



THE 'BURNIAN

BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Vol. 9, No. 5 Nov. 2013

Dr. Bray in a Tie: It Must be Alpha Chi Inductions

by Kayla Koyne and Michelle Lee

There haven't been so many smart people in one place since the latest episode of "The Big Bang Theory." On Oct. 27, Alpha Chi welcomed 11 new students into its Illinois Beta Chapter. Alpha Chi is a national honor society reserved for students ranking in the top tenth percentile of their graduating class. In addition to the GPA requirements, eligible candidates must be of junior or senior standing.

Prior to the ceremony, Dr. Comerford hosted a standing dinner in Mahan for the inductees, their families, and faculty members. The president personally congratulated each inductee and visited with their families. Inductees included Brianna Bednar, Hailey Bodiford, Hope Coston, Katelyn Gilbreth, Kayla Koyne, Heather Kyle, Lindsey Leach, Michelle Lee, Jacob Maag, Dylan Parkin and



Professor Roy Graham gives a speech at the Alpha Chi ceremony on Oct. 27.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Haley Welch.

As Alpha Chi sponsors, Dr. Bray and Dr. Reid conducted the ceremony in Clegg Memorial Chapel. Previously inducted members Lexi Bilbruck and Marissa Watson presented the invocation and benediction while Dr. Bray gave opening and closing

remarks. Traditionally, the keynote speaker of the ceremony is a new faculty member, but Dr. Bray invited English Professor Roy Graham to give a speech. Graham's address covered the history of Blackburn, the Work Program and the importance of academic achievement. After

Graham's speech, Dr. Reid led inductees up to the stage. Each inductee lit their candle and recited the Alpha Chi pledge. It was at that point that each member was officially inducted. Blackburn Voices led attendees in the song "Hail to Alpha Chi" to conclude the evening.

Got Candy?

by Jessica Clements

On Saturday, Oct. 26 the Rotary Club hosted their 74th annual Halloween parade. A crowd of people lined up from the Carlinville Plaza to the east side of the square to watch local businesses, clubs and organizations show off their floats and costumes.

Sophomore Blackburn student and co-president of Blackburn's Habitat for Humanity chapter Allie Matt was shocked by the large turnout. "I wasn't expecting so many people there! I was in the parade for Habitat for Humanity and we ran out of candy fast! It was crazy!"

Just about every participant was dressed for this year's theme: Superhero Celebration. There were your typical comic book heroes and villains, but some participants got creative by using real life superheroes. Soldiers, firemen and police officers were some of the unique heroes represented.

Student Senate Hosts Parents' Weekend

by Kayla Koyne

On Oct. 26, Blackburn opened its doors to students' parents. According to Student Senate President Jacob Maag, over 75 guests took part in Parents' Weekend. The weekend began with a free concert featuring Lucas Carpenter in Bothwell Auditorium on Friday night. Many parents and students filed in to enjoy Carpenter's unique performance.

Saturday kicked off with photos with Barney as students enjoyed brunch provided in Ding. Next was the "Duo" Game in which parents and students' knowledge of the other was put to the test. Correct and sometimes not-so-correct answers to questions such as "How tall is your parent?" and "How many significant others has your student had?" drew laughs from the teams and the crowd. "My favorite event was probably the Duo Game," said sophomore Secondary Math Education major Debbie Rule. "My mom and I found out how much we really don't know about each other."

Just after 6 p.m. parents and students watched the Halloween parade on the Carlinville Square. There



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Allison Williams and Hayley Haynes participate in the Parents' Weekend Duo Game.

they enjoyed seeing floats and creative costumes and catching candy thrown by parade participants. After the parade, students and their parents had the option to attend a Fall Choir Concert in Bothwell Auditorium.

Afterwards, Student Senate hosted a Trivia Night. Eight teams participated in this competition. Questions on Disney, Blackburn history and U.S. Presidents kept teams on their toes. After ten rounds of ten questions and an exciting tie breaker for third place, Trivia Night came to an end. The winning team included DJ Rudd, Jake DeRousse, Tavi Wallace, Paul Kline and his mother Shirley Kline and Morgan Baldner

and her mother Gina Baldner. Parents' Weekend came to a close with a Stoddard Bonfire in the Jewell Quad. Students and parents huddled around the firepit to cook hot dogs and roast marshmallows for s'mores.

Overall Parents' Weekend was a resounding success and provided a great opportunity for parents and students to bond. Jacob Maag said, "Parents' Weekend 2013 was a great success thanks to the efforts of many people across campus. Student Senate looks forward to planning this event every year and is already working on Parents' Weekend 2014 in the hopes that even more families may participate."

The Game of Life: A Rigged Game

by Matt Renaud

In the classic Hasbro Company's "Game of Life," you live your life based on the draw of a card and spin of a wheel. Your skill in living a successful life is secondary to your skill to pick the Doctor Career Card. The Game of Life, held on Oct. 24 in Demuzio Campus Center, was similar to Hasbro's classic game but differed in a major way—in Blackburn's Game of Life, you're affected by prejudice.

The game started at 6 p.m., and students quickly lined up at the administrator's desk where they were assigned a racial group, sex, career type and sexuality. They then moved on to the bank, which allotted an amount of money to each individual depending on their career type. Nothing seemed amiss for students fortunate enough to be labeled "white." Housing was easy to afford, schooling was cheap and readily available and Caucasians were treated with more respect in general.

The focus of the game quickly shifted from the conquest of money-making to the biased treatment towards certain individuals. It quickly became apparent what affect ethnicity, sex, career and

sexuality had on many areas in your life. Sophomore Edia Mushundusi ran the education center and was quick to deny education to anyone who was not heterosexual. Sophomore Natasha Anthony wouldn't house anyone of Latino descent (and other minorities) whether they had money or not. She closed the housing station and even called security on those willing to fight for their rights. Jail was no better. Freshman Trey Sibley acted as the sheriff and was quick to release Caucasians while he detained racial minorities for extended periods of time. "You ain't white, boy, so just watch your mouth," was one of the many taunts Sibley threw at the inmates.

Senior Justina Smiley managed and directed the Game of Life. "I read a quote that says experience is the worst teacher. You get the test before you get the lesson. Although this was a game, people got a glimpse of how it feels to walk in another person's shoes and see how they are mistreated because of who they are and what they look like," said Smiley. The game was very effective in showing students how real prejudice is in today's society.

BUSTED! Bad Beaver Behavior

by Michelle Lee

On the weekends of October 18-20th and November 1st-3rd, a number of incidents occurred. Most altercations that take place on campus are handled by the Campus Community & Safety Department. Director of Campus Safety Tim Reents provided the incident descriptions below:

Oct. 18 at 7:55 p.m., security checked on the welfare of a student who accidentally dialed 911.

Oct. 19 at 9:40 p.m., security reported a broken window in the Olin greenhouse.

