgender individuals. Caelen Austin stated, "Transgender rights have a lot to do with birth certificates." Transgender individuals are usually not mentioned in same-sex marriage laws. While it is a step forward for Illinois, it might be a halt for transgender individuals who do not receive the same right. States such as Texas now use the birth certificate as proof of a person's gender.

New matriculation ceremony in the works for BC

by Clayt Scheller

Starting next semester, Blackburn will institute a new freshman tradition—incoming students will be given a token at a special welcoming ceremony to signify their entry into the Blackburn community.

The particulars of the ceremony are still in development, but the ceremony itself will essentially serve as a bookend to graduation. One idea for the ceremony is to have students walk across a stage, state their names and be issued some symbolic token—possibly a pin or coin in the shape of a beaver tail—with the date of their matriculation potentially engraved on it. When the time comes, the date of their graduation may also be engraved on it.

see News, page 2

2013 Founder's Day Convocation celebrates the Work Program

by Katie Ward

On Monday, February 18 Blackburn held its annual Founder's Day convocation in Bothwell Auditorium. In attendance were students, faculty, staff, the larger college community and prospective students to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the Work Program.

Guest speaker Dr. George Kuh addressed the concept of goal actualization, which he explained as "the ability for students to see how their studies apply." He asserted that students arrive at college "in a state of dualism" in which they prefer the concrete to the abstract. At a liberal arts college, Kuh explained, the Work Program provides



PHOTO BY AARON SZERLETICH

Vickie Moseley presents Mim Pride the 2013 Gideon Blackburn Award at the convocation.

direct real-world applications to accompany classroom learning.

Currently Chancellor's Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at Indiana University Bloomington and Adjunct Professor of Education Policy at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Kuh has continued to excel in the field of higher education.

During his presentation, Kuh asked that Work

Program Supervisor Roger Fenton as well as present and past managers stand for recognition. Nearly two dozen students and alumni stood with Fenton and received applause.

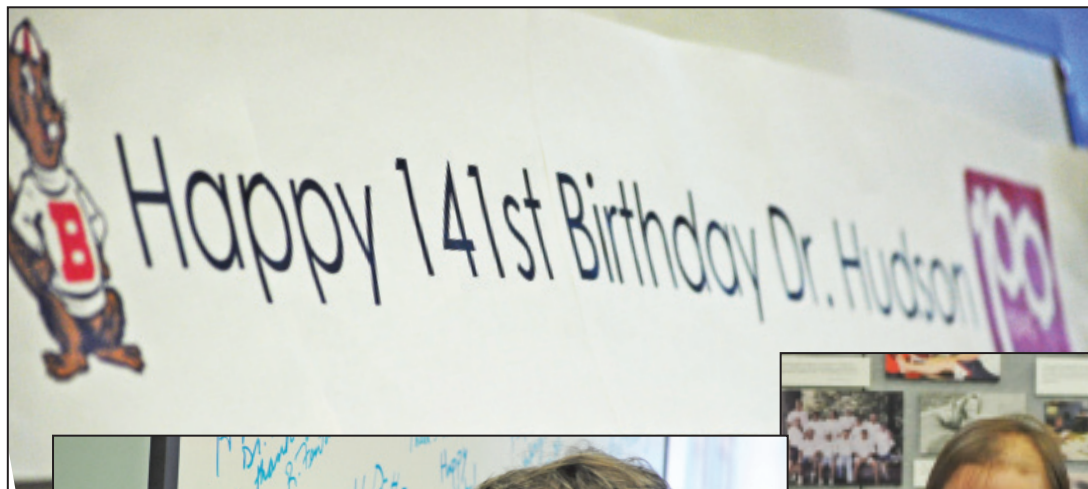
On behalf of the Alumni Board of Directors, Vickie Moseley ('78) presented President Mim Pride with this year's Gideon Blackburn Award for her many contributions to the college. Pride's acceptance was met

with a standing ovation.

Glen Krupica expressed his and the community's gratitude for all parties involved in planning the 175th anniversary of Blackburn celebration—which concludes its festivities as the Work Program anniversary celebration begins—and introduced '73 alumna Cynthia LaMar. Now president of the Cynmar Corporation, LaMar spoke of Blackburn's instrumental role

in her life and her education's personal and professional value.

After the convocation concluded, the community recognized current Work Program managers by viewing a Visual Art Gallery display at an organized reception. Afterward attendees joined them in the dining hall for lunch.



Happy 141st Birthday, Dr. Hudson!

On Tuesday, February 26 the Blackburn community celebrated Work Program creator Dr. William Hudson with birthday cake.

In 1913, then-president Dr. Hudson helped sustain the college through a financial crisis by fostering what later became the modern Work Program.

Thanks, Dr. Hudson!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PR

Left: President Pride leaves a birthday wish for Dr. Hudson. Above (left to right): students Katie Hazelwonder, Tim Erton, Aaron Donoho, Lauryn Vunetich and Carly Vunetich gather for cake.

Matriculation continued from p.1

Along with Dr. Jeff Aper and Blackburn’s three division chairs, College Counselor Rob Weis has been an integral figure in the event’s conception. “[The ceremony] will help new students understand that they are transitioning into college,” Weis says, “and it will help the community recognize that we have expectations of each other.”

As Dr. Karen Dillon puts it, it will be “a ceremony with gravitas.”

The details are yet to be determined. Weis encourages students and faculty to submit input to Student Senate.

Annual scholarship fundraising dinner yields successful results

courtesy of Public Relations

Clubhouse tickets to the Senior PGA Championship, Cardinals ticket packages, a weekend at Coppermine Cabin on Beaver Lake in Rogers, Arkansas, a quail hunting trip and many other exciting items were all available at this year’s Blackburn College Macoupin County Scholarship Dinner & Auction.

