

On Mar. 23, the General Education Committee removed the first-year writing program from Blackburn’s liberal arts requirements. In other words, passing WR 111 and 112 will no longer be required in order to graduate.

The objective of the first-year writing program is to prepare freshmen for upper level college writing. Students enrolled in WR 111 and 112 learn to make claims, support them by citing evidence and logically organize their arguments. The courses also teach students the mechanics and conventions of academic writing. The General Education Committee examined the program’s learning objectives and were like #lolnope.

Students who have already taken the course — some several times — are frustrated by the timing of the decision. “Oh, so you mean to tell me that after the four times it took me to get through these



Barbara Clark and Dr. Karen Dillon burn old course material and horrendously written student papers.

two classes to learn to write — which I always argued was useless —it’s now been removed?” said senior Alex Scherer. “This was a total waste of time, dollars and tears over late papers.”

But perhaps no one is more relieved about the

committee’s decision than the course instructors. “Now I’ll have more time to focus on my rhymes,” said Academic Resource Center Coordinator Barbara Clark, who is currently teaching sections of WR 111 and 112. (You can read more about her newly launched rap

career on page 2!)

“Students need to learn the conventions of texting, tweeting and tumblr much more than they need to learn the conventions of standard written English,” said Dr. Naomi Crummey, Chair of the English and Communications

Department and Coordinator of the First-Year Writing Program.

Dr. Karen Dillon, who teaches first-year writing and supervises the Writer’s Block, agrees. “Writing is no longer a necessary skill. This is the digital age!” she said. Later that afternoon she texted her staff, “So glad i nvr hav 2 deal w that class again. Oh and btw ur all fired.”

“I always knew my job was futile,” said writing assistant Jordan GeRue after receiving the text. “It’s nice to finally be recognized as totally unnecessary to my students’ development. All those long nights in the Writer’s Block haven’t paid off at all!”

In the interest of giving students an alternative way to earn their general education credits, Blackburn will offer a new class titled English in Contemporary Digital Culture in the fall, which Dr. Dillon is hoping to teach.

## It’s Bray, James Bray

By Devon Taylor

Most people at Blackburn know Dr. James Bray as the highly intelligent yet quirky biology professor. Some may also know him as the man who wears sandals no matter what the forecast says and is often seen sporting plaid or solid print button-down short-sleeved shirts. However, recently the country botanist has seemingly disappeared. In his place, a suit-wearing man with perfectly quaffed hair has been seen roaming around campus.

It appears that Bray has

switched up his look causing more than a few surprised reactions. “I was most definitely surprised when Bray told me how he was turning over a new leaf. I mean what’s next? Is the mustache going away too?” said Bray’s teaching assistant and junior biology major Amanda Gerson.

Gerson’s not the only one who is confused. “I heard he’s trading in his tools and machine shop and taking up sewing and basket weaving,” said Mitch Oswald, a senior

biology major and another one of Bray’s teaching assistants. “I’m kind of worried about him. Too much is changing all at once.” Adding to Oswald’s confusion are Bray’s plans to teach an underwater basket weaving class next fall. Seeing as Blackburn no longer has a pool, the location of this class is yet to be determined. Email him at james.bray@blackburn.edu if interested.

Others have moved past the shock and started speculating as to why these drastic and sudden changes have happened. “I wonder if he’s on some new medication. Whatever it is has caused him to lose his mind and act delusional,” questioned yet another one of his teaching assistants Tim Hillis, a sophomore biology major. It isn’t irrational, considering he is a botanist and the root component of most medications is plants. Just being near some plants can cause adverse reactions, but nobody was able to confirm what grows in Bray’s garden.

All of Bray’s assistants were quick to jump on the issue. An investigation is currently underway to see if the workers are involved in the changes in Dr. Bray’s look and personality.



SELFIE BY DR. BRAY

Dr. James Bray taking a selfie. Not too shabby.

## Learn. Work. Be Gay.

By Devon Taylor

On Mar. 28, Illinois gave Blackburn College the honorary title of “Gayest College in Illinois.” Not only is this unprecedented in the state, but the country as well. This award of sorts was due to Blackburn’s large LGBT population and widespread acceptance of this community despite the college’s location.

Thanks to this award, the long lived struggle for gender neutral housing in just one wing of one residence hall is finally over and won. “With such an amazing title, we have to be sure to uphold that status,” says Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz. “Therefore, as of the 2014-2015 school year, the entire campus will become one big gender neutral ‘zone.’ Every dorm will be affected.”

