



THE 'BURNIAN

BLACKBURN COLLEGE

Blackburn's 16th President: Inaugurated!

Vol. 9, No. 6 Dec. 2013

by Michelle Lee

After 22 years under the leadership of President Mim Pride, Blackburn College inaugurated Dr. John Comerford as its sixteenth president on Saturday, Nov. 2.

The inauguration ceremony took place in Bothwell Auditorium at 10 a.m. Before the ceremony Dr. Comerford was all smiles. When asked how he was feeling, Dr. Comerford replied, "I'm doing great. I get to wear this cool robe!"

Included in the ceremony were short speeches from students, faculty, staff, community members, alumni, the Board of Trustees and the Presbyterian Church. Reverend Erica Brown gave the invocation, prayer of blessing and the benediction while Rachel Comerford read verse John 9:1-11 from the Bible. After he was officially installed as the president of the college, Dr. Comerford addressed the audience in what could be considered a passionate call to action. He



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Students gather in the Demuzio Campus Center lobby to watch the live stream of Dr. John Comerford's inauguration.

challenged the student and faculty body to "be a light in the darkness of American higher education and a leader in our collective future" as he introduced the Affordable Access Award, through which certain high-need students will receive free tuition. Dr. Comerford's speech was met with a standing ovation from the audience. On the inauguration address, senior

Biology major Kinsey Hilliard said, "It's obvious how passionate [Dr. Comerford] is about the college."

The reception following the ceremony was held in the Mahan Science Center Atrium. It was at this time that community members, students, faculty and staff were able to congratulate Dr. Comerford and his family. Carlinville mayor Deanna

Demuzio commented, "We are excited for the Carlinville community and for Blackburn College in its inauguration of the sixteenth president. We in the community look forward to a long relationship with Blackburn."

The inauguration marked Dr. Comerford's official installation as president of the college and foreshadowed some of the changes ahead.

Christmas Comes to Carlinville

by Jessica Clements

On Dec. 6-8, the annual Carlinville Christmas Market will transform the town square into a Christmas lover's paradise.

The non-profit Carlinville Christmas Market Foundation has hosted the Christmas Market since 1990. In 2010, the market attracted nearly 11,000 visitors. Ron Young, owner of Cherry Tree Treasures and Gifts, commented on the multitude of people by saying that he was "overwhelmed" with how many came into the store to shop last year. This will be Cherry Tree's second year participating in the Christmas Market; Young has been getting ready for the "exciting time" since the middle of November.

For more information on the Christmas Market check out the Carlinville Christmas Market Foundation website at www.carlinvillechristmasmarket.com.

Reflecting on Lethologica

by Kayla Koyne

This semester the creative writing club previously known as Reflections is being revived at Blackburn. Its new name, "Lethologica," refers to that feeling when a word is right on the tip of your tongue but you can't grasp it.

The club's president, junior Creative Writing major Allison Funneman, commented that many people in the club have been writers for a long time and are now utilizing the support it offers.

Junior Literature major Katherine Lesage encourages anyone who wants to explore their writing capabilities to join. Lesage commented, "whether you need someone to bounce ideas off of, constructive criticisms or a friendly shove out of your comfort zone—Lethologica will help you."

Funneman emphasized that even though it is a creative writing club, the term is flexible. They discuss fiction, nonfiction, poetry, prose, novels and anything else that can be written. The club meets on Wednesday evenings at 5 p.m. in the Commuter Lounge.

Eating on the Fly: Ding Food Exposé

by Michelle Lee and Zachary Daum

This semester students have noted several issues in Blackburn's cafeteria, both in food safety and in its business practices. A majority of Blackburn students are required to eat in the cafeteria under their meal plans and when problems arise, they affect a great deal of students in many ways.

Perhaps one of the most important food safety issues in the cafeteria is cross-contamination. Junior biology major Alex Martin is a vegetarian who has experienced this sanitation problem very often. "The deli station is usually cross-contaminated between the meat and cheese because the workers don't change their gloves between touching ingredients. This makes it impossible to eat there," said Martin. Former Executive Chef Kristin Gregory understands the issues Blackburn's vegetarians encounter and would like to make better accommodations for them, saying, "Somewhere in our menu, there is always

a vegetarian option. It's not always at the same spot, but somewhere there is always a vegetarian option." Cafeteria Manager Timothy Lucas also explained that people working in the cafeteria are trained to know when to change gloves and wash hands. "Is there a possibility that a student isn't changing their gloves frequently enough? It could possibly be. There is no set time when students are supposed to change their gloves; it's just a frequency issue," explained Lucas.

Flies in the food have been a concerning issue for the cafeteria as well. This semester, an abundance of flies have made their way into the cafeteria and even -at times- into the food.

Lucas is investigating ways to deal with the fly problem: "What happens is that we might get a truck order and things are being delivered through the door while it's propped open. The dumpster is right outside. We are also trying to recycle all of our oil to be eco-friendly and separate

How does it all stack up?

Non-Resident Charges	Resident Charges
\$5.42/meal x3 = \$16.26	\$1286-\$150 flex = \$1136
Buy 3 meals, get 1 free	\$1136/125 meals = \$9.09
\$16.26/4 = \$4.06/meal	per meal
\$4.06 x125 meals = \$508.13	
\$9.09-\$4.06 = \$5.03 overcharge/meal	
\$1136-\$508.13 = an extra \$627.87 per student/semester	

INFO GRAPHIC BY TRACI KAMP

Information from student ledger and Sodexo.

our cardboard. All three of those things are attracting the flies. Our pest control providers are trying to work with P Plant to treat it." Lucas claims to be actively working on solutions, but it is still a problem affecting cafeteria patrons at this time.

In addition to unsanitary conditions, Sodexo's presence in Blackburn's cafeteria has been marked by several questionable business practices. The meal plan is one that affects almost everyone, with most students unaware

that they are being overcharged for each meal.

The most affordable meal plan costs \$1,286 and includes \$150 of flex dollars and 125 meals. After subtracting the flex dollars, each meal costs \$9.09 for students. If a person were to pay out of pocket for lunch, they are charged \$5.42. In addition to that steep discount, every fourth meal is complimentary. That brings down the total out-of-pocket cost per meal to \$4.06. That

Corruption in Politics: What’s New?

by Matt Renaud

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, Randy Steidl, Chairman of the Witness to Innocence program, came to speak to Blackburn students and staff about political corruption and the injustice of the death penalty.

Director of Public Relations Pete Oswald briefly opened the night and introduced Mr. Steidl. Then Steidl began to recount his powerful story.

A farmer from Paris, Illinois, Steidl was raised a conservative who learned to respect the government’s authority. His perspective remained undaunted even when he was publicly and unjustly detained for two hours on July 4, 1986. The police questioned him about a vicious murder that had taken place two weeks earlier. For seven months after his release, he couldn’t go anywhere without hearing a snide remark.