The annual event was held Saturday, February 23 in the Woodson Center on the Blackburn campus. The auction has helped fund scholarships for seventy students from Macoupin

County and has distributed more than \$260,000 since its inception in 1991. Dinner began at 6:00 p.m. with the auction following at 7:00 p.m.

The successful bidders for the Coppermine Cabin package will enjoy a three-night stay in this beautiful, private three bedroom three bath home with a walkout basement overlooking Beaver



Current BC students who have received scholarships from fundraising efforts participated in the auction dinner to help ensure scholarships for future students.

Lake. Enjoy the finest fishing, hiking, boating, horseback riding and local shopping spots like Historic Eureka Springs.

Over one hundred items were available during the auction, following a wonderful dinner catered by Sodexo at

Blackburn. Guests enjoyed a cash bar provided by Jim Snider from Lucky Dog’s Alehouse. Additional generous support was received from event sponsors CNB Bank & Trust, and Cress and Laurie Maddox.

Student Life Committee explores gender inclusive housing

by Katie Ward

Each week Student Life Committee meets to explore campus concerns such as tuition and housing changes. Recently the committee has begun addressing the issue of gender inclusive housing.

The committee is composed of Dean of Students Heidi Heinz, Residence Life Director Tim Moran, Campus Activities Director Abbey Hardin, counselor Rob Weis, Interim Intercultural Programs Director Donisha Clemons,

Work Supervisor Roger Fenton, professor Dr. Karen Dillon, Admissions Director Alisha Kapp and students Samantha Yoder, Kaitlyn Halstead and Kayla Koyne.

The issue of gender inclusive housing arose from the growing demographic of non-traditionally self-identifying students. With gender identity advancing beyond the traditional binary options, current undergraduate housing

often fails to accommodate non-traditionally gendered students.

Many American colleges and universities are currently designing their own policies to accommodate such students. Among those with current policies are Oberlin College (OH), Brown University (RI) and the University of Minnesota.

The committee will design a campus-wide survey to gauge student attitudes and concerns. Students and campus community members are encouraged to submit their thoughts to burnian@blackburn.edu.

by Taylor Hess

out you don’t realize you’re not bringing change.”

The new efforts include surveys, more inclusive Food Committee meeting times and feedback boxes labeled with a focus question of the week located on bulletin boards in every dorm. Students are encouraged to take advantage of all the new opportunities that are being put in place.

goal is to receive more student feedback so that Food Services can better cater to the appetites of students, who eat a majority of their meals in the dining hall.

Pam is thrilled at the new opportunities for feedback, mentioning, “I am always looking to bring exciting options to the dining hall.” She continued explaining, “When you do my job day in and day

Food Committee starting back up

Food Committee will resume its weekly student feedback meetings; however, students should note that there are some new changes. From now on the meetings will be held every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in Ding.

Efforts to revamp Food Committee by Student Senate and Pamela Cole, Blackburn’s General Manger of Food Services, are underway. The

Twentieth Annual Creative Writing Contest is coming up fast!

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.
- labeled Drama, Essay, Poetry or Short Story.
- submitted to Hudson 303 by March 22, 2013.

Contestants:

- may enter each category once but up to three poems.
- must provide a title, their name and school or home address on the cover page of each entry.
- should retain copies of all entries.
- should 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.”

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 stop by Hudson 303 for more information.

Shout Outs!

Send your shout outs to burnian@blackburn.edu

Anneliese Gries:

Thanks for the late night snacks and restoring our faith in humanity!

Miriam Pride:

For some great diplomatic facilitating skills!

Kristi Nelms:

Thank you for sharing your expertise with CO 498.

Craig Newsom:

Your cord lending will lead to good tea.

Suzanne Krupica:

We appreciate all of your support.

Dr. Kuh:

Thanks for recognizing the importance of college newspapers!

Steve Oberman:

For handling projector nightmares.

Dr. Long and Dr. Stewart:

Congratulations on your tenure!

Professor Gross:

Thank you for all your website help!

Admissions:

Great job on another successful open house!



President Mim Pride presents the soccer team’s fundraising check to the family of the late Josh Ramza.

The life of Mary Cosner by Clayt Scheller

On Thursday, February 7 former Director of Admissions Mary “Cos” Cosner passed away in Virginia, IL. Having worked at Blackburn for four decades, she leaves behind an impressive legacy.

Cosner was born in Ashland, IL on January 12, 1927. She graduated from one of the final two-year classes at Blackburn, working as the editor of the school newspaper and a member of the choir. She studied Journalism at the University of Illinois-Champaign and English at the University of Colorado, later returning to Blackburn to earn a BA in English.

After graduating in 1953, Cosner remained at Blackburn to begin her work in the Admissions Department as an Admissions Counselor. She gained extensive knowledge of records and registration; she had a capacious memory of the former and implemented forward-thinking policies for the latter. Cosner was a driving force for increasing diversity in the student body, helping

many international students and Americans of various ethnic groups gain entry to the college.

By the time she retired as Director of Records and Registration in June 1994, Cosner had gained a reputation for being a highly efficient and fiscally conservative worker. “After she retired, it took me years to clear out all the old office furniture that she had scrounged up over the years. It was held together with glue and contact paper,” recalls Director of Transfer Admissions John Malin.

Cosner was also a voracious reader. Malin remembers being provided a novel a week, along with multiple newspaper clippings. Time after time, she would issue this advice to students: “If you would read more, you would write better.”

In her 41 years of employment at Blackburn, Cosner was respected for her professionalism, honesty and dedication to improving the college. She forged close

relationships with hundreds of students and faculty members over the years. After retiring, Cosner alternated between living in Florida and spending time in Carlinville, making sure to keep in touch with her friends at the college.

“It’s hard for me to describe Cos,” says Registrar and Advising Services Coordinator Dianna Ruyle. “I can’t possibly describe the depth of her influence on the college. She was a terrific mentor and a good friend... she will be dearly missed.”

