

THE BURNIAN

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Where's Our Upgrade?

Technical Difficulties: Please Stand By

By Jess Willard

Last November, Technology Services announced they were going to upgrade their internet service for the Blackburn campus. They expected to have everything ready for the spring semester but when the students returned, nothing had changed. Director of Technology Services Jason Cloninger explained that Frontier Communications had miscalculated the amount of work it would take to upgrade. “They had a contract early enough to meet the time frame that they had for their estimate from sales,” he said. “And then when it got to engineering, engineering said ‘This is not as easy as we thought it might be. This is gonna take longer.’”

The sales representative from Frontier Communications also informed

Cloninger that there was a backlog of problems the company had to get through. His best solution was to wait them out. He continued to press them for information such as a date for the upgrade but found even that was a challenge. Finally, the upgrade was scheduled for the end of last month and was expected to increase the bandwidth available on campus to 200 megabits per second (Mbps). “You should expect to see pages loading quicker. Where before YouTube videos buffered forever

SEE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES ON PAGE 2

“It’s frustrating. There are some processes that don’t always go the way you expect them to.”

-Jason Cloninger

The campus network servers allow connections to the internet

PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Blackburn’s Managerial Meltdown

By Jess Willard

Even though two new general managers will be revealed at the end of this month, students are still wondering what happened with manager retention this past year. Campus Services, Admissions and Dining and Hospitality all lost their original managers. This is a phenomena that Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis had never seen before. “You think to yourself what could I have done differently or what could I have noticed differently,” he said. “I think it’s the same challenge that any organization has, which

is you have to make decisions based on the interview or the best information that you have at a given time.”

There are several people involved in the selection process of new managers: Weis, the incoming general managers, the current general managers and the advisor of each department. They look for a specific skill set outlined on page 86 of Blackburn’s student handbook. Weis believed the people chosen were the best fit initially. “I am hoping it’s just an odd phenomenon. I can’t put my finger on a specific – and if I looked at the circumstances,

they’re all very different,” he said. He added that the jobs themselves are not easy and it boils down to some people being ready and others not.

Senior business administration major Derek Hauser managed Dining and Hospitality during the 2014-15 school year. He said, “Probably the single largest difficulty is going through that transition period. There’s a very significant increase in responsibility.” He chose not to reapply for the position because he felt like there were others who could successfully run the department and create positive

SEE MANAGERS ON PAGE 2

Warm Winter = More Bugs?

By Veronica Milligan

Several insect species can be found on Blackburn College’s campus. In fact, there are too many to list. We have all seen some of these creepy-crawlies roaming or flying around. Flies, ants and spiders (actually an arachnid because of its eight legs and less segmented body) are some of the most common we see on campus. There is no escaping them but a warm winter may or may not mean that we will encounter them more often.

There is no denying that we are in the middle of an unusually warm winter. According to the National Climate Data Center, in 2015 Illinois experienced its warmest December since data was first collected in 1895. Illinois was not alone as many other states in the Midwest experienced this as well. The Illinois State Water Survey predicts these conditions, caused by an El Niño (an irregular series of climatic changes causing unusual weather patterns), will last until the spring.

Elementary education major Abbie Rister said, “I love this type of weather,” but “bugs are not my thing.” She

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Pocket Mortys

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Technical Difficulties

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and ever, those times should either be nonexistent or short,” he added.

Provost John McClusky spoke with Cloninger to find out about any problems and what the priorities are from an institutional perspective. He has also been working with Cloninger as he gets quotes to see what fits into Blackburn’s budget. McClusky said, “We’ve talked to other vendors and I know all of those quotes were very expensive.” McClusky also mentioned that Blackburn is in a contract with Frontier Communications, which Cloninger was renegotiating to fit the needs of the college. “I think even now, it could be helpful to have more. I know that we are having conversations with other vendors to see if we can bring a second vendor

on campus to increase that bandwidth and maybe help us with our negotiating power.”

Despite all of the anticipation and work put into this project, the upgrade did not happen on the projected date. Cloninger explained that Frontier Communications wasn’t ready to turn up the system to 200 Mbps. Instead, they moved the circuit (a device that gets data from one place to another), which impacted the network enough to slightly increase speed. Now Technology Services has to wait for Frontier Communications to authorize the reconfiguration of the circuit. There is no current projected date. “I expect it to be sooner. We’re talking days instead of weeks,” Cloninger said. “It’s frustrating. There are some processes that don’t