Oct. 20 at 1:30 a.m., a student received an offense for underage drinking.

Oct. 20 at 2:40 a.m., a subject received an offense for underage drinking.

Oct. 20 at 3:18 a.m., Security received a report of a suspicious vehicle; it was reported to Carlinville Police.

Oct. 20 at 3:30 a.m., three students received underage drinking offenses. One subject was taken to Carlinville Hospital for suspected alcohol



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE LEE

poisoning.

Nov. 2 at 1:10 p.m., security recovered a small glass smoking pipe that “smelled like burnt cannabis.” It was turned over to Carlinville Police

Nov. 3 at 7:22 p.m., two students received alcohol offenses for underage drinking and allowing an underage person to drink in his or her residence.

A Blackburn student was arrested on suspicion of DUI

in the early morning hours on Saturday Oct. 19. According to Macoupin County Court Records, the arrestee is a 20-year-old male. The complaint was filed Oct. 23. The infraction occurred on an adjacent road to campus, but ultimately the arrest was made in the DCC parking lot in front of Graham. According to the report, the suspect was released on \$100 bail and the court date is set for Nov. 13.

Campus Kitty

by Rachael Lancey

Throughout the first few weeks of October a gray and white cat showed up on campus and made himself at home. This visitor managed to befriend students all over campus.

It is not uncommon for neighborhood pets such as dogs and cats to make their way through campus and become a part of the daily life. However, most animals don’t stay long and usually leave within a few days. This feline was determined to become an official resident of Blackburn. He stayed close to Graham Hall at first and gradually worked his way up to exploring the entire campus. He could be found lounging on top of cars, under picnic tables or nestled up in the boxes that students set up for him in front of Butler and Stoddard when it started to get cold. Students even bought cat food and came up with names. Senior Heather Burns chose the name ‘Thomas’ which quickly caught on with a majority of campus. Graham resident Jordan GeRue and many of his fellow dormmates stuck with the name ‘Diego’. Word spread that he belonged to President Comerford, or that



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHAEL LANCEY

Sydney Walsh holding the cat fondly known as ‘Thomas’ or ‘Diego.’

he was going to be adopted by a Blackburn professor. These rumors proved to be false and he was taken to the Adopt-a-Pet shelter in Benld in the third week of October by Peer Counseling Administrative Assistant Sarah Law.

Like most Blackburn students, sophomore Debra Wilson was sad to see the cat go. “I loved having him on campus! It was very relaxing after a long day of classes and work to sit down in the grass and have him climb into my lap.” Although this beloved kitty is sure to be missed, he now has a warm place to stay and is sure to be loved by everyone he meets.

Got a campus or local event you would like covered in The 'Burnian?

Contact us at burnian@blackburn.edu so we can assign a reporter to the event!

Rogers Earns SLIAC Defensive Player of the Week

by Clayt Scheller

For his excellent goalkeeping, Blackburn soccer player Shane Rogers earned a spot on the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference’s wall of “Players of the Week” for the week of Monday, Oct. 14.

In Blackburn’s 3-0 victory against Robert Morris-Springfield on Wednesday, Oct. 9, Rogers shut out the opposing team by blocking two shots.

The Beavers’ Saturday, Oct. 12 game against the highly-ranked Webster Gorloks didn’t go as well—they lost 0-2—but Rogers put up a valiant effort.

“We were all playing pretty hard right from the start,” Rogers says. “We knew coming into the game that Webster was a top-ranked team in our conference, but we all had the mindset that we were going to compete all 90 minutes.”

Rogers blocked all eight of the Gorloks’ shots in the first half of the game, but was



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Junior Shane Rogers.

only able to block 13 of their 15 shots in the latter half. That’s right, “only 13.”

“I believe the reason I was awarded Player of the Week was because I never gave up. Even when we were down two goals, I was making saves to keep my team in the game,” Rogers says.

“In the end we lost 2-0, but I was able to shake hands with the other team’s players who all clapped me on the back, saying ‘Great game’ and ‘Amazing performance.’ [I] was able to walk off the field with my head held high.”

L.E.G.O., which stands for Let’s Explore Great Opportunities, is an annual event hosted by the Education Department which invites Litchfield eighth-graders to Blackburn during their career exploration unit.

L.E.G.O. is a win-win situation for all participating. “The event provides an opportunity for us to reach out to middle school youth in our region,” said Education Department Chair Kelly Chaney. This year’s event was based loosely on the reality television show “The Amazing Race.” Upon arriving, students were given passports to complete with facts they learned throughout the day. Following the opening ceremony, the academic fair was the first item on their agenda. Rotating in fifteen-minute sessions, the eighth-graders visited various professors, Suzanne Krupica in Career Services and a representative from the Work Program. The students actively learned and participated in hands-on demonstrations. For example, Head Men’s Soccer Coach Rob Steinkuehler had students practice drills on the soccer field and gave them a chance to ask questions of

L.E.G.O. Day Hosted at Blackburn

by Marissa Watson



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARISSA WATSON

Eighth grade students participated in yoga stretches and other various activities during L.E.G.O. day in Dawes gymnasium.

Blackburn student athletes.

Continuing the “Amazing Race” theme, students followed clues around campus during the afternoon, which essentially provided them with a campus tour. They visited places such as the Records Office to pick up course catalogs, Lumpkin Library to view the picture of Gideon Blackburn and Hudson first floor to see Blackburn’s seal. Education major Lexi Bilbruck said the “day is helpful to all education majors because not only does it give Blackburn students an opportunity to interact with middle school students, but it also provides

middle school students with insight about college.”

After the pit stops and detours had been completed, the eighth-grade students crossed the finish line and showed their passports in exchange for door prize tickets. The day ended with a closing ceremony, which included a panel of Blackburn students who answered questions about college life. The most important goal for the day is that “students get to understand that college is well within their means. Blackburn is affordable, accessible and we are close by,” said Chaney.

Guitarists, Spice Up Your Rhythm

by Clayt Scheller

For better or worse, I’ve tried my hardest to typecast myself as The ‘Burnian’s “guitar guy” over the past few years. It all started with a profile of Django Reinhardt, a guitarist who many players consider to be the instrument’s final boss.

Django turned his guitar into a sonic kaleidoscope. The man improvised dazzling licks with half a functioning fretting hand and lots of picking hand chutzpah. What’s more, he punched through full, thumping rhythm sections without an amplifier. That’s amazing.

I can’t tell all you guitarists out there how to play like he did, but I can share some tips and a couple chord voicings to evoke a pinch of that gypsy magic in your playing. Here goes!