In February of the next year, five armed police came to his house, arrested him and put him in a holding cell. Even his brother, a state trooper at the time, accused Steidl of the murder. “My brother yelled at me and told me ‘They don’t arrest people that aren’t guilty!’ and up to that point, I agreed with him,” Steidl says.

He was referred to an incompetent attorney who asked that he pay part of the sum for the trial up front. Steidl had two sound witnesses to



PHOTO BY MIRANDA CLARK
Former death-row inmate Randy Steidl spoke at Blackburn on November 20 about spending 17 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

confirm his alibi. There was no physical or forensic evidence that tied him to the murder and the opposing witnesses were the alleged town drunk, Barry Harrington, and an allegedly mentally ill, drug-addicted woman, Debby Reinbold.

Yet he was still found guilty. “I remember listening for two words [‘not guilty’] and only hearing one,” Steidl recalls. “As the prosecutor high-fived the sheriff, it felt like I was on a bed of hot coals and I couldn’t get up.” He was then given the death penalty.

As he was guided to his cell, Steidl’s situation seemed bleak. “I would be living with these serial killers and murderers for the rest of my life; anyone who wouldn’t be scared in that situation is either a fool, a liar or both,” he said, flashing back to his first night there. This was the moment when he decided to do something about his situation because “there was nowhere

to go but up from this point.” Rather than going to the yard or working out like the rest of the inmates, Steidl went to the law library (a small cell much like his) and began reading. Several lawyers came to Steidl’s aid after hearing about his case and Mike Callahan, a state police lieutenant from Chicago, developed a sound theory of mob conspiracy but had no defendant.

Several appeals to courts later, Steidl was finally released. 17 years in prison was his punishment for a crime he didn’t commit. What point did Mr. Steidl want the attendants of the event to understand? The death penalty is wrong. He said, “If you really want to punish a killer, keep him healthy; feed him trash and stick him in a cage like a dog. Death is an easy escape and gives no chance for the innocent people to prove their innocence.”

“A Night in Paris” Comes to Carlinville

by Kayla Koyne

Planned and hosted by Student Senate, this year’s Winter Formal will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Moose Lodge in Carlinville. The dance will begin at 9 p.m. and go until midnight.

This year’s theme, “A Night in Paris,” will include appropriately themed decorations and food. Senior Criminal Justice major Marla Courtney is the chair of this year’s Winter Formal Planning Committee.

Many students are looking forward to the dance, including sophomore Psychology major Sara Burchette. She believes that “dancing brings out another form of life in human beings. So we should all come together and embrace dancing.” Freshman Biochemistry major Veronica Milligan agrees. She remarked that Blackburn should definitely continue to offer events such as these dances because “it gives the students

something to look forward to and it’s a good way to have fun!” Sophomore Accounting major Jill Robinson commented on this year’s theme: “‘A Night in Paris’ sounds like an appropriate and elegant theme for Winter Formal. I’m looking forward to seeing the decorations and dancing all night.” Winter Formal is not just an event for the women of Blackburn. Junior Musical Theatre major Sawyer Burton says guys should go since “it’s a form of exercise and is a social outing. You get to see beautiful ladies in beautiful dresses.”

Blackburn students are invited to come out and enjoy good food, music and dancing. Winter Formal king and queen will be announced and crowned toward the end of the dance. Mark your calendars and don’t miss the opportunity to have a fun night in Paris with your friends!

Carlinville Testing Center

by Zachary Daum

The Regional Office of Education in Carlinville, IL recently became a testing center for the counties of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin. Regional Superintendent of Schools Larry Pfeiffer is glad to enter into a new agreement with Pearson View which allows students to take tests online.

“The reason we started this was because the GED examination that has been in place since the 1940s is making a significant change. There is no longer going to be a pen and paper test. It’s going online, and that’s what got us thinking over a year ago that we have to do something,” said Pfeiffer. Pfeiffer also believes that it will help facilitate at relationship with Blackburn: “I think this is a great partnership with Blackburn because many of your teachers have to take an examination called the TAP test.”

The Illinois TAP test, or Test of Academic Proficiency, is given to students going to school to become teachers. The Regional Office of Education started offering this test in the third week of November 2013. Education Department Chair Dr. Kelly Chaney believes that easy access to the testing center will help the Education Department as well as other disciplines, saying, “As the testing center expands, they

plan to offer other tests that are required for Education majors, in addition to graduate school entrance exams for all disciplines, for example the GMAT, GRE, MCAT and the LSAT. We are very grateful to Larry Pfeiffer, our regional superintendent, for his vision. His office is providing a great service not only to Blackburn students but to many people in the central Illinois region.”

With Blackburn College being so close to the Regional Office of Education on 225 E. Nicholas St., it will now be much easier to take the required tests for Education majors or many other types of tests. Sharon Carty, the GED Coordinator at the Carlinville Regional Office of Education, feels that the agreement with Pearson View will be a great opportunity for Blackburn students: “We are an international testing center. Pearson View doesn’t just give GED or TAP tests, we can give many other tests. For example, I got a notice that we can now give the test to get your realtor license in Japan. Now, why you would want to do that in Carlinville, I don’t know. But the idea of it is that we are now an international testing center. There are literally hundreds of tests we can give.”

Blackburn is was Kicking

by Kayla Koyne

After Blackburn students and staff expressed the desire to pursue self-defense training, students attempted to make this desire a reality.

One such attempt at promoting this training was the Women’s Self-Defense Seminar trip that took place on Saturday, Nov. 9. The trip was hosted by College Counselor Tim Morenz. He organized the event because he sees it as “a huge need on our campus.” Morenz has trained in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu—a form of martial arts that emphasizes ground fighting—for years. When asked why he was selected to organize this particular trip, he shared that when his instructor Marcos Barros “advertised that he was doing a series of free seminars for women, it was a ‘no-brainer.’” He continued to say that the trip was a success. It was beneficial to those who attended since “there was an increased feeling of self-confidence and empowerment.” Stressing the importance of self-defense, he stated that “any time someone is given the conceptual tools to help prevent a



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLA KOYNE
Trey Sibley (left) and Henry Christman (right) were working to re-establish a self-defense club on Blackburn’s campus.

potentially fatal assault, we are helping to empower them. The importance cannot be overstated.”

In addition to the efforts made by Blackburn staff, freshman Musical Theatre major Trey Sibley, who has extensive martial arts experience, was working towards re-establishing a self-defense club on campus. According to Sibley, “the sole purpose is teaching students how to defend themselves in a situation that could potentially end their lives or seriously injure their bodies and minds.” Sibley emphatically stated that

he does not intend to start a fight club at Blackburn but rather to “teach women and men how to defend themselves against weapons, sexual assault, muggings and group attacks.”