Managers

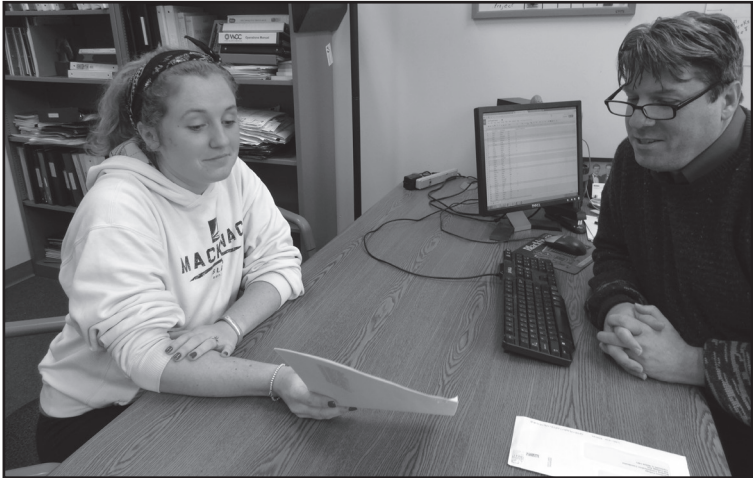


PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

General Manager Allison Matt and Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis will be involved with the selection process of new managers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

changes. He also believed that it wouldn’t have helped him further develop his skill set for his career goals. One idea he had to improve the retention of managers involved a form of job shadowing. Dining and Hospitality offers a crew head training program that gives promising students an introduction to management. Hauser believes incoming managers could benefit from a similar program.

Manager of Dining and Hospitality Tyler Solie stepped up after both the former manager and assistant manager resigned on the same day. “I was not happy, to be completely honest, because I wasn’t even second in line for the department,” he said. He was blindsided by the complete switch in responsibilities and no prior manager to guide him through it. However, he mentioned that the general managers and Weis answered any questions he had. He feels that the current system where managers are picked before the fall semester gives them

enough time to figure out the ropes. He added, “A lot of it, you need to just learn from experience.”

Alumnus Shane Rodgers was a manger of Dining and Hospitality from 2013-14 and held a general manager position from 2014-15. The only time he recalled a student manager being replaced was during his freshman year. He thinks the managers who resigned this year may have struggled with balancing everything. “I think something that many students don’t realize that when you are a manager is that you eat, sleep, breathe, and even dream about your job,” he said. “There is no break from being a manager even when the workday is over for most other students.” Rodgers thinks the best thing Blackburn can do is offer leadership and professionalism workshops for students, faculty and staff. In his opinion, this will allow the Blackburn community to understand the college’s purpose and see the importance of each person’s job.

I’ve Got Chills...

They’re Multiplying

By Miranda Critchfield

If you pay attention to the “Daily Announcements” that are sent to every Blackburn student, staff and faculty member, you would have recently read about the new space heater ban. Director of Physical Plant Bill Bertetto sent out an email noting the effect of space heaters on the school’s power bill, heat effectiveness and overall building temperature. In the email Bertetto stated that, “A space heater costs about \$30 a month to operate for 8 hours a day. The electrical systems in the buildings are designed to handle the needs that each space is planned to be for example offices for office equipment, dorms for dorms, classrooms as classrooms, etc. Placing the additional strain on the system could potentially cause the system to overload and cause a fire.” The email goes on to ask that the Blackburn community discontinue the use of space heaters for the benefit of the college. Despite



PHOTO BY MIRANDA CRITCHFIELD

Space heaters in residence halls or even academic buildings are not allowed

this plea, space heaters can still be seen in various dorm and educational buildings.

Senior business management major Shandra Pearson stated, “Over winter break my sophomore year, I left my space heater out but unplugged in my room. While I was away it was confiscated without my knowledge. I came back to a note where my space heater used to be telling me where I could have my property returned to me. I was then informed of the school’s policy and was asked to take my space heater home. I tried

to argue my case but I was told that there was nothing they could do.” Bertetto explained in the email that if you believe the temperature in a specific room or building is too hot or cold, to call Physical Plant and they will adjust it accordingly.

When Professor of Marketing and Business Management, Dr. Christina McCurley, whose office is in Woodson, was asked about the space heater ban, she stated “I don’t think they keep it warm enough in here to not run a space heater. If I had a little more control over the temperature that would help, but I’m not going to sit in my office and freeze.” When asked if she planned on talking to Physical Plant like the email suggested, Dr. McCurley said that she has not and does not plan on contacting Physical Plant this semester about the cold temperatures in Woodson.

“If I had a little more control over the temperature that would help, but I’m not going to sit in my office and freeze.”

-Christina McCurley



Between Jan. 14 and Jan. 31, the Campus Community and Safety department and Resident Life handled a total of twelve incidents:

Jan. 14: Suspicion of marijuana was reported in a residence hall. The resident was warned and no Clery report was filed.

Jan. 15: Underage alcohol consumption and possession of hard alcohol were reported in a residence hall. The underage consumption was Clery reported due to being a liquor law violation; the possession was not.

Jan. 16: Underage alcohol consumption and possession was reported at an off campus event. This was reported to Clery as a liquor law violation.