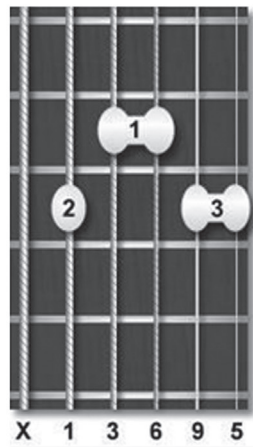
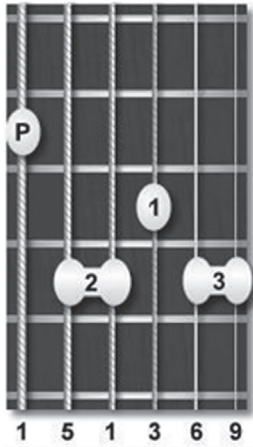
First of all, you should consider investing in a sturdy pick if you do much unplugged soloing. A thicker pick (1.5 mm and up) is more difficult to alternate quickly, but the added volume and richer tone it allows you to extract are much more important than raw speed. Doing quick single-string work with a Fender Medium, for instance, sounds

kind of anemic.

Guitar Center carries packages of purple Dunlop picks called “Big Stubbies” (don’t laugh). They’re 3 mm thick, extremely durable, loud and pretty cheap. Playing with what essentially amounts to a two-by-four is definitely an adjustment, but you’ll be glad you made it.

Pictured on the right are two chords – F# 6/9 and C 6/9 – with roots on the sixth and fifth strings, respectively. Think of them as prettier ways to begin or end a song in a major key. Bear in mind that these shapes are movable and can be used to start or finish any major-sounding progression if you slide them into place. Admittedly, the sixth-string root version is a little tough to fret. If you mute the fourth string, however, it’s much easier to play and sounds just as nice.

Try ending a 1-4-5 on one of these and arpeggiating the notes – you might find that it sounds a little more subtle than a standard major chord. Using these, you’ll fool people into thinking you’re a sensitive artist in no time (long hair / goatee combo optional)!



GRAPHIC BY TRACI KAMP

BC Given a ‘D’ in Safety, but is Blackburn that Dangerous?

by Jake DeRousse

Some of the most common factors that a prospective student looks at when comparing colleges are location, majors offered and sports. This differs from what a parent usually worries about (with the exception of location), which usually includes cost of attendance and safety on campus. We all know that Blackburn is the “#2 best value in the Midwest”—as is claimed quite proudly on the main page of the old Blackburn website—and chances are this plays a part in why Blackburn’s students end up choosing to come here. Shockingly, however, the safety criterion isn’t quite met here at Blackburn. According to a report published by American School Search, a company that claims to give “unbiased and detailed information” about colleges to help students choose where to go, “Blackburn College is a very dangerous place.”

The report gave Blackburn a ‘D’ on safety. In fact, many mid-southern Illinois and Missouri schools were also given bad grades: Illinois State received a ‘D,’ Western Illinois

got a ‘D-’ and Washington University got a ‘D+.’ The report analyzed data from the 2012 Department of Education public data sets. Various categories of criminal offenses from 2009-2011 were taken into account, ranging from murder to arson to illegal weapons possession. Blackburn had none of those, but did have data indicating past forcible sex offenses and burglary, which is what pushed the grade lower. According to Head of Security Tim Reents,

Blackburn may have a higher percentage of offenses in the past because “Blackburn College is very honest in what we report...we report everything and 99% of schools might not.” He also referenced reports from the last two years where BC has not had any sexual offenses, instead noting that one relatively bad year in 2010 skews the data. He says, “the college is doing a good job at teaching what is and is not appropriate” and that sexual based offenses are not

a problem on campus. Like any good statistician would tell you, though, these results cannot be taken at face value. Blackburn has a much smaller enrollment than most of the schools that were analyzed. Thus the percentages could be skewed just by having a few extra degenerates on campus one year. Because of this, it is very likely that the results of the analysis represent an anomaly, not a trend. But only time will tell.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL THEIS

The ‘Burnian

Mission Statement

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

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be sent to burnian@blackburn.edu, or mailed to The ‘Burnian, 700 College Avenue, Carlinville, IL 62626. Letters should be no more than 500 words.

Guest Commentaries

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

Haley Welch

Editor-in-Chief
haley.welch@blackburn.edu

Taylor Hess

Assistant Editor
taylor.hess@blackburn.edu

Traci Kamp

Design and Layout Editor
traci.kamp@blackburn.edu

Aurora Grimmett

Design and Layout Assistant
aurora.grimmett@blackburn.edu

Max Farley

Copy Editor
meghan.farley@blackburn.edu

Professor Natasha Casey

Faculty Advisor/Editor
natasha.casey@blackburn.edu

Dr. Karen Dillon

Faculty Editor
karen.dillon@blackburn.edu

Rachael Lancey

Social Media Consultant
rachael.lancey@blackburn.edu

Staff Writers:

Sarah Collman

sarah.collman@blackburn.edu

Zachary Daum

zachary.daum@blackburn.edu

Jake DeRousse

jacob.derousse@blackburn.edu

Kayla Koyné

kayla.koyné@blackburn.edu

Matt Renaud

matthew.renaud@blackburn.edu

Clayt Scheller

clayt.scheller@blackburn.edu

Edwardsville Intelligencer

Publisher

Contributing Writers:

Miranda Clark
Jessica Clements
Mallory Cummings
Courtney Egner
Michelle Lee
Morgan McMeen
Tim Morenz
Justina Smiley
Marissa Watson

My Seminar Is Harder than Your Seminar

by Kayla Koyne

A recurring debate among Blackburn seniors concerns which major has the most difficult seminar, but whether it's a long research paper or writing and directing a play, all seminars are challenging.

Many colleges including Northwestern University and University of Washington incorporate seminars into their curriculum. "Seminars are a capstone experience that helps students integrate all of the coursework they should have taken through their major and their time here," said Registrar and Advising Services Coordinator Dianna Ruyle.

Senior Biology major Risa Huff commented that Biology seminar is the most challenging because "the topics that Biology majors choose are sometimes on the cutting edge of science. If you go to a History major, their information is just that—history. Other topics aren't as ever changing as a Biology majors."

Senior Computer Science major Paul Kline stated that while he has not tried out other seminars, his is no walk in the park. Computer Science seminars are a year-long process which takes two semesters rather than one. "You

do a whole bunch of research about what you want to do and hopefully come up with a plan. At the end of semester one, you turn in a project proposal that is part research paper," Kline explained. "Typically I'm in the lab until 1 or 2 a.m. each night working on seminar." At the end of seminar, all computer science majors must present their project. "Also as of right now, I'm at 2,400+ lines of code in total," Kline commented.

While Biology and Computer Science majors tend to focus on more hands on or cutting edge work, many other seminars like Psychology are centered on a large research paper. "You have to write a 50 page paper," explains senior Heather Michelle Weiss. "That's a lot. Students normally wouldn't write that much." In addition to the paper, there is a thirty minute presentation at the end of the seminar process. Weiss explained that during this presentation seniors answer questions from the psychology professors, classmates and anyone else who attends. Ultimately, the biggest issue is staying motivated through the long process.