This is wonderful news for freshman psychology major Rebecca Finke. Finke said, “As a proud bisexual, this title for the college is such great news and to hear that all the dorms are now gender neutral. I’m frickin’ ecstatic!” It’s also a big victory for supporters of the LGBT community on campus. “I have multiple friends who are gay. Knowing that they can always be completely open and stay safe just really makes me happy,”

said freshman psychology major Ariana Barker.

Of course, some students might not be too keen on the idea. With North Hall’s notorious jock reputation, this new change in housing might unsettle some of its residents, but the reality is, in fact, the opposite. “I mean, there are a lot of baseball players. North swings in more ways than you think ... if you get my drift,” says a former North resident who wishes to remain anonymous.

With the entire campus more than accepting, moving forward with the new housing plan is officially possible. “We try hard to make sure everyone is happy with their housing situation, but sadly we can’t please everyone,” said Director of Student Life Tim Moran. “I’m sure there will be a student or two unhappy (which is inevitable) but for the good of the college and the general population, they will have to adjust and, in my opinion, I don’t think that is too much to ask.”

Further research is being conducted to find out if any such title has been presented in other countries. If not, it’s not a far stretch to call Blackburn the gayest college in the world.



Blackburn to Become Bilingual Institution

By Marissa Watson

After months of debate, Blackburn College has officially decided to become a bilingual institution. Beginning in fall 2014, all students will be required to take Spanish classes. They will also have to pass language proficiency exams as a graduation requirement under Blackburn’s goal to better prepare students for the multilingual world.

Spanish because I’m just tired of hearing them in English. Or at least if they are still going to use English they can say things to me more slowly, loudly and with exaggerated pronunciation, which will help my comprehension,” dijo college Provost Dr. Jeff Aper. Some students, though, son emocionados por el cambio. “I think that having a bilingual campus would offer



PHOTO BY KEITH WILLIAMSON

In English this sign says “My House Is Your House. In other words, make yourself at home.

“In this global society, it is becoming imperative to become at least bilingual, and because of the number of people in the world whose first language is Spanish, it makes sense that we all learn Spanish. I know two foreign languages: English and Mandarin,” said Spanish department chair Dr. Ruth Kartchner. The college’s long-term goal is to transform all courses into the bilingual sphere. Rather than Spanish classes being held strictly to grammar and language acquisition, all classes will eventually be taught in both English and Spanish. Esta significa que aún las clases de matemáticas podrían están enseñadas en español. The controversy, sin embargo, over the change still remains.

Blackburn College administration continues to hear angry complaints and even threats. “People need to make their arguments in

many cultural advantages to the students of Blackburn and open many more doors in any profession. Knowing a second language is a skill everyone should possess,” remarked freshman business management and marketing major Lydia Collins.

Students who have taken Spanish in high school will need to complete the Spanish placement exam but all other students will begin at the 100 level. Además, this summer Blackburn will begin the hefty project of translating all information into both languages, which will include campus signs, cafeteria menus and the college website, among many others. Eventually Blackburn will operate dually in both languages. Ahora, puede decir “Blackburn College” o la “Universidad de Blackburn,” donde aprende ser bilingüe.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAX VITORI

The roof of the library makes it simple to transform the building into a Pizza Hut.

For anyone who has ever fought the uncontrollable urge to bust a clean rhyme or drop a sick beat (but still come off as sweet), opportunity awaits you. Starting soon, a rap group of creative-minded individuals will be meeting every “Mad Dawg Monday” afternoon and “Whacked Out Wednesday” morning. The soon-to-be-official club will commence in the Lumpkin Library loft (quietly, of course). They have already fooled around with several different names for the group, but group member and freshman Lydia Collins says they unfortunately have not been able to come up with anything “legit enough” just yet. Rejected ideas include “B.C. and the Lumpkin Young’uns” and “Book Crooks with Good Looks.” Collins adds that “the one and only set rule so far is that profanity will not be allowed in any of the raps.”

The head dawg of the whole ordeal will be none other than Barbara Clark, the rap wizard herself, who says the group is open to anyone who wants to make their own, “PG or below rated” material. Rest assured there will be no copyright infringement happening here. All of the material is guaranteed to be

eventually become a class that could serve as a creative writing credit. This way, she can “share the love” as much as possible. But for now she’ll be focusing on stabilizing the yet unnamed rap group. So if by chance spittin’ rhymes happens to tickle your fancy, now you know where to go ... and who you need to know.

Barbara Clark doing her signature pose as a genius rapper.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAVI WALLACE



By Tavi Wallace

Barbara Clark Drops Beats at BC

Lumpkin Library Pizza Hut... Mmmmm... Pizza.

