

Barney Beaver goes rabid!

by Taylor Hess

Blackburn students beware! Several members of the campus community have reported that the beloved Barney Beaver has gone rabid and is loose on campus attacking anyone he comes across!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR
Students are cautioned to call Campus Community and Safety.

Late night on March 31, a student who wishes to remain anonymous was walking to her car in the DCC parking lot when she spotted something off in the distance: "I was trying to unlock my car when

I looked up and saw this figure coming at me from the tennis courts. It was moving so fast I hardly had time to react! I got into my car as quickly as possible and locked my door. By that time I could see that it was Barney Beaver, but something was wrong. He was foaming from the mouth and growling! It was one of the most terrifying things I'd ever seen!" The student was able to drive off uninjured.

Later that evening a Blackburn baseball player also encountered the rabid Barney. "It was around eight o'clock, and I was leaving Dawes after practicing my swing in the gym. As soon as I walked out the side doors I saw Barney running up quick from the Jewell area. His teeth were incredible and he was making the craziest sounds. Once he was in range I started to hit him with my bat. After he was down on the ground I ran as fast as I could to North."

Luckily, nobody has suffered any bites or injuries; however, students and faculty are advised not to approach Barney. Instead contact Blackburn's Campus and Community Safety team to report a sighting. Remain vigilant, Blackburn!

Anonymous donor funds Dawes pool restoration

by Kayla Koyne

As years pass after in 2009, the pool's closure, student support for its re-opening has intensified. 1985 Blackburn alum Jake Oakwood said that the pool was very popular among students. It was often used as a place to hang out with friends or for daily exercise, especially in the winter.

The pool originally opened in 1982 in Dawes Gymnasium and remained open for over 25 years. However, it did not meet the necessary regulations for Blackburn to have a swim team. This, coupled with growing costs of maintenance, led to the closing of the pool deep end!"

Now, thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, plans are developing to re-open the pool. Rather than make necessary repairs, the decision has been made to build a new pool. It will meet regulations, so a swim team will soon be an option for Blackburn students. New work program jobs will become available as well. Jobs will include lifeguards, much to the relief of some students like Reggie Guyton who said, "I hope someone's ready to save me because I ain't got pool!"

So look forward to more updates from "The 'Burnian" in the upcoming year as construction begins on our complete, students are already excited. Recent graduate Daniel Huddleston said, "It would create more new jobs with real-life training, provide year-round entertainment that isn't drinking and would fill our noses with chlorine. As it is being reopened, I say 'hear hear.'"

Even though it will take over a year until construction is complete, students are already excited. Recent graduate Daniel Huddleston said, "It would create more new jobs with real-life training, provide year-round entertainment that isn't drinking and would fill our noses with chlorine. As it is being reopened, I say 'hear hear.'"

PHOTO COURTESY OF PR
Above (and, well, sideways) is the Dawes pool during its operation years ago, to which it will soon be restored.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR
Above (and, well, sideways) is the Dawes pool during its operation years ago, to which it will soon be restored.

Dr. Jeff Aper goes from provost to "Brovost"

by Michelle Lee



Blackburn's beloved Provost Dr. Jeff Aper has ceremoniously ditched his signature bowtie and suit jackets for more "fly" attire.

He now refers to himself as "The Brovost." "The bowtie was too stiff and formal. I couldn't get down with my homies," he admitted in a

recent interview. Dressing like a twenty-year-old Jersey Shore cast member, Aper believes he can easily identify with the young student population

on BC's campus. Instead of shaking hands with students and staff, he regularly employs the fist-bump as his greeting of choice. He also drives around campus in a new set of low-ridin' wheels, blasting the bass in his stereo system so that the reverberation of Biggie's "Big Poppa" can be felt from any spot on campus.

His wife Sandy says she doesn't understand what happened. "One morning he just woke up and ignored the bowtie I had laid out for him the night before. He started talking differently, walking with this weird limp and reached for a trucker hat." That weird limp is what Aper refers to as "swagga." He also shaved his facial hair into a pencil-thin angular beard that frames his chin.

The Brovost can now be seen in his office wearing a

Hollister polo shirt with an upturned collar and a tilted baseball cap that reads "2 REAL 2 QUIT." Sometimes he likes to switch it up, opting for an Ed Hardy shirt featuring a menacing tiger or skull and crossbones. He says the next steps in his lifestyle transformation will be a tribal tattoo that spans his bicep and a hairstyle that requires a plethora of hair gel.

For those of you unfamiliar with Dr. Aper's new terminology and lingo, here is a quick glossary, courtesy of urbandictionary.com:

fly: cool, in style
homies: crowd of friends from the street, club or other
fist-bump: an alternative to a high five or handshake, often seen in sports

swagga: one's own unique style or personality that sets them apart from anyone else

What's that? The jig is up?

(Okay, you got us!)

In honor of April Fools', we've taken pranking to the next level. Read through the issue, guess whether the story is fact or fiction and then consult the answer key on the back page! Readers who correctly judge the most articles win free high-fives from "Burnian" staff members, and those who correctly guess the least will suffer an eternity in the weight room with NO air fresheners!



High school students participate in the 2013 CIHSMUN.

Amnesty Rep attends Blackburn-hosted CIHSMUN

by Clayt Scheller

On Thursday, March 7 nine Illinois high schools attended the twenty-fifth annual Central Illinois High School Model United Nations (CIHSMUN) meeting in Woodson.

Students from the college led the event. Between 9:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., high school students representing different countries debated, composed resolutions and worked toward compromise as actual UN delegates would.

“We’ve put in lots of work to mark the occasion,” said Political Science Professor Dr. Mike Bradley regarding CIHSMUN’s twenty-fifth anniversary. “It’s a special day.”

Guest speaker Carmen Hidalgo Staub introduced attendees to the US branch of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International is a human rights advocacy and research organization which works to prevent human rights abuse. High school and college students compose the majority of its member base.