“She understood the uniqueness of the college,” adds John Malin. “She could have worked at larger, richer schools but she saw the potential of Blackburn and its Work Program. She believed in Blackburn... she understood that college is a time for students to roll up their sleeves.”

Cosner’s family is planning a private burial of her cremated remains at the family farm in the spring. They ask that memorials be directed to the college or the Carlinville Public Library.

How to survive a bad hair day

by Kayla Koyne

We have all had one of those days when our hair turns into the “thing” akin to a bratty two-year-old we cannot control. However, there are a few ways to help make a bad hair day more bearable.

You can take the “pretend my hair is not there” route and wear a baseball cap all day. Get in touch with your inner slugger with this look. For extra bad days, shove all your hair up under the cap and pretend it is not even there.

Another option is to use enough hair-care products to put a hole in the ozone layer. So what if your hair stops moving for weeks; at least it’s the way you want it! True, you will look like an entire bottle of hairspray exploded, but so what if it gets your bangs to lay right. After such treatment, your hair will never step out of line again for fear of hairspray abuse.

If you would rather not scar your hair forever, you could always embrace the chaos. After all, everyone

has one of those days. That possum-looking hunk of hair on the top of your head is not so bad in the grand scheme of things; it could be worse. Maybe people will think you are making a fashion statement... or they could be so scared of that thing perched on your head that they will not dare insult it.

If all else fails and your bad hair day turns into a bad hair week or month, you have that last-ditch option of getting a pixie cut. After all, how can you have a bad hair day if you have almost no hair? You can roll out of bed and go instead of fighting with your diva hair for an hour. Take advantage of the extra time and get more sleep.

So, on your next bad hair day, never fear! You DO have options. Control your hair instead of letting it control you. Or you can wave a white flag of surrender and get on with your day, whatever works for you!

Bingo etiquette essentials: how not to be a total jerk and ruin the game

by Michelle Lee

When asked about their favorite event on campus, most students will tell you that it is Bingo, especially Platinum Bingo. Freshman Jordan GeRue says, “Bingo is thoroughly one of the best events on campus.”

Played like traditional Bingo, students gather in DCC during event nights to listen to called numbers, mark their boards, and hopefully walk away with some sort of prize. Attendance generally reaches about seventy-five people. During a regular Bingo night, prizes range from Subway and Walmart gift cards all the way to \$50 gas cards.

Platinum Bingo, held at the end of each semester, is a good stress-reliever during finals week. Prizes for Platinum Bingo in the past have included televisions, laptops, large gift cards, and iPods. Bingo can become pretty competitive, as everyone wants to win the

large prizes.

At the last Bingo event on February 9, the players were boisterous and disruptive. One specific group of students was booing and calling out less than friendly remarks. This upset quite a few players.

When asked about their behavior, sophomore Vinnie Birk said, “We had no idea that our actions were going to offend people. That wasn’t what we were trying to do.”

Players on the opposite side of the room began to exchange words with that group. The tension escalated until caller Ivy Balla was forced to threaten to cancel the event. Balla said that “the banter between the two sides of the room proved disrespectful and distracting to those working the event as well as those who were trying to pay attention.”

Freshman Catherine Young won a gift card and believed



IMAGE COURTESY OF PR

Alumni Chris Sheff and Stephanie Lewis play Bingo during their time at BC.

that the booing and calling was “very rude and totally uncalled for.” To prevent something like this from happening again, common sense should be employed. Bingo can be exciting, and all players understand how easily the game becomes competitive. We all know the familiar feeling of excitement as you notice your board is one away from the big win, as well as the disappointment that lurches in your stomach when you hear someone else yell “Bingo!” before you. But there comes a point at which competitive behavior crosses the line. For future reference during Bingo and Platinum Bingo events, here are some basic guidelines to abide by while playing BC campus’ favorite game:

1. **Get there early.** Fighting for seating is no fun.
2. **Pipe down.** Unnecessary chatter leads to confusion about which numbers are called.
3. **If you miss a number,**

try not to ask what the number was. It creates additional noise, which also confuses other players.

4. **Respect the caller.** He or she has the authority over the game, but is not responsible for your frustration.

5. **Do not show up in a less-than-sober state.** Doing so can get you banned from the game, or even in trouble with campus security.

6. **Do not heckle the winners.** We get it; you’re frustrated that you didn’t win that Subway gift card. We’re bummed too. But instead of guilt-tripping the winners, try to congratulate them. Isn’t that how you’d like to be treated? Immaturity is highly frowned upon.

7. **Last but not least, don’t forget that it is a game.** Enjoy yourself. Don’t stress about winning. It’s not the end of the world if you walk out empty-handed.

Be sure to use these tips at the next campus Bingo game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Natasha Anthony and Allie Mat have fun at Bingo.

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(left to right) Top row: Taylor Critchfield, Ian Thomas, Aaron Szerletich. Middle row: Victoria Shoemaker, DeArryka Williams. Bottom row: Becca Wales, Kasara Murdzia, Emily Rabida, Edia Mushundusi, Ray Johnson, Haley Cohan, Shaun Thrasher, Rachael Lancey, Christian Gragnano.