However, after bringing his idea to the school, Sibley’s proposal was denied because he lacks the proper license. When asked about what his next step will be, Sibley responded, “I’m going to try again later, but for right now I don’t have the time or energy to.” So despite interest on campus, it seems that re-establishing the club will have to wait.

Blackburn Common Ground Holds Drag Show

by Courtney Egner

Blackburn Common Ground (BCG), a student organization, hosted the second annual Drag Show on Friday, Nov. 15. Once again, it was a hit.

Four professionals and four amateur students performed. Professionals included host Jizzana Stranger, Bella Rose, Amanda Rite and Raylynn Rite. Student performers included Reggie Guyton as Wendy Heights, Trey Sibley as Amanda Wreckinwith, Masey Blasa as Adam Apple and Courtney Egner as Christian Grey.

The Drag Queens wore extravagant outfits as they performed popular music numbers such as Miley Cyrus’ “We Can’t Stop” and Lady Gaga’s “Applause.” The event was held in Woodson; the small size of the room gave the show a very intimate vibe.

The stage this year, which consisted of three risers that



Emily Rabida, Masey Blasa, Reggie Guyton, and Kallie Kahl pose for a photo following the drag show in the performer’s dressing room.

came into a catwalk, was rarely pranced upon. Most performers worked the crowd, collecting tips and riling up audience members.

One great addition to the set up this year were the red velvet curtains for the backdrop, which were donated by Common Ground advisor Dr. Karen Dillon.

However, the show suffered a few minor mishaps.

Prior to the event, Raylynn and Amanda Rite faced car troubles. Fortunately, alumnus Nathan Wimberly rose to the occasion and picked the two up. Blackburn Common Ground’s president Jordan GeRue commented, “Nathan Wimberly was instrumental in getting all the performers to come here. Each of them performed completely for free. All tips came back to

the club.” In addition to the car troubles, some tension arose after a student decided to take over Jizzana’s hosting duties. The student utilized excessive profanity while on the mic and also flipped off a family member in the crowd. Sophomore Jill Robinson said, “When she called out her family member that seemed over the line. And, while I don’t mind cursing, ... there is a time and a place.”

At the end of the show, Common Ground Vice President Emily Rabida thanked the crowd and gave special thanks to everyone who helped make the show a success. Flowers and a card were presented to Wimberly for all his help in making the show a success once again this year. Overall, the second annual Drag Show was a success, raising a total of \$744 in performer tips and admission fees.

Anderson Building Renovation

by Kayla Koyn

The C.H.C. Anderson Student Center Building was opened to students in 1954 as a result of a generous donation from Crittenden H.C. Anderson, an alum of the class of 1899. The student center (affectionately dubbed “the Den”) included a snack bar, game room, bookstore and television room. One alumnus from the class of 1971, Fran Mitchell, reminisced about the Den. “When I was at Blackburn University as a student the Den was the heartbeat of the campus. You went there on dates, you went there for dances, you played pinochle and bridge, you got your mail, you got a snack and spent huge amounts of time [there],” she shared.

After being closed for more than ten years, Anderson may be brought back to its former glory. According to Heather Bigard, many groups in the Blackburn community have come together recently to raise funds to renovate

the building into an Alumni Center.

Bigard stated that after renovations the Anderson building will “be home to the Institutional Advancement Department, which includes Alumni Affairs. The facility will be used to welcome alumni and friends to the campus, host Phon-A-Thon, small receptions and serve as an informal meeting space for our campus community.”

Funding for these renovations comes from a variety of sources including an alumnus, the Alumni Board and contributions from numerous graduating classes.

Bigard summed up the importance of this renovation, saying, “The Den has special meaning for all of our alums who have occupied the building ... The restoration of a building with such a strong connection to the past will open new doors to the future for Blackburn!”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS EDWARDS/ARCHIVES

Students years ago eating in the Dining Hall formerly located in Anderson Hall.

Have an opinion on the crime pieces listed in the 'Burnian? Let us know!

Contact us at burnian@blackburn.edu, or make a post to our Facebook or Twitter pages so we can publish your opinions!



PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS AMBY

BC Security Beat: November 5-11, 17

by Michelle Lee

From November 5th to November 17th, only two incidents were reported to the Campus Community & Safety Department. Security Director Tim Reents compiled the descriptions below:

Nov. 6: A complaint was filed that a student had defaced a poster hung in a residence hall. The poster was advertising an educational program about the dangers of binge drinking. The incident was handled by members of Resident Life.

Nov. 7: A complaint was filed regarding a mess left in a sink of a residence hall restroom. Someone had written a message on the mirror pointing out the mess that had been left. The message contained profanity. The

message was handled by members of Resident Life.

Security Report Jargon: Whether you’re reading The ‘Burnian’s campus crime blotter or brushing up on the B-Book, it is important to have a grasp on Blackburn’s set of disciplinary lingo. According to the B-Book, an infraction is “a violation of residence hall policy, such as quiet hours violations, unauthorized use of a fire escape, keeping a pet, off campus guest policy violations, etc.” An offense, however, is more serious. It is defined as “a violation of the College’s student conduct code,” per the rules laid out in the B-Book. Offenses can range from violations of the alcohol policy to sexual violence.

Features

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 Ave., Carlinville, IL 62626. Letters should be no more than 500 words.

Guest Commentaries

Editorials featured on the opinion/commentary page of The ‘Burnian contain staff members’ opinions. We welcome guest editorials between 400-500 words. The ‘Burnian does not endorse featured opinions. 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.

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La Vida en el Extranjero

by Miranda Clark

Senior Marissa Watson spoke about her semester abroad in Spain on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the College and Community Luncheon held in the Auxiliary Dining Room in Demuzio Campus Center.

The title of her presentation was “La Vida en el Extranjero,” or “Life Abroad.” The event began with an introduction by sophomore Graphic Design major and Community Luncheon Director Aurora Grimm. A Thanksgiving-themed meal was served and around 30 people were in attendance.

Watson gave a summary of her experience, mentioning adjustments to life abroad, food, university life, cross-cultural experiences, traveling and her growth in speaking Spanish. While abroad, Watson lived in Alcalá de Henares, Spain with a welcoming host family who provided her with all of her meals, laundry service and Wi-Fi access for a semester.

She attended el Instituto Franklin, where all classes were taught entirely in Spanish. This was a pivotal aspect of her Spanish-speaking improvement. Watson also signed up for Conversation Exchange, a program that pairs a Spanish student with an English-speaking student who wants to practice the opposite language. Each week they would switch languages



PHOTO BY AMELIA KIRBY

During her luncheon on Nov. 12, Marissa Watson spoke about her experience studying abroad in Spain during the spring 2013 semester.

to benefit one another.