Staub defined the concept of human rights in a speech to those who attended the meeting. By connecting issues addressed by the Model UN students to current examples of human rights abuse, she intends to raise awareness of and interest in Amnesty’s mission among a large group of well-informed students.

Staub also brought several of Amnesty’s current campaigns—namely, petitions addressing unmanned drone strikes and lax international arms trade regulations—to the group’s attention.

Helping what Staub refers to as “prisoners of conscience,” or people illegally imprisoned for acts of civil unrest, is a major focus of the organization. Staub describes Amnesty International simply: “[Amnesty] advocates for voices who need help.”

Staub invites all to visit Amnesty’s website at www.amnestyusa.org, where the organization’s current campaigns can be found.

Water pipe breaks in Jewell Hall, ruins technology services equipment

by Traci Kamp

On March 4 Technology Services Lab Assistants and Technicians Nathan Wilson and Shane Nalezty discovered a broken water pipe in the Jewell Hall boiler room after the two were approached by Resident Assistant Shaun Thrasher, who told them that the WIFI was not working. Two switches, which are crucial pieces of equipment for powering the WIFI, were ruined.

After the break was discovered, all three students informed Jewell Hall Resident Director and Director of Residence Life Tim Moran. The students reported that Moran claimed to have heard rushing water on the underside of his floor—the boiler room is underneath the RD apartment—for approximately three hours but did not investigate.

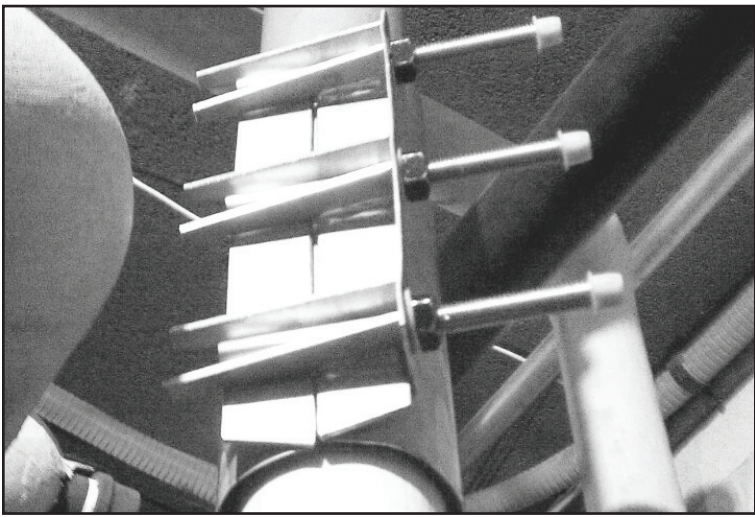


PHOTO BY TRACI KAMP

The broken water pipe (above) caused quite a mess in Jewell Hall.

Nalezty contacted Datacenter supervisor Jason Cloninger after it was verified that the WIFI was not working and the break in the pipe caused water to leak directly onto the switches that power the WIFI in Jewell.

Cloninger assessed the damage to the equipment and discovered that the two switches that had been leaked

on were ruined and could no longer power the WIFI. Two replacement switches were deployed to remedy the situation. Cloninger estimates that the unnoticed water break caused “hundreds of dollars” in damages to the equipment, but it is relatively inexpensive compared to what could have been ruined if the break had not been reported.

History program canceled, BC community shocked

by Katie Ward

In early January this year, rumors began circulating that the Blackburn College History Department will face major budget cutbacks due to dwindling enrollment. At a faculty meeting on Wednesday, March 27, the truth was revealed as far more severe: Provost Dr. Jeff Aper announced that the History major would no longer be offered to students starting the 2014-2015 academic year.

“Maybe students think science is considered a more

applicable major for grad school or the job market,” History professor Dr. Gary Long speculated. “Or maybe it’s Dr. Bray’s mustache. Students love it.” Long’s efforts to grow a competing mustache were unsuccessful. “You got it or you don’t,” Long lamented.

Despite Chair Dr. Jan Zimmerman’s famous braid, her capacity for hair growth cannot help the struggling department. “I believed, perhaps foolishly, that

offering diverse and engaging coursework would encourage enrollment,” Zimmerman said. “Universally accepted merits of history coursework—advanced research and critical reading skills, to name two—don’t hold water anymore. Students want money after graduation. And mustaches.”

Current majors report disgust over the program’s discontinuation. “Well, I guess I know what that means for us,” said senior Adam Trovillion. “We’re history.”

It's that time of year again!

Blackburn College Relay for Life Club
2nd Annual Mini Relay for Life

Saturday, April 13th
3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
DCC patio
(Rain location: inside DCC)

RELAY FOR LIFE

American Cancer Society

Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda and other foods will be available along with a DJ and plenty of games.

There is no running involved, so come out and join us in our fight against cancer!

“Operation Acorn”: Squirrels plot take-over

by Ron Smith

The squirrels are organizing. Their violent chatter can be heard in the early morning along the hill between Stoddard Hall and Lumpkin Library. Four or five squirrels have been spotted there on the ground, standing erect and giving students hard stares. What is known is the squirrel population of Blackburn is getting fit, and they no longer show fear.

Squirrels have been smart about keeping this fact hidden by setting up scouts around campus. It wasn’t until a harsh wind blew through the trees that a piece of bark was discovered with scrawled plans of seige. Their primary objective is to take over the campus and create an autonomous squirrel collective. They will keep a few students and faculty as slaves, and the rest will be “processed.”

The weaponry and tactics they’ll use is unknown. Every tree by every dorm buzzes

with squirrels communicating. They have kept up the appearance of fighting amongst themselves, but this is their version of the internet.

Caution is necessary along with a healthy awareness of surroundings. If a squirrel is seen matching a student’s speed on a bike, it isn’t cute—they are training. While students worry about homework, the squirrels prepare for war. At a moment’s notice they can strike. If they can scurry up the rough bark of a tree, what is a human leg to them?