BC students attend Midwest Model United Nations

by Amber Smith

The Midwest Model United Nations (MMUN) is a college level organization designed to give students the chance to consider crucial problems facing the world. This year the conference was held from February 20 to February 23 in St. Louis. Students in the conference are placed on specific committees and must represent the country to which they are assigned. This is the twenty-fifth year Blackburn College has been participating in the MMUN. Fourteen Blackburn students were involved this year. Dr. Mike Bradley said he sees value in the MMUN because “students who participate in MMUN get the chance to represent the perspective of a country which can be very different from their own. Students get to

interact with various students from other colleges and universities. Participants must think on their feet and work to a consensus on large and dangerous problems.” Ireland’s Council General to the Midwest Aidan Cronin spoke on the development of the United Nations as well as Ireland’s relationship with the UN. Cronin believes the key issues include climate change, relieving hunger, promoting global development, HIV/AIDS awareness and human rights. After the keynote address, delegates went to their committees. The First Committee discussed the international arms trade; Aaron Szerletich and Christian Gragnano represented Iraq, and Taylor Critchfield represented Lebanon. Ian Thomas and Ray Johnson represented Lebanon

on the Second Committee, which worked on reform for water and food distribution in Lebanon. On the Third Committee, Rachael Lancey and Shaun Thrasher represented Iraq and worked on strengthening commitments to social inclusion and development. Emily Rabida and DeArryka Williams represented Iraq and worked to develop international law regarding stateless individuals. Haley Cohan and Edia Mushundusi represented Iraq on the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC). Kasara Murdzia represented China on the Security Council, where she dealt with terrorism in Mali and an Israeli missile attack of Iran. Victoria Shoemaker commented that she looks forward to MMUN next year. On March 7 Blackburn College will host the Central Illinois High School Model United Nations conference.

Busting myths about Political Science majors

by Sarah Collman

Political Science majors are often portrayed as future versions of those twelve-year-old kids who went around campaigning to be the first (insert questionable minority characteristic here) president of the United States. These future lawyers and United Nations delegates are no doubt going to get the last word in almost any conversation because all we can do is nod along with the one-sided debate. “The general feeling that ‘politics in the bad sense’ is unseemly is justified given the dysfunction in Washington, but is too easily stereotyped and used as a cop-out for avoiding the responsibilities of citizens,” says Political Science Department Chair Dr. Sam Meredith. “But there is also ‘politics in the good sense,’ which is finding ways to work together to create a more just world. That requires leadership and political skill.” At Blackburn, the Political Science department brings together insights from a

number of disciplines – law, philosophy, political science and sociology – to develop the skills for effective citizenship. “The Political Science Department offers a range of programs organized around three central questions: What kind of a world do we want? What values do we want to promote? And how do we achieve these ends?” says Meredith. The department includes four majors: Political Science, Criminal Justice, Organizational Leadership and a Legal Studies major in development. The department began with the traditional political science major and has adapted to employment opportunities by adding the Criminal Justice major, then the Organizational Leadership major and soon a Legal Studies major in the 2014-2015 academic year. It is intended to serve the needs of both pre-law students and students preparing for a paralegal career who need an understanding of law and legal institutions.

Even non-majors can benefit. Dr. Meredith says, “Politics is life. It is deciding what we should do, why we should do it and how to get it done . . . Whether it is office politics or elective office, the skills are the same. It involves diagnosing problems, devising solutions, convincing others and working with them to achieve a goal. The courses in the department develop skills and concepts that are used every day to get things done.” With Blackburn’s small size, a benefit of this particular Political Science department is being able to explore ideas from a variety of disciplines while working alongside students who are reaching to achieve the same goal. “Politics occurs when problems are not amenable to easy solutions and where people with different values and interests must find common solutions,” says Dr. Meredith. “Keep an open mind and stay involved.”

Watson sends updates from Spain

¡Hola Blackburn!

Now that I have been in Spain for almost two months, I feel like I am finally starting to take part in the culture rather than just observe it. I find myself spending a lot of time with my host family. We watch television together, engage in conversations and joke around with each other. I am so glad that the Aceros have welcomed me into their family. My host mother even refers to herself as “*mi madre española*,” my Spanish mom. I also have regular conversations with a girl named Eva María. We meet once a week for coffee or tapas to practice speaking. Each time we switch languages, since she is learning English as I am Spanish. I am forming long-lasting friendships with them all and it is through these experiences that I have learned the most. Classroom education is important, but there are many things you will never learn unless you truly immerse yourself. Language is more than a new set of words. It

embodies an entire culture with different expressions, sentiments, and values. My classes are also going well. Similar to Blackburn, the classes at *Instituto Franklin* are very small and the professors are readily available outside of the classroom. However, there are some norms that many American students are not accustomed to. For example, it is not appropriate to eat and drink during class time. The vast majority of professors only allow you to have water. Also, homework and exams must be completed in pen, not pencil. It is a method to make students think before they write. Overall, I am so happy with my decision to come to Spain. The statement “study abroad will change your life” is certainly true in my case. Therefore, I strongly urge anyone who is thinking about study abroad to take the opportunity. You will not regret the decision. ¡Hasta luego!
Marissa Watson

Krupica presents on professionalism

by Clayt Scheller



PHOTO BY CLAYT SCHELLER

On Monday, February 11, Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning Suzanne Krupica held a seminar regarding professionalism in Olin Lecture Hall. Professors, senior seminar students and others on the verge of entering the professional world attended the presentation. Krupica covered a broad range of topics over the course of an hour, sharing anecdotes and advice to help ease the transition from student to employee. Krupica began by setting the record straight. A professional, she says, is “an individual doing his or her job with sincerity and genuineness.” Maintaining professionalism entails conducting oneself in a mature, objective way. From e-mail conventions to proper handshake technique, much of the presentation addressed etiquette in a job interview setting. Krupica

encouraged those who attended the presentation to practice shaking hands with each other. “Interviewing is a skill, like typing or playing the piano,” Krupica says. “The more you practice, the better you get.” Attendees were each given a handout of clothing guidelines and a list of questions potential employers often ask. Krupica stressed the significance of attire in a job interview, noting a difference between fashion and professional dress. Moving unprepared from college to the real world can be disastrous. Fortunately, those who attended the presentation should benefit greatly from Suzanne Krupica’s valuable advice. As for the rest of the college community, Krupica is available in her Student Life office by appointment. Contact her at suzanne.krupica@blackburn.edu or by extension 4361.