Jan. 22: Suspicion of marijuana use was reported but not confirmed in a residence hall. Improper conduct described as an individual making others uncomfortable was also reported in a non-residence hall building. No official report was filed. Neither incident was reported to Clery.

Jan. 23: Suspicion of marijuana was reported in a residence hall. The resident was warned. A fire report was made after HVAC was discovered to be smoking in an academic building. Neither incident was Clery reported. Underage alcohol consumption was also reported in a residence hall. This was Clery reported as a liquor law violation.

Jan. 26: Theft was reported from two vehicles on campus property. One was unlocked and the other student was almost certain their vehicle was locked. No break-in was confirmed. The theft was not reported to Clery.

Jan. 29: A fire report was filed after a laundry machine was found smoking in a residence hall. This was not Clery reported.

Jan. 30: A verbal altercation occurred in a non-residence hall building. This incident was not reported to Clery.

Jan. 31: Possession of hard alcohol by students of legal drinking age was reported in a residence hall. This was not Clery reported.



Guest Columnist

Connecting You to Information and Each Other

By Spencer Brayton

So, what is a Learning Commons anyway? The Learning Commons is a model of academic libraries that focuses on collaboration, partnerships and enhanced service offerings. We have moved away from being a passive environment. Our staff is focused on educating students and supporting them with a wide array of services. The Learning Commons reflects a trend in higher education where the library needs to support the needs of its parent institution, and at Blackburn we are focused on the success of our students. Your Learning Commons is made up of three services: library services, tutoring services, and the Writer's Block. The space is designed to make your work easier and meet your needs. We've increased our hours and brought together multiple services in one location to make your time at Blackburn a little easier. Think of the Learning Commons as a community environment on campus to study, get some help with your research and understand assignments,

meet as a class or in small groups, hold club meetings and events, view student artwork, or to check out some of our programs for the semester. Most importantly, it's our challenge to change what "library" means to you. We are not a dark, closed off environment meant to only house a collection of books. We've created an active environment with technology and space to suit your needs. Our staff is committed to strong customer service and collaboration. This is Lumpkin Learning Commons.

"I wish I would've known about your services when I was a freshman!", "Can I hold my class in the Learning Commons this semester?" or "Can we hold [insert event name here] in the Learning Commons?" are all questions that I have been asked on more than one occasion as I enter my third year at Blackburn. Let's face it, no one needs to come to a library to access many of its resources, whether librarians or peer-reviewed journal articles. So why does the physical space remain important? Why can't students,

faculty, and staff simply email their library staff, rather than see them in person? Today's academic library is not only focused on its print collections anymore. Yes, books and print will continue to be important, but technology has allowed the academic library to change its service model for the better. Space design is crucial in developing learning environments that are conducive to individual and collaborative work. Librarians are now partners in educating students, and as educators, we help students navigate the vast amounts of information they encounter in their daily lives. Information used to be scarce and access limited to those who could afford it, but that model has changed. We are now living in an age of information overload where media literacy, information literacy and digital literacy are crucial as we are inundated with information (not knowing what is true and what isn't). The need to develop these literacy skills is important to your academic success and we are here to help.

Down to the Wire: What Blackburn Has Been Like for a Last Minute Hire

By Rachael Chong

Debra Parker is new to Blackburn this semester but she's not new to small, liberal arts schools or to work colleges. Parker is the new adjunct professor in the department of English and communications. She is teaching Barbara Clark's section of writing 112 after Clark left at the last-minute to be with her ill husband. Parker lives in Springfield and previously taught at Benedictine University. She also attended Berea College, another work college in Berea, Kentucky, as a student for one year.

On the subject of work colleges, she said "I think that makes for a really strong community because the teachers and the students are all part of making the campus run...you kind of have a stake in it."

She said that after teaching her first three classes, she already saw a sense of responsibility in Blackburn students she believes comes from the work program.

Parker also said that Blackburn "is very warm, very friendly [with] a family-like atmosphere." During her first week here, she left her glasses at home, and her husband

came to return them to her. "He had never been to Blackburn before so he just...went right to the administrative building and he wasn't on campus ten minutes that everyone he asked knew right where to direct him to find me...He said it was the friendliest place he's ever been to."

Parker has taught freshman writing before, but said "what I didn't know is they're using a very innovative approach here with using 'The Wire.'" She was nervous about using "The Wire," which she hadn't watched before coming to Blackburn, but she has been "very impressed with the way the English [and communications] department has taken me in as a colleague."

She has previously been a full-time professor and she feels the way she has been treated at Blackburn has taught her how to do her job better. "I think I've learned some things about how to mentor and administrate for adjuncts," she said.

Of course, she's had some troubles coming in at the last minute, like, "just getting caught up on 'The Wire.'"

Bugs: Does a Warm Winter Mean More Bugs?