Catching up with BC alum David Horn *by Clayt Scheller*

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID HORN

"When I was on the staff in '63, we took the words 'cut' and 'paste' literally," says alum David Horn.

Blackburn alum and former "'Burnian' writer David Horn '63 recently touched base with current staff to see how his old paper has changed in the past five decades. When I asked Dave some questions about his experiences in and out of Blackburn, he responded by sharing many colorful details, anecdotes and advice from his extensive experience as a journalist.

It pains me to abbreviate Dave's interesting responses due to space restrictions, but I've tried not to cut too much out. With that said, here goes:

Q: When did you originally come to Blackburn?

A: I came to Carlinville from my home in metro Boston, MA by bus in the fall of '61 after graduating from Boston English High School, the oldest public high school in America. Other famous alums include Leonard Nimoy, the half-Vulcan half-human Mr. Spock on the Starship Enterprise, and Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, but I digress.

Q: What did you study?

A: Since I had no clue about a career, I majored in English. Ludlum Hall was under construction, and to avoid working outside in the winter cold, I signed up as a pot-washer in the kitchen. As a sophomore, I sensed my future might be in the Fourth Estate and got assigned writing news releases for John Perry, Blackburn's Public Relations director, in his Hudson office. I left Blackburn after two memorable years and eventually graduated from Boston State College.

Q: Do you have any particularly vivid memories of Blackburn?

A: My most vivid memory of Blackburn was taking Poli Sci with Dr. Forbes in the spring semester of my freshman year. His final exam was pass-fail and never changed. You had to memorize the Bill of Rights and write it down. If you forgot a comma, you flunked. If not, you passed. I vividly recall walking long dusty rural roads between cornfields under a hot afternoon sun, reading, repeating and trying to recite

those amendments. I passed. Today I can't remember any of it, except the experience, which still feels very Lincolnesque.

Q: I understand that you used to work for "The 'Burnian." What did your job entail?

A: In those days, there was not a lot of competition for poetry editor, since no students wrote poetry for the paper except me. I was poetry editor by default. The job entailed printing my own poems.

Q: You once described the "'Burnian" staff that you worked on as "fairly banal." Could you elaborate?

A: In those days, students had a narrow worldview. The only news in the "'Burnian" involved campus life. How provincial were we? Well, our editorial staff agreed to ignore the Cuban Missile Crisis. Few newspapers can make that claim.

Q: What have you done since graduating?

A: After a few years as an enlisted man at the Naval Communication Command Headquarters in Washington, DC, I worked more than a decade for "The Christian Science Monitor." Later I moved with my wife and two daughters to rural Plymouth, Indiana, where I wrote for "The Pilot-News" . . . After writing and taking photos for "The South Bend Tribune," I moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where I wrote for "The Herald-Times." My weekend stories included interviews with Senator Richard Lugar and also with all the surviving Munchkins from "The Wizard

of Oz." They were still short but had white hair and fun memories to share. I also provided the only verbatim account of John Mellencamp's graduation address at Indiana University. He spoke off the cuff, but I had two (count 'em, two) pocket tape recorders. Batteries don't last forever.

Q: What advice would you give current writing students?

A: For opinion columns, write what you feel strongly in your gut. First drafts may be written in blood, so to speak. For news copy, find an opening line—a hook—that compels the reader to keep reading. My favorite hook happened while covering graduation at an alternative [high school]. These events are special because Mom and Dad never dreamed Johnny would finish school, and there he is on stage! When a grad stood up on stage and said, "Six months ago, I couldn't spell valedictorian, and now I am one," I knew that was my lead . . . Demand 100% factual accuracy and help the reader "see" the scene by writing what you'd want to see if you weren't there in person. Hold a pocket tape-recorder under your reporter's notepad to guarantee exact quotes . . . Many stories are humdrum, but now and then you can save a life. My most successful story was about a man in Bloomington, IN who was waiting for a kidney. After reading it, a complete stranger decided to donate one of his, and they were a match. That's "problem-solving journalism" at its best.

How to survive April Fools Day

by Kayla Koyne

During a day dedicated to pranks and mischievousness it can be difficult to not be on the receiving end. While it is not a national holiday, April Fools' Day—also known as All Fools' Day—is observed in many countries across the world. Its origins are unclear, but the underlying theme of pranking on this day possibly dates back 500 years. With scares and mini-heart attacks akin to Halloween, navigating this holiday can be difficult, but you have three options to make it through the day.

The first option is to avoid people and their foolishness. Even though classes may pose a problem, it is still possible to embrace your inner hermit. While making the perilous journey from your dorm or car to the classroom, practice your ninja skills and do your best to remain undetected by the April Fools' fanatics. During class, you can relax slightly since few students will pull a prank on you in front of the professor. After class, immediately revert back to ninja mode to avoid being pranked. Use your backpack as a shield against any potential April Foolers.

If you would rather not

cower to the idiocy of April Fools' Day, then try option number two. Step one: get a squirt bottle. Step two: fill it with water or pickle juice if you are in a really bad mood. Step three: proceed to squirt the living daylights out of anyone who attempts to prank you. After one or two occurrences, word will spread, and no one will dare think of pranking you out of fear of being drenched. Hey, it works on cats, so why not people? A more extreme variation of this may be necessary if the squirt bottle fails. If a select few are bent on continuing the April Fools' festivities, then simply drop-kick them off of the holiday bandwagon. Warning: do not attempt this on teachers or people who may seek legal action against you.

On the slight chance that these two options do not work, try the old "if you can't beat them, join them." Even if you do not usually participate in the holiday you can still attempt this. Who knows, maybe you will be such a natural at pranking that no one will dare ever mess with you again. Happy pranking!

Shout Outs!

Send your shout outs to
burnian@blackburn.edu

Dr. Jeff Aper:

Thanks for having fun
helping us with our story!