Condom Awareness Day 2013 *by Taylor Hess*

This Valentine's Day Blackburn Counseling Services, Blackburn Common Ground, Macoupin County Public Health Department and Bethany's Place came together to put on Condom Awareness Day in the Demuzio Campus Center.

Bethany's Place, a testing center from Edwardsville, Illinois, had Prevention/Outreach Specialists present to talk about the importance of condoms. They also gave demonstrations on how to put on a condom. A majority of the condoms were provided by Macoupin County Public Health Department who also offered free HIV testing.

Peer Counselor Sarah Law explained the importance of

having a Condom Awareness Day on college campuses: "It's to make people aware of safe sex practices in a fun and educational environment."

Peer counselor Megan Dominick added, "Schools aren't closed and mail doesn't stop, but I think it is a great day to raise awareness about condoms on the day that most people will probably need them."

Among the demonstrations and tables of goodie bags, candy and condoms, Counseling Services choose random mailboxes which they placed condoms in and any student to find a condom in his or her mailbox won a free prize. Counseling Services also put on a raffle for a \$20 Wal-Mart gift card. Jacob Baalman was the winner of the raffle.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Displays educated passing students on safe sex this past Valentine's Day.

Bright blue eyes and boisterous brilliance: Meet Hailey Bodiford!

by Taylor Hess

The first thing that one notices when meeting junior Hailey Bodiford, 21, are her bright blue eyes and friendly smile. This is only a piece of the wonderful demeanor that radiates from her. Her constant flow of energy and positivity can't help but rub off on you the moment she starts talking.

Hailey is a transfer student from Southwestern Illinois College. She is majoring in Mathematics and minoring in Computer Science. Her Blackburn jobs include being the Resident Assistant of the Westside Uppers of Jewell. Her other campus job is working as a tutor for Calculus II. Along with those two jobs she also tutors two high school students from Carlinville.

After Hailey graduates she plans on attending graduate school. What does she plan on doing with this vast knowledge of math? Her future career aspirations include teaching math at the college level, and math professor Chris Morin, agrees that it would be a good fit: "Hailey likes to help people understand math. She is patient." Besides teaching math, Hailey also would like to get "a math type job in industry" because "the pay is good and it would be pretty awesome."

Along with her involvement in the Math department, Hailey has her fingers in a few Blackburn clubs. She is a part of Blackburn's Christian



Bodiford with her math tattoo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAILEY BODIFORD

Fellowship, participates in The Element, and leads a women's bible study from her room in Jewell every Monday night at 6:30 p.m.

Hailey is from Lebanon, Illinois, but considers herself to have many hometowns. She was a "military brat" who moved around often, living in states like Alaska, Texas, and Arkansas.

Freshman Lala Fornaszewski, 19, described her friend as unique: "She is such a nice person and fair to everyone, but she can also be really funny and goofy at the same time. She's one-of-a-kind!" When asked how Hailey's arrival at Blackburn had influenced her, Lala responded, "She is a strong Christian influence and I

look up to her. She is always positive and sees the good in everyone."

One of the many things that contributes to Hailey's quirkiness is her tattoo on her left forearm. It is a math concept known as the beautiful equation. When she and fellow math major Mallory Cummings were on a trip to the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics, the opportunity arose. Mallory remembered the experience warmly: "My favorite part was how impressed everyone at the tattoo parlor was. They thought it was bad ass to get a math tattoo!"

If you haven't had the chance to meet Hailey, look out for her in Hudson suite 209, Jewell or DCC!

Dungeons and Dragons makes a comeback on campus

by Ron Smith



PHOTO BY AARON SZERLETICH

Jesse Medina facilitates weekly D&D game meetings.

It's 5:30 on a Friday evening, and Blackburn has become a ghost town. Some have left campus for the weekend, and others are in Ding.

Meanwhile, in Graham Parlor, a group of people have come together around tables with books, twenty sided dice, papers, and a laptop. Witty

banter and jibes bounce off the windows over the clattering of dice rolling on the tables. Heroes rise and fall in the midst of fallible gods while pizza and mountain dew are devoured.

Is this a new approach to studying that has gone awry? No. It's Dungeons & Dragons, a role playing game that has a growing interest on campus.

Freshman Jesse Medina started the first group on campus, and I asked him what it is about the game that interests people. He said, "You get a chance to take a break from yourself for a while." The other point of interest is that a person can play any character such as a warrior, thief, wizard, or—if you're daring—a mystical pimp. They can be as good or evil as they want to be, or anything in between. If a day or week has been stressful this is a great release and balances the mind.

A typical game has one dungeon master—who creates the game scenarios—and

four players in a campaign; however, because of growing interest there have been as many as nine players on a campaign. I spoke with senior Brian Hendren, who is also a dungeon master, and asked him what brought him to the game. He said it's a way "to meet new people." As a dungeon master he enjoys the opportunity to play god of the D&D world. He controls every creature that is not a player and creates a world where players live and die according to his whim. The dungeon master is a god who is everywhere and nowhere. Who wouldn't want to be that for a few hours? You can be a morally vague halfling as played by sophomore Levi Goestenkors, who will steal and cripple every player but justifies it with saving the party from a monster. You can also play a character similar to senior Owen Meredith's morally neutral half-orc, sophomore DeAaron Williams' lawful dwarven cleric or sophomore Sawyer Burton's



PHOTO BY AARON SZERLETICH

(left to right) Sawyer Burton, Owen Meredith, DeAaron Williams and Daniel McFarland enjoy copious amounts of Mountain Dew during the game.

morally neutral gnome bard. I interviewed each of these guys about the interests and benefits of playing. During the interviews they agreed that the game brings a sense of freedom and release and a consistent exercise of imagination. It exercises the mind and has been beneficial to the players in their social and academic lives. Theatre major Sawyer Burton said that playing D&D

has helped him with his acting and working on roles.