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also agreed that a colder winter would be worth it if it meant keeping the bug populations down. When asked about how this climate might affect insect

populations, biology professor Dr. Edward Zalisko said, "On a warm winter, it might mean [the insects'] seasons could start earlier... it depends on

what other factors are limiting reproduction."

Zalisko mentioned these other factors could be interactions with other species such as habitat elimination, lengthening of breeding seasons, global climate change as a whole or asynchrony (a lack of synchrony between species interactions like migration and feeding). Asynchrony can occur when bird species migrate at the wrong time, affecting their food sources and predators. The system is then out of synch.

In our ecosystems, everything is heavily connected. A small change to the diet, habitat or breeding

season of one species could have drastic effects on another species or that ecosystem as whole. In Carlinville, warmer weather may lead to insects reproducing sooner and a longer summer may allow species to have more breeding cycles. Many insects are already capable of increasing their populations quickly but now they may be able to do it for a longer period of time too. However, insects aren't the only animals that will have affected breeding seasons.

Local birds and amphibians whose mating seasons begin in the spring will need to provide food for themselves and their offspring. If more insects are available that could lead to

more amphibians and birds surviving and reproducing too, keeping the insect population in check. If any particular species happens to emerge too early before its food source becomes available it is unlikely to survive.

The simple question "does a warm winter bring more bugs?" turned out to be much more complicated than one might have thought. The answer is yes, populations can be affected by temperature changes. The answer is also no because there are so many other factors that can increase or decrease bug populations.



PHOTO BY VERONICA MILLIGAN

Our sunny campus looks ready for an early spring

Hungry Student: Stoney's Pub

By Bryan Bethel

Located on the corner of West First South Street and Alton Road along the route towards Walmart, Stoney's Pub and Restaurant is a fairly new establishment in a location that has seen many businesses come and go over the years. As my friends and I pulled up to Stoney's I started to realize why so many businesses have tried and failed in the past at this location. The parking lot was mostly gravel and the building itself was a dingy white with little signage to advertise their food - nothing stuck out to entice me to go inside. In fact, I originally thought the restaurant was closed when I first pulled into the parking lot and would have left had I not seen another

patron enter the building. So far, Stoney's had not made a very positive impact but that quickly changed once we actually got inside. The interior of the building was warm and inviting; the furniture and walls were made of dark wood and the dimmed lighting seemed cozy. Senior computer science major Shane Nalzyty said: "The interior and exterior didn't match up at all. It felt like we had walked into a totally different building." Junior mathematics major Andrew Kirby even remarked that the interior "reminded him of a lodge." We walked over to the buffet table (Stoney's only offers a lunch buffet), which was small

but had diversity comparable to Panda or DING's buffets. The food consisted mostly of classic home-made choices like fried chicken, spaghetti and meatballs, mashed potatoes and (my favorite) macaroni and cheese. While I was not blown away by the variety of food that was offered, I found that everything I tried was delicious. I ended up going back to the buffet for seconds and then thirds and would have gone back for more if my stomach hadn't finally tapped out. "The food was definitely richer than what we usually have at DING," said Kirby. "I love classic American food anyway, so it was perfect for me." The only problem I had with this



PHOTO BY BRYAN BETHEL

Although the exterior of Stoney's seems unassuming, the food offered inside will keep you coming back for more

buffet was the small amounts of desserts offered; however, I was so full by the time I was done eating I couldn't stand to eat anymore, so this is only a minor complaint. Since we ate at the buffet I couldn't really judge the service at Stoney's very well, but the staff seemed friendly.

Even though my friends and I were skeptical at first, Stoney's turned out to be much better than expected. While the exterior is not very pleasing on the eye, Stoney's is a prime example of why you should not judge a book by its cover.

Blackburn Voices

"What is one thing professors can change or do better?"

Photos by Jess Willard



"They could assume less. Not every single student understands what they are talking about."

Jason Wasson
Freshman
Theater Major

"[Professors] could be more approachable and accommodate to different learning styles."

Megan Waters
Freshman
Psychology and Criminal Justice Major



"A lot of teachers add personal bias to grading."

Victoria Zimmerman
Senior
Psychology and Criminal Justice Major



Don't Eat the WHITE Snow

By Veronica Milligan

We all know not to eat the yellow snow but now scientists suggest that we shouldn't eat the white snow either after a study shows that snow can absorb pollutants from the air. This is something that can happen anywhere but is a more concerning issue in urban areas where many Blackburn students live.

The study was done by Canadian scientists in 2015 and published in *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts*, a journal supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry, the U.K.'s professional body of chemists. They examined snow after it had been exposed to car fumes for one hour. Keep in mind how many people let their cars run to warm up on a cold morning and how that exhaust might diffuse over a larger area, potentially including a patch of clean looking snow. This study discovered that

after one hour the number of organic carbons (and several other harmful chemicals) in the snow more than doubled. These other chemicals include known carcinogens (cancer-causing agents) including benzene, xylene and toluene.