Paul Kline:

Looking forward to
sharing your stories from
abroad in the next issue.

Campus Maintenance:

You all rock for starting
spring with an early
morning of shoveling snow!

Prof. Casey:

This is for all the thinly-
veiled inside jokes you
submit for shout-outs.
Aha! What now?

David Horn:

Glad to hear from you, and
thanks for giving us some
journalistic pointers.

Dr. Kate Roark and the cast
and crew of "URINETOWN":

Can't wait for the musical
to open on April 11!

Kenny James:

Congrats on your senior
seminar. Can't wait to say
we knew you before you
were famous.

BC History Department:

Thanks for playing along.
Everyone knows you aren't
going anywhere! You rock.

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Wow. Just imagine—starting from a humble Midwestern college, Mr. Horn transitioned from washing pots and being uncertain about his career to working in the nation's capital, writing for "The Christian Science Monitor" and saving a man's life through journalism. It's incredible to see all the places writing has taken him.

Student Miranda Clark sends report of Wales experience

Dear Blackburn,

Greetings from Wales! Upon arriving in Swansea, one of the first things I noticed was the drinking culture. Students usually go out several nights a week to the clubs and drink. In fact, I am shocked by the amount of free time that students have on their hands. My housemates will spend hours drinking and playing Scrabble in the kitchen. I can't help but to think to myself, "You guys are on easy street."

My classes are okay, but I miss the friendly professors that Blackburn offers. It was an adjustment to the larger classes, lecture theatres and strictly lecture-based classes.

Professors are called lecturers in Wales. One thing that shocked me about my lecturers is that they do not have a cell phone policy. Also, my classes only have two assignments due the whole semester, which is nice but quite scary at the same time.

I am interning at Minority Ethnic Women's Network; it helps women of all ages, offering a variety of programs. It has been a cross cultural experience learning about the various religions, life perspectives and cultures.

I am actively involved in the Christian Union and dance society, and I am volunteering

through the Discovery program as a mentor for newly dispersed asylum seekers. Fellow Blackburn student Paul Kline and I attend Dunvant Fellowship Church. The people are friendly, the messages are excellent and there is a free delicious student lunch for all the college students!

Spring break is three weeks long at Swansea University! I am traveling to Rome, Paris, London and possibly Florence with a girl from Boston. I am very fortunate to have my mother and sister visiting! We will be going to Ireland and Scotland, and I will show them

around Swansea and take them to Rhosalli Bay, which is rated among the top ten best sea beaches in the United Kingdom.

Overall, I would recommend a semester in Wales to everyone because it is truly an experience of a lifetime.

Sincerely,
Miranda Clark



Clark (right) with fellow study-abroad students visit a church in France.

What you think you know about Mathematics... and why you're wrong

Myth 0: If you divide by zero, then you die. Although you may have heard this from your math professor, there is little evidence to support it. Yes, it is true that bad things happen when dividing by zero, such as "proving" that 1 = 2, but you will not die as a result of dividing by zero. But then again, why chance it?

Myth 1: Go with your first answer. When taking a test, a common misconception is that you should "go with your first answer." In fact, research has shown that you will do better if you go into a test willing to reevaluate and change your first answer to a problem. The "going with your first answer" policy is simply an excuse to avoid the hard work of deeper analysis. Go with the answer that makes the most sense, whether it is your first, second, third or nth guess. In math—as in life—one must be willing to reevaluate a previous conclusion and

change your mind if evidence and reason call for it.

Myth 2: You can't do math. As a math professor I have heard this numerous times, but I don't ever recall believing it. Yes, we all have different abilities and interests. Maybe you don't have the time required to do well in a math class due to other demands on your time. Or maybe you simply prefer to spend your time doing something else. That I can understand. But don't fool yourself into thinking that you can't do math. It may not be as easy for you as it seems to be for others—due to natural ability or a weaker math background—but if you have the time and willingness to work at it, you can almost certainly get at least a C in your math course. The students who are getting the better grades in their math courses are almost always the ones who are spending more time at it.

by Dr. Chris Morin

Myth 3: You will never use this math in real life. Ok, you got me on this one. Most of us use very little math in real life. When do you ever need to graph a rational function, take a derivative or give a rigorous proof that every cyclic group is Abelian? Probably never. After taking your last math class, most people seldom if ever do any math beyond addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In other words, third grade math is all you need.

So why take a college math course? Because doing math requires abstract reasoning, critical thinking and attention to detail. These skills and habits are easily transferred into almost any part of your life. In short, like almost all other college courses that have little technical application in real life, a math course can help you develop thinking skills and habits that will serve you well for the rest of your life.

"ALL HAIL CAESAR!" by Traci Kamp

Many first-year professors come to Blackburn with an open mind and a small list of changes they would like to make. Paul Gross, however, also looked to campus changes.

"The primary changes I've made . . . provide opportunities for Computer Science students to do more 'real' things," Gross said. Students in classes previously taught by another professor learned core concepts but seldom put them into practice. "The whole goal here is [to] provide labs and projects where students are able to practice CS concepts in a very real way. Plus, it's far more interesting to say in an interview you built a turn signal for a 1965 Ford Thunderbird than you learned about Finite State Machines in class."

Another undertaking of Gross's has been building a web server that hosts informational sites for various

departments across campus. "Specific departments will be able to create web content that highlights what is happening in their departments. The best part is that [the software] provides a standard mechanism to collect all these events and tie them into one specific calendar that unifies them. This way the Art department can have a showing while Performing Arts has a play and both can be promoted in the same standard location."

Due to his ambitious nature, many of Gross's students have taken to calling him "Caesar." Student Matthew Pfannenstiel said that "when it's time for our class to start and another class is still occupying the room, he just Caesar's his way in there and gets what he wants." Gross had no idea that this nickname existed before this interview. When asked for a comment, he said "I like the salad."