This game brings in people from different backgrounds and forms friendships based on a common interest. It also cultivates the mind with dry humor and a sharp wit. All are welcomed, and new players are always being sought. If you want to start, expect quite a bit of paperwork and plenty of sarcasm.

Music and mocha:
Friday night
entertainment at
the Refuge

by Jordan GeRue

Whenever I walk through the door of the Refuge Coffee House I instantly feel relaxed. The walls are an earthy, burnt-orange color – which seemed odd to me at first, but adds to the warm feel of the place. Just inside the door is a small seating area with a coffee table and tall, cozy leather armchairs. The walls of the shop are lined with the work of local artists and photographers, almost all of which is available for purchase. In the back corner is a fireplace with leather seats around it. Even the ceiling – an antique, white-paneled design – adds to the comfort, creating a place where I can escape from the mundane routine of my daily life.

One of my favorite things about the Refuge is the Friday nights. On Friday the Refuge keeps its doors open until



(above left) Cheesecake and hot chocolate are two of many late night delights. (above) Gospel group Grace Street performs February 15.

midnight for an evening of live entertainment where musicians, poets and other performers are invited to sign up their act or walk in for an open mic night if no one has reserved a slot. I’ve seen a few acts play here and am thoroughly entertained each time I go.

On February 15 the first band was a gospel group called “Grace Street” hailing

from the St. Louis area. There were some fantastic musicians in the group who played a nice selection of soul and folk gospel tunes. In between Grace Street’s two sets another musician took the stage; Sarah Lannom of Marion, IL drove three hours to play at the Refuge. Her guitar playing was mellow and her voice had a lovely soft quality (she reminded my friend of a female



PHOTOS BY KATIE WARD

Bright Eyes). Both Grace Street and Sarah Lannom have played for WIBI Radio – a Christian station based here in Carlinville – and can be found on Facebook.

During my conversation with owner Marsha Stieglitz I asked about her motivation for opening the Refuge. She cited Carlinville’s dire need for a cool hangout option to serve as an alternative to the

local bar scene. The Refuge has become what she calls a “hub” for locals, families and students to hang out in a chill, family-friendly environment, as well as giving musicians and artists a new and interesting community forum in which to display their work. If you enjoy great drinks, delicious food and stellar company, become one of the “Refugees” and head on over!

“URINETOWN” to hit the
Bothwell stage

Courtesy of the Performing Arts Department

The Performing Arts Department will present the Broadway musical “URINETOWN” April 11-14 in Bothwell Auditorium. The musical’s title reflects its plot: after a drought leaves a city desperate to conserve water, citizens are forced to use public restrooms and prohibited from having private ones. A company monopolizes restroom use—until one man rises up and inspires others to do the same.

“URINETOWN” presents a fictionalized story about a water shortage, but water shortages are real and serious. So the cast and crew of “URINETOWN” are joining forces with movie star Matt Damon to bring clean water to people around the world. To raise awareness and money for water.org, Matt Damon recently announced he was starting a toilet strike until all people had access to clean water. When director Kate

Roark found out about this, she told the cast, “Matt Damon’s toilet strike fits perfectly with the theme of ‘URINETOWN’ – we have to help!”

“URINETOWN” is directed by Dr. Kate Roark, with musical direction by Dr. Elizabeth Zobel, and choreography by Amanda Graves of Carlinville’s Macoupin Dance Academy.

The cast features senior Theatre major Kenny James as the heroic Bobby Strong, leading the rebellion against greedy public amenity owner Caldwell Cladwell, played by senior Theatre major Reggie Guyton. Sophomore Lindsey Leach plays Cladwell’s daughter Hope, who falls in love with Bobby, and sophomore Justina Smiley plays Bobby’s mother. Other featured Blackburn students in the cast include Sawyer Burton as Officer Barrel, and Allison Williams as Little Sally. In addition, Blackburn students

Brendan Lersch, Jay Maxson, DeAaron Williams, Brittney Laird and Vinnie Watson round out the cast as poor rebels and Cladwell’s staff. Blackburn’s favorite counselor Rob Weis also makes his musical debut in the important role of Bobby’s father, Old Man Strong – a man who refuses to pay to pee.

The cast also features talented community members Jami-Lynn Lewis, Jeffery Gosnell, Dan Fleischer and Carlinville High School students Abby Fleischer, Tori Lewis and Aaron Bernhardt. The youngest members of the cast include fourth and fifth graders Emma Gosnell, Carter Lewis and William Roark. Set design is by Summer Repertory Theatre designer Leland Smith, and lighting design is by Carlinville High School student Abe Fleischer.

“URINETOWN” was created by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis. Mark Hollman, who wrote the music and



IMAGE COURTESY OF KATE ROARK

Larra Brogdon designed the above ad poster as part of her Work Program job.

shares lyrics credit with Kotis, grew up in Fairview Heights, IL and attended high school at Belleville Township High School East. Hollman and Kotis met as students at the University of Chicago and were members of various Chicago theatre companies including Cardiff Giant

Theatre Company and Second City before collaborating on “URINETOWN.”

Racking up 965 performances, “URINETOWN” was nominated for an impressive ten Tony awards, and won three, Best Book, Score and Direction.



Seen a movie, read
a book or heard an
album recently?
Help enrich Blackburn's
campus culture:
submit a review to the
'Burnian and tell us all
about it!

Friday, February 22 the Campus Activities Board brought musician Caleb Hawley to Bothwell to perform hits and new songs for students.

PHOTOS BY KATIE WARD

The Voice of Dissent

Senior History major Adam Trovillion discusses the apathy of his generation in the face of our unprecedented knowledge potential: the Internet.



