



# THE 'BURNIAN

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## Vandalism in Visual Arts Center ruins artist's work and campus equipment

by Traci Kamp

The Visual Arts Center, Blackburn's digital and studio art center, was vandalized on two separate occasions over Spring Break.

The first occurrence of vandalism was discovered on Thursday, March 14 just before Carlinville's mayoral debate began in the Bothwell Auditorium. Security was contacted and manager Marla Courtney responded to the scene. A felt-tip marker had been used to write profanity on doors, glass, water fountains, and even student Alison Corey's self-portrait that was hanging in the hallway. No one saw the vandalism take place, but two other campus members reported seeing two young boys wandering about the grounds that day unsupervised.

The second incident was reported on Monday, March



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM REENTS

A classroom cabinet containing printer ink cartridges opened and emptied by the vandals. One of the ink cartridges was broken and spilled on the floor in the March 18 incident.

18. Student Jesse Medina was sitting in Bothwell Auditorium when he looked up and saw two young boys

in the soundbooth. Medina said the two ran from the soundbooth and nothing was damaged. However, Amanda

Johnston, Amelia Kirby, and Megan Adamski later discovered that tubes of paint had been squeezed in various places around the VAC on chairs, floors, and walls. More profane language was found painted in the building, along with destroyed ink cartridges, a gallon of paint dumped on the floor, and a recently purchased iMac desktop computer with spray adhesive across the screen.

Tim Reents, Director of Campus Safety, said in an interview that the police were called and security was asked to do extra rounds near that part of campus in case anything else happened or was reported. Later that week, a faculty member reported seeing two young boys trying to start a fire in the woods behind Stoddard Hall, but responding police officers did not encounter

anyone in that area matching the description.

No suspects have been identified, but Reents said that he expects that the culprits are juveniles. If identified, it is likely that the case would be petitioned to a juvenile court and punishment determined through a hearing. "The college would probably seek persona non grata status against the individuals and reimbursement for the damages," Reents said. "We want the people of Carlinville to feel like Blackburn is part of their town, too. They can come and walk the campus or use the facilities when they have permission, but obviously people need to be responsible

## Meet the new Co-Editors of The 'Burnian!

by Taylor Hess

Meet Haley Welch and Traci Kamp, the new co-editors of The 'Burnian! Approximately halfway through the semester both Welch and Kamp accepted the position and eagerly jumped in with both feet.

Haley Welch is a sophomore Communications major and a Creative Writing minor. Currently she is Academics Assistant Manager. During her free time Welch cheered for the basketball team, but since the season is over she likes to relax by listening to music and reading. Next year brings many new opportunities for Welch. She will be stepping into the role of Academics Manager and will continue working for The 'Burnian.

Traci Kamp is a senior Computer Science and Criminal Justice double major. She works as a Datacenter technician and is layout editor for the 'Burnian on top of her new position as co-editor. Kamp is also a member of Blackburn Common Ground. When she isn't busy with her campus activities, Kamp enjoys listening to music, going for walks, runs, drives and playing video games. Next year she will be a Computer Science Department Assistant and will also continue working for The 'Burnian.

Congratulations Haley and Traci!



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Left to right: Prairie Farms accountant Dennis Young, Paul Bente of The Cubby Hole and Carlinville Middle School Principal Roy Kulenkamp.

## Panel of professionals speaks in honor of 100 years of work at Blackburn

by Haley Welch

On April 10 Blackburn College welcomed nine professionals from a variety of career fields to answer questions and help prepare students for their future in the workforce. The nine panelists included Ed and Cynthia Lamar of Cynmar, Richard and Linda Schein of Karmak, optometrist Dr. John Lapp, Carlinville Middle School Principal Roy Kulenkamp, Paul Bente of The Cubby Hole, Dennis Young of Prairie Farms and Carlinville High School Principal Patrick Drew.

During the panel discussion, each participant gave a brief background of their careers and experiences. Following this the floor was opened up for questions, allowing the students of Suzanne Krupica's CA 401 class (Career Entry Seminar)

to ask questions about everything from changes in the workplace because of the internet to appropriate attire during an interview.

Krupica, the main organizer of the event, said the discussion was planned to help celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Work Program. "There is nothing like talking to an employer to find out what they value, what characteristics they are looking for, and even things like putting together your resume," she said. Krupica continued by saying it is one thing for her as a teacher to stand up in front of her class and tell them what they need to know, but there is nothing like having it reinforced by very successful professionals, something she feels will benefit students greatly.

## Blackburn hosts merit scholars for dinner and a taste of campus life

by Sydney Walsh

On April 12, Blackburn College welcomed students to the Merit Scholars dinner, which celebrates high school students who have received merit scholarships from Blackburn.

Alisha Kapp opened the night by acknowledging the extracurricular activities of each merit scholar student. She explained that the students would be entering the college at an interesting time with new president Dr. John Comerford. Provost Dr. Jeff Aper spoke about Blackburn's work ethic saying, "We are all a part of a community of thinkers and doers." New college chaplain Erica Brown gave an invocation and dinner was served.

After dinner Dr. Naomi Crummey and Dr. Karen Dillon, representing the Department of English and

Communications, gave students insight into where the past merit scholars have ended up. 2013-2014 Work Program General Manager Carly Vunetich explained what is possible to achieve at Blackburn by sharing her work experiences with the audience.

Students were awarded a certificate in recognition of their scholarship. After dinner, current Blackburn students picked up the merit scholars who had decided to spend a night on the Blackburn campus. "We decided to have a merit scholar stay with us because it allows them to get a taste of what their next four years at Blackburn will be like. By staying with us the student will know where all the buildings are on campus and what it's like to live in a dorm," said freshman Abby Sutton.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Dr. Jeff Aper greeted the merit scholars and presented them with certificates of recognition for their achievement.



## Student Senate wraps up elections

by Taylor Hess

With the end of the spring semester approaching, Student Senate began preparing for the annual Presidential and At-Large Elections. However, only one person petitioned for President and that is current Student Senate President Jacob Maag. Since there was no competition, Maag was automatically reelected as President.

A similar situation occurred with the At-Large election process. Each year there are six At-Large Senate positions to elect and this year only five people turned in petitions. All five were automatically elected and there is still one position open. The five petitioners who are now members of the 2013-2014 Student Senate are Lindsey Leach, Morgan Baldner, Ashley Spears, Hope Coston, and Masey Blasa.

With such a small number of people petitioning to become members, Senate was forced to create new laws for the Constitution. In essence,

now if there are fewer or the exact number of At-Large or Presidential petitioners needed to fill the slots, those petitioners will automatically become Senate members without an election. If there are any At-Large positions open, an election for those slots will be held at the beginning of the fall semester. If no one petitions for President, the petition deadline will be extended until a student does so. When asked about the rare occurrence of Senate not having enough candidates for At-Large elections, Maag responded, "I am of course disappointed by the current lack of interest in Student Senate but encourage all applicants for the partial At-Large election that will be held in the fall." Student Senate offers many opportunities to get involved on campus by allowing students to plan campus activities, raise concerns, and get a position on various committees. Looking to get your voice heard? Join Senate!