Computer Science alum Marcus Rich shares success story, advises future graduates

by Michelle Lee



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

In a new series at "The 'Burnian," we're catching up with recently graduated alumni and inquiring about what life is like after graduation. In this edition of the series, I spoke with Marcus Rich, Computer

Science alum, to see how well he has fared since graduating from Blackburn in 2011.

Rich is currently a Senior Systems Engineer at Interactive Intelligence, a software company in Indianapolis, IN. "This was the first job that I interviewed for in my field, and I actually got the job before I had graduated," Rich said. However, many graduates do not find a job as easily. Recent studies, as reported by the Associated Press in April 2012, show that "about 1.5 million, or 53.6 percent, of bachelor's degree-holders under the age of 25 last year were jobless or underemployed." Despite that staggering statistic, Rich believes that there is hope for students who are proactive in their job searches. "I think it

is really important to look in your field a few months before graduating and really get a feel for who is the best and most rewarding to work for. I knew this was the job I wanted before the position actually had opened up. I just kept a watch on the recruiting page until one became available. Persistence pays off."

Rich used a combination of tools, including Blackburn's Work Program, to set him apart from other job candidates. "Looking back, it was the advice I had gotten from Marsha Meredith, my previous experience as a developer and my brother, who also works in my field, that prepared me. What I feel Blackburn's Work Program gave me was an understanding and ability

to cope with adversity in the workplace."

When asked about advice for future Computer Science graduates and other Blackburn students, Rich was very candid. "I think I will have to give [three] pieces of advice here. Take pride in anything and everything that you do. If you always give it your best, it will get noticed no matter what you're doing." He continued, "The second [piece of advice] is enjoy college and don't let petty things get to you while you're in school. You will never know how much that free time means once you're working full time and don't get the chance to do what you can do in school." Rich emphasizes the importance of relishing every moment of

college life. "Lastly, the thing that I have learned the fastest was to never underestimate the power of networking. Not from a computer side, but networking with people. You would be surprised how often people that do not network get overlooked and also if you do network well, how much easier getting and moving up in a job can be."

Rich fondly remembers the friendships and memories he made at Blackburn. He recalls the "SingStar parties in Graham Hall that could wake the dead and were far from within the noise regulations." The trick, he notes, to getting around the noise regulation was "inviting everyone so no one is angry to complain."

Spanish club gets revamped, encourages new members

by Amber Smith



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE LEE

On February 26 Spanish Club met in the ADRs to elect new officers and discuss how to improve the club. The new officers are President Michelle Lee, Vice President Ashley Fisher, Secretary Jordan GeRue and Treasurer Jesus Montes.

Nine people attended the meeting and discussed ways to make Spanish Club more exciting and how to get more people involved. One suggestion for an event was

cooking nights where members would get the opportunity to cook traditional food from Spanish cultures.

Designating a conversation table in Ding where people could practice speaking Spanish while enjoying dinner or having a dance and a barbecue outside of DCC were also considered. Another possibility is a field trip to St. Louis to visit Cherokee Street, the location of a collection of stores that sell authentic

Hispanic food, antiques and traditional Hispanic gifts.

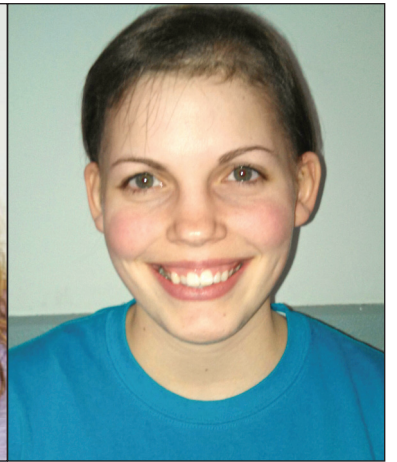
Member Jack Homan jokingly recommended that "Spanish Club have a running of the bull contest."

Spanish Club will meet every other week from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the commuter lounge on Tuesday nights for the rest of the semester. President Michelle Lee wants everyone to know that "Spanish Club is for everyone. It is a place where Spanish cultures will be celebrated but you do not have to already speak the Spanish language in order to have fun at Spanish Club."

The next Spanish Club meeting is on Tuesday, April 2 at 5:00 p.m. More suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to Michelle Lee at michelle.lee@blackburn.edu or the Spanish Club Facebook page; leave a post!

2013-2014 Work Program student managers selected

by Haley Welch



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE STUDENTS

Carly Vunetich (left) and Katie Hazelwonder (right) were selected as the 2013-2014 Work Program General Managers.

Selection for the 2013-2014 General Managers and Department Managers of the Work Program concluded on March 7 after selecting two General Managers and twelve Department Managers.

The selection of General Managers was made by the members of Work Committee consisting of current Department Managers, General Managers and the Associate Dean of Work Roger Fenton. After participating in competitive interviews, Carly Vunetich and Katie Hazelwonder were selected to lead the Work Program as General Managers. A few of the responsibilities of the General Managers include administrative duties, discipline, running weekly

Work Committee meetings as well as meeting with prospective students to discuss the Work Program.

Following General Manager selections, Department Manager hopefuls took part in an in-depth application process and interviews conducted by the current Department Manager and General Managers, Roger Fenton, the department supervisors along with the newly selected General Managers. Major responsibilities of each Department Manager include assuring that the labor needs of the department are met, training workers, making sure weekly time cards are submitted and being a member of Work Committee.

Multiculturalism Club sets its agenda

by Clayt Scheller

On Thursday, February 28, members of Blackburn's Multiculturalism Club convened in the Commuter Lounge for the first time this semester.

The meeting ran from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. and was open to any interested parties (not just current members). For the rest of the semester, the club will meet once a month to allocate their budget toward activities.

Club President Prince Koroma began the meeting by stating the club's mission. "[Multiculturalism Club] is not about race or color," he said. "It's about expressing yourself and raising awareness of diversity on campus."

Members of the club then moved to plan an event for the week prior to spring break. After some deliberation, the group decided to hold a game

night in DCC on Thursday, March 7.