Chemistry professor Dr. Karl Luth explains how this might happen, "Solids can absorb gasses... the structure [of snow] is so extended... a

gas could be naturally flowing through or into it and it gets basically trapped and can't get back out." Austin Carter, a freshman psychology major from the Rockford area, who has eaten snow before said, "It doesn't bother me that much," and said he would eat snow again even if it did have some toxins in it since he has heard of large restaurant chains having bad chemicals in their food too.

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Raise Your Wands

By Miranda Critchfield

It is said that death comes in threes, but for celebrities it seems to be coming in waves. Since the start of the new year numerous celebrities have passed away. The list includes Eagles guitar player Glenn Frey, the “Grizzly Man” Dan Haggerty, singer Celine Dion’s husband Rene Angelil, former American Football player and NFL coach Ted Marchibroda, Nat King Cole’s daughter Natalie Cole, country singer Craig Strickland, singer/songwriter David Bowie, and actor Alan Rickman. Sadly, there are quite a few more. While all these deaths had a significant impact on many people, the deaths of Bowie and Rickman were the most influential on campus.

Blackburn students, staff and faculty have mourned the loss of these greats in several ways. Many students wore Bowie tee-shirts and blared some classic hits after the news of his passing. Bowie’s album sales rose to number one, which is something that never happened while he was alive. At the “Live Band Karaoke” Campus Activities Board event last month the band paid tribute to Bowie by performing “Ziggy

Stardust” to open the show.

Soon after Bowie’s the news of Alan Rickman’s death was released. According to many of Rickman’s friends and family, he fought a short battle against pancreatic cancer and quickly lost. Many students and some faculty and staff members have been shaken by the vast



PHOTO BY MIRANDA CRITCHFIELD
Maggie Best with her Harry Potter mug

amount of celebrity deaths that have occurred in the new year. Some Blackburn community members mourned Rickman’s loss by wearing Harry Potter-themed shirts, hats, scarves and sweatshirts. Business Office Accounts Receivable Assistant Maggie Best wore socks bearing the Hufflepuff crest and a Gryffindor-themed scarf the

day after Rickman’s passing. Best claims to be a “Potter Head” and was heartbroken to hear about losing “Snape” via MSN when she arrived to work the morning of his death. Best said, “Of course my favorite movie he is in is the Harry Potter series. My favorite quote from Snape is the over-articulated ‘Obviously....’ and how he got so many people to be able to remember to ‘Turn to page 394.’ I also love another movie he is in called “Love Actually.” I watch it around Christmas every year and plan on continuing to do so.”

Sophomore musical theater major Abigayle Groves was also heartbroken after the death of Alan Rickman. Groves’ favorite character that Rickman played other than Snape is the voice of the Blue Caterpillar in the 2010 film, “Alice in Wonderland.” Abigayle said, “He took every role he played and made it his own. There was a connection that was made with Alan in every aspect of his acting. It’s like he could take any villain and secretly make them a good guy. It’s real magic.” In true Hogwarts fashion, let’s raise our wands to the many lost too soon in 2016.

Talk Nerdy to Me: Pocket Mortys

By Bryan Bethel

Fans of Adult Swim television show “Rick and Morty” got a treat earlier in the school year when the hit game “Pocket Mortys” was released on iOS and Android app stores. The free-to-play game parodies the popular game “Pokémon” where players roam fantasy worlds in search of creatures with elemental attacks to

battle friends. In “Pocket Mortys,” players take control of foul-mouthed scientist Rick Sanchez, and must capture different versions of your grandson, Morty, from different multiverses.

After a quick introduction, players are tasked with training and leveling up their Mortys so they can defeat members of The

Council of Ricks to return to their home dimension. This is much like in “Pokémon” where players must defeat gym leaders and members of the elite four. Also similar to “Pokémon,” “Pocket Mortys” has many Mortys to come across and collect. For some players, this throwback to Pokémon makes the game even more enjoyable.

White Privilege Matters

By Rachael Chong

This isn’t the first time hip-hop duo Macklemore and Ryan Lewis have created controversy. There are nearly as many opinions about their new song “White Privilege II” as there are about white privilege.

If you haven’t heard the song, it’s largely Macklemore questioning his place as a white person in hip-hop and the politics surrounding it. In particular, he wonders where he fits into the Black Lives Matter movement, which focuses on police brutality primarily committed against black people by white cops. It’s a follow-up to an earlier piece, “White Privilege,” released in 2005. “White Privilege II” approaches Macklemore’s place as a hip-hop artist rather than a hip-hop fan as in “White Privilege.”