## Snowpocalypse 2013

by Clayt Scheller

Illinois weather is a fickle mistress. We're supposed to be onto spring now, but it's really anyone's guess as to what kind(s) of precipitation will fall tomorrow.

Case in point: on Monday, March 24 – that's four days after spring officially started, just for the record – 13 inches of snow blanketed Carlinville and the surrounding area.

As one of seven Work Colleges in the nation, Blackburn was eager to flex its student-managed muscles. It stood open and continued to provide service despite the blizzard.

Some students were upset that the college remained open, but College Counselor Rob Weis set the record straight in an enlightening Facebook status.

"To all those complaining

about BC not being closed: The school will almost NEVER close," said Weis. "Closing doesn't just mean no classes; it means no maintenance, no food service, no security, no general facilities. People will be cleaning your walk-ways and serving your food in the morning because it's business as usual. Let's be real – most of your instructors won't make it in."

And that's just what happened. Any students who checked "Cancellations and Announcements" on the college's website that morning discovered a massive list of class cancellations.

As crunch time draws near, we can only hope for one last freak snowstorm to crop up and temporarily relieve us of a little academic responsibility.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Students bravely traipse through the tundra near the Mahan science building.

## The Illinois Press Association pays a visit to Blackburn

by Clayt Scheller

On Thursday, March 28 Illinois Press Association (IPA) members David Porter and Barry Locher visited Blackburn to present a guest lecture on News Literacy in Professor Natasha Casey's Media Literacy class.

Founded in 1865 and with close ties to the University of Illinois, the IPA is the largest state newspaper association in the country. Over 90% of Illinois' newspapers belong to the IPA, which effects positive change for them through

lobbying.

The association also encompasses two other groups: the Illinois Press Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides scholarships and education opportunities, and the Illinois First Amendment Center, which promotes awareness and understanding of the First Amendment among students.

The IPA's News Literacy initiative – which is sponsored by the Chicago-based McCormick Foundation –

is about, as Porter puts it, "teaching people to be better consumers of news."

"People tend to gravitate toward opinion-based news that they already agree with," Porter says, "and they tend to believe information that is placed on the Internet with sometimes nefarious intent." The initiative, then, "seeks to broaden people's minds and equip them with the tools they need to make the best possible interpretation of the news."

## Blackburn holds Room Draw 2013

by Clayt Scheller

It was a dark and stormy night. Eager to follow up on her massive snowstorm a few weeks before, Mother Nature saw fit to drop a monsoon on Carlinville just in time for Room Draw.

Between 9:00 - 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10 and 9:00 - 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, Blackburn residents presumably backstroked their way to DCC in order to sign up on a first-come, first-serve basis for their preferred rooms on campus next semester.

Especially for those who wanted singles, it was a harrowing experience. Tensions ran high in the DCC Commons as groups of residents were called in order of seniority to the Auxiliary Dining Rooms.

There, small groups of residents moved in and were given random playing cards.



PHOTO BY CLAYT SCHELLER

Students wait anxiously in the DCC lobby as Tim Moran calls the next group of students.

Participants then proceeded to claim their rooms in order of their cards' suits and numbers, relative to the suit called by a volunteer at the event. (In other words, if you drew an ace of diamonds and the suit called was diamonds, you went first. You would have been SOL if you drew a 7 of clubs, for instance.)

Vacancies filled up rapidly. Some were fortunate

enough to end up where they wanted to be, but many others were forced to improvise and settle for different rooms than they originally intended. One can only imagine the disappointment those unlucky ones must have felt as they rowed back to their dorms.

For those who got the rooms they wanted: congratulations! For everybody else: better luck next time!

## Siblings Weekend wrap up

by Clayt Scheller

For 2013's Siblings' Weekend (April 19 to April 21), brothers and sisters of Blackburn students paid the campus a visit, where they were treated to a wide variety of on- and off-campus activities suitable for all ages.

Visitors registered and checked in on Friday afternoon in DCC Commons. From 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., students and their guests mingled over dinner and ice cream in the Dining Hall.

Afterwards, Carlinville's Bowlero Lanes offered free shoe rentals and two free games of bowling for all students and siblings who stopped by between 6:30 and 11:00 p.m.

Patrons of the arts sat in for a performance of student Reggie Guyton's senior play, "Daze of Our Lives," at 7:00. From 9:00 to 11 p.m., a bonfire behind Stoddard Hall rounded out the day's events.

On Saturday, brunch was served in the Dining Hall between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30



PHOTO BY CLAYT SCHELLER

Siblings Weekend activities included inflatables and a Clubs and Orgs. fair.

p.m. Students and guests were then invited to participate in face-painting, trivia, a Euro Bungy(!) and other activities at the Clubs and Organizations Fair outside of DCC in the afternoon.

An ice-cream social, part of President Mim Pride's retirement festivities, began at 3:00 p.m. on the Hudson Quad. Those who attended listened to a number of musical performances, speeches and poetry readings by members of the Blackburn community.

After dinner, Disney-Pixar lovers met in Olin Lecture hall for a showing of the 2012 animated film "Brave." More bespectacled types took a trip to Graham Hall to partake in

an evening of gaming fueled by Mountain Dew Code Red and Twizzlers. "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" and "SingStar" were among the games played.

An encore performance of "Daze of Our Lives" was held later that evening, as was Siblings' Bingo. A karaoke competition began in the same place shortly afterwards. After some technical difficulties, everyone in DCC heard vocal performances ranging from talented to train wreck. Another movie, "Identity Thief," was shown in Olin at 10:00 p.m. as the final event.

Sunday marked the final day of Siblings' Weekend. After eating brunch, the college's guests headed home.



## How to survive kids

by Kayla Koyné

Since Siblings Weekend was just celebrated, there's no better time than now to reflect on how wonderfully difficult children can be. They can be adorable one minute and your worst nightmare the next. Whether you are a seasoned veteran with kids or a terrified newbie, they will always throw something new and unexpected at you. In order to survive these tiny hells-on-wheels, there are a few important things to remember.

One, expect the worst. If you go in prepared for the little darlings to be angels, it's inevitable you'll soon be disappointed. Never, and I do mean NEVER, utter the phrase "what's the worst that could happen?" Kids are amazingly inventive and specialize in chaos. Be afraid...be very afraid. Even though they may be pint-sized and adorable, don't let them fool you; the damage they can do is not pint-sized or adorable.