“I thought Marissa did a great job in terms of her presentation and I enjoyed the Q-and-A at the end,” noted Glen Krupica, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. “It was great to hear her transformational experience.”

“What I found most interesting were Marissa’s comments about what surprised her, what attracted her and what she had to become accustomed to,” said Director of Marketing and Public Relations Pete Oswald.

Watson described some adjustments with food and greetings. She was not used to ordering fish and seeing the head still on it. The meal times were much different with breakfast at 8 a.m., lunch not served until 2 or 3 p.m. and dinner not until 8 p.m. or later. The greetings took time for Watson to adapt to

as well. Everyone greeted one another with besos: kisses on the cheek.

She explored cities within Spain, including Madrid, Barcelona and Granada. Watson also seized the opportunity to see other countries in Europe, such as Ireland, France and Italy. “I especially like the fact that young people are getting out to see the world,” said Alumni Association Vice President Dick Russell. “I’ve been around the world two or three times with the military, and it’s fun to see the places I’ve been recaptured here but it’s also nice to see Marissa and some of the Blackburn students getting out and seeing the world and not being stuck here in Illinois.” Watson concluded her presentation by encouraging others to study or travel abroad because it gives people a different perspective.

The New(er) Bothwell - More Energy Efficient and Safer

by Arthur Darken and Mike Slightom

Bothwell’s Performing Arts Center got a major makeover this past summer, the first half of which will be a more than \$2 million dollar improvement program courtesy of the Illinois Board of Education’s Independent Colleges Capital Program (ICAP).

This first half was devoted to changes that increased energy efficiency and safety. Except for the attractive new lighting fixtures and wonderful new Steinway pianos, the changes were mostly invisible to anyone walking through the building. The changes to come next summer will include new equipment and facilities to support the music and theater programs.

Energy efficiency changes gobbled up most of the dollars this summer, as all the old heating and cooling equipment, pipes and wiring were replaced. The new equipment uses much less energy to provide the same

amount of heating and cooling when it’s needed anywhere in the building. Life also should be more comfortable now, as there are separate heating and cooling controls for each of eight different areas: the auditorium, green room, scene shop, each classroom, the practice rooms, two different office areas and the lobby.

Previously, everywhere except the auditorium had the same temperature regardless of whether the room was in use. Dr. Zobel commented on how comfortable it is now that the temperature can be set specifically for her office and those immediately adjacent.

High-efficiency lighting fixtures were replaced throughout the building and the lobby was upgraded to LED lighting with a 60,000- to 70,000-hour lifespan. Also, the motion-sensing light controls in the classrooms, practice rooms and offices lead to some major energy savings. The lights now go

off automatically whenever a room is empty for more than a few minutes.

Greatly increased safety was also an important goal for this summer’s work in Bothwell. Fire can be detected anywhere in the building by a combination of heat and smoke sensing equipment: alarms, flashing strobe lights and loud-sounding horns. Then, water sprinklers, which are now located in all rooms and even many closets, come into action.

If one of the sprinklers should start spraying water, this will automatically trigger the fire alarm system. Formerly, there were sprinklers only in the auditorium stage area.

Special attention was paid to keep the Steinway pianos in good condition by maintaining constant temperature and humidity in the areas where they are located. This is the first time we have this important support to assure optimal piano performance.

Talk to Tim!

by Tim Morenz

Greetings and Salutations fellow Burnian-ites!

It is officially crunch time! As you are reading this article, you are probably preparing for finals and writing papers left and right. It would be very easy to slip into panic mode, but there is one piece of advice that I would like to offer you from the recovery community when it comes to accomplishing tasks: “How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.”

By taking a measured and steady approach, you can rest assured that you will reach your goals. Write your goals out and cross them off once they are accomplished, this will provide you with the feedback necessary to reach the semester finish line. And once you do so, lift your head up high because you made it!

Let’s proceed to our question:

“Dear Tim,
As the days get shorter, I find myself getting really sad. Sometimes it is really hard to get out of bed and all I seem to want to do is cry. Any help? -SL”

SL, back when I graduated from Grad’ School, we called it the “winter blues,” and now we call it Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), which in reality is a form of depression. Feelings of sadness, loneliness and worthlessness combined with irritability, a lack of concentration, tearful episodes and sleep issues often brought on by the change of seasons from fall to winter, as well as profound losses, can have a serious impairment on the quality of one’s life, especially when it comes to not having the same fulfillment in one’s life that one used to have. But never fear! There are some things you can do:

1. **Talk about it with a friend or a professional.** The first step to overcoming issues in your life is to acknowledge them. Having a confidential source can provide a lot of



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Blackburn’s counselor Tim Morenz.

help.

2. **Keep a routine.** One of the biggest fears is the fear of the unknown. Knowing what you expect in your schedule and having a plan of attack is half the battle. Organization is the arch-enemy of depression and keeping a solid routine alone can alleviate many of the symptoms.

3. **Light exposure and aerobic exercise.** Clinical trials have shown that 24 minutes of therapy light exposure combined with 20 minutes of aerobic exercise daily can provide the same results as a mild anti-depressant.

4. **Maybe supplements can help.** Fish Oil and Vitamin D3 have been demonstrated to show amazing benefits for mental well-being. As always, before starting an exercise or supplement regimen, consult with a physician.

And as always, Counseling Services is here to help you!

Until next time friends, 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

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Blackburn Christian Fellowship Attends Fall Retreat at Lake Williamson

by Jake DeRousse

Blackburn Christian Fellowship (BCF) attended its annual Fall Retreat at Lake Williamson on the weekend of Nov. 1-3. The retreat is run by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and is attended by InterVarsity chapters from schools such as SIUE, Bradley University and the University of Illinois-Champaign.

At the conference students are split into different “tracks,” which they choose when registering, that specialize in different religious topics. The different tracks ranged from intensive Bible studies such as “From Every Nation, Tribe, People and Language,” where students analyzed specific passages of the Bible relating to different cultures and ethnicities, to real world help tracks such as “After College,” where students learn how to live a faith-based life once they are out of the comfortable confines of their college community. There were four different periods during the week dedicated to track time: Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday night and Sunday morning. The remainder of the weekend was spent singing worship songs and meeting with individual chapters.

The members of each school got together to discuss the day’s activities and build relationships with people from



PHOTO COURTESY OF DA NES

other schools by playing games such as 9-square or glow-in-the-dark dodgeball. Freshman Tavi Wallace said of the weekend, “It was inspiring to see and interact with hundreds of other young adult Christian college students from around Illinois.”

Students who are interested in learning more about such events, or who may be interested in joining BCF’s weekly meetings on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Auxiliary Dining Room in the Demuzio Campus Center.