Macklemore has always attracted controversy. Most notably, in 2012 he released “Same Love,” a song meant to discourage homophobia in hip-hop, which received critical acclaim but is often mocked by the public for including the line, “When I was in the third grade I thought that I was gay.” Because of works like these, it’s often asked whether Macklemore ultimately helps or hurts the social issues he supports. Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Blackburn Jarrod Gray said that Macklemore “is making a difference in the sense [that], if nothing else, he’s getting people to talk.”

One criticism of Macklemore’s brand of activism is that even if people are talking, he’s not saying

anything new. In “White Privilege II,” he uses phrases like “No justice, no peace,” famously coined by Martin Luther King, Jr. and “Hands up, don’t shoot,” popularized in protests after the death of Mike Brown in Ferguson in 2014. They’re important phrases to Black Lives Matter, but concern is raised over the fact that black voices have been saying them for years.

Gray said that, “as a white male, [white privilege] definitely exists. It’s something I was born into rather than something I chose in life. It’s not inherently a bad thing. It’s what you do with it that matters.” And Gray feels that Macklemore is doing good things with his white privilege by writing songs that address oppression that doesn’t directly affect him. His position of power makes people more likely to listen to him because they’re not his problems. “Especially with racism work,” he said, “it’s white people’s work to do.”

However, Gray had one big question for Macklemore: “What’s next?...You’ve got my interest here and then the song’s over, and then what?” He doesn’t feel that writing songs like “White Privilege II” are enough. He said, “my hope would be that he come out with a White Privilege III and it would be much more action oriented,” or that Macklemore fund anti-oppression work, perhaps with proceeds from “White Privilege II.”

Sophomore psychology major Amber Campbell said: “I love the Pokémon vibe the game gives off, however I feel like you need to watch at least a few of the episodes to really understand the craziness of ‘Rick and Morty.’” Currently there are 82 different Mortys available to capture including ‘Crazy Cat Morty,’ ‘Sausage Morty,’ and the legendary ‘One True Morty.’ “My favorite Morty is ‘Evil Rabbit Morty,’” added Campbell. Each Morty - except for certain special Mortys - has a different typing, much like the typing system in “Pokémon,” but much more simplified. Each Morty is classified as either rock type, paper type or scissor type - each being strong against one type and weak against the other.

While leveling up, Mortys learn attacks related to their typing - getting more powerful moves the higher their level becomes (with a maximum level being 100). There are also many Rick’s from other dimensions to battle against like ‘Doofus Rick,’ ‘Rick Prime’ and ‘The Scientist Known as Rick.’

“Pocket Mortys” has so many Mortys to capture and secrets to explore, but some people can never be satisfied. Players who felt that “Pocket Mortys” needed something more will be pleased to hear that the game’s official Twitter page has confirmed that updates will soon be coming that include major bug fixes and even more Mortys to collect. Co-creator and voice actor of “Rick and Morty,” Justin Roiland also teased on his Twitter that battling with other users is also a possibility for the future. “Pocket Mortys” is a quality free-to-play that heavily appeals to fans of the “Rick and Morty” series, but also appeals to fans of “Pokémon” who will appreciate the nostalgia that comes while playing the game.

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EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

Bernie Sanders Lost By .3 Percent, But Young Voters Lost By Much More

By Rachael Chong

College students claim to be one of the most politically active age groups, and they always have. From the Vietnam War to more recent issues like marriage equality, young voices have rung out loud and strong. But college students also hold another similar but contradictory title: Least likely to vote.

There are hundreds, seemingly thousands of arguments surrounding the reasons, from added voter restrictions, to apathy, mistrust, disillusionment of the political system as a whole. There are also thousands of reasons that college students don’t vote but as we’ve seen in the Iowa caucus earlier this month, the so-called “youth vote” means something.

Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders has campaigned primarily to young voters and not without reason. Sanders won Iowa entrance polls among voters making less than \$50,000 per year, voters who identified as “liberal” over “moderate/conservative,” unmarried

voters, first-time caucus-goers and, by a wide margin, voters under the age of 45.

These are all fairly typical profiles for a college student but overall weren’t typical profiles for an average Iowa caucus-goer. Only 37 percent of voters polled were under 45, versus 64 percent 45 and older and only 44 percent of voters had never attended a caucus before, which was down from 57 percent in 2008.

And, in case you’ve been living under a rock, you might want to know that Sanders didn’t win. Hillary Clinton beat him 49.9 percent to 49.6 percent with the thinnest margin in the history of the Democratic Party.

So the fact that young people didn’t show up really mattered. Had more people under the age of 45 shown up and voted, it’s not only possible but likely that Sanders would have won the caucus.

But what does all of this mean for you, especially if you’re a Republican or a Clinton supporter?

It means you have to vote,

plain and simple. It means, as we’ve seen in the case of Sanders, that your vote matters. It means that raising your voice isn’t enough if you don’t vote. It means that voting can and does make a difference.