By Max Vitori

Lumpkin Library is always looking for new ways to provide support for Blackburn students. In the past that support has been primarily academic, but in the interest of evolving to meet student needs the library has decided to provide support in the realm of cuisine instead. Beginning next fall, Lumpkin Library will become a Pizza Hut.

The idea came from Admissions Representative Ashley Williams, who overheard a prospective student saying Lumpkin’s roof made it look like a Pizza Hut. “I thought it was funny, so I told some members of the library staff,” said Williams. “I never thought they’d take it as an actual suggestion, let alone make it a reality.”

“This seems like the perfect way to get students to visit the library,” said Head Librarian Spencer Brayton. Brayton has been brainstorming ideas

for increasing student traffic in the library since he joined the Blackburn community last year. “My primary objective is to give students the resources they need to succeed in college, and I feel that pizza is one of those necessary resources.”

Recently he hung an enormous sheet of paper across from the circulation desk and provided permanent markers, prompting students with the question, “If you could change one thing about the library, what would it be?” A number of the suggestions students wrote down involved food. However, they also wanted other things, such as more contemporary technology and an improved selection of books and DVDs.

“We aren’t going to ignore those things,” Brayton commented. “We’re still working hard to improve our facilities. The funding we get from opening a Pizza

Hut should help us get those projects off the ground.”

Knowing students often stay up late working on papers and don’t have any other food sources available on campus after Ding closes at 6:45 p.m., the library will be open 24 hours a day once Pizza Hut moves in. At next semester’s job fair, the existing library staff will be seeking out students with cheerful dispositions, previous work experience in a library or the food service industry and nocturnal sleep schedules in order to meet new demands.

Don't Like Us on Facebook?



We Don't Like You Either. So, Ha.



A Legend Returns: Madison Medley is Back

By Michelle Lee/Aaron Moody

Pieces of wisdom from the mouth of Madison Medley

“Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s.”

“I am not a product of my circumstances, only my decisions.”

“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you figure out why.”

“Want a Skittle?”

“I didn’t fail the test, I just found 100 ways to do it wrong.”

“In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.”

“I’m that star up in the sky, I’m that mountain way up high. Hey, I made it, I’m the world’s greatest.”

“Wow, you’re over here brainstorming. I’m over here brain-farting.”

The Real Reason Madison Returned

While Madison Medley may be planning his big academic comeback, he’s also got his sights set on even bigger things: a Mrs. Medley. Although he wouldn’t fully disclose, Medley alluded to the fact that he’s head over heels in love with a mystery woman at Blackburn College. “She’s something else,” he said. “I never knew that I’d be the kind



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Madison Medley shoots the ball.

of man to settle down and have a family, but I want the whole thing: wife, kids, white picket fence.” So who is the mystery woman? “For now that’s a secret. I’ll tell you one thing though. She’s perfect in every way,” he explained.

Medley has big plans for this mystery woman. After graduation he’s going to pop the question.

“I’ll fly her to France. We’ll tour Europe for a few weeks and then at the very end I’ll take her on a hot air balloon ride through the Swiss Alps,” he said. “I’ll get down on one knee and ask her to be my wife. After she says yes — and she will say yes. Who could refuse this face? — we’ll celebrate with glasses of orange juice and a thing of chocolate ding dongs. I love those. Chocolate Little Debbies. I love snacks.”

After the engagement,

Medley has their entire life planned out; he’s already picked out names for their children. “I really like the name Maximus for a boy — it’s got power to it. And for a girl? Gosh, I don’t know. Maybe Shanaynay. That sounds like a good name. Or Maddie, like her daddy.” Medley also hopes that his children are a perfect blend of both parents. “I want them to be charismatic like me but also really smart,” he said. “I want them to use big words like their momma.”

But back to his lady friend: what was it about this mystery angel that caught Medley’s eye? “It was her smell. She was wearing a perfume that made me think of fields of flowers and democracy. I was consumed by passion immediately,” he said. Although her identity is a secret, one thing is certain.

“She’s a major source of inspiration to me; she makes me want to be the best Madison I can be.”

Campus weighs in on Medley’s return

Since Madison Medley left Blackburn College for a hiatus, most of his classmates graduated and many new students have arrived on campus. However, those who remembered him were very excited to see him return. Some Blackburn students and faculty members shared their reactions to his comeback.

“Madison was the reason I came to Blackburn. His charisma and will to better himself as an individual is nothing short of inspirational. When he left I was devastated. I stopped eating, my facial hair fell out, and I ended up getting summoned for jury duty. Needless to say his return to Blackburn has filled my life with sunshine again.” —Vinnie Birk, junior sports management major

“When I was a student at Blackburn, I always looked up to Madison — literally, because he’s a giant, but also figuratively. Madison just has so many admirable qualities: he’s outgoing, he’s tall, he can dunk a basketball, and he’s damn easy on the eyes, too. Oh hey, when you print this, can you remind everyone that I graduated at the top of my class? Thanks.” —Adam Trovillion, alumnus and 2013 valedictorian

Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do? Whatcha gonna do when they come for you?