Gender Neutral Housing

by Max Farley

For the past couple of semesters the topic of gender neutral housing has been on the table for the Student Life Committee. Housing is currently separated by sex across the board. However, as the transgender community (which includes any individual whose gender identity does not match the gender they were assigned at birth) becomes more visible both on and off campus, accommodations are being considered.

“This isn’t just about a few students on campus,” says Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jarrod Gray. “We’re talking about a huge cultural shift.” The proposed accommodations entail that an area of campus—i.e., a hall or wing—would be open to students of all genders.

Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz pitched the idea of theme housing in the neighborhood surrounding

campus. In this plan, Blackburn would buy houses nearby and allow student groups to petition for them, similar to the way Living/Learning Communities work now. However, until pre-existing campus housing is full, it won’t be cost-effective for the college to purchase new spaces. This makes a gender neutral wing the most viable option. “Let’s look at a small area of campus,” says Heinz, “like a Butler wing. Would there be enough students interested in neutral housing to fill that space?”

For Gray, ignoring this issue is not an option. “Because of my position, I feel a special responsibility when I don’t see inclusion happening.” With an expected increase in student demand, this topic is sure to be on the table for the student life committee in the coming semester.

Match Game Doesn’t Quite Match Up

by Kayla Koyne

On Saturday, Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. Blackburn Student Activities hosted Match Game, a throwback to a popular 1970s game show.

In this game, two audience members are selected to play against each other. A panel of six “celebrities” and players are asked the same question. One of the questions asked on Saturday night was, “When Sally gets excited, her ____ starts to wiggle?” Players must then fill in the blank and try to get as many matches or same answers as the celebrity panel.

The player with the most matches wins. At this event, eight gift cards worth \$50 were awarded to winners as well as a grand prize of an iPod.

The celebrity panel included Professor of English and Communications Dr. Karen Dillon, Director of Career Services Suzanne Krupica, sophomore Business major Nathan Wagner, junior Musical Theatre major Sawyer Burton, junior Criminal



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

The Judges, Maggie Anderson, Sawyer Burton, Chelsea Jacobs, Dr. Karen Dillon, Nathan Wagner, and Suzanne Krupica.

Justice major Chelsea Jacobs and sophomore Elementary Education major Maggie Anderson. Tickets were given out at the beginning of the event to select players. However, only 20 people showed up so everyone got the chance to play. After 10 rounds, the player with the most matches was Freshman Education major Ollie Washington. She then competed and won the iPod.

During the event sophomore Political Science and Organizational Leadership major Becca

Wales commented on the lack of student participation. She stated, “I think students are more likely to go to events they know. No one knew what the Match Game was.” Chelsea Jacobs also voiced her opinion, saying that “We’re a small college with an unsupportive community for the most part. Of course people are going to leave for the weekends. Should we stop offering events to students who choose to stay on campus and be involved? Absolutely not! It doesn’t matter if 20 or 100 people show up.”

Eating on the Fly: Ding Food Exposé

continued from Page 1

is less than half the amount that students are charged. If a nonresident consumer were to buy 125 meals at that discounted price, the total would be \$508.13. Flex dollars aside, students pay \$1,136.25 for the same 125 meals. Resident students do not have the option to opt out of the meal plan, so each student is ultimately overcharged \$627.87 for the same service.

The mandatory meal plan expires after each semester. Under this rule, all remaining meals and flex dollars are void and the individual overcharges increase. Vice President for Administration and Finance Heather Bigard said, “[The institution] has to guarantee some level of income to run the overall operation. Essentially, the entire meal plan is based upon what you can guarantee

in revenue and participation among the resident students.” When asked how it is ethical to charge students more than double, she responded, “As far as how the participation trends are at Blackburn, we’ve seen a pleasant increase in [commuter participation]. It may be such that we need to consider looking at the way we price out the per-meal rate.”

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Rocky Horror: A Frighteningly Great Show

by Kayla Koyne

On Friday, Nov. 8, Alpha Psi Omega's presentation of a shadow cast of "Rocky Horror" took place in Bothwell Auditorium. The Blackburn and larger Carlinville community turned out in large numbers to attend both the 8 p.m. and midnight showings.

The energy of all cast members made the show an enthusiastic event. The cast included Sawyer Burton as Brad, Darien Howard as Janet, Reggie Guyton as Dr. Frank-N-Furter, Michael Buck as Riff Raff, Michelle Lee as Magenta, Marla Courtney as Columbia, Jesse Medina as Rocky, Patrick Benedict as Eddie, Trey Sibley as Dr. Scott and Tyler Lewis as the Criminologist. Throughout the show these actors displayed enthusiasm and got up close and personal with the audience. Before the show began, boxes of condoms were tossed into the audience and throughout the show cast members ran



PHOTO BY KAYLA KOYNE

Darien Howard, Michael Buck, Sawyer Burton, Marla Courtney and Reggie Guyton take the stage at the end of the "Rocky Horror" performance.

out and around the audience members.

Supporting the main cast was an ensemble of "Transylvanians." Included were theater veterans like DeArryka Williams and fresh faces including Becca Finke, Veronica Milligan and Alyssa Faulkner. Freshman Psychology major Finke shared her thoughts on her first Blackburn performance: "It was awesome that Alpha Psi

Omega chose "Rocky" because the show is so relaxed and fun and the audience participation works very well on a college campus." Agreeing with her is the show's stage manager Becca Wales who said, "I think 'Rocky Horror' should be done every year. It tests the social norms in a way that hopefully opens people's eyes."

It was announced after the show that this would be Reggie

Guyton's last performance at Blackburn. When asked how this theater titan felt about this production being his last, he responded by saying, "I was ecstatic! Playing a character like Frank was hard for me because there really was no dimension to him. In my acting career, no matter how bad a character may seem, there is always some sort of redeeming quality to them. Frank was just selfish, childish and sex-crazed." When asked why he chose this to be his last production Reggie shared, "I'm old news here. It's honestly time for me to step out and make my own way. So I think taking a break and giving someone else an opportunity to do more is the best decision for everyone."

Through the spectacular lighting, sound, acting and interaction with the audience (plus a rocking movie to shadow cast to!), this year's "Rocky Horror" production was an immense success and left audience members wanting more.

Learning to Laugh at Ourselves

by Rachael Lancey

In the past few weeks you may have received a notification on your phone saying, "@BCshtnoonesays is now following you!" For those of you who aren't part of the twitter world, this is a new account that takes a sarcastic look at campus and tweets the things that you would "never" hear someone say about Blackburn.