Two, whenever watching children remember that quiet is not a good thing. If you hear no sounds coming from them, then panic. Silence is not golden. Unless you have one of the rare gems that quietly keep themselves occupied in a good way, sudden quiet can only mean two things. Either they are plotting your demise or they are doing something they know is wrong and are hoping you don't catch them...like coloring on the walls, trying

to convince the youngest that they can dive off of bunk beds, or giving each other make-overs—complete with lovely haircuts!

Three, sugar can be a dangerous yet useful tool. If used wisely, sugary treats can be a reward for good behavior. However, when used too often, sugar can have a detrimental effect. The thing to keep in mind is that timing is everything. Do not expect naptime to go smoothly if you've given them sugar recently! The best time—especially if you want nothing more than revenge on the parents—to load them up with sugar is right before you're leaving. Be warned, if the little sweethearts' parents are late, you will have to deal with the sugar-fueled carnage. Choose sweets wisely.

Four, if you can't beat them, join them! Let's face it, kids would give the Energizer Bunny a run for his money. Think you can keep kids perfectly in line? Guess what? They will win every time. Better to have fun with them instead of beating your head against the wall. Put on that tiara or cape! Have a blast instead of a constant battle with the little tykes and before you know it, the parents will have returned. Then you can revert back to your sophisticated, grown-up self; but until then, get in touch with your inner five-year-old and let the cookies and face paint fly!

## Barney Beaver makes a new friend

by Taylor Hess

It turns out that Barney the Beaver has not gone rabid; he is just a bit anxious about his best friend, Blackburn College's President Mim Pride, retiring at the end of this school year. In order to help Barney out, Mim and college Counselor/Assistant Dean of Students Rob Weis got together to brainstorm ideas to help with the transition from one president to the next. Weis explained that instead of addressing the students directly about the transition he wanted to "let Barney be the one that's anxious." That's when the idea of giving Barney his own video series, "The Barney Beaver Chronicles," was concocted.

Born out of Counseling Service's Compassion Campaign, the videos were

also a creative way to get students as well as faculty and staff to ask Dr. Comerford, the new president, questions through Barney. Members of the Blackburn community submitted the questions.

Blackburn students and staff that helped film and produce the Barney Beaver Chronicles include Barney Beaver (Thomas Dreixler), Sawyer Burton, Tim Erton, Jesus Montes, Christian Gagnano, Rebecca Wales, DeArryka Williams, Andre Hoskins, Pete Oswald, Zachary Dishon, Mim Pride, Dr. John Comerford and Rachel Comerford.

Weis is very proud of the videos, stating, "I really have enjoyed this project." However, the road to completion was not an

easy one. There were some logistical problems during the making of the series, such as scheduling changes to the final video shoot due to an earlier campus visit by Dr. Comerford. Still, Weis was animated about what an exciting and fun experience it was.

But Counseling Services isn't done yet! Keep an eye out because there is trivia throughout each video and after all six videos are posted there will be two campus competitions, one to test viewers' knowledge of the series and another for best submitted question.

Check out "The Barney Beaver Chronicles" on the Compassion Campaign's Facebook page, in the Announcements and on YouTube.



The Body Depot Spa welcomes Shamira Powell, taking clients now.

## The age-old question "If you could have a superpower, what would it be?" answered

by Taylor Hess

Looking around one would notice that the superheroes of pop culture are everywhere. New superhero movies are constantly being released and the famous hero logos are appearing everywhere: on t-shirts, posters, shoes, backpacks, and even shot glasses. All of this superhero influence makes it hard not to think about how awesome it would be if people really did have super powers. While sitting in Ding for dinner one evening I was imagining having the super power of invisibility and decided to share my thoughts with the rest of the table. To my surprise this sparked a great conversation amongst my friends. So I decided to pose the question on Facebook: If you could have any superhero power, what would it be and why would you choose that power?

"Super power to fly to save money on gas." –Maggie

Best, sophomore

"The ability to move campus closer to the interstate! Twelve mile road is a killer." –Ameila Kirby, senior

"The power of duplication. Meaning you can be in multiple places at once. Such as in bed, class, work, and Ding all at the same time." –Cassie Sledge, junior

"My super power would be that anything or anyone I kiss comes back to life." –Jake Elmore, junior

"Time control! It's the ultimate super power! You could always sleep in, have extra time to cheat on tests, never be late for that sweet Ding food, fast travel through boring classes, prevent tragedies, and live life to the fullest!" –Nicholas Crain, 2012 Blackburn Alum

"Teleportation so I could wake up ten minutes before class and make it there on time!" –DeArryka Williams, sophomore

"I always thought it would be cool at the peak of your physical excellence that your body just stops growing and you become immortal." –Drew Rowe, junior

"If I had a super power I would have mind reading so I could read teachers' minds." –Brandon Adams, senior

Even though there aren't any people running around with amazing super powers (that we know of), there are still many heroes throughout our society and even on Blackburn's

campus: the professors that help most of us get through the four years we spend here, the RAs and RDs that welcome us to campus our freshman year, and the managers that keep everyone on check with their tuition hours and work problems. There are many more Blackburn heroes who often go unnoticed. I implore students and faculty to pick out an everyday hero and let him or her know just how great of an impact he or she has on campus!



Jake Elmore and Cassie Sledge strike a superhero pose outside of Hudson. PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR HESS

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## Leaving it to Beaver

by Arthur Darken and Kayla Holliday

Leave It to Beaver, Blackburn's "free store", offers a great way for members of the campus community to help each other: students, faculty and staff bring their "gently used" clothing, small appliances, dishes and other items they no longer use to the "store" and take whatever they need or want from what others have donated. Leave It To Beaver also exemplifies two of sustainability's three big R's: "reduce" the amount of stuff we buy and find ways to "reuse" what is no longer needed. Recycling, the third "R", only comes into play when things have to be broken down and manufactured into something new to be useful once again. Thus, Leave It To Beaver helps conserve energy and natural resources, and reduces greenhouse gas production, while also saving each of us money when we "shop" there.

It was through student initiative that Leave It To Beaver was created in 2009. Since then it has usually been operated by two students through the Work Program's Community Service Department. Kayla Holliday now manages the store by herself, as Marcella Polera, the second worker there last semester, is now in Panama on an internship. Dr. Armstrong has been the Leave It To Beaver supervisor since the store opened.

The "store" is heavily used by students, with clothing the most popular selections. Theater students may be hunting for items to outfit the character they are

playing in a forthcoming show. Sometimes, students pick up a dress, shirt, or sweater and later return the item for others to use.

Most donations come in at the end of the semester or in May, when students are cleaning their rooms or moving out, so the store is heavily stocked at the beginning of the semester. Donations arrive all the time, but gradually the stock of clothing and other goods diminishes during the semester, as "sales" outweigh the flow of new donations. Think of Leave It To Beaver whenever you have still usable stuff that you no longer use. It might be just the right size or color to interest someone else on campus.