By Michelle Lee

Between Feb. 18 and Mar. 11, the Campus Community and Safety department and Residence Life handled a total of four incidents. Director of Campus Safety Timothy Reents compiled a list of aforementioned incidents below:

**Feb. 18:** Security was called to Hudson for a report of students acting suspiciously outside the main entrance. Upon arrival, Security reported that a group of students was cleaning up the flowerbeds and planting some annuals to bloom in the following months.

**Feb. 20:** An RA in Graham received a report of suspicious behavior in the men’s hallway. A tall man dressed in a fairy costume was slipping \$10 bills underneath each resident’s door. “This is for all of those kids that got jipped for the teeth I stole when they were

little,” he explained. The RA collected her own \$10 and then escorted the tooth fairy out of the dorm.

**Feb. 21:** Security received a call at 11:58 p.m. that something suspicious was happening outside of Ludlum and Butler. Upon arrival, Security found Dr. Jeff Aper chiseling away the Blackburn spirit rock into a statue of former Blackburn president Dr. Mim Pride. Security handled the incident.

**Mar. 11:** Security was called to Snack Bar with a report of a break-in. When they arrived, Security found Snack Bar workers giving out free food to everyone who stayed over Spring Break. After ordering a quesadilla with ranch on the side, Security closed up Snack Bar.



The 'Bunion

Mission Statement

The 'Bunion is a student-run newspaper at Blackburn College. Our mission is to deliver (semi)accurate news to the Blackburn campus as well as the Carlinville community, not that anyone reads it, anyway. What is my life about?

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be sent to bunion@blackburn.edu, or mailed to The 'Bunion, 700 College Ave., Carlinville, IL 62626. Letters should be no more than 500 words (Cough\* Cough\* DR. APER\* Cough\*).

Guest Rants

Editorials featured on the opinion/commentary page of The 'Bunion contain staff members’ opinions, some of which may be stupid and uninformed. We welcome guest editorials between 400-500 words. Any longer than that and we will mock you as we edit and cut your work until it is unrecognizable. The 'Bunion does not endorse featured opinions (unless they are Haley’s, then we totally endorse them).

Haley Welch

Supreme Overlord

haley.welch@blackburn.edu

Sarah Collman

Master & Commander

sarah.collman@blackburn.edu

Traci Kamp

She Makes Boxes in InDesign

traci.kamp@blackburn.edu

Aurora Grimmert

Assistant InDesign Box Maker

aurora.grimmert@blackburn.edu

Max Vitori

Max Fixes Haley’s Typos

max.vitori@blackburn.edu

Professor Natasha Casey

The Irish Two-by-Four

natasha.casey@blackburn.edu

Dr. Karen Dillon

Bad Cop

karen.dillon@blackburn.edu

Rachael Lancey

Twitter Tweeter

rachael.lancey@blackburn.edu

The Minions:

Lindsey Becker

lindsey.becker@blackburn.edu

Zach Daum

zachary.daum@blackburn.edu

Jake DeRousse

jacob.derousse@blackburn.edu

Devon Taylor

devon.taylor@blackburn.edu

The Great and Powerful Ed Publisher

Willing Victims:

Miranda Clark

Michelle Lee

Aaron Moody

Tim Morenz

Tavi Wallace

Marissa Watson







## I'm in Love With a Stripper: BC Welcomes Chippendales

By Miranda Clark

A special performance by the touring dance troupe known as the Chippendales is coming to Blackburn on Friday, April 11 and will begin at 7 p.m. in Bothwell Auditorium. The show will be free for Blackburn faculty, staff, students and the Carlinville community. According to their website, Chippendales is a male Broadway-style performance that travels worldwide to provide entertainment for both men and women.

Chippendales began in 1979 to provide entertainment for women. Annually, the male dancers travel to 25 countries. The men rehearse the dance routines for 4 hours every day to maintain their physical health and dance skills. The evening is sponsored by the Arts and Issues Committee. Despite the enthusiasm for the event, the chair of the committee expressed how shocked he is about a performer. “I was



PHOTO BY A&A PHOTOGRAPHY

Nothing says college quite like washboard abs.

surprised that, based on his Madrigal performance, Dr. Aper has been chosen for a special performance with the Chippendales,” mentioned Blackburn’s Public Relations and Marketing Director Pete Oswald.