When you first go to the page you are met by tweets such as, "There are so many people at Blackburn I NEVER see the same person every day," "Barney the beaver makes us look fierce" and "Ding has the best pizza crust out there." Upon first glance it may seem like this is a page designed to make fun of the school. However, in response to a direct message to the account, the creator of the page explained their intentions, "My goal was for students at Blackburn to be able to read the tweets and laugh and to bring the Blackburn community together with some comedy where we make fun of ourselves. Everyone needs to laugh at themselves from time to time."

Over 150 tweets have been posted so far and the page has managed to draw in 180 followers and counting. The tweets have become increasingly popular, gaining more and more favorites and retweets daily. When asked how he feels about the tweets, senior Alex Miller explained, "I love it! It says all the things that everyone complains about every day. We all know the good things about Blackburn but those aren't nearly as hilarious."

While the source of the mysterious tweets was unwilling to reveal their identity, they did explain that, "The page is really run by two people, me and my best friend. I walk around campus from time to time and hear people talking about the page and I just laugh to myself thinking they have no idea. I have had a few conversations with my friends about the page and I think it is funny they don't know it's me."

The mysterious tweeter is happy with how popular the page has been and says it wouldn't be what it is without all the great students we have here.

Wonka Brings His Sweet Touch to Blackburn

by Jake DeRousse

"Willy Wonka," the live-action musical adaptation of the story by Roald Dahl and the classic movie "Willy Wonka & Chocolate Factory," has recently become a mainstay on London's West End (their version of Broadway), and will soon come stateside for a production by Blackburn's Summer Repertory Theater in Bothwell Auditorium on Dec. 12-15.

The Summer Repertory Theater annually has a production around the end of finals. Most years the production is Christmas themed—"The Nutcracker" is a favorite of the organization—but aside from the copious amounts of candy consumed both during Christmastime and in the Wonka world, "Charlie" is devoid of any ties to the holiday.

For the most part the musical will mirror the original, but there are a few noticeable differences. A significant change is the different type of candy-man that is portrayed in the musical adaptation. In the movie, Wonka is the owner of a mystical candy factory. In the musical he instead pushes around a candy cart. Another noticeable change will be the portrayal of the Oompa Loompas. Instead of being small, orange-skinned men who waddle around doing Wonka's biddings, the newer Oompas are athletic/acrobatic characters—lacking both

orange skin and green hair—that gracefully move around the stage and are regularly sized.

Artistic Director of Summer Rep Dr. Kate Roark expressed her eagerness to unveil new technical effects and talent. The musical will employ the use of black lights in a "fun way never before seen in Bothwell."

It will also be the Summer Repertory debut for John Heck (Litchfield, IL), who will play Wonka. Roark states that Heck is a "tremendously talented actor who has done musicals in the past and is new to the area." She is also excited at the sheer opportunity to be able to produce the musical.

"Willy Wonka" is supposed to come to Broadway in the spring of 2014, at which point the rights for the musical will be suspended, meaning no other schools or organizations will be able to perform it. This means that Blackburn's showing of "Wonka" will be one of the last of its kind before the professionals in New York take over.

Tickets are on sale at the Refuge Coffee House on the Carlinville square, the Carlinville Public Library and the Blackburn Bookstore. Tickets are also available online at blackburnsummerrep.org and are only \$5 for Blackburn students and children, and \$10 for non-Blackburn adults.

The Wii U... Wait... What?

by Zachary Daum

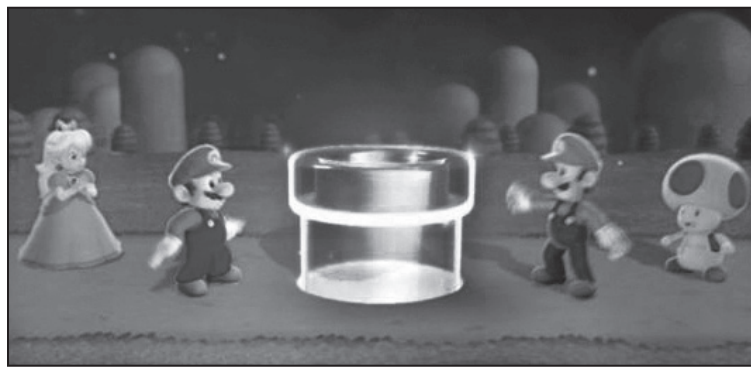


PHOTO BY ZACHARY DAUM

A snapshot of Super Mario 3D World for the Wii-U.

The name "Wii U" may bring to mind the sound of a siren from an ambulance or police car. However, in actuality the Wii U is Nintendo's latest video game console which was released on Nov. 18, 2012. A year later and the Nintendo Wii U is still generally unknown to the public.

The Wii U is different from the Wii in many ways. It is in 1080p high definition and has both higher processing and more graphics power than a Playstation 3 or Xbox 360. It also features a controller with a large tablet sized touch screen in the middle for use in playing games. Despite these features, the Wii U is currently the lowest selling Nintendo system. A site that estimates how many game consoles each company sells, vgchartz.com reports that the Wii U has currently sold 3.9 million consoles since the year it was released.

Sophomore Criminal Justice major Henry Christman believes that it isn't a lack of

commercial and advertising that has caused this low number, it's the lack of interest from the main video game demographic: high school and college students. "I've seen way more commercials for it than for anything else. I see some small appeal for the aspects of teaching children because the controller reminds me of a little dry erase board that they can write on. To me everything about it says 'five to 10 years old.' It looks childish and has mostly games that are meant for families or kids," said Christman.

The release of "The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker HD" and a price drop for the Wii U have increased sales, however the lack of games available for the system is also to blame. The overall lack of appeal towards the main video game demographic along with Nintendo's disorganized explanations as to what the Wii U is capable of have caused the system to become unnoticed as new game consoles are released.

An Ironic Gesture

by Marissa Watson

Towards the end of each semester, students face the pressure of finals. In an attempt to accommodate some of this stress, Blackburn hosts its traditional “Finals Breakfast” the night before exams begin. However, I think the purpose of this event needs to be re-examined.

Planned by the college’s own work managers, it sends a message in clear contrast with what Blackburn prides itself on: time management. The college constantly preaches that students effectively learn how to manage their time due to their participation in the Work Program.

I find it extremely ironic, then, that students are practically encouraged to pull all-nighters by being provided a meal at 10 p.m. intended to fuel their all-night studying. The event does nothing but promote bad habits. Studying all night doesn’t help students score A’s on their exams, but makes them exhausted and unable to concentrate efficiently. Students should

plan to study in small increments throughout the week instead of waiting until the night before. They should review, not cram the information all at once.

So what if a student follows this advice and still attends “Finals Breakfast?” Again, another bad habit is encouraged: eating before bed. What’s the point of walking to Demuzio Campus Center to fill up on a sugary coma of syrup, whipped cream and waffles if you plan to go to sleep? The spike in your body’s sugar levels will only keep you awake longer.