Some students may not know how to find the Leave It To Beaver store. It's easy; just enter the science building through the door under the OLIN sign. See the big poster on the wall facing you, listing Leave It To Beaver's merchandise options and the hours the store is open. Turn right to enter the store: room 28. This semester, the hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.; Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., and Fridays 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wonder what happens to donations that no one finds useful? They're likely to be given to thrift stores downtown. What's not sold there is bought by a company that distributes clothing and blankets to disaster relief or sends it overseas to the needy. Metal items are recycled. Nothing goes to waste!

## Werner Lecture Series addresses landscape conservation

by Katie Ward

Friday, April 5 alumnus Brent Mitchell '79 returned to his alma mater to present his experience protecting natural landscapes across the world. Invited by long-time friend and Chemistry/Biology professor Dr. David Reid, Mitchell spoke as part of the Werner Lecture Series held in honor of esteemed Blackburn professor Dr. William Werner.

Joining the college in 1954 and retiring in 1989, Dr. Werner taught biology, served as College Marshall and won several awards including the Gideon Blackburn Appreciation Award and the Hudson Award for outstanding commitment.

The lecture series arose from a donation from Dr. Herman Brockman and wife Marlene Brockman, biology majors who were heavily influenced by Dr. Werner at Blackburn. The Brockmans' donation has brought speakers to campus to enrich current science majors' academic experiences.

Speaker Brent Mitchell began by describing his career

in landscape conservation: "My work is all about special places . . . talking about places special to people." Uncertain of his future while at Blackburn in the late 1970s, Mitchell left and joined the Peace Corps in 1979.

"I was sent to the Dominican Republic . . . to kill rats that damaged local crops," Mitchell recalled. Locals wrongly identified woodpeckers as the culprits and killed masses of them. After other animals such as owls were killed in the crossfire, Mitchell wrote a report to defend these targets, but his work went unacknowledged.

Mitchell learned from this that "it takes more than science to affect policy." After a series of Peace Corps assignments including creating the first national park in Haiti—which posed problems when locals became hostile—Mitchell began to better understand conservation and the need to collaborate with locals rather than shut them out.

"I became so grateful for my liberal arts degree,"

Mitchell said. "It taught me science as well as how to write persuasively." He expressed gratitude for having to study literature and history: "It gave me the patience to study the root causes of contemporary problems."

He has acted as a field researcher in wildlife ecology, a field biologist for the Trustees of Reservations—the oldest U.S. land trust—and numerous other positions before joining and becoming Vice President of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation—a nonprofit that fosters leadership in the field of land protection.

Mitchell now presides over the George Wright Society, chairs a group that specializes on private protected areas, works with the U.S. National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute and does much more. His presentation was especially relevant for students given the new Environmental Science program, offering students a glimpse into opportunities in landscape conservation.

## Students give back at BC blood drive

by Sydney Walsh

On Tuesday, April 16 Blackburn's Pre-Health Professionals Club sponsored an American Red Cross blood drive in the Demuzio Campus Center.

"It is a trying process to coordinate a blood drive but, it is definitely worthwhile and satisfying in the end," said club president Tim Erton. As Blackburn students arrived nurses greeted them with happy faces. After giving

blood, donors were offered snacks and refreshments and given a pin that is redeemable online at [redcrossblood.org/empower](http://redcrossblood.org/empower) for a unique gift in exchange for donating. The gifts ranged from a free song download to a t-shirt.

For most people, however, it is not about the gift, it is the satisfaction of giving to the community in a positive way. "I started giving blood because when I was young, my Dad

was in a bad car accident and transfusions are what saved his life. I would like to return the favor," said freshman, Victoria Shoemaker. The drive had a few light-headed people that were swiftly taken care of; however, most donating were not much phased. The Blood Drive ended after a successful day and left with the supply soon to be distributed to local hospitals and transfusion centers.

## Recycling: who is really doing it

by Arthur Darken and Christian Bonjean

Most everyone has heard, and probably agrees, that it's good to recycle instead of just trashing everything. However, few realize that comparatively little actually gets recycled today, that our whole society benefits when we do recycle, or even how much recycling we do here at Blackburn.

Recycling what we no longer use is a big part of the Blackburn College sustainability plan. Most everyone notices some of the more than 100 recycling bins distributed throughout our buildings and maintained by the Work Program Recycling Crew. This crew consists of two general workers-Brock Eddings and Kyle Smith, under the direction of Christian Bonjean, the

crew head. The crew usually is able to make rounds of the 6 dorms twice a week, collecting aluminum cans, plastic bottles (marked no. 1 or no. 2), paper, and cardboard from their respective bins. When placed in large plastic bags, the recycling is weighed by the crew and recorded as part of the recycling contest among the 6 dorms. Most recycling from all the buildings is then placed in one of the "huts" located around campus. It is picked up from these and other locations by the Work Program Grounds Crew, which eventually transports all recycling downtown to We Care Recycling or to a scrap metal business for sale. All recycling is then weighed downtown, thus providing



PHOTO BY HALEY WELCH

Recycling bins are placed around campus for student and faculty/staff use.

Blackburn with campus wide recycling totals.

At the end of the year, in May, a cash prize is awarded to the dorm that recycles the most per student. Funds supporting this prize are derived from the sale of aluminum cans and other scrap metal, except the sale from the cans collected in each dorm is credited to that dorm's own account. The crew maintains a chart in DCC

showing the relative standing of each dorm and also publishes a monthly report to all the dorms providing more detail on what they have recycled.

Last year (2011-2012) the campus recycled a total of about 16 tons of materials, including over 8 tons of cardboard, plus 5 tons of all kinds of paper, 2,580 lbs of plastic bottles and 1,091 lbs. of aluminum cans. Thus, we conserved



the fossil fuel energy and new raw materials that would have been required to make 16 tons of new products! Despite all this, it remains true that the campus trash which is carted away to landfills contains much paper, plastic and metal cans that those who live and work on our campus absent-mindedly drop into trash cans rather than use their nearby recycling bins!



## Moving forward: learning from Ramza's death

by Katherine Lesage

I write this article not to offend anyone, speak ill of the dead, or tell anyone how to live their life. I write this out of regret for what happened to Josh Ramza and for love of my community. I stared at the words on the screen: Acute opiate intoxication. A person I know is dead. Knew is dead. Three short words sum up the fact that his life is over.