As a final order of business, club advisor Donisha Clemons brought the then-upcoming Tunnel of Oppression event to the group's attention. She invited members of the club to pitch skit ideas regarding, in her words, "how not to oppress people" for the event. The club's ideas were later channeled in the event on March 28.

Students spend spring break on Habitat home build

by Sydney Walsh



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY FISHER

On March 9 sixteen members of Blackburn College's Habitat for Humanity chapter left to spend their spring break helping others. Volunteers Ashley Rettig, Courtney Bonnell, Sydney Walsh, Ashlee Shelton, Brendan Lersch, Shawn Watkins, Haley Welch, Seth Tonsor, Allison Matt, Jake DeRousse, Zach Hagaman, Cassie Sledge, presidents Emily Fisher and Samantha Yoder and advisor Abbey Hardin were among the members to take part in the build.

After twelve hours of

travel, the club arrived in Marianna, FL where they would spend one relaxing day at Panama City Beach and the other four days on the build site constructing the house.

Habitat for Humanity provides those in need with a safe and affordable place to live along with no-interest loans. Volunteers are able to help build these houses under trained supervision.

Much was accomplished during the four days on the build site. "This year's trip was very successful. We had a great group of students who worked to get the house built.

Besides a few minor setbacks on the site we were able to grow as a chapter and help give a home to [local resident] Natasha and her family," said President Samantha Yoder.

For eight members this was a returning trip, but for seven others this was their first time. "This year was my first year on the trip. I really enjoyed the whole thing. I want to go into green housing, so it is exciting to learn new things. I also enjoyed hanging out with people I normally would not hang out with. The whole trip was about broadening my horizon," said freshman Brendan Lersch.

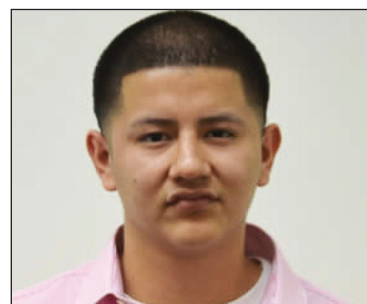
Around the town of Marianna people were surprised to hear that the students were not in town for a typical spring break. These students had made the decision to spend their spring break building a house for someone in need. Most admired the generosity of these students, and the trip turned out very successful and allowed the volunteers to have great life experiences.



Bookstore:
Ashleigh Clendenny



Academics: Haley Welch



Snack Bar: Marcos Moreno



Campus Community & Safety:
Marla Courtney



Administration: Briana Rae



Campus Maintenance:
Ryan Long

Not pictured: Athletics: Jared Jones, Campus Services: Jeremy King, Community Services: Chelsea McMillian, Food Services: Shane Rogers, Library: Mary Chamberlain, Technology Services: Tyler Lewis.

“Fifty-Thousand Shades of Grey” ★★★★★

Written by: S. C. Ashen

Released in stores: December 25, 2012

Genre: Parody / Literary Criticism

reviewed by Clayt Scheller

As a lonely middle-aged woman, I often turn to romantic novels for entertainment. Stories like E. L. James’ stellar “Fifty Shades of Grey” trilogy allow me to vicariously live out my romantic fantasies in a way that no other medium can.

While I consider the aforementioned trilogy to be an unparalleled masterwork, I find the most recent installment of the series somewhat disappointing. In “Fifty-Thousand Shades of Grey,” newcomer S. C. Ashen takes the inappropriate escapades of Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey in a rather unexpected direction.

That is to say, Mr. Ashen has removed those two characters (and every other element of the original trilogy),

literally replacing them with the sentence fragment “Shades of grey” fifty-thousand times. I don’t think I like the new direction the series is going.

The plot (?) is extremely predictable. I can say without fear of exaggeration that once you’ve read one page, you know exactly where the rest of the story is headed. If I may directly address the author here: What have you done to my beloved Harlequin romance trilogy, Mr. Ashen? You’ve made a mockery of a once-respectable series! What will I read to simulate human interaction now?

I cannot identify any overarching themes within the story—Ashen clearly had no message to convey. The end result is a largely pointless

book.

Actually, Ashen had the audacity to leave a review of his own book on Amazon.

“Sweet liquor eases the pain,” Ashen writes in his summary. “I wrote this when I was very drunk. It’s much better than the other book I wrote when I was drunk, which was basically a load of semi-coherent swear words. (I never published that though—the papers got stuck together with vomit and tears.)”

So there you have it. Although it does serve as excellent reference material for the words “shades,” “of,” and “grey,” I cannot recommend this book on any level as it has no literary value whatsoever. I give it a pitiful 3/4 stars.

Senior rendition of “Marvin’s Room” a success! by Taylor Hess

March 1 was the opening night of Kenny James’ senior seminar play. James, 23, chose to direct the play “Marvin’s Room” written by Scott McPherson. His cast included many Blackburn students as well as some members of the Carlinville community.

“Marvin’s Room” is a play about a dysfunctional family dealing with many struggles. Bessie, a kindhearted woman taking care of her sickly father and aunt, is diagnosed with leukemia. After hearing of her sister’s diagnosis, Lee, an unstable mother trying to get back on her feet, travels with her two sons Hank and Charlie to get tested for a bone marrow transplant to save Bessie.

The strengths of “Marvin’s Room” centered on the acting. The actors all did a wonderful

job of creating very convincing roles that told a serious and heartfelt story while injecting a little humor throughout the entire show.

Another great aspect of the play was the seating. Seats were set on the stage giving the audience an up close and personal relationship with each character. It also allowed the audience to feel as though they were a part of the story. When asked about the up close seating arrangement, Kenny James commented, “I don’t think the show could be done any other way. It has to be that close up to the actors and to the action of the play. It was an intense and very intimate setting.”

The only aspect of the play that I found unappealing was the transitions between scenes.