The idea of a “Finals Breakfast” sounds nice in theory, but is poorly thought-out. There are no benefits in attending. Rationally, it would make more sense to host the breakfast on the morning of the exams and instead provide high-fiber and protein rich foods. Because I highly value sleep and a sharp mind, I have abstained from “Finals Breakfast” and will continue to do so.

Commitment Issues

by Sarah Collman

I threw away half a bottle of shampoo the other day. It wasn’t because I didn’t like the shampoo or that it was bad for my hair. There wasn’t anything wrong with it, but I had just bought new shampoo so I didn’t need the old stuff anymore. I was tired of it. Needed a change of pace.

I’m not the only one.

Barely a day goes by where I don’t hear someone talking about wanting a new cell phone. I’ll look over and they’ll typically be holding either a Droid or an iPhone of some sort. I’ll pull out my dinky Pantech slider that I’ve had for the past 19 months and wonder if the model of their phones even existed that long ago. Why on earth would they possibly need a new one?

The thing is, they don’t. They don’t need a new phone just like I didn’t need a new bottle of shampoo. But, that’s the way things are now. If something is no longer new and exciting we get bored and switch and get something else. Are we no longer capable of being happy with what we have while we have it?

This kind of behavior, this kind of mindset centers on more than just a \$2 shampoo. More than a \$200 phone. More than a \$20,000 car. And more than a \$200,000 house. We invest in something new and exciting only to move on to

something else a short while later. What I’m talking about here, the big kicker, is not the application of this mentality to our relationship with material things; it’s the application of it to our relationships with other people.

The people I hold closest in my life are there for a reason, and that reason is neither temporary nor replaceable. My best friends are not temporary placeholders, and I hold the same kind of value for romantic relationships. If the people you are with are not anyone you’d want to keep in your life for the long run, then why are you wasting their time and yours in the short run? So, with that said, I don’t agree with divorce. I’m not talking about when there’s domestic abuse or when the terms of divorce are actually viable reasons, but when I hear the term “irreconcilable differences,” I cringe.

Maybe I’m being naïve here, but I thought the “as long as you both shall live” part was supposed to hold some kind of merit during the ceremony. I’ve yet to hear a preacher say “until you just can’t do it anymore.” If two people go into a marriage knowing that neither of them is perfect, then why is an exit strategy needed? Have our relationships really become as important as a \$2 shampoo bottle?

The Work Program Needs Work

by Rachael Lancey

Of all the great reasons to attend Blackburn, nothing stands out quite as much as the Work Program. Being able to gain work experience and build your resume before you graduate sets you apart from other job candidates and gives you invaluable real work experience. That being said, there are certain disadvantages that go along with the Work Program.

When you first learn about the work options on campus, you are told that you will have the opportunity to obtain a job that is directly related to your major. Biology majors can work in the Animal Lab, accounting majors in the Business Office, etc. Although prospective students are often told that they might have to work their way up to acquiring these positions, this creates a sense of false hope in their mind and sets them up for disappointment if they do not get placed in that job right away. It also makes them feel like the other incoming students who do get these jobs right away have an unfair advantage over them.

When it comes time for the job placements to be posted, students are usually



PHOTO BY KAYLA KOYNE

either excited to begin their first day in an office or dread having to go through Food Service, Snack Bar or Campus Services training. Knowing you will be scrubbing toilets for the next eight months is not made any easier when you hear your other freshman friends talk about getting to work in Ludlum. This creates a separation among the incoming students and makes some individuals feel inferior to others. This feeling of inferiority can cause students to feel like an outcast and to have a negative opinion of Blackburn.

I understand that the “office type” jobs have their own set of disadvantages—learning many new skills,

having to dress up every day and having demanding bosses. However, students who get these jobs their freshman year never have the opportunity to realize the “behind the scenes” work which they benefit from every day. These are the students that continuously complain about Ding opening three minutes late, food not being placed on their plate correctly or a hair being left in a shower. Until you have actually had to clean up after someone, you cannot fully appreciate the efforts of these workers or understand what they go through every day.

I’m not saying that Food Service and Campus Services should be thought of as the “bottom of the line” jobs that only freshmen should have. They present great opportunities such as gaining leadership experience as a crew head and earning paid hours. Students should be required to start off in one of these departments and work their way up to their desired job. This is a better reflection of how you go about obtaining a job in real life. It also teaches students to value hard work and to appreciate the work of others.

Lots of Feels for the Burn

by Taylor Hess

“I hate Blackburn because...” It is true that every student, staff and faculty member has had their trying moments with the Burn. People are in your business whether they should be or not, the food is definitely not as good as Mom’s and Blackburn does seem overly concerned with its alumni. While I will admit that the school could benefit from some change, I absolutely love it here.

My favorite thing about this college is the academic setting. With so many people going to college it’s hard to find a school with small class sizes and professors that actually care about their students. Here you can build close relationships with professors, people who are great role models, advisors and trusted leaders. I guarantee that there are few colleges where you can go into your professor’s office and have a real conversation with them like you can here. This is an opportunity more valuable than most people know.

The Work Program is an amazing experience. Yeah, time is constricted a little because at least ten hours of

the week are devoted to work, but not only do you have four years of work experience on your resume by graduation, students can find jobs that are useful to their major. As for the jobs that are unrelated to school work and are not so glamorous, those are the foundation for great work related skills. Working in Campus Services my freshman year was really crappy at first. I had to wake up early to clean up some nasty stuff. But that semester I made more friends, developed better interpersonal skills and learned to appreciate the people who do those jobs.

For such a small place, Blackburn is very diverse in its activities. When I first got here I was pretty close-minded to clubs and activities. I claimed there wasn’t much of interest to me, but that changed.

After taking an Introduction to Journalism class I found the ‘Burnian. Now I have a place outside of class and work that I can apply my skills and abilities and have fun with people to whom I have grown close.

I have something to say to the students that dislike Blackburn so vehemently.

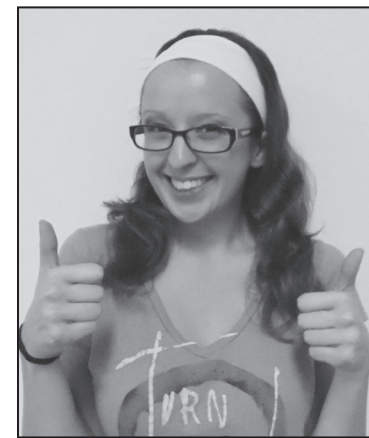


PHOTO BY KAYLA KOYNE

Wake up! The world is what you make of it. Students need to realize that this college is not the only one that has its problems. Stop complaining about the school’s finances – if you haven’t noticed, the entire country is having financial trouble and we are not excluded here. If you don’t like it here, then LEAVE. Nobody wants your bad attitude hanging around.