He was a person well known around campus and while I personally wasn't friends with him, I too feel the loss. I realize that his death isn't going to make people stop doing drugs, but maybe Josh's death can mean something. It is a small campus, and everybody

knows everything about everybody. So why didn't we do anything? I'm not only talking about Josh; I'm talking about everyone. Not just those who party--those with eating disorders, self-harm issues, suicidal thoughts, binge drinkers, and those in abusive relationships. One thing that jumped out at me after Josh Ramza's passing was someone called Blackburn a family. Isn't that what families do? Protect each other, lend a hand or a shoulder to cry on. Let's celebrate Josh's life, and do so in a meaningful way. Let's behave like a family. If you are friends with a drug user, encourage them to get clean,

and until they are able to do so, make sure they are as safe as possible. Monitor them; it may be uncomfortable, but you could save a life. If someone says they are contemplating suicide, be there for them, but tell a counselor. After all, isn't their life worth it? Does someone you notice seem lonely? Talk to them, invite them to sit with you. Josh Ramza's death was a tragedy, but it could have been prevented. Life doesn't come with an undo button, so we as a family must help each other heal and move forward with a new goal: making sure this doesn't happen again.

## The Stoddard Rave and other dorm event activities

by Katie Ward

April 5 and April 6 Abbey Hardin and Student Activities had a break from putting on events as students developed their own entertainment programs for Dorm Event weekend.

Annually, Dorm Event weekend requires each residence hall's house council to plan and facilitate an event during the spring semester. Most halls have developed long-standing traditions, while others seek new programs each year. This year's program highlights came from Stoddard, Jewell, Graham and North.

Marla Courtney on behalf of Stoddard House Council was first to advertise an event: the Stoddard Rave. The rave has been Stoddard's go-to event recently, popular for turning the otherwise unoccupied Stoddard basement into a nightclub. Members of the house council served mixed sodas and snacks to attendees—if they could hear requests over the bass.

Jewell Hall has a relatively new culture due to its recent all-freshmen status and its



Taylor Critchfield DJs as Alex Miller looks through the music library for a request.

residents opted away from the dorm's slip 'n slide tradition, instead holding a bonfire. Despite the volatile, seemingly unpredictable weather, students flocked toward the athletic fields to gather by the fire and cook assorted goodies on sticks.

Led by house council president Michelle Lee, Graham Hall hosted a beach volleyball game at the sanded net on the quad. Students gathered to socialize and spectate as others competed athletically.

True to its reputation, North served its residents a picnic at the table on the Dawes-side entrance complete with blaring music. Residents gathered and invited passersby to join as attendees played catch and other games.

Ultimately, the 2013 Dorm Event weekend was successful, as it gave students room and resources to create their own programs and left Student Activities time and energy to gear up for Siblings' Weekend.

## Blackburn's British Study Program

by Sarah Collman

Blackburn College's British Study Program offers students a chance for adventure. Each year up to four students take the trip to Swansea University in Wales where they live in village student housing.

The program began in 1995 when Dr. Ren Draya travelled the British Isles for research. That year, four students traveled across seas for the experience. Dr. Patricia Kowal, Director of the Blackburn British Study Program, says, "The students get to visit different places and

talk to different people, and serve as ambassadors for the college."

For the 2013 spring semester there were two applicants, but it varies each year. "We let the students know if they've been selected as soon as possible because [travel preparation] takes time," says Dr. Kowal.

Any student in good academic, social, and work program standing with a GPA of 2.7 or higher is encouraged to apply. Preference is given to juniors and seniors. And because Swansea University

features schools of Arts, Business and Economics, Engineering, the Environment and Society, Human Sciences, Humanities, and the Physical Sciences, students of any academic major can apply.

Blackburn financial aid covers the semester in Wales along with funding for travel expenses, housing, and food. Students can choose to stay up to six months from the date of departure, and the term at Swansea University includes a four-week Easter break.

## Hi, Blackburn!

Hi Blackburn! If you haven't seen us around campus, that's because Miranda and I have been in Wales studying at Swansea University. I invite you to check out my blog (paulklineinwales.blogspot.com) where I talk about the differences here, but I'll share a couple things you might find interesting.

Alcohol. No one goes to the movies, or goes bowling, or fishing, etc. without it. Spare time is reserved for clubbing...all the time. There are two places to get alcohol on campus (a pub and a night club), and there's a pub in the Student Village (where Miranda and I live). I saw a flyer for "Freshers' Week" which is like our Orientation week. EVERY SINGLE event was either at a bar or night club.

Here's something you might have more luck convincing Blackburn to do: Within departments you NEVER have the same due dates. Each department has an online board where professors post due dates and are strongly discouraged from scheduling on the same dates. It's brilliant.

However, it's not all

giggles and sunshine (Wales is the wettest place in Britain). I vaguely remember classes being consistent at Blackburn. i.e. MWF or TR, meeting at the same time and place. Not here. Take my CS-275 class. We meet four times a week in completely different places and at random times. We even changed professors after a few weeks. Also, the final exam is worth 80% of my grade or more in all of my "modules." Frownie face.

Newspaper business suffering? Here's Britain's solution. Put porn in it. For real. I know this because I intern at a newspaper. The Post doesn't do this, but The Sun does. It's a topless shoot, full page, colour, everyday. If you don't believe me, look it up, but on a friend's computer. Whatcha thinkin', 'Burnian?

Well I must go for now. Feel free to read my blog (while it's free). Feel free to email me questions at the standard Blackburn address. Maybe I'll answer them. In my blog. Jack, if you're reading this, get to class! :) miss ya buddy! Cheers!

Paul Kline

## The Game of Life

by Emily Fisher

On April 17 students gathered in the ADRs to participate in The Game of Life, an interactive activity used to illustrate the different trials, barriers, and difficulties that many individuals face in life.

When participants entered the room, they were given a name tag with different letters written on it used to describe their social class, gender, education level, and race. Tables were set up around the room, each with a label of Employment Agency, Education, Housing, Bank, Grocery Store, and Jail. Based on what each student's name tag said, they were treated accordingly. For example, if someone's name tag said "BMW," the professors working each table would know that the student with that name tag was upper-middle class and a white male.

Each nametag defined what job students could get, what degree from school they received, the amount of groceries they could afford, how much money they received from the bank, and whether or not they went to jail. Students who received a nametag with a D or E (lowerclass/poor) were treated poorly by faculty members and some were even told not to touch the table so it wouldn't get dirty.

Donisha Clemons, the Interim Director of Intercultural Programs and Services at Blackburn, stated, "This is a diversity awareness program used to enlighten individuals on societal demands, mishaps and understanding. Even though this game is very fun and educational, it is also a real eye opener on how people are treated on a daily basis based on socioeconomic status."



Dominique Byots, Ashley Fisher, Anneliese Gries, and Gary Schultz in 'jail.'



## “Birdemic: Shock and Terror”

by Clayt Scheller

### Review

During spring break some friends and I watched “Birdemic: Shock and Terror,” an independent romance/horror film by James Nguyen. I had no clue what to expect at first, but I knew I was in for something special by the third or fourth time the title music looped during the opening credits.

“Birdemic” has found itself a neat little niche in the realm of the cult film since its premiere in 2008. Like Tommy Wiseau’s infamous “The Room,” it is simultaneously great – for reasons the director didn’t intend – and utter garbage. Waiting to see what missteps the director takes next is perversely compelling.