You can register to vote and apply for an absentee ballot (if you don’t live in the district where you’re registered) online. The last day to register to vote for the primary election in Illinois is Feb. 18, and the General Primary Election is a month later on March 18. The General Election will take place on Nov. 8 and the last day to register to vote is October 11.

So now you’re out of excuses not to vote. If you don’t want to see your candidate lose by 0.3 percent like Sanders in Iowa, then you have to vote. If you want your voice not just heard, but listened to, then you have to vote. There might be thousands of reasons not to vote, but whether you support him or not, Sanders just gave you one more reason why you have to vote.

Honest Representation

By Ethan Leach

When we head to the polls later this year, we will not be casting our votes to elect another ruling class, but rather a group of politicians to represent our views in political debate. This is a distinction that is becoming less and less evident, but at the same time is becoming increasingly important. Politicians are still subject to the electorate, however, it’s something of a stretch to continue referring to them as “representatives.” What we are seeing from Washington more and more is a political class that is out of touch with the will of the American people. Congress pushes socialized medicine in spite of the American public’s opposition to Obamacare. The president proposes gun control legislation despite the public support of the second amendment. And while the general population is shown the grisly truth of abortion, and Planned Parenthood is investigated for violating federal law, President Obama and congressional Democrats refuse to ban either the procedure itself or the taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood.

This disconnect between a politician’s actions and the will of their constituents illustrates how far today’s politicians have regressed from the ideal form of public service. In this ideal form, a public servant is conscious of the will of the people and reforms their vote accordingly. The result of this form of representation is that politicians would be elected based on the integrity of their voting pattern. What we have

instead is a system in which they are elected based on how they claim they’re going to vote. They then either fulfill or betray their campaign promises, and it is only through the next election that they are held accountable.

We need to move past the idea that entering politics is a career choice rather than a public service. It was precisely because they feared the growth of tyranny that the founders put limits on both the power held by the president and the length of time one person could hold the office. What we have in our modern Congress is a class of politicians who may serve indefinitely, so long as they please enough voters and make enough empty promises.

What will it take before the American people demand that the powers granted to our politicians are further restrained? Will it take another war? Socialized medicine? The prolonging of abortion? Or will it take something more egregious? Will it take the revocation of our second amendment rights before the citizens unite against this tyranny? Will it take further restrictions on our freedom of speech? Or will we wait until we have no political power left to speak of before we realize that our freedoms are in fact being infringed upon? Unfortunately, it is often the profound loss of freedom that causes patriots to rally in its defense. Hopefully, that patriotic spirit has not yet been squelched by an overreaching political class who assures us that they know better for us than we do.

We Hear You Hate The ‘Burnian

By Brendan Riley Lersch

The Blackburn College newspaper, The ‘Burnian, was established in the year 1881 and is the oldest college paper in Illinois. It is a member of the Illinois College Press Association (ICPA). The paper won five awards last year at the annual ICPA Conference including first place for a general news photo, second place for headline writing and third place for a critical review. The paper is published on a bi-weekly basis and is available for pickup in nearly every building on campus and in select locations across Carlinville. Because of

this, it is read by Blackburn students, Blackburn alumni and members of the Carlinville community.

Last spring, The ‘Burnian conducted an anonymous survey amongst its readers; 126 people responded. Amongst the respondents, 30 percent said they did not read the paper. The top three reasons for this were: readers did not have enough time, they did not have enough interest in what is being published and they did not know when a new paper was being released. Blackburn students have busy schedules with balancing, classes, work

and our social lives. Freshman psychology major Monica Rosas states “The reason I’ve never read the ‘Burnian is because it has never presented something that interest me. I love to read, but it has to catch my attention.” Rosas thinks the articles in each issue are generic and unoriginal. She wants to read something creative that makes her think and form opinions. However, one survey respondent said “Stop trying to be edgy, you’re just pissing people off.” Another said we should set the paper on fire then shut it down.

According to the Pew

Research Center, 69 percent of Americans “believe the death of their local newspaper would have no impact on their ability to get local information.” College aged adults were especially unconcerned, however, newspapers were ranked as one of the most relied-upon sources for local news and information. Social media has had an impact on newspapers; people use sites such as Twitter “as a source

for news about events and issues outside the realm of friends and family,” according to journalism.com.

The ‘Burnian is a student published paper written primarily for Blackburn’s student body. If you would like to read about a particular issue or have an idea for an article feel free to share it with us via our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages.

THE ‘BURNIAN

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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 under 500 words may be sent to burnian@blackburn.edu, or mailed to The ‘Burnian, 700 College Ave., Carlinville, IL 62626.

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.