For those of you who want a good college experience, don’t go home every weekend. Instead join clubs or sports teams, take classes that are interesting to you, be friendly to everyone, become acquainted with your professors and get interested in what goes on around campus.

Fear the Battlin' Beaver!

by Jake DeRousse

One of the main points of contention in the current sports world is the use of certain mascots. Teams such as the Washington Redskins (NFL) and the Cleveland Indians (MLB) have been pressured to change their mascots and logos to something that is not offensive to an entire race. Believe it or not, some people actually claim to be offended by the use of a beaver as a mascot.

In a piece published on LewRockwell.com, writer Jeff Allen states that Blackburn's mascot is "one of the most offensive mascots to many of us who hold animal rights as dearly as our own." The author's main premise is that by calling ourselves the Battlin' Beavers, Blackburn is portraying the beaver as a vicious and intimidating animal. The author also claims that this "perpetuates the myth that the beaver is a risk to humans." But is this really a myth?

In April of this year, a 60-year-old fisherman was attacked and killed by a beaver in Belarus. The beaver bit through the fisherman's



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE SCOTT

Blackburn's vicious mascot, the Beaver, dismembers a once healthy and nonviolent tree that clearly did not provoke the attack.

femoral artery, thus causing him to bleed to death. Some will claim that the beaver was provoked, but the man simply wanted to take a picture with the innocent-looking creature. This is certainly not grounds for a fatal attack.

Based on the times of most recent fatal attacks, animals such as the polar bear (last known fatal attack in 1999) and alligator (2007) are more innacurately portrayed as dangerous and intimidating. Yet schools such as the Ohio Northern University Polar Bears and Florida Gators continue to use the animals for

purposes of intimidation.

Sophomore Nathan Speckhart is quite passionate on the legitimacy of the beaver as a dangerous animal, saying, "Most people look at Blackburn's mascot and see an almost comical character, a cute, fuzzy creature that has big teeth and builds dams. When I think of a beaver, however, I see it for what it truly is: a ferocious semi-aquatic mammal that is capable of massive destruction. What other animal can fell a tree with no problem? The beaver is a crazy bastard that shouldn't be fooled with."

New Rule Radically Changes Basketball

by Jake DeRousse

"March Madness" is the nickname of the Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament, by far the most successful collegiate event in terms of total viewers on TV and money generated. Basketball itself is one of the oldest sports played at the collegiate level, as the first game was in 1896. So the sport is already successful, and could probably continue to be successful without any changes made to the game.

Despite this, the NCAA decided to implement a new rule for the 2013-14 season: the hand-checking rule. The rule means that whenever a defender puts a hand on his opponent to "impede movement," a foul is called.

Previously, this was just a guideline that officials were ideally supposed to follow, but it has now been moved into the official rule book and officials have been told to call the fouls very closely.

The rule has been met with differing opinions among those involved with the sport. ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas was calling for the rule for many years, thinking that it would open up the game and increase scoring.

"[College basketball] allows a level of physicality



PHOTO COURTESY OF R. HAM

A common March Madness activity includes filling out a "winners bracket" and competing with friends to see whose bracket is the most correct.

that takes away from the beauty of the sport," said Bilas. "Until those fouls are called consistently throughout the season, the game will continue to be a slugfest."

The main argument against the new rule is that it, at least in the beginning, will considerably slow down the game as more fouls are called and more free throws are shot.

SLIAC commissioner Will Wolpert expressed concern that the new rules were adding too much time to games, noting that early games within the conference were averaging two hours and 15 minutes, up around 15 minutes more than basketball games in years past.

Regardless of whether the game is better or worse with the new rule, there is no debate that the game is affected.

Freshman basketball player Chris Davis noticed a difference in how the game was played during the team's season opening tournament at Wheaton College.

"Play on the perimeter definitely wasn't as physical; it was much easier handling the ball up top," he said. Even with players consciously trying to adapt to the rule, Davis says that the flow of the game was still interrupted, stating, "It made the game slower; there were a lot of free throws shot."

Eventually teams will learn how to play with the new rule and games will probably speed up, but the sport will experience a rough patch implementing it this season and the sport may temporarily suffer.

SAAC Works Toward SLIAC Improvement

by Jake DeRousse

After years of being a second-rate program overall, Blackburn Athletics is doing a complete image overhaul led by Athletic Director Angela Morenz. There's no need to look further than the renovations in the Dawes lobby to see the beginning of the rebranding process. A part of this overhaul includes having the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) be more visible on campus and more active overall.

The first step in this process occurred when Morenz along with three members of SAAC—Cody Flowers, Lauren Rhodes and Jake DeRousse—attended the fall conference-wide SLIAC meeting at Fontbonne University in St. Louis on Sunday, Nov. 17.

At the meeting, topics such as the conference-wide food drive, potential legislation changes and each school's campus activities were discussed. Blackburn placed third in the 10-team conference in the food drive, and the next chance to help the cause will be during a women's/men's basketball doubleheader early next semester.

SLIAC Commissioner Will Wolper led a discussion on new legislature that would be discussed and voted on in the conference meetings later in the semester. Some of the potential rule changes discussed included splitting the conference into two divisions for baseball and reducing the amount of conference games to 22, implementing media timeouts into conference basketball



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAKE DEROUSSE

One of the ways in which SAAC is working toward improvement includes the conference-wide SLIAC food drive.

games and requiring member colleges to report fatal or near-fatal sports related incidents, along with many others.

Each topic was one that SAAC had already discussed in the biweekly group meetings on campus, and members were encouraged to vote for or against the new laws.

Regarding the legislature discussions, sophomore Lauren Rhodes said, "I enjoyed seeing what [the conference] is trying to get changed in athletics, and getting to vote on the changes and make a difference."

The final topic discussed was the various activities that each school did to better their community. Blackburn's group did not have any completed projects to report, but they do have many potential projects tentatively scheduled for next semester. Rhodes notes, "In the future, SAAC would like to get more athletes involved in helping the community with events such as building ramps or decks and raking leaves."

BC Athletes named to SLIAC Fall All-Academics Team

courtesy of Public Relations

Congratulations to the following student-athletes for being named to the 2013 Fall SLIAC All-Academic Team:

Nathan Speckhart - Cross Country

Jacob DeRousse - Cross Country

Paul Kline - Cross Country
Elizabeth Meehan - Women's Cross Country

Dylan Parkin - Men's Soccer (pictured middle)
Sarah Collman - Women's Soccer (pictured bottom)
Mary Chamberlain - Women's Soccer

Amy Walton - Volleyball (pictured top)
Allison Matt - Volleyball



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PR