As the most robotic man in the world, Rod (Alan Bagh) moves and speaks like all of his joints are fused together. Somehow, half of the 90-minute movie is devoted to developing his astonishingly boring relationship with Nathalie (Whitney Moore) with almost no hint of the poorly-written conflict to come. During this time, the viewer is treated to all the incompetent acting, editing, sound mixing and camerawork that \$10,000 could buy.

An inordinate amount of time is spent on shots of Rod’s hybrid Ford Mustang (which is

the film’s actual protagonist, as far as I’m concerned). In one scene, a character noticeably vanishes and reappears between shots. Audio cuts out in some scenes and you almost wish it would stay that way once the characters deliver their inane lines.

The titular “birdemic” strikes with no warning. I turn to IMDB to explain this ridiculous conflict. No joke, James Nguyen “got the idea of this film from watching ‘The Birds’ and ‘An Inconvenient Truth.’”

The end result is that, for unexplained reasons, global warming leads birds (which are rendered in the very worst CGI imaginable) to vomit acid, attack people and explode. Science!

As you might have guessed, the movie’s ham-fisted environmentalist message is shoehorned in pretty poorly. But there’s no sense in giving it much thought considering the spectacular cinematic disaster which has unfolded by this point.

Somehow, though, the whole movie feels honest. Even if you’re not a fan of bad films, I think there’s something likeable about this one’s many blatant errors. I give it a 9/10 – not as a movie, but as an experience.

## Imagine Dragons: Welcome to the New Age of Music

by Taylor Hess

When it comes to discovering new music, I rarely go searching for it. Instead, I choose to stumble across it. Whether that discovery is from riding in friends’ cars, hearing some cool song in a movie or show, or messing around on YouTube, music always manages to fall into my lap. While hanging out in the ‘Burnian office one Friday evening, Layout Editor Traci Kamp shared with excitement that she had tickets to an Imagine Dragons concert in Saint Louis. Now this was not the first time I had heard about the band; other friends of mine had casually mentioned them before. Finally I was convinced it was time to check out this oddly named band. Over Spring break I went to work on YouTube searching and playing as many Imagine Dragons’ songs as I could get

my hands on.

To my surprise I found that almost all of their songs I listened to were awesome. After every song, I found myself clicking on yet another YouTube video until I finally felt as though my musical library would be incomplete if I didn’t add some Imagine Dragons to it. I felt inspired and uplifted by their music, enjoying the many different aspects of the Las Vegas band’s very unique sound. I would describe their style as rock with synthetic sounds. The music is energizing and carries a strong beat (and a bass that shakes my entire car) that one can’t help but tap their foot or bob their head to. The lyrics are touching and connect with the audience on a raw emotional level, all projected by a strong voice that ties the amazing effort together. Amongst all

the generic “mainstream” songs one finds on the radio, Imagine Dragons is definitely a much needed change of pace. I haven’t lost all hope for the music of today.

While there are many great songs by Imagine Dragons, some songs I recommend that students check out are: “It’s Time,” a very upbeat song about new beginnings, “Radioactive,” I might argue their most uplifting song, and “Demons,” a slower number filled with the depth of pain that touches everyone’s lives. A few other good songs are “Amsterdam,” “On Top of the World,” “Fallen,” and “Look How Far We’ve Come.” I leave the musical genius that is Imagine Dragons in your hands Blackburn; get to work downloading because I promise you won’t be sorry!

## “Urinetown” is Number One

by Clayt Scheller

From Thursday, April 11 to Sunday, April 14 Blackburn’s Department of Performing Arts presented their take on “Urinetown: the Musical” in Bothwell Auditorium. Despite a few technical maladies, the cast’s performance was highly energetic and fairly slick across the board. Bear with me as I try to do justice to their great work.

First things first: the play was originally written by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis in 2001. It takes place in the foreseeable future where a worldwide water shortage has led to severe rationing. A large part of the play takes place in front of Public Amenity #9, a dingy public toilet where impoverished citizens pay what little they have for “the privilege to pee.” Anyone caught relieving themselves outside such facilities is “sent to Urinetown,” or (spoiler alert!) thrown off a building.

In Blackburn’s rendition of the musical, downtrodden citizens are led to revolt against Caldwell B. Cladwell (Reggie Guyton), the tyrannical head of Urine Good Company, by charismatic everyman Bobby Strong (Kenny James) and the beautiful Hope Cladwell (Lindsey Leach). The musical’s wry, self-aware narration is delivered by Officer Lockstock (Jeffery Gosnell), who frequently breaks the fourth

wall in his conversations with Little Sally (Allison Williams) and his cohort Officer Barrel (Sawyer Burton). Through these interactions, Lockstock exposes some of what director Dr. Kate Roark describes as being “hokey” about the musical as a medium. Upbeat musical numbers (which are themselves homages to other musicals) and silly dialogue belie the musical’s fairly grim outlook: The good guys win in the end, but we learn in the epilogue that they are no better off. Meet the new boss...

Having never seen a musical firsthand, I had no idea what to expect when I sat in on opening night. What I got was tightly coordinated interplay between the band (conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Zobel) and the cast. Neither missed a beat.

Sadly, the musical was visited by some technical gremlins. Roark intended to incorporate a special effect known as “Pepper’s ghost” into the musical, but the technique and materials involved in reflecting an actor’s “ghost” onto the stage through Plexiglas proved awkward. The audience had to settle for strictly audio-based flashbacks during opening night. In later performances, though, a projector allowed for basically the same effect.

During Saturday’s

performance, cell phone interference caused the auditorium’s sound system to make protracted whale mating noises during several musical numbers. It was genuinely painful to hear and it must have been frustrating for the cast, but they nonetheless carried on as though it wasn’t happening. I think that’s pretty admirable.

Looking beyond that, though, there were so many great moments worth mentioning. During “Snuff That Girl” (a tribute to “West Side Story”), for instance, Hot Blades Harry (Brendan Lersch) goes into a spasmodic dancing fit. Old Man Strong (Rob Weis) takes a leak on the stage early on in one of the play’s defining moments. At the end, Bobby Strong is memorialized through a poster by Larra Brogdon which mimics the style of Barack Obama’s viral “HOPE” ad. The high point of each performance had to be “Run, Freedom, Run,” an uplifting gospel song which is deliberately out of place.

When all was said and done, everyone involved in the production of “Urinetown” definitely put their best feet forward and helped bring the irony and droll wit of the play to life.

Seriously, guys. Congratulations on a job well done.

## Guyton’s senior seminar: Daze of Our Lives review

by Michelle Lee

Theater major Reggie Guyton’s senior seminar, *Daze of Our Lives*, is unique in both its concept and its response from the BC and Carlinville community. Guyton acted as a Renaissance man, writing the script, choreographing dance numbers, directing the show, and even starring as a secondary character.