One of the most creatively

demanding seminars is the Performing Arts Theater track. Senior Reggie Guyton discussed how mentally taxing his seminar production was. Guyton began work on his seminar the summer before his senior year, constructing his topic and formulating the story's plotline. "I had to incorporate the songs that were relative to the story," he explained. Guyton says that the second semester was more challenging. He had to hold auditions, hire (or beg) for help with production, visual work and choreography on top of running rehearsals. Performing Arts seniors are responsible for all of this as well as marketing their own production.

No seminar is easy or even enjoyable at times. Every senior will want to pull their hair out at some point. However different or difficult seminars are, squabbling over who has it worse may help blow off some steam but it will not do any good in the long run. Good luck to all you seniors out there on your seminar, regardless of your major!

Talk to Tim!

by Tim Morenz

Greetings and Salutations, Beaver Nation! As the weather turns colder, the stressors in our personal and professional lives heat up. Remember to take time for yourself and address the stress in your life. Eat well, exercise, set goals, remind yourself what is truly important to you and cultivate healthy and lasting relationships.

Let's get to our question:

"Dear Tim, Dude! Why am I so freaking anxious all of the time!? Classes, lines and open spaces drive me crazy and the tension in my chest never goes away! What gives!?" -PC

PC, anxiety has got to be one of the biggest issues on our campus. Deadlines, tests and being evaluated on our performance is enough on its own to paralyze us with fear, but add in our family history, our own expectations and other factors and anxiety can be crippling. Anxiety is hardwired in our brains as a survival mechanism and some anxiety can be helpful, but when out of balance, anxiety can impair our physical and psychological health. Oftentimes, the anxious person has a family history of anxiety or depression and as children their parents communicated an overly cautious view of the world, were critical and set excessively high standards and could have suppressed the child's feelings of self expression and assertiveness. Combined with avoiding fearful situations, always thinking that the worst will happen, having a lifestyle that lacks in self-nurturing, unattended stress, using stimulants and having a lack of purpose and the person becomes trapped in their own prison of fear. Here are a few things that can help:

Remember F E A R-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR
Blackburn's counselor Tim Morenz.

(F)False (E)Evidence and Expectations (A)Appearing (R)Real - 90% of our worries are either outside of our control or never happen. Ask yourself if you are misreading certain signals and don't avoid phobic situations, use support (like a friend) and go anyway.

Meditation: Worrying so much about tomorrow never allows us to live in the present moment. Meditation is a great way to anchor ourselves in the present by reflecting on the breath. If you are new to meditation, come to our Meditation Mondays group.

The Anxious 3: Make a conscious effort to avoid using caffeine, nicotine and simple sugar as crutches and cover-ups for more prevalent problems.

And as always, if you would like more help or have other questions, Counseling Services is here to help you.

Until next time, BEAVER NATION!

About the author: Tim has been a licensed clinical professional counselor in Illinois since 1997 and has 22 years of field experience. His office is Demuzio 133 and he can be reached at ext. 4201. If you have a question for him, he can be reached at tim.morenz@blackburn.edu.

Are there any events taking place in your department? Would you like to spread the word about it to the members of Blackburn's campus or to the community?

Send the information about your event to The 'Burnian at burnian@blackburn.edu to get it published in the next issue of the paper!

Applying for Grad School in Three Easy...ish Steps



by Jake DeRousse

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOMAS COACH

For many students, graduating with a bachelor's degree does not signal the end of the education process. But while many majors—including Psychology, Biology and Chemistry—essentially require their students to attend graduate school for specialization, most students do not actually understand the application process and timeline. The process of getting into graduate school is much more strenuous and stressful than getting into undergrad for the simple reason that graduate schools are fewer and much more selective. The process can be quite daunting, but can be much more manageable when broken down into three steps.

1. Make a list of schools:

Probably the most important part of the process is

determining where you want to go. Whereas most colleges will offer undergraduate programs in majors like Business Management and Biology, graduate schools are more specialized. You should also note facts such as application fee, potential for fellowship or research opportunities (to eliminate cost) and the prestige of the school. The general rule is to have 10-15 schools in mind, including a few safe schools and a few top tier ones.

2. Take GRE, MCAT, LSAT, or any other necessary test:

Just like applying to undergraduate colleges, when you apply to a graduate school you have to take a standardized test and record the scores as part of the application. Many graduate programs only require the GRE, which is essentially

the grad school version of the ACT, while the MCAT is for doctors and other health professions and the LSAT is for future law students. The GRE is not cheap with a \$185 fee and is usually taken at a computer-based test; there is a testing center in Springfield.

3. Fill out application and all necessary documents:

The final step in the application process is, of course, the actual application. Many disciplines will use a universal application, one you can fill out and send to each school you wish to attend. This part of the process also includes talking to teachers or work supervisors you'd like to write recommendation letters for you. I have yet to find a school that does not require at least three letters of recommendation. Also note that you should ask your writers in advance and not just spring the idea on them with a short deadline. The most important part of this step is writing your personal statement. This may be the most important essay you have ever written, so make sure not to procrastinate on it, and also to have it reviewed by the Writer's Block, professors or friends.

Cherry Tree
Treasures & Gifts

236 East Side Square
Carlinville IL 62626

(573) 826 - 1515

www.cherrytree236.com

cherrytree236@gmail.com

10% Blackburn discount with ID

Tues-Fri 10:00-5:00, 3rd Thurs 10:00-7:00, Sat 9:00-2:00



Dueling Pianos: Falling Flat?

by Clayt Scheller

On Saturday, Oct. 19, Midwest Dueling Pianos employees Rusty Northrop and Adam O'Donnell set up shop in front of the Demuzio Campus Center (DCC) bookstore. From 8pm until 11pm, the two pianists played around 60 songs while trying desperately to engage a lethargic audience.

The event coincided with the fall play; this might explain the relatively low turnout.

As usual, audience members had access to a few tables of snacks and drinks. This time, though, they had to serve themselves—nobody took their orders.

Color-changing lights were installed above the pianists' instruments, but they were difficult to notice considering that, unlike in previous years, the DCC's lights were only dimmed and not turned off. The campus center's tables were also farther away from

the performers than before. As a result, the event felt less personal this time around.

Nobody could doubt the audience's college student credentials: the performers' improvised setlist included songs by boy bands, pop artists, Smash Mouth, Rick Astley (c'mon, seriously?), Journey and Disney, among others. Even so, few students sang along or got involved in any other capacity.

Northrop and O'Donnell poured themselves into the performance regardless. Despite the unresponsive audience, the energetic duo played, sang and joked without ever missing a beat.