Eight of the traveling Chippendales will be competition will feature guests

participating in a lap dance contest. The winner will be given a Chippendales t-shirt and underwear.

After the show, the Chippendales will offer a question and answer session for those who want to learn more about the group. There will also be a Chippendales booth for fans to purchase clothing, posters, postcards and other memorabilia. “Everything great I’ve heard about Chippendales should make it the cultural event of the year,” noted Oswald.

Attendees must be 18 or older and all guests should be aware of what the performance entails by viewing their website at <http://chippendales.com>. Many Blackburn staff and students are looking forward to their performance. “I hope they are accepting applications or having auditions,” said senior criminal justice major Jake Elmore.

## Spring Forward into Fashion!

By Lindsey Becker



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICAGALE

Some lady walking down the sidewalk in high heels. Can’t tell if she’s wearing a shirt but that’s optional, right?

After a long harsh winter, it’s hard to remember what it’s like to have warmer weather. You’ll probably find yourself at a loss for how to dress this spring. When dressing for the season, remember to follow these helpful tips!

April showers bring May flowers — so don’t forget to prepare accordingly! The new trend this spring is something you might not have guessed: trash bags. That’s right, put a trash bag right over your head. Not only does it provide great protection from the rain, it’s also a quick fix for a bad hair day.

Stiletto heels are a great compliment to cute spring skirts. They add the illusion of length to your legs and make a great flirty statement. Fortunately for you, when people take that flirty statement too literally, stilettos are also great to kick someone in the face when they try to peek up your skirt.

Vintage looks are in and the farther back you pull your inspiration from, the better! Ladies, 17<sup>th</sup> century fashion is where it’s at this season. Be sure to layer your petticoat with a waist-cinching corset—if you can breathe, it’s not tight enough. Embellish the look by overheating and fainting.

For all you guys out there, the go-to item this spring

is definitely huge, baggy basketball shorts. It doesn’t matter if you play basketball or not, these shorts will let people know you want to be active and comfortable, even if you just wear them to lay around and play “Call of Duty.” Make sure to pair this item with long socks. Nobody really understands why your socks need to be that long, but everyone’s doing it.

Good news this season for everyone looking to save money. The newest trend is extreme thrifting, but instead of hitting secondhand shops like Goodwill, just steal directly from your grandparents’ closets. Their clothes will have the same feel as those you would buy from a thrift store—old and funny-smelling. Just look at Macklemore: he wears your grandad’s clothes and he looks incredible. Don’t worry about your grandparents catching on to this practice; they can’t even remember what they had for breakfast.

Of course, most of these tips will become irrelevant. Knowing Illinois weather we’ll probably be having snow into May. Dismiss all of these tips (except the trash bag, that’ll be as equally protective and stylish in the snow) and stock up on sweaters.

## CEO to Launch Victor’s Hideaway

By Haley Welch

Founded by Roy Raymond because he felt uncomfortable shopping for his wife’s lingerie in department stores, Victoria’s Secret was launched in 1977 to make women even more uncomfortable. A bright pink beacon of the unattainable body, Victoria’s Secret has set the bar for how to correctly wear heels and undies while bending in totally natural positions. Each year a parade of hotties sets out on the famous glittering runway for the Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show. While men have previously been the only ones allowed to ogle some bangin’ bodies, that is all about to end. Due to a recent outcry from women to objectify men equally, a male line of lingerie is in the making by Victoria’s Secret.

Victor’s Hideaway will officially be opening their doors across the United States by April 25. President and CEO of Victoria’s Secret Sharen Jester Turney is excited about the change. “While I think it is cool to line a bunch of women up and watch them walk



PHOTO BY CADE BUCHANAN

A Victor’s Hideaway male model rocking his angel wings

around in their underwear, I have personally always felt left out,” Turney confessed during an interview with The Bunion. “After we started receiving mail from women complaining about the lack of half-naked men in wings on television, I came to the same realization. I asked myself, ‘Where are the man thongs? Why are boobs the only bulges on our runways?’ I enjoy seeing some hunk bumps as much as the next girl!”

In order to meet the new demand, a line of male lingerie has been designed and will be for sale in Victoria’s Secret brother store Victor’s Hideaway. Customers will be able to shop for everything

from male lingerie (thongs, sheer boxers, and bedazzled banana hammocks) to body care products such as waxing kits to get the lawn prepped and ready to wear their new purchases. In addition, the new line of lingerie will be featured during Victoria’s Secret’s 2014 fashion show. Victoria’s Secret model Adriana Lima is ready for the change: “I have been saying for years that we need to get some men on these runways,” Lima exclaimed during an interview with ‘Bunion reporters. “I personally can’t wait to see some toned man-cheekies backstage! Bring on the wings and hairless man chests!”