As a person who is prone to sweeping generalizations, I'm going to go ahead and make a couple. First, everything that was good and cool and righteous had already happened by the time this current crop of college freshmen were born. Second, all that the youth of today have created, will create, or will ever even think about creating has probably already been done better decades ago by men and women who didn't wear funny animal hats and spend their free time posting Internet memes to Facebook or watching Youtube videos of puppies and kittens playing. To put it bluntly, I hate being a part of my generation.

I realize that in making such statements I sound like the proverbial angry old man, sitting on his front porch and screaming about baggy pants while pelting the neighborhood children with handfuls of Werther's Originals. In a sense, that's exactly what I am—although instead of pelting the neighborhood children with butterscotch candy I'm bombarding Blackburn students with hard nuggets of truth.

What bothers me most about members of my generation is the pervasive ignorance of any cultural products more than a few years old or that exist outside an increasingly corporatized, profit-oriented "mainstream." Obviously, these traits are not unique to young people. However, what separates our generation from previous ones, what makes our rampant cultural illiteracy, lack of intellectual curiosity and arrogant self-absorption far more egregious, is that we have grown up with a veritable universe of information at our fingertips—one of which our forebears could only dream.

It seems counterintuitive that incredible ignorance should be a defining feature of a generation that has access to practically limitless educational resources, but this is undeniably the case. And the irony doesn't end there. The very resources which could make this and upcoming generations the

most knowledgeable and intellectually sophisticated generations in human history have more often had the opposite effect. The Internet generally and, I would argue, social media sites specifically allow young people to shield themselves within largely self-contained cultural bubbles, reveling in parochialism and solipsism while the timeless relics of the past and even the world of the present outside these bubbles are ignored.

Many will likely dismiss my conclusions out of hand; it is true, after all, that people have been leveling such criticisms at their own and younger generations for centuries. Nevertheless, just in case I am on to something I think it's worth posing the following question: what kind of culture can arise out of such self-contained bubbles of isolation? A culture of introspection without serious self-reflection, of persistent and gratuitous navel-gazing; a culture defined by infantilism and an absence of emotional maturity; and, most importantly, a culture that lacks self-awareness, that endlessly feeds on an assembly line of bland leftovers for inspiration and churns out increasingly vapid rehashes of itself.

I believe that to create a distinct youth culture that is also a meaningful one requires an awareness and understanding of the past, so that the architects of the new can either consciously build on or else passionately and thoughtfully repudiate what came before. And, quite simply, I think it's a shame that so many members of this generation, despite the invaluable informational resource that is the Internet, are content to scratch the surface and consume only that which is new and "hip," that which is marketed directly to them, rather than exploring the vast cultural worlds that came before and yielded works of striking originality and imagination.

If this makes me a cantankerous geezer, then by God somebody had better bring me hard candy and a porch swing.

Soul Food Friday: A Steaming Plate of Assumption

by Tayler Edelen

Attempting to keep my heavy eyelids up and alert during a less than interesting lecture in Chemistry, I was jerked awake by my phone buzzing loudly in my coat pocket. I threw my hand back to silence it, and to see what the alarm was. I slyly slid the phone under my desk and peeked down at it. It was a Facebook notification saying I was invited to "Soul Food Friday." Confused and intrigued, I followed the attached link.

After reading what the event entailed I whispered "Wow" to myself. To paraphrase, the notification declared, "Come join us in Celebration of Black History Month! Lots of good food! *fried chicken, candy yams, cornbread, sweet potato pie, greens, mac & cheese, and etc." I couldn't help myself—I had to say something. I posted, "Stereotypical? lol." I was shocked! How could THIS be how we celebrate Black History Month? Let us not be blind, here—I mean... really?

Fried chicken is the first food listed? Stereotypes of the African-American community are as well known as any other race. When I told my friends about it one of them said, "Dang, might as well add watermelons and grape drank!"

As saddening as it is that stereotypes exist in our world, it is unavoidable. In ads for establishments such as Popeye's Chicken the main character is "Annie the Chicken Mammy," a boisterous black woman often shouting about delicious, cheap chicken. This leads me to wonder whether people know why fried chicken is associated with the African-American community. It is said that slaves would often sneak onto farms to steal chickens and watermelons. Fried chicken is linked with oppression and the lower class.

These foods have been used to ridicule African-Americans. Through humor and vivid print images, racist Southern whites used these foods to depict African-Americans

as simple-minded, juvenile, near-beasts unworthy of any humanity. I believe it is highly inconsiderate to have such an assumptive menu in light of certain cultural labels still held by parts of our society. Having said this, I believe had the title of this event been handled differently I would have been more open to the idea—perhaps even attended! Had it been titled "Southern Food Friday" I would have been less apprehensive. Fried chicken, candy yams, cornbread, greens, etc. are Southern foods, not African-American foods. They are foods from a region and culture. It is unfair to tie such a specific menu to a certain race.

I would like to see a day when such negative implications and undertones are no longer attached to an exact group of people. Hopefully in the future objections occur only when the dish tastes bad, not because it's on the menu.



World Peace is Over-rated

by Sarah Collman

like in a peaceful state without taking into account our own personal experiences and biases.

And even if all the cultures of the world could agree on a single concept of world peace for the people of the planet to abide by, our lives as we know them would be altered in ways that we can't imagine. Would our individual beliefs be shattered and then replaced by a uniform set of ideologies on which to shape our lives? Sounds a bit like communism, which the last time I checked was highly frowned upon by citizens of these united states of 'Merica.

I'm just throwing this out there, but world peace might not be the best thing for the economy. Billions upon billions of dollars are made on the basis of conflict. In the absence of conflict you'll find that the world would be a much different place industrially. Are we prepared to rid our homes of guns? Would we still have officers patrolling the streets? Would our toys or TV shows or internet material be controlled to reflect a conflict free world? For Pete's sake, who would explain the meaning of the song "Bohemian Rhapsody" to

future generations? "Momma, just killed a man." What does that mean?!