To find out more about Midwest Dueling Pianos, check them out at their website (www.midwestduelingpianos.com), on Facebook ([facebook.com/mdpianos](https://www.facebook.com/mdpianos)) or on Twitter (@midwestdueling).

Campus Activities Do's and Don'ts

by Zachary Daum

Activities on campus vary wildly, ranging from plays to talent shows or comedians. Because the content of these programs is sometimes mature, what is considered appropriate is often a gray area.

The recent fall play, "Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine," contained mature language and content. Theatre Department Chair Dr. Kate Roark chose this play and explains, "I think the audience must be warned ahead of time in announcements and on the poster. I chose a play with adult language and themes this fall, and I let everyone know what to expect by stating on the poster it was rated R."

Unlike the play, Blackburn's Got Talent was intended to be a family friendly show. Blackburn senior Alex Scherer and junior Josh Bishop were planning on performing an acoustic cover of "Get Low" by Three 6 Mafia, which contains explicit language. However, Roark wanted to make sure the show was kept clean as small children are often in attendance at the event. Roark explained, "Alex and Josh told me when they auditioned that they would change all the curse words. I heard a rumor that they were planning on performing the original version of the song with all the curse words in it for the show. I told my workers if they hear any curse words, we were turning off the lights and sound and removing this act from the stage. When Alex and Josh heard that they just

didn't show up."

Josh Bishop, however, did not know that the show was for more than just students of Blackburn. "I didn't realize that young kids and parents and families would be there. I had spoken with several people and everyone thought it would just be funny and all, so that was my only motivation to do it. Really we decided we weren't going to do it after the audition and found out later we were going to be cut off anyway."

Many of the shows put on here draw attendees from off Blackburn's campus, including children. Because of this, Student Activities worker Courtney Egner says students must be aware that unless otherwise stated, an on campus activity should be thought of as family friendly.

Fall Choir and Band Concert Held

by Clayt Scheller

On Saturday, Oct. 26 and Monday, Oct. 28, Bothwell Auditorium resonated with the musical talents of the Blackburn College Choir and the Blackburn College Band, respectively.

Conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Zobel and with four-handed piano accompaniment by Drs. See Tsai Chan and Pei-I Wang, the choir concert covered five centuries' worth of choral standards in an hour.

The program's first half consisted of four well-known sacred standards—beginning with the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's "Messiah" and ending with Bruckner's "Locus iste"—and a five-song a capella preview of the

upcoming Madrigal Dinner by the Blackburn Voices.

The performers began the program's latter half with a rendition of the first six movements of Johannes Brahms's challenging Romantic composition "Liebeslieder Walzer, op. 52." The four contemporary pieces that rounded out the concert culminated in William L. Dawson's uplifting "Ain'-a That Good News!"

Conductor Thomas Philbrick guided the Blackburn College Band through six contemporary works during the first half of the band concert. After getting the crowd's attention with Todd Stalter's dynamic "Scramble,"

the performers played five other upbeat compositions. Their final performance, a medley titled "Themes Like Old Times II," included several early jazz standards. Band members blew bubbles during a particularly bawdy section.

The 1st Illinois & 2nd Iowa Regimental Cavalry Band took the stage for the rest of the concert. Conducted by Philbrick, they skillfully played Civil War-era music with period-appropriate instruments: some of the brass they carried was over 150 years old. Even crazier is that, according to Philbrick, a few of the difficult compositions they played were originally played on horseback.

Fantastic Results for Fall Phon-A-Thon

by Miranda Clark

Phon-A-Thon is a fundraiser organized every fall and spring; it involves current students calling past students (who did not graduate) and alums to ask for financial support towards the college's annual fund. This year's Phon-A-Thon ran from Oct. 20 to Oct. 27. Phon-A-Thon is organized and planned by Director of Annual Giving Jodi Rowe.

Nine new students and five returning employees were interviewed and hired to work this year's Phon-A-Thon. "It was very enjoyable talking to the alums. I got to hear Blackburn's history from those who lived here and love our great school," mentioned sophomore Matt Beaver. Past students and alumni were called for Phon-A-Thon. A total of 4,351 past students and 1,943 calls to alums were made. The students to receive the most donations were: Conor Vesper with \$8,250,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRANDA CLARK

Matthew Beaver and Katie Ward work to raise funds during the Fall Phon-A-Thon.

Haley Haynes with \$7,370 and Kelly Erwin with \$5,725. The total sum pledges for past students and alumni was \$40,165.

Donors have the option of giving credit card information over the phone or sending a check in the mail. Calls were made in Anderson Hall with every employee provided with their own stall to make calls. "I enjoyed connecting with the alumni and being able to endorse Blackburn and its

greatness to the fullest," noted transfer sophomore Sarah Burchett.

Freshman Keragan White, the Student Phon-A-Thon Coordinator, mentioned, "I liked the whole process of it. I thought it was neat how we call all of these alumni so our students now get to talk to them and it was neat to see how many calls could get done in a night."

THE BODY DEPOT



125 N. West Street, Carlinville, IL 62626 Phone: (217) 854 - 2175
15% student discount on products or services with an appointment!

Fall Play Calls it a Wrap

by Zachary Daum

From Oct. 17 through the 20, students and faculty of Blackburn were treated to “Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine,” a play written by Lynn Nottage. Starring September Stanton as Undine, with DeArryka Williams, Lindsey Smith, Andre Hoskins, Reggie Guyton and Kenneth James (most of whom play multiple characters) and directed by Dr. Kate Roark, this play was heavily based on race and social identity.

In spite of this, Kenneth James believes the story can be understood by people of any race or social group. “I think it’s more of a life choice. I mean anybody can go through this and unfortunately it happened to her. It happens to people all across America.” September Stanton agrees, but believes that at its heart “Fabulation” is a story about African Americans: “The message is universal but affects African Americans more so.”

The play is also connected with the story of “Br’er Rabbit,” a trickster character inspired by African American and Native American traditions. The character

Br’er Rabbit tricks Br’er Fox into letting him go back home. Br’er Rabbit knows that getting back home is the only way he can escape being killed by Br’er Fox. Going home and remembering where you came from is the key idea in both “Br’er Rabbit” and “Fabulation.” In the Blackburn production of the play, Undine’s brother Flow, played by Andre Hoskins, references Br’er Rabbit directly in an unfinished poem. He relates the story to family, stating that people should not forget where they come from or what they’ve done. They can’t forget their history.

Dr. Roark took some creative liberties with the play as well, having the stage crew move around the set during scenes. “It made sense once we started having all of our stagehands move things around, but that was tied in with her control, anger and feeling of powerlessness. Sort of like fate. The stagehands are like fate.”

The play was roughly two-and-a-half hours long with one intermission. It drew in many people from the campus and the community.

Walker Nation: The Walking Dead Returns

by Courtney Egner

One of television’s biggest and best shows has finally returned! On Oct. 13 “The Walking Dead” returned to Sunday nights on AMC, kicking off with a ray of hope and quickly bringing back the clouds in the next episode.