While they were very quick, the audience had full view of each transition due to the up close seating arrangement and lack of a curtain. While nothing much could be done about that it did create a slight disconnect between each scene.

Overall, “Marvin’s Room” can be added to the list of successful plays that Blackburn’s theater department has put on.

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!

Tetherball accident claims 4th grade student’s life

by Haley Welch



IMAGE COURTESY OF SOUTH PARK STUDIOS

The tetherball incident in question goes awry.

SOUTH PARK - Kenneth McCormick, a young boy with a passion for playing super heroes, participating in school plays, and his signature orange parka, died Monday, April 1 in a tetherball accident. He was eight years old.

Kenneth was born on March 22, 2005 in the town of South Park, Colorado. Kenneth attended South Park Elementary where he was a student in Mr. Garrison’s fourth grade class. He was known by his many friends and classmates as “Kenny,” a good natured student and a notorious jokester. When asked about his classmate, eight-year-old Eric Cartman responded, “My best friend in the whole world is Kenny McCormick.” Eric added sadly, “I love Kenny McCormick, and I want you to love him, too.”

Kenneth was active in South Park Elementary holiday plays for Thanksgiving and in the non-denominational holiday play “Mr. Hankey, the Christmas Poo.” Kenneth was a dedicated student who particularly enjoyed speaking Spanish as well as Romanian. Mr. Garrison, one of Kenneth’s teachers at South Park Elementary, stated, “We will all miss Kenny,” adding

that he will miss his student’s playful laughter and his innocent smile.

In his group of friends, Kenneth was commonly known as “Mysterion,” his superhero identity that he often adopted when playing in the neighborhood. While under his super hero identity, Kenneth often battled his nemeses known as “Professor Chaos” and “the Coon,” the identities adopted by his friends Leopold Stotch and Eric Cartman. During these playful banters Kenneth always decided to be the “good guy,” something that was reflected in his character and life by the way he cared for his younger sister and through his loyalty to his friends.

Kenneth is survived by his mother and father, Stuart and Carol McCormick, as well as his nineteen-year-old brother Kevin and his five-year-old sister Karen.

Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 6 in Kicked the Bucket Funeral Home, where Kenneth’s family will also receive those wishing to pay their respects from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 5.

Contributions can be made to The Society for Tetherball Safety in memory of Kenneth.

BC Choir presents “A Night at the Movies”

by Katie Ward

Saturday, March 23 the Blackburn choir took its audience to “A Night at the Movies” with a series of songs from the silver screen. Film references ranged from “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” to “The Lion King.”

Aside from the finale, the greatest applause followed the choir’s rendition of “Under

the Sea” from the Disney film “The Little Mermaid.”

Before beginning the final song, Dr. Zobel addressed the audience: “I just wanted to say one thing: Let’s dance!” The choir proceeded to perform an innovative and lively version of “Jai Ho” from the Oscar-winning film “Slumdog Millionaire.”



PHOTOS BY KATIE WARD



Above: the concert opens
Far left: Dr. Elizabeth Zobel thanks the audience.

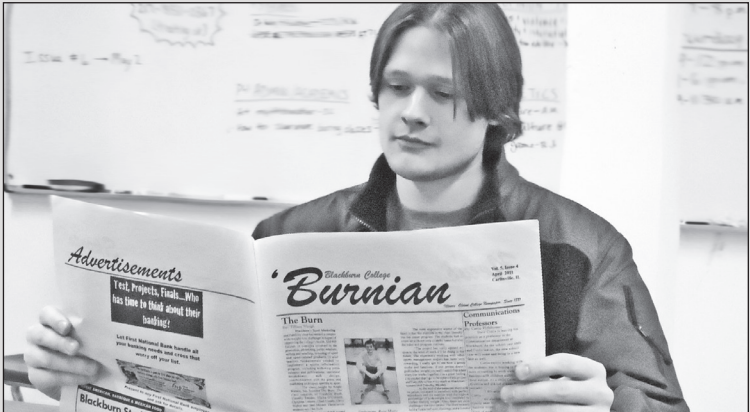
Left: (left to right) Dr. Pei-I Wang, Dr. See Tsai Chan and Gary Morris accompany instrumentally.

Right: (left to right) Katie Reif, Sawyer Burton, Erica Beard, Owen Meredith, Morgan Baldner and Taylor Critchfield sing “You’ve Got a Friend in Me.”



The Voice of Dissent

Senior History major Adam Trovillion comes clean about his fervent love for the United States of Liberty, the land of the fat and home of the bullies.



I would like to set the record straight: I do not hate the United States of America. Many people here at Blackburn College have made this grossly inaccurate, knee-jerk assumption about me based on a smattering of partial and ambiguous evidence. They read my articles for “The 'Burnian” which criticize America’s foreign policy, domestic policy and political and economic systems; they see me at protests and political rallies; or they hear me say things like, “This country was built on the corpses of dead Indians and the backs of African slaves, and not much has changed,” or, “I really hate this country,” and from this they have somehow concluded that I’m some sort of America-hating leftist. Talk about trying to fashion a rich tapestry out of a few scraps of cloth and a half spool of thread.

To those who accuse me of hating America, I respond that nothing could be further from the truth. Sure, it’s taken me a little longer to get there than most Americans, but the fact of the matter, dear reader, is that I am in the midst of a passionate love affair with Lady Liberty, filling my hands with the ample weight of her abundant consumer goods, leering at the slim middle and full bottom of her shapely class structure, and feeling the arousing magnitude of her power and aggression when I picture her dominating weaker nations like Vietnam and Iraq.

Yes, as a red-blooded, flag-feeding American, when I see Old Glory flying high like some majestic eagle that has turned red, white and blue, perhaps as a result of exposure to nuclear radiation, I proudly think to myself, ‘These colors never run’—much like most Americans, who suffer from higher rates of obesity than anyone else in the world. But why should the American people demean

themselves by sprinting like some common Kenyan, or like...someone from another country known for producing runners.