**Are you interested in an obscure form of media no one else cares about? You’re in luck!**

**Help “enrich” Blackburn’s campus and write a review! We promise to nod, smile and pretend to be interested.**

**Submit your piece to [bunion@blackburn.edu](mailto:bunion@blackburn.edu)**



## “It Costs a Lot of Money to Look This Cheap!” - Dolly Parton

By Sarah Collman

Marketing ploys such as Dove’s “real beauty” campaign and Aerie’s vow to avoid using Photoshop to retouch their images are just a couple examples of the recent trend to convey the message that everyone is beautiful just the way they are. These two companies in particular are taking steps to influence the ideals of female beauty. Each ad they produce is basically saying, “It’s okay that you’re not perfect.” Well, I’m here to say no, it’s not.

If beauty isn’t the ultimate goal then why do we as a society idolize female figures like Angelina Jolie, Kim Kardashian, Katy Perry, Tyra Banks, Heidi Klum, Taylor Swift and countless other picture-perfect women? I’ll give you a hint: it’s not because of their talent.

The reason women idolize



PHOTO FROM PIPILONGSTOCKINGS

An extensive amount of time, effort and cash money goes into getting Dolly Parton’s face and hair ready for her many concert performances.

other women is because we want to look like them. The reason men idolize women is because they want to look AT them. So, the main goal of being a woman is to be as pretty as possible and to have as much sex appeal as one body can obtain. Someone who has adopted this mantra

and benefitted from it greatly is none other than country legend Dolly Parton. Her stance on a woman’s appearance became clear even in earlier days of her career. In the 1989 film “Steel Magnolias,” Parton played the role of Truvy Jones, the owner of a beauty parlor located in a small parish in Louisiana.

During the film Parton’s character states, “There is no such thing as natural beauty.” This is something every woman should take to heart.

From her hair to her heels, there is no part of the 68-year-old woman that goes untouched. She is open about the surgeries she has gone

through to get where she is today, and openly encourages anyone and everyone to do the same. During an interview with “In Touch Weekly,” Parton stated, “Anybody that’s got the nerve, desire and the money to have surgery, should find a good doctor and just do it.” Amen, sista! Ahem, I do mean to say that I quite agree. Parton went on to say, “These days, I do very little—just fillers and Botox. You owe it to people not to look like a dog if you can help it!”

It’s all about using your resources. Makeup is there for a reason, use it. If your looks are beyond the help makeup can give then keep in mind something Parton said in her role as G.G. Sparrow in the 2012 film “Joyful Noise”: “God didn’t make plastic surgeons so they could starve!”

## Silly Feminists, Rights are for Men

By Lindsey Becker

Although it seems like women have the short end of the stick sometimes, that’s actually almost completely false. Living in today’s patriarchal society actually comes along with a lot of benefits for women. This is a shout out to feminists everywhere: open your eyes and realize that patriarchy is a huge convenience.

First of all, married life as a woman is way easier. While the husband is out working hard and making money, the wife gets to stay at home all day and relax. Sure, there’s all that cooking and cleaning and raising children business, but how hard can that be compared to the work a man has to do?

Since most politicians are men, women don’t have to worry about politics. This gives women more time to spend thinking about shopping and childcare while a bunch of men spend all day making decisions directly affecting women without consulting them. After all, even when women do speak up about politics, it’s not like anyone listens to them, so why bother?

Some people find catcalling offensive, but it can actually be very helpful. How else was I supposed to know that I was sexually attractive to some guy on the street that I didn’t care about and was never aiming to please? Catcalling lets me know that I’m doing a good job at being visually appealing because society cares more about what a woman looks like than her capabilities.

Since women don’t learn



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSEY BECKER

Lindsey Becker holding a sign that says ... well, hopefully you can read it.

as much money as men (77 cents on the dollar, according to The Huffington Post), a lot of people think that patriarchy is financially unfair. This is decidedly untrue, as patriarchal custom dictates that men should pay for everything and provide for women. This actually saves a lot of money for women (because hey, it’s not like we have to spend money on clothes, makeup and other such things to keep up with patriarchal beauty standards).

Good news for ladies who love ladies: men will be quick to ridicule gay men, but will continue to objectify women in same sex relationships. Luckily, you’ll avoid a slew of homophobic slurs and instead be ogled by men everywhere because your personal and intimate relationships are

considered hot.

Every month you’ve got a valid excuse to act like as big of a jerk as you want. But don’t worry, even if it isn’t that time of the month people will blame your anger or mood swings on your period anyway. Use this as an excuse to let your emotions run wild on a daily basis — it’s not your fault after all, it’s just the way things are (this is proven by science).