The show opened on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> to positive reception. Despite controversial obstacles, including the replacement of key members of the cast and crew during production week, Guyton’s seminar was a success.

The show revolves around a high school love triangle, partially inspired by Guyton’s own experiences. Standout performances included Lisa Knight as Olivia and Andre Hoskins as Terrence. Lisa starred as both the romantic interest and the lead dancer. In addition, she also worked with Guyton to choreograph most of the musical numbers. Hoskins stole the show as a stereotypical jock with his

exaggerated and sometimes outlandish acting. Perhaps the biggest triumph of all, however, was Cecilia Knight’s performance as Celeste. Even though Cecilia joined the cast two days before opening night, she had memorized all of the choreography and lines.

In the weeks preceding *Daze of Our Lives’* opening night, Guyton’s time was split between *Urinetown* and his own show. Because of this, some aspects of the show were unpolished. The scene transitions were rough, and the dance sequences were not integrated into the script as well as they could have been. Guyton commented, “The beauty of this project is that it’s still a work in progress. It’s a shame that it was so close to *Urinetown*, but I think I’ll continue improving the show for the next year or so.”

Overall, the show was light in nature. It wasn’t a serious or uplifting piece, but it provided hearty chuckles. Considering the audience’s reaction to the show, it is safe to say that *Daze of Our Lives* was a smash.





## The Voice of Dissent

Senior History major Adam Trovillion addresses the disingenuousness of the term 'marriage equality' and the conservatism of the gay rights movement.



In March, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding the constitutionality of California's gay marriage ban and the Defense of Marriage Act, the Clinton-era statute which denies federal marriage benefits to same-sex couples. Polls consistently show that the majority of Americans now support gay marriage, and the conventional wisdom is that total legalization is only a matter of time. In light of this fact, I'd like to make a few critical observations.

First, the legalization of gay marriage is not synonymous with the attainment of marriage equality. Rather, it represents the expansion of an inherently exclusionary status quo, further establishing monogamous romantic relationships as "legitimate" while tacitly censoring polyamorous relationships, those involving more than two partners. Conservatives have long asserted that if same-sex marriages are recognized by the state, there is no legal basis on which to deny the same rights to groups seeking polygamous unions. But if we admit that the definition of marriage as strictly between men and women is both arbitrary and discriminatory, why would we not similarly challenge the conception of marriage as a union between two individuals as opposed to several?

If gay rights advocates were truly interested in marriage equality, they would defend the right of consenting polyamorous adults to enjoy the same privileges they seek for themselves. Instead they consciously distance themselves from such a cause. This is due largely to the fact that the mainstream gay rights movement is essentially conservative in nature. Consider that in their pursuit of legal and social equality, gay rights advocates have focused their energies on two primary objectives: the right of gay/lesbian and transgendered people to marry and serve in the armed services. In other words, they have fought to extend the reach of government into the private lives of individuals and to allow more

citizens to actively participate in the imperialist violence and criminal aggression that the United States perpetuates throughout the world.

A radical gay rights movement might seek "marriage equality" through the abolition of the institution of marriage (it is worth asking why the state should have any role in regulating adult relationships) and would condemn the notion that members of oppressed groups should fight and die in the service of an oppressor nation. But instead of challenging the status quo, the mainstream gay rights movement has merely sought to make it more inclusionary while maintaining some of its worst features.

Partly this is a result of intense conservative opposition to LGBT rights, but it is also a reflection of the fact that most—though certainly not all—gay rights advocates are otherwise apolitical and motivated primarily by self-interest. Consider the following: In 2009, Pepe Lobo illegally seized power in Honduras after a right-wing military coup deposed democratically elected president Manuel Zelaya. Since then, the per capita murder rate in Honduras has skyrocketed as government-sponsored death squads have assassinated political opponents, leftist dissidents, and members of the LGBT community. The Obama administration has responded to this shocking brutality by formally recognizing Lobo's government and by arming, funding, and training the Honduran military. Despite this blithe unconcern for basic human rights or homophobic violence, in 2012 Barack Obama received overwhelming electoral support and campaign contributions from LGBT Americans and political advocacy groups due to his tepid support of gay marriage.

The pursuit of equality is noble. But in aligning oneself with oppressive institutions and supporters of right-wing terrorism, at what point does it become a metaphorical pact with Satan?

## The Troubled Soul: a response to soul food night

One thing that grinds my gears more than anything is the tearing down of other people's efforts that try to do good for the school community. Even though it happened in February, I have to say I actually was quite pleased with the community's response to soul food night.

This event dubbed "Soul Food Night" was meant to feature cuisine that could commonly be called comfort food. It is a tradition that many families sit down to eat a meal and enjoy the company of each other after a busy week. The only difference here is that "Soul Food Night" was a night that included

extensive family and took place at the matriarch's home. Brothers, sisters and cousins came together and enjoyed each other's company and caught up on each other's lives. Intercultural services may not have been able to bring Blackburn that close as a family, but they did have us bond together over good food. I personally think that is something admirable.

The heart of what really irritates me is the undermining that took place. Some of the stereotypes and accusations that were floating around the rumor mill were grandiose annoyances. I do not condone mocking a group's effort to

do something positive for the community. If there was some stereotype that was majorly offensive, why even come to the event? And if you didn't attend, why would there be a stereotype that offended you? Was it the name? We are a community much like a mixed salad. And because we are all different, sometimes we could benefit from just asking how others would want to be treated or even how they have lived their lives in the past. We don't have to induce a culture shock just because we don't understand. In fact, that is a great excuse to ask questions.

Reggie Guyton

## Clarification

I would like to respond to issue 4's article written by Traci Kamp "...Pipe Break...". In the article she mentioned that I heard water from my apartment for 3 hrs and that I did not address the issue. I can honestly say that while I did hear something in my apartment for a few hours prior to Shaun Thrasher knocking on my door about the issue in the basement I couldn't tell what it was. My Jewell RD apartment is located right above the Boiler room. There are many noises, rumbles, and vibrations that come from underneath my apartment. Some are new and different and some are the same repetitive ones. When

the flood was brought to my attention we immediately called Physical Plant along with the Student Life professional on call to make them aware of the situation. We also got a push broom which I used to keep the water from completely flooding the basement. Mark Kaiser from Physical Plant came over and fixed the issue. I did mention that this must have been the noise I heard for the past few hours.

This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year here at Blackburn. I can truly say that I care about this community very much. We moved 1100 miles from our home in upstate NY to Illinois for this

position. We have family in NJ who constantly want us to move back "home." We have to remind them that this has become our "home." Both my wife and I have lived on campus since we moved here and have made some really great connections with students. I care very much about my job and my duties as both Resident Director of Jewell Hall and Director of Residence Life. Many of the students here at Blackburn have become part of our family and both Karen and I know that we will continue to keep in touch with them for years to come.