Something else we Americans don’t need is geography. If it ain’t America, then by God it ain’t my problem. Caring about other people’s problems is a little something that we in the States like to call socialism, and last time I checked we proved that socialism doesn’t work when President Nixon dropped an atomic bomb on Germany, killing brutal dictator Karl Marx and ending World War I.

To reiterate, the two things that Americans don’t need to worry about are exercise and learning. We’re God’s chosen people, after all, and if God wanted us to be fit or smart then why bestow our great country with the bounteous gift of McDonald’s fast food franchises or make books so boring and difficult to read? And please nobody tell me that I’m not allowed to bring up God. Here I’m speaking specifically to all the tenured radicals on Blackburn’s faculty who brainwash America’s impressionable and extremely gullible youths: this country was founded on Christian principles. It says so in the Constitution, which was dictated to Benjamin Franklin by God after we won the Civil War.

In conclusion, I love America. We may not have the highest literacy rates or the best healthcare system, but we are first in the West for income inequality, and that’s something. And so, I’d like to end my article with a quote from George Washington who, while standing over the mangled body of an enemy soldier whose life was sacrificed for the cause of freedom, passionately proclaimed, “Now ship your red ass back to Russia, you commie bastard!”

I know. I’m a history major.

Is Chivalry Dead?

by Sarah Collman



I was scrolling through my Facebook newsfeed and came across a post that read, “Dear Girls, If a guy pauses a video game just to text you back. Marry him.”

I’m sorry, what?! Is that really the extent of a romantic gesture these days? Pausing a video game? Sure, in today’s world where the equality of the sexes is highly emphasized in every aspect of life, acts of gallantry and courtesy can seem futile. The roles

of women in the workplace and in the home are changing drastically. A knight in shining armor is no longer at the top of a lady’s “must have” list, but that doesn’t mean that he isn’t at the top of her “most wanted” list.

Chivalry is not that complicated, guys. You can complain all you want saying things like “I don’t have the money” or “Girls are so complicated! How am I supposed to know what they want?” but when it comes right down to it, there are little things you can do that take no money and almost no thought at all that will score you points with almost any girl or... elderly person.

It’s no secret that girls are in fact able to open doors on their own, but there is something to be said for a guy that will rush in front of a girl just to get the door. It’s especially nice if she’s carrying something heavy, in which case he could help even more by taking it from her. Not in a stealing-her-purse-in-a-dark-alley type way, of

course, but in a “Hey, let me help you with that” type way. It can get a bit tricky because ladies want gentlemen to know that they can open doors and carry things by themselves, but they like to feel taken care of at the same time. As girls, we are completely capable of taking care of ourselves, but that doesn’t necessarily mean we want to. Maybe girls are a little complicated.

As far as not having the money goes, you don’t have to take a girl to a fancy restaurant to impress her. It’s the thought that counts, right? Make her some ramen or if you go to McDonald’s, for Pete’s sake just pay for her McChicken! You don’t have to buy her expensive things, either. Draw a picture for her or attempt to write her a poem. She’ll be ecstatic that you put in a little effort to catch her attention, more so than she would be if all you did was pause a video game just to text her back.

Come on, man. You’re better than that. And she’s worth more. And you know that.

Thou Shalt Not Diss

by Haley Welch

Most Christians will freely admit we get a lot of flack on a daily basis. While many non-religious or political groups scream for tolerance, Christians are often the butt of jokes or the victim of intolerance themselves. The television show “Family Guy” frequently represents Jesus and God in a disrespectful manner; the owner of Chick-fil-A was shunned for exercising freedom of speech, and many Christian owned businesses are scoffed at for refusing to pay for medication that does not coincide with their beliefs. Few dare to portray Allah disrespectfully or smack talk Muslim businesses that refuse to pay for medication they deem against their morals for fear of extreme backlash. Christians on the other hand are expected to roll over and drop their beliefs to appease others. As wrong as this double standard is, recently I have started to understand just why my own kind is being persecuted the way we are.

While on spring break I was laying on the beach enjoying myself when a Christian group from a college approached me. I was cornered and felt obligated to participate in their “game” which involved picking cards that represented my beliefs about God. Despite the fact that I made it very clear I was

already a Christian, the group stuck around and essentially kept trying to recruit me for a team I was already on. Not only is the likelihood of making a difference by throwing cards at someone microscopic; I found myself embarrassed that Christians feel the need to chase people down to feel good about themselves. Why not volunteer? Feed the homeless? Visit the elderly? Is annoying spring breakers really the best we can do?

As if bugging people on the beach isn’t enough to ruffle some feathers, many churches also have a knack of turning off new Christians by scaring the bejesus out of them... no pun intended. They judge in the name of Jesus, tell others they will go to Hell in the name of Jesus, and claim their self-righteous behavior is applauded by Jesus. As justified as many Christians feel about belittling others, I have a very simple question for those who think this is right: Are you all-knowing? If you answered no, then chances are you are not God and need to stop pretending like you know everything. James 4:12 clearly states, “There is one Lawgiver, Who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?” In case you didn’t get the significance of that verse, it means mind your own business. We are



not psychic and as a result cannot read anyone’s mind or know what is in their hearts or their intentions. God can. This is why He is the judge and you work at Burger King or something equally as epic. As important as you may think your opinion is, trust me, God can handle it, so do something more constructive with your time.

I would like to call on Christians to have some pride and just stop. Stop resorting to pointless recruitment tactics most colleges wouldn’t even use and step off your self-righteous pedestal. If someone wants to become involved in religion the choice is ultimately between them and God. Our job is to be there to answer questions once that choice is made, not beat people into submission with the Bible. So rather than look down at others, bend down and actually help. Set an example as a good person, not as a Bible thumper who would rather judge than make a real difference.

Got somethin’ to say?

Send opinion pieces to burnian@blackburn.edu by **Friday, April 19** and see your piece in the next issue!