The next time you think about looking at patriarchy and screaming, “Oppression!” I beg you to reconsider. It’s obvious that you’re just playing the victim — after all, look at all the totally valid reasons I listed above. Patriarchy is just one big cushion that you stuffy feminists are too afraid to sit on.

## Pray the Gay Away

By Devon Taylor

Despite the fact that every time some religious fanatic (or my mother) came to me preaching about God I would ignore them, I did it. All of the talk about “praying the gay away” I always used to scoff at? It turns out that it’s actually a thing! It doesn’t happen quite the way you might think, though.

It all started the first Sunday of spring break. My mom constantly tries to get me to go church with her and finally I caved. So after almost 3 years of not setting foot in a church I found myself on the admittedly uncomfortable wooden pew staring at anything but the “holier than thou” preacher and the giant cross adorned with a dead or suffering Jesus Christ hanging above and behind him. Trying my best to tune out everything he was saying (after all, I was just there to appease my mom), one simple phrase wormed its way through my defenses.

“I think both paths, although different, are travelling in the same direction and it’s not one of the paths you want to be on.”

I can’t remember what paths he was referencing or even what he said afterwards. As soon as I heard the words come out of his mouth I had a “brain blast” and started praying. Here’s my reasoning: God loves everybody. I’m sure that he doesn’t appreciate people sinning all of the time though. I realized that this was exactly what I was doing! Constantly lusting and (dare I say it) salivating over

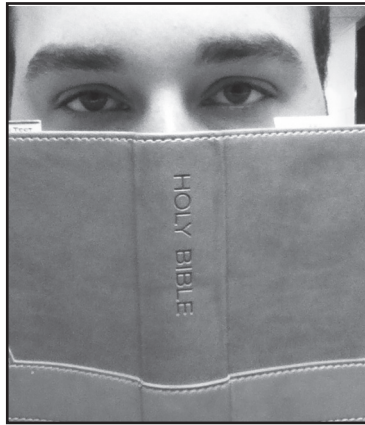


PHOTO COURTESY OF DEVON TAYLOR

Devon furiously tries to pray his gay away.

attractive men meant that I was constantly sinning. Of course God loves you even if you lie, steal or commit murder, but most of the time the people who do these things don’t do them constantly. If homosexuality is a sin, then why am I committing it day in and day out?

By no means did my homosexual thoughts go away with my prayers, but I noticed a difference. I no longer wanted these thoughts. I also realized that being gay might not be a choice, but acting on it is. From that day forward I decided not to act on it. You can’t pray any sin away, but you can pray to help ease the temptation to act upon sinful thoughts.

To this day I treat my sexuality like all of my other vices. Sin is not something to be proud of and I hope all of the LGBT community in the world might someday see this. I understand that I cannot make anybody see as clearly as I do now, but I hope that they have a “brain blast” similar to mine. God bless.



Since there are currently no other local colleges with Nerf teams, future wars will challenge campus groups against each other. Plans for upcoming wars include Jones Hall vs. Brother Circle, Dance Club vs. Cheerleaders and Student Life vs. The ‘Bunion. Check your announcements for more details about these upcoming events.

PHOTO BY KATY PUGH



Students ready and aiming (haha ... so punny) for a spot in the Final Four of the Nerf Bracket.

## Nerf Becomes Divison III Sport at Blackburn

By Rachael Lancey

Blackburn is about to welcome a new sport to its Division III lineup. With the increased popularity of one of the biggest campus trends, Nerf gunning will become the newest sport. Nerf gunning is a game in which opponents strategically attack each other with foam darts. The winner of a Nerf war is determined by which person (or team) does not retreat from the battleground or run out of foam weaponry. The creation of the sport is in response to the ongoing Nerf war between the residents of Graham and Jewell Halls. “We had all this ammunition sitting around Jewell and one day when we got tired of attacking each other, Graham uppers became an obvious target. It’s the quiet ones you have to look out for,” said sophomore Nerf enthusiast Nathan Wagner. Although neither dorm

is willing to admit who is currently losing the war, Graham Hall is confident in their Nerf skills, which the dorm has been practicing for the past several years. “We showed the undergrads how underclass they really are,” said Graham resident William “Junior” Cockrell in response to the recent attacks. With the abundance of student interest in this activity, Director of Athletics Angie Morenz knew that it was necessary to start an official Nerf gunning team. “Ever since we lost our football team, we’ve been looking to create a new sport that would drum up just as much excitement and school spirit,” said Morenz. Adding a new sport is typically a lengthy process which involves creating a campus club or organization, demonstrating student interest and involvement, becoming a varsity club, competing in a series of small contests against other schools and finally establishing the team as a varsity Division III sport. In the case of creating the Nerf team, however, Morenz knew we had no time to lose. On April 1, the first official team Nerf war will be held between Graham and Jewell in Daves Gymnasium at 7