We grow up watching movies such as Sandra Bullock's "Miss Congeniality" that portray world peace as a common goal or a common wish (Bullock's character, an FBI agent undercover as a beauty queen, saves a bad interview answer with "... and world peace!"). In reality, this is wishful thinking taken to a level of fantasy and then further glorified by the media. How can we possibly achieve world peace if we can't even obtain peace within a single household?

Heck, we have more prominent issues to worry about before we can even consider world peace as an option to be achieved. If Kim Kardashian can't even stay married for seventy-two hours... If Chris Brown can't stop being a woman beater... If "America's Funniest Home Videos" can't have an episode without a crotch-shot... If political figures can't just shut their traps and actually do something to make a change... Then how on earth are we supposed to achieve world peace?

Got somethin' to say?

Send opinion pieces to burnian@blackburn.edu by Thursday, March 21 and see your piece in the April issue!

Baseball team does the Harlem Shake

by Jonathan Lowry

Do you want an excuse to do a crazy dance? How about dress up in a random costume and jump around? If so, then try making a Harlem Shake video. The video starts out with one person dancing alone while a group of people sit around acting normal with the song “Harlem Shake” by Baauer playing in the background. As soon as the bass in the song drops everyone joins in the dance and goes crazy. A variety of outfits are worn with other gestures and dance moves being performed. The Harlem Shake is the hottest

and biggest YouTube sensation in the sports world today. The Original Harlem Shake was created by five teenagers in Australia. After the first video went viral in early February, the Harlem Shake has found a home in the locker rooms and dugouts of teams everywhere. Teams such as the Arizona Diamondbacks, Texas A&M football, Vanderbilt University baseball and hundreds of others have left their print in Harlem Shake history. Anyone can go online to www.youtube.com and search “Harlem Shake.”

Thousands of videos will pop up on the screen, so click and enjoy the thirty-second show. The shake has made its way all over the world and has been shown on CNN, Sports Center and Late Night With Jimmy Kimmel. The shake has even impacted Blackburn College. On February 24 the baseball team’s very own Harlem Shake hit YouTube and Facebook. The video even features Barney Beaver on an ATV. In less than forty-eight hours the video earned over 3,000 views and has since



IMAGE COURTESY OF HALEY WELCH

A screenshot of the baseball team’s “Harlem Shake” YouTube video shows Barney crossing a mass of dancing athletes riding an ATV.

continued to rise in popularity Baseball Harlem Shake” on not just on campus but in the wider Internet community. To YouTube and prepare to laugh! watch, just search “Blackburn



PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

Women’s basketball season ends

by Shelby Smith

The 2012-2013 Blackburn Women’s Basketball season was an improvement from the previous season, but the Beavers are still not where they would like to be. Finishing 3-21, the Beavers ended their season Saturday, February 16 with a loss to Webster on their Senior Night. As seniors Kylie Sparks and Rashonda “Boom” Willis played their last game there was much celebration and a standing ovation from the crowd as they left the court for the last time.

During the first half of the season the Beavers were 0-10 going into the new year. From there they improved their record, ending up 3-11 for the rest of their games. Over winter break the Beavers put in extra practice time to improve from the first half of the season, and it was evident. During their first match up of the new year against Principia, the Beavers came up with a win with a final score of 62-41. Senior Katlyn Halstead, a dedicated fan, commented on the Beavers’ improvements: “When they took the court after winter break, it was like an entirely different team was playing. They had heart, and they started playing like they



PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

wanted to win.” Students who frequently attended the games echoed Halstead’s comments. Although the Beavers lost two seniors, Sparks and Willis, junior Shelby Smith and sophomore Briana Rae will be returning to play again next year. These two

were the leading scorers all season, which brings hope for the upcoming season. From here out, we can only look for more improvements from this team as Coach Jen Windmiller continues to implement her new program.

Open the weight room on the weekends!

As of late, there has been some whining and pining, moaning and groaning, hootin’ and hollerin’ over the weight room being closed on the weekends. Currently, the weight room operates Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. However, fret no more, because that is about to change under the management of new crew head Brian Taylor. Brian Taylor has vowed to amend these current hours by opening the weight room on Saturdays. Taylor said, “In about two weeks the weight

room should be open two to four on Saturdays; I just need to re-work the schedule to accommodate the athletic staff in the weight room.” Opening the weight room on Saturdays should encourage more students to get fit. Though the new hours haven’t gone into effect yet, there is still some excitement on behalf of the student body. “I’ve always wanted to get my swoll on on Saturdays and now I can finally do so!” said freshman Ian Thomas. Stoddard Resident Assistant Rachael Lancey

by Christian Gagnano commented, “I think it’s a good opportunity for BC students to work out, get fit, and a positive way to spend their down time.” Even those students not too concerned with the weight room had positive remarks regarding its new hours. “I’m personally indifferent, but I can see this as a benefit to the campus,” said Graham RA Aaron Szerletich. So whether you’re an exercise guru or a novice, this is a step forward in an attempt to promote a healthy and more fit Blackburn Community.

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Golf season set to begin

by Jamie Russow

Spring is approaching which means that golf season is right around the corner. This golf season for the Beavers is shaping up to be interesting, with Zach Wilhelmi as the new coach. The golf team is led by seniors Alex Scherer, Trent Wiedmann and Brian Hendren. Along with the three seniors, sophomore Lucas Rochkes and freshmen

Dylan Adkins and Jordan Fite make up the 2013 golf team. When asked about the upcoming season, senior Trent Wiedmann stated, “With the amount of matches we have we will have more experience to be a top competitor in the conference tournament.” It’s a new season for Beavers as Zach Wilhelmi, a Blackburn alumnus, has been doing a

good job bringing in recruits and getting his team prepared for the upcoming season. The Blackburn Beavers are looking to keep the winning mentality that previous years have brought. Despite having minimal experience at the collegiate level, the team hopes to follow in the footsteps of those before them.