“The Walking Dead” revolves around Rick Grimes and his group of fellow survivors trying to find salvation in the zombie apocalypse. It’s not entirely about zombies, as most people are quick to assume. The show actually focuses more on the survivors and the terrible decisions they have to make to survive, and you quickly learn that the real threat is not the walkers (zombies), but other survivors. The combination of zombie gore, survivor drama and a fast-paced atmosphere is what makes the show so

fantastic.

Most people do not know that the television show is adapted from a comic book series of the same name. Robert Kirkman, the creator and writer of the comics, has a lot of involvement in the show, including writing and producing a number of episodes. The show does sometimes stray from the comic series, but it does a good job at staying true to its origins and making the right adjustments. Fun fact: one of the most beloved characters on the show, Daryl Dixon, is not in the comics. His character was written into the show and quickly became a fan favorite. “The Walking Dead” also has a novel series, providing insight on the backstories of major villains and civilizations, which could

make for interesting plot twists in the television show!

The number of viewers have been constantly escalating since the show premiered in 2010. The season four premiere broke its own record, clocking in with a whopping 16.1 million viewers! It has broken television records left and right and as of Oct. 21 “The Walking Dead” is now the most watched cable television show in history. That’s a pretty big accolade for a show that revolves around zombies.

If you have never seen the show and are interested in watching it (which you should), seasons one through three are available on Netflix and season four is currently underway. New episodes premiere on Sundays at 8 p.m. on AMC.

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!

Dr. Who 50th Anniversary Special

by Zachary Daum

On Nov. 23, 1963, the first episode of “Doctor Who” aired in the United Kingdom. Created by Canadian Sydney Newman for the BBC, it was originally intended to be a family show, aired on Saturday nights on a temporary basis. Fast forward to 2013—“Doctor Who” is now one of the most popular drama series on television. The height of the anniversary celebration is “The Day of the Doctor.” Every time the Doctor dies he regenerates into a new body, allowing a new actor to take the role. Award-winning actor John Hurt will play an unknown version of the Doctor and David Tennant will return to the same role alongside current star Matt Smith. This special 75-minute episode will bring “Doctor Who” to its half-century anniversary.

This special episode is not the only event planned for the anniversary. A docudrama called “An Adventure in Space and Time” about the creation of “Doctor Who” will be released Nov. 22. It will star David Bradley as William Hartnell, who was the first actor to play the Doctor in 1963. Some scenes in this special will be recreations of scenes from missing episodes of “Doctor Who.” Over 90 episodes of classic “Doctor Who” are currently missing from the BBC archives. Because of a junking policy

by the BBC, many archived videos were destroyed in the 1970s. This is not exclusive to “Doctor Who” and includes the BBC broadcasting of the 1969 moon landing. Recently, however, nine episodes have turned up in time for the 50th Anniversary. They feature Patrick Troughton as the second Doctor. The two six part stories “The Enemy of the World” and “The Web of Fear” have been found in Nigeria and are available on iTunes for the first time since their original broadcast in 1968. Only one episode of “The Web of Fear” is still missing, but the audio of the episode exists. “The Web of Fear” features the first appearance of long time “Doctor Who” character Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart, played by Nicholas Courtney. His character’s daughter Kate Stewart (played by Jemma Redgrave) made her first television appearance in the past season of “Doctor Who” and will appear in “The Day of the Doctor.”

One month before the anniversary on Oct. 23, British company Big Finish Audio Productions released “A Light at the End,” an audio-only story featuring the voices of the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth doctors battling longtime “Doctor Who” villain the Master. The “Doctor Who Big Finish” stories have been

keeping the classic series afloat since 2001. It allows the surviving classic Doctors to return in audio form. Big Finish is also releasing one story a month featuring each Doctor and leading up to the Eleventh. This brings the classic series and 2005 revival together. “The Day of the Doctor” will be shown in select theaters throughout the world and will air on BBC America on Nov. 23 at 1 p.m. Central Standard time.

Nickelback Doesn’t Suck

by Jake DeRousse

“Nickelback is the worst band of all time.” “Nickelback is like cyanide for my ears.” “Every time I hear Nickelback on the radio I have to fight the urge to drive myself off the road.”

Nickelback is arguably the most polarizing band of all time. Their relevance in popular culture today has caused Nickelback-bashing to become a very popular pseudo-sport. It is ‘cool’ to hate on Nickelback, even if the reason for the hatred is listed as the generic “they suck.” But Nickelback has a very large group of loyal fans who enjoy their music. At the time of the Thanksgiving 2011 release of their album “Here and Now” the band had sold 15.5 million records.

Nickelback is really no different than your average mainstream rock band, but for some reason it seems to be impossible to have a neutral opinion towards them. A poll I conducted of fifty college students resulted in the following data: 21 ‘likes,’ 25 ‘hates’ and only 4 ‘don’t cares.’ That means 92% of people polled had an opinion on Nickelback. A dissenting view came from Blackburn

senior Aaron Szerletich, who said, “I don’t like them. They are an unimaginative holdover from post-grunge power pop that plagued the late 90s.”

One of the most commonly touted reasons to hate them is that their songs all sound the same. I would argue bands such as AC/DC and Coldplay have songs that all sound the same, but they don’t get any of the animosity directed at Nickelback. On a related note, some say they hate Nickelback because they make music their fans want to hear. While reading opinions on message boards I actually came across this gem of a comment: “I hate Nickelback because they only play what their fans want.” Of course they play what their fans want! You’re not going to see Blake Shelton drop a smooth R&B hit into his next album, as his country fans may riot. Blackburn senior Travis Buchanan states, “They stick to and represent their genre very well. I just hate that genre.”

I highly doubt that people who currently hate Nickelback will ever change their views. They should just know that their favorite bands aren’t all that different.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACHARY DAUM

Junior transfer student Zachary Daum dressed as Dr. Who.

Please Don't Call Me "Ma'am"

by Sarah Collman

To set this straight, I am not your friend's mom. I am not your boss. I am not your teacher or your elderly neighbor. I am definitely not a sergeant calling you to attention. Under no circumstances should you, a fellow college dweller, call me ma'am. I understand that you don't know me and I appreciate that you are trying to be polite; however, I'd much rather you ask "Who the hell are ya?" than call me ma'am.

Now that we are in college we encounter a wider variety of people on a day to day basis than we did in high school. Here at Blackburn your best friend could very well be a classmate, a teammate and a coworker all in one. Your professors actually know you by name and interact with you on an individual basis. But while you may be able to match a great number of names to faces across campus, there are many people on campus who you may come across whose names you do not know. And unlike a sweet, middle-aged waitress, not all of us can get away with calling everyone "Babe" or "Hun" to get his/her attention.