Tim Moran

## Irreverence as an art

by Ron Smith

Irreverence is a tool of critical thinking that aids in the deconstruction of comfortable perceptions that are taken for granted. Such perceptions can include discrimination, religion, and death which are taboo subjects in our culture. Polite society ignores the elephants in the room, but the irreverent invite the elephants to tea and engage them face to face.

Harassment is committed in a passive-aggressive manner that includes talking to every person but the person whom they fear. If a conversation

actually happened it would be seen that the object of fear is an introvert. A conversation makes too much sense so the ignorance and fear is perpetuated. It is then up to the irreverent to mock such silliness so the discrimination can be seen.

Religion and death hit closer than discrimination because of the sensitivity and personal attachment that are put upon them. When my father was going through chemo it hurt him to walk the twenty feet from his bed to the recliner. For us it was the

problem of evil that needed to be addressed. My brother and I decided to have fun with it. "Oh, what a tough guy. Jesus lost half his blood, stayed up all night, then carried a hundred pound beam to hang on a cross for nine hours. What about a year of chemo? Yeah, what does he know?"

The fear and uncertainty are engaged and the reality is accepted. Deconstructing and rebuilding perceptions is how we think and grow. To remain with the comfortable and familiar is to remain as a child.

## The Function of Opinion Pieces

The Opinion & Forum page of The 'Burnian is reserved for pieces written by any campus member that are representative of the author's opinions/views. We reserve this page in observance of the First Amendment rights with special attention to the freedom of press.

The 'Burnian encourages all members of the campus community to submit opinion pieces that express opinions in a professional and respectful manner. Each

piece written for the Opinion & Forum page is carefully annotated by professional staff members before it is published. If any portion of the piece is considered hateful or offensive, it is sent back to the author for revision or removed from the issue. Despite the careful editing that takes place, it is possible that an opinion will be found disagreeable by a reader.

In the case that an opinion piece is found disagreeable or offensive, the appropriate

course of action is to respond to the piece in an editorial fashion by submitting a letter to the editors or writing a contrasting opinion piece. While contributors are encouraged to voice differing opinions, these rebuttals must only address the disagreeable or offensive nature of the author's opinion, not the author personally.

Sincerely,

Traci Kamp and Haley Welch  
co-editors of *The 'Burnian*



## Blackburn's "OC": A player profile of Cody Meyer

By Jamie Russow

Cody Meyer, also known as "OC", is a junior baseball player at Blackburn College majoring in Sports Management. He is from Mason City, Iowa and has been playing baseball since he was four years old. Meyer serves as a key utility player for the Beavers. I caught up with Cody and asked him a few questions about playing baseball at Blackburn:

Favorite baseball team? "Minnesota Twins."

Favorite baseball player? "Ty Cobb."

Do you have any pre-game rituals? "I get dressed in a very particular order."

Do you get nervous or anxious during a game? "Yes, when I am both pitching and batting."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY MEYER

Meyer watches a batter before deciding to stay near base or to attempt a steal.

What is your favorite aspect of the game? "Everything from pitching to hitting to playing defense."

What is the most challenging part of the game? "Pitching and batting because of the added pressure to perform well in those positions."

What is your favorite

baseball related memory? "A particularly intense game against Spalding where I hit a double to tie up the game, and later went on to hit a game winning single."

What are your plans after graduation? "I want to be a strength and conditioning coach for a college, and eventually own my own gym."



The 2013 Women's Softball Team poses for a team photo with coach Paula Cummings and assistant coach Courtney Loizon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

## Women's tennis season kicks off

By Christian Gragnano

Game, set, match. The women's tennis season is underway this year and has been met with some adversity. They are currently ranked fifth in conference but have played competitively in all their matches, being only one or two plays away from pulling off a few more victories.

"We're in a rebuilding year right now. Four years ago we had eleven players, now we're down to six" said four year veteran Mallory Cummings. The six players currently on the roster are Jessie Johnson, Kinsey Hilliard, Kate Alderman, Sarah Hunter, Megan Isringhausen, Mallory Cummings, and Justyna Dorniak. They are led by head coach Daniel Hussey.

Cummings further commented on this year's squad saying, "Everyone works hard and plays well. We've had a lot of fun and I don't think we could leave this season disappointed in our level of effort or how we played."

The highlight of the season for some of the players seems to be their team chemistry and an unspoken tight-knit sorority among them. The bond between them is likely unmatched by other sports teams, considering they

gather at Coach Hussey's house frequently where Coach Hussey's wife makes them dinner.

Despite having a down season, the women's tennis team has discovered a hidden truth often over-looked in sports because of the win at all costs, always be number one culture we have bred as a society. They have uncovered the bond that brings a team

together during tribulation. There's something to be said for practicing day in and day out, sweating blood next to the people who are going through the same thing. You share in the pain, anguish, trial, and triumph and ultimately, those are the memories you'll carry with you for life when you reminisce on the glory days, not the wins and losses.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MALLORY CUMMINGS

(Top) Senior tennis player Mallory Cummings practices for an upcoming tennis match. (Bottom) The 2013 Women's Tennis team poses for a photo with coach Daniel Hussey.

## The Never-Ending Debate

by Shelby Smith

"Male athletes are naturally better than female athletes." As a female athlete who has competed her entire life against other athletes that play the same sport I do, it infuriates me when people tell me my sport is not competitive enough.

In my opinion, it is not a fact that men are better athletes than women. Due to the oppression that women have faced for so much of the history of the United States, it was not until long after men's sports were flourishing that women got the opportunity to begin participating. This fact, however, does not fully explain the overwhelming favoring of men's sports.

Men's teams get more funding and publicity, and therefore more fan support. Although women could

potentially have as much support as men do, it is not seen because of the aforementioned reasons. It is my belief that if women got the same amount of funding and publicity, their games would be better watched and attended.

I am not sure how much can be done to help this problem. The biggest downfall to the issue is what people who do not agree with the movement will be saying. It will be very difficult to get the point across that women's athletics are just as important as men's when there are people who consistently downgrade women's sports. But as with all demands for better and more equal lifestyles, there will always be turmoil and fighting. It is our job as women athletes to begin this process and see it through to the end.

## UEFA semi-finals begin

By Alex Miller

The elite in Spanish and German soccer met in the first leg of the UEFA Champions League semi-final earlier this week. The Champions League is the world's largest annual club soccer tournament that takes place in Europe.

2013's draw pairs Bayern München with Barcelona FC and pits Borussia Dortmund against Real Madrid CF. With Bayern and Barcelona already having wrapped up national

league championships, both semi-final games have soccer fans everywhere excited.

Players to watch in these games include Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi on the Spanish sides and Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Müller for the Germans.

The winners will meet in the final, which will take place on May 25 in London's famed Wembley Stadium.

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