## NCAA Extends War on Eye Enhancers

By Jake DeRousse

Baseball was saved during the 1998 home run record chase by Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Nine years later in 2007, the Mitchell Report was released implicating McGwire and Sosa — along with many other players — for using steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs. Suddenly there was a cloud over all of these players and their accomplishments. Even before 2007, professional sports leagues and the NCAA were attempting to eradicate the drugs from their games, hoping to establish a level playing field. In the Division III sports of the NCAA this is done by administering drug tests to teams that advance to the national tournament. While performance-enhancing drugs may never be 100% eliminated from the game, the NCAA has taken all the necessary measures to limit their use in NCAA-sponsored sports. The NCAA has instead decided to turn its attention to another type of performance-enhancer: contact lenses and glasses.

On Mar. 14 at the NCAA Executive Committee’s spring conference, the use of glasses

and contacts were banned from use by athletes during any NCAA-sponsored event. Sports are meant to be played by top athletes in peak physical condition. The reason steroids were banned was because they gave users an unfair advantage over non-users. Glasses and contacts act in kind of an inverse way. Some people are born weak and puny, and banning steroids means that those people have to operate on an unlevel playing field with their stronger counterparts. By allowing glasses, people born with naturally perfect vision were not allowed to benefit from their genetic superiority. By the literal interpretation of the word “performance-enhancer,” glasses and contacts should be illegal because they enhance performance. NCAA Game-equality Chancellor Brydon Albers said, “The time was right for a change. We at the NCAA decided that it was very hypocritical to engage in a war against steroids while conveniently ignoring the problems created by the use of glasses.”

The ban on performance-enhancing eye supplements

does not go into effect until the 2014-15 academic year, but policies about regulation and punishment are already in place. While contacts are still allowed in practices, they are strictly prohibited under any circumstance in games/contests. Before the start of each event, officials in charge are to stare deeply into the eyes of each contestant. If a contestant is suspected of wearing contacts, the official may choose from a variety of techniques — including using a hair dryer to attempt to dry out the contacts — in order to confirm their suspicions. Players found in violation of the new rule will be suspended for the remainder of their sport’s season, and must apply for reinstatement to the NCAA the following year. “We wanted to create a harsh enough punishment to completely deter the use of these atrocious supplements,” said Albers. “The new rules are in place to create a cleaner game, and we look forward to the improvements come August.”



PHOTO BY WHO’S THE BET?

Can I wear my glasses? Or nah?

WHOA WHOA WHOA ...

Blackburn has sports?

ERMAHGERD!

## Michelle Lee Named Sports Editor of The ‘Bunion

By Lindsey Becker

After a long and fruitful run, senior math and chemistry major Jake DeRousse has decided to step down from his position as the main sports writer for The ‘Bunion. Jake will be handing over the reins to junior Spanish and communications major Michelle Lee, who is excited to accept the position.

“I think my talents will be put to much better use in the sports section,” said Lee. “It’s obvious that my knowledge of the topic far exceeds Jake’s.”

Up until now, almost every story in the sports section was written by DeRousse and made up most of his tuition hours. “I’m really worried about getting all my hours in every week. Sports and breathing — that’s all I know,” commented a worried DeRousse.

When asked about her ability to take over the job, Lee said confidently, “I’ve got this in the bag, really. I’ve seen sports a couple of times, watched the World Series once or twice. How much more do I need to know? The World Series is football, right?”

Lee cites her interest in writing sports as a way of branching out and trying new

things. She wants to become a well-rounded writer even if it means writing about things she doesn’t have the first clue about and completely making things up. People don’t really read the sports section anyway, right?

DeRousse, too, wants to broaden his journalistic horizons. “There were only so many opportunities for me to quote Paul Kline in the sports section. I think if I start writing more diverse articles I’ll be able to quote him a lot more,” he said. DeRousse wants to start writing a column about his superior music tastes. If there’s one thing the paper needs more of, it’s Nickelback.

Lee said that her favorite sport is curling and that she can’t wait to include more of it in the sports section. “It’s such an exciting and relevant sport, and I think there’ll be a lot of interest in it here on campus,” she said. “Who knows, maybe we can get a curling team here at Blackburn!”

It was later revealed that Lee believed curling was not a sport played on ice but a team of people curling their hair. DeRousse could be heard sobbing in the background.