Of course there are people out there who couldn't really



PHOTO BY KAYLA KOYNE

'Burnian staff writer Sarah Collman.

care less what you call them. You could call them miss or ma'am, sir, dude, homie, you in the hat... They really don't mind. But then there are people who, like me, propel into a spiraling train of thought upon being called ma'am that goes something like: *Ma'am? I'm a ma'am? When did that happen? I'm 19 years old, how could I possibly be a ma'am? Do I look old? Shouldn't I still be a miss? I know I'm not a child, but I'm not married or anything. Does getting married mean a lady should be called ma'am?* Without knowing it, the person trying to grab my attention has just sent me into a whirlwind of inner turmoil.

There are several alternatives for addressing someone you don't know. The first option is to kick it back to first grade where getting someone's attention was as easy as a tap on the shoulder. If that course of action isn't appropriate for the situation, scope out the area and position yourself in front of the person you need to talk to and make sure there is no one behind her. This way, when you start talking, she will glance behind her, see that there is no one there and realize that you are talking to her. If there are too many people around to pull this off, just start shouting out names. I suggest starting with the most common names and working your way towards the more unusual ones, or you could be there for a while.

It's uncomfortable and awkward, and can be downright problematic when you are uncertain how to do it correctly. If you don't make the right choice you could end up humiliating yourself or offending the person you are trying to talk to. Unfortunately there is no secret code to avoiding such outcomes, but as long as you're being polite and respectful, maybe calling me ma'am isn't such a horrible thing.

What's the Reason for the Season?

by Mallory Cummings

Whether it officially starts with "Black Friday" or "Gray Thursday," the Christmas season has already been in full swing for a few weeks now. Only a few days after Halloween, superstores such as Wal-Mart and K-Mart put their Christmas decorations and holiday "bargains" on display.

Is it in the holiday spirit to skip over national holidays like Thanksgiving and jump right to Christmas? It seems as if the nature of these large superstores is to encourage their consumers to start their mass purchasing earlier and earlier each year.

Both of these retailers will be open on Thanksgiving day, which is now being referred to as "Gray Thursday" to encourage holiday shoppers to get a headstart on "Black Friday" sales. Thanksgiving is being ignored altogether, which makes it difficult to believe these extreme sales are just holiday celebrations.

Not long ago (in our parents' lifetimes), there truly was a Christmas season. It was special. Everyone watched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV while the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MALLORY CUMMINGS

Contributing writer Mallory Cummings.

big meal was being prepared. Stores were closed as families across America came together, and would open the next day with beautifully decorated windows and displays. This unveiling was the first real glimpse of what we call the holiday season.

While Wal-Mart shoppers may "Shop Smart," do they truly "Live Better" by foregoing a family Thanksgiving? It's no coincidence you can't participate in Shop Local programs on Thanksgiving. Local shopkeepers want you to enjoy your family time and they want to enjoy theirs.

The commercialization of Christmas has been on the rise for quite some time. We are a society in which excess for the sake of excess is not only

expected, but encouraged. Consumerism exploits emotions and persuades people to buy. Advertising's favorite Christmas message is, "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful," and come the shoppers do. They flock like frantic drones and shopping becomes the reason for the season.

Editor-in-Chief of Adbusters Magazine Kalle Lasn said in an interview with CNN, "If we suddenly all stopped buying then of course it would hurt the economy, but only in the short term. We have to think about the long term consequences of the kind of business culture that we have built up."

Recognizing that the laws of supply and demand are still in motion, take a step back and imagine households cutting back one by one and refusing to shop on Thanksgiving. If more and more people refuse to shop, there would be no need for superstores to emphasize "Black Friday" shopping. In no time Americans would be back at the Thanksgiving table, surrounded by family as they should be, giving thanks. Just imagine.

Opinion & Forum

The New "F" Word: Fat Shaming

by Courtney Egner

A blog site for "heterosexual, masculine men" titled ReturnOfKings.com recently decided to devote its blog space to what was dubbed "Fat Shaming Week." What started out as just a week turned into a whole month of "fat shaming," affecting almost every social media site this October. To "fat shame" is to publicly harass someone who is considered overweight. The original post on Return of Kings concluded with, "We have decided as a group that fat shaming is essential in creating a society of thin, beautiful women who are ashamed for being ugly. Let the fat shaming begin!" Shortly after the start of this "holiday," a Twitter account dedicated to the best tweets with the tag "fat shaming week" popped up.

Here are a few of the tweets:

Tweet: "do you know how easy it is for fat ppl to lose weight initially? stop drinking soda, and walk for 15 mins. bam, 10 lbs gone #FatShamingWeek."

It's not easy to give up bad habits and create new ones. As someone who has struggled with weight her entire life, it's more of a mental process than anything, and when things don't go as planned you give up. Being at college makes it that much harder to make a lifestyle change.

Tweet: "Remember ladies. Nothing tastes as good as skinny feels. #FatShamingWeek #FSWMotivation."

You CLEARLY have

Deviance, Diversity and Norms

by Justina Smiley

I sat at the latest Blackburn Bingo event and listened to a fellow player make a comment to my roommate. "She's making y'all look bad," the player said, referring to some African American females on the far side of the room having a loud, raunchy conversation. This stuck in my head for a while. What upset me wasn't the comment itself, but the realization that lots of people believe that what an individual does reflects an entire race or culture.

As I thought about it more, I realized that not everyone has had the opportunity to be exposed to a large number of cultures. Some of us have a picture inside our head that others have put there, and we hold that as the standard on how certain things work or how certain groups of people behave or perceive the world.

In many societies, cultures and even homes, deviance

never had pizza before.

Tweet: "Fat people have the same type of mental disorder as trannies, and it's called delusion. #FatShamingWeek:"

I would first like to point out that transgender people do not have mental disorders. And secondly, what kind of delusions do fat people have? Is it delusional to believe that being overweight is okay? I just don't understand this one, and that's why it makes me so angry.

Tweet: "Not a lot of women participating in #FatShamingWeek. Because women are the bigger part of the problem (pun intended). They condone being fat."

Women do not condone being fat. Women condone body positivity. The mainstream media has distorted women's views on what we should look like and a counter-argument to that has begun. Women, especially young girls, need to be taught that their bodies are perfect the way they are and that they do not need to look a certain way in order to be loved.

What scares me the most about "Fat Shaming Month" is that most of the people participating think that harassing someone in order to get them to change is helpful to people who are overweight. This is just adding to the media's already negative influence on body image. The fact that there is an entire month dedicated to "fat shaming" is absolutely disgusting and appalling.

is taboo. "Deviance" is any behavior outside of the norm, any way of thinking that goes against groupthink. These norms or patterns promote a way of thinking that is predictable and those who choose not to follow it are considered disloyal. Our families usually determine if we learn deviance or conformity; they shape how we think and view the world.

As Dr. Camp stated in my sociology class, "People connect being deviant to a negative thing but think about it. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mandela, they were deviant. Deviance in some cases promotes social unity and social change." We are all different and should be respected as such. We should appreciate diversity of ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, education and religion with value, respect and inclusion.

Volleyball Senior Night Recap

by Jake DeRousse

The Blackburn College Beavers' volleyball team had their last home match of the season on Tuesday, Oct. 29 in Dawes Gymnasium against the MacMurray Highlanders. This match was also Senior Night, marking the final home match for the team's three seniors: Amanda Miller, Jessica McClelland and Jamie Russow. Miller came into the match Tuesday having played in 92 career matches and had recorded 864 assists in that timeframe. She was also a 2010 SLIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention selection. McClelland came into the match with 72 career matches, and led the team with 308 career kills. She was a 2011 SLIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention selection. Senior Russow came into the match with 88 career matches and an impressive 439 career digs.

The actual match, though, was disappointing, as the Beavers lost all three sets. The first set included a late charge from the Beavers, led



PHOTO BY DANIELLE ANDERSON

Amanda Miller, Amy Walton, Alexis Platto, Patrece McLain, Meghan Ude and Allie Matt huddle together during the Oct. 29 Volleyball game.

by some impressive serving by sophomore Patrece McLain. The late surge fell unfortunately short and the Beavers lost 25-15. The Beavers once again had a late charge at the end of the second set, this time led by McClelland's serving, but in the end the Highlanders' blocking ability proved too much for the Beavers, and the match once again ended in a 25-

15 score. The third set marked a change, as the Beavers jumped out to an early 7-3 lead. The momentum quickly dissipated and the Highlanders were able to once again win the set 25-15. McClelland led the team with seven kills and freshman Meghan Ude had nine digs. The Beavers ended their season with a 0-3 loss away at Eureka College.

Beaver Fever: A Real Live Barney

by Matt Renaud

According to Jackson Walsh, a student writer for the Kentucky State University Sentinel, Kentucky State University recently introduced Sturgis the horned owl as the university's first live mascot. "If you look at all the big schools, they all have an animal for their mascot," said Stephen Lococo, a freshman at KSU studying International Business. Walsh also commented on how "many of the students appeared to be enthusiastic about getting a live mascot."

KSU is one of about thirty colleges to take on a live mascot, including Southern Methodist University's Shetland pony, Tusk the Boar of Arkansas State University and Leo and Una, the lion couple housed by the University of North Alabama. Blackburn College is not one of them, but it should be. A live mascot does wonders to boost the morale of a team. Senior Megan Dominick, "If we had a real 'Barney' we might actually win at sports." Several other students

like the idea of having a live mascot for Blackburn College, including Jared Jones, Manager of the Athletics Department and sophomore baseball player. Jones said, "Having a live mascot would boost the morale of the school, as well as [raise] a tradition here at Blackburn." He also commented on the appeal to outsiders were the college to own a live beaver. "A lot of people would come to visit Blackburn just to see the Barney the Beaver, and that includes prospective students. If we had a beaver, it would probably even boost enrollment." Live mascots for sports teams is a great American tradition, dating all the way back to the nineteenth century. Harvard University, for example, adopted "Handsome Dan" the bulldog as its first live mascot in 1889. It was once said that sports mascots are symbols of competitiveness and team spirit. A mascot is a symbol of the team's unity; to see that mascot in the flesh not only lightens the spirits of those in the stands, but also heartens the players. A live mascot can bring a team or an entire community together.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW RENAUD

Blackburn's official mascot, Barney Beaver.

More Than Just a Group of Jocks

by Morgan McMeen

Over the past two years it seems like North has had the spotlight on them constantly. No matter what the residents do it seems like they are always getting in trouble. Because a majority of the baseball team lives in North, oftentimes they are brought into the situation. The baseball team isn't the only team being punished for things they do on campus. There are people from other teams who drink, have work write-ups and don't have the best grades, yet everyone seems most concerned with the baseball team. This can only be due to the fact that the entire baseball team consistently hangs out together, making them an easy target. It's easier to just blame it on the baseball team because you don't have to single out one person. If the people who think the baseball team is so awful took

the time to get to know them, I promise their opinions would change. The guys are there for each other no matter what the situation may be, and often take the blame for things they didn't do to save someone else from getting in trouble. How many other people on campus can you say that about? Many of you have probably never taken the time to stop and think of the baseball team in any way other than as a group who cares about nothing but themselves. It's hard for me to even think of the guys that way because they are the few people on this campus I can rely on when I'm in need. My freshman year I was like everyone else; I didn't care much for the baseball team. Nowadays I don't even want to think about what life would be like without them.

Basketball Season Preview

by Jake DeRousse

As we move from summer straight into winter, the men's and women's basketball teams have begun their season. **Men's Basketball:** With no seniors and only two juniors—Jon Lowry and Can Girgin—the Blackburn men's basketball team is hoping that a youthful infusion will lead the team to a successful season. Sophomore Colin Gowin claims that "seeing how much we improve each game" is what he is most looking forward to. While still young, the team's large group of sophomores—including Gowin, Tyler Moore, Jamie Moore, Evan Wells, Matthew Chandler and Jon Griffel—should benefit from a year of collegiate basketball under their belts. The team also added freshmen Tommy Ulinski, Luke Greene, Walker Berner, Chris Davis and Chris Stone. Coach Jason Baribeau, who is entering his third season as head coach at Blackburn, says that the team's goal for the season is to "strive to be competitive in each contest," which will be achieved by "stressing our attitude and effort each day in practice." Gowin's goal for the season is to "have a winning record at home," stressing that protecting the home court is the most important aspect of a successful season. The Beavers will be tested early, as they have one of the most difficult schedules among SLIAC teams. Their season

starts at the Wheaton College Tournament on Nov. 15 and the first home game is Wednesday Nov. 27 against Rockford. **Women's Basketball:** The Women of Blackburn Basketball will come into the 2013-14 season hoping that a new style of play will help them improve on their 3-21 record from a year ago. They hope to lean on the senior leadership of Shelby Smith and Charitie Goodman, along with co-captain Briana Rae, to help usher in the change. Rae is excited for the season, saying that the Beavers "have a new look to our game... we will be a running team this year." Also returning for the Beavers are sophomores Danae Smith, Danique Smith, and Erin Bell, who third-year coach Jen Windmiller says is "the player to watch this year." The Beavers should also benefit from their newcomers, including juniors Ciara Morgan and Erica Nugent and freshman Andie Marvel. Windmiller claims that "with the work [we've] been putting in so early this season, I think we'll shake things up in the SLIAC." This echoes Rae's goal for the season, which is to "go to the conference tournament and win it all." The Beavers start their season at the Rhodes College Tournament on Nov. 16 and their first home game is Friday, Nov. 22 against Augustana College.