An App That Can Detect Concussions

By Mary Kline

If you’ve ever been in sports, it’s likely that you or someone you knew had a concussion at some point. There were close to four million concussions due to sports related activities in schools and colleges reported in 2012, which is nearly double the amount of cases diagnosed in 2012 according to headcasecompany.com. Concussions are one of the most common injuries in the world of sports and they’re also one of the most dangerous. They can be caused by a blow to the head, face, neck or anywhere else on the body in which the hit results in force being put on the head. What makes them dangerous is that the injury is internal, and can often go undiagnosed because it cannot be seen. When left without treatment, a concussion can lead to long-term brain damage or even death. The effects of the injury can also worsen when an athlete is allowed to continue playing after getting a concussion. What a lot of coaches and parents don’t know, is that there’s an app for that.

PAR, Inc. (Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc) has a free app out that’s available for the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch called The Concussion Recognition & Response. PAR is an independently owned business that specializes in print and software tests in the field of psychology. According to the app description, it was developed by Gerard A. Gioia, PhD, and Jason Mihalik, PhD. Gioia is the Division Chief of Neuropsychology and the director of the Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery and Education (SCORE) Program at Children’s National Health

System. Mihalik is the Assistant Professor of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science at the Injury Prevention Research Center. The app is created to help coaches and parents recognize whether or not an athlete is showing the signs of a concussion by running through a checklist of symptoms and the information that it collects can be sent to medical professionals via email. It even has a post injury feature so that parents or coaches can continue to monitor and properly take care of the athlete after they have received medical care.

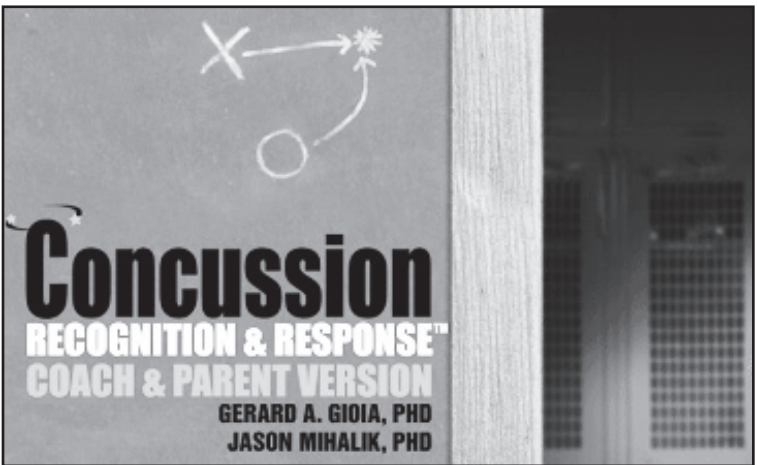


PHOTO BY MARY KLINE

Screenshot from the Concussion Recognition & Response app

This part of the app includes answers to questions that coaches and parents typically have and a two page chart that helps a parent or coach determine when it’s okay to send them back to school or put them back in the game.

“As technology advances, so do the treatments and safety of our athletes... Obviously there would have to be extensive testing on the validity of the app but if it showed that it works then I definitely think that is a tool that should be used,” stated Steve Kollar, Head Men’s Basketball Coach at Blackburn. Although there

aren’t a lot of reviews on the app, the Grassroots Youth Football League (GFL) which is sponsored by *Under Armour* has made it a requirement for at least one coach or staff member to have a phone with the application on it at every game. On the GFL website under the requirements for their coaches, it stated: “We encourage all of the coaches and staff to purchase the app, but it is mandatory that there be at least one.”

Medical help should still be sought when using the app and when the app is opened it has the following—pop up

note: “This application is not intended to replace seeking help from a trained medical professional. If the youth has lost consciousness, even briefly, call 911 immediately.” There is a section in the app that tells a coach or a parent that if an athlete is exhibiting any of the listed warning signs 911 should immediately be contacted as well. Although using an app can’t replace going to the doctor entirely, it’s certainly a resource that could prove useful in getting athletes the medical treatment they need.

The Ebola Virus and It’s Future

By Veronica Milligan

In the previous article I wrote about the flu virus, and I discussed how easy it is to spread because of the accessibility of travel. That doesn’t sound very intimidating when discussing the flu. However, when we look back at the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak of 2014 it sounds a bit more daunting. Now as we look to the future, there is certainly a more positive outlook for Ebola.

EVD is a zoonosis, which means humans can get the disease from an animal. In this case, EVD is associated with bats and non-human primates such as monkeys. It is most likely transferred from these animals to humans when the animals are butchered and eaten. Once a person has the disease, it can then be transferred to another person via bodily fluids including blood, saliva, semen, urine, vomit and breast milk according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). They also said that it is possible to get the disease from the semen of a man who has recovered from Ebola and from objects that have been in contact with an infected person’s bodily fluids.

These possible transmissions mean healthcare workers are at the most risk if they come into contact with an infected person. Sophomore mathematics major, Brandon Skibinski said, “I believe a slight fever and headaches are symptoms.” He’s certainly right but there are several more signs according the World Health Organization (WHO). These other symptoms include muscle pain and sore throat followed by vomiting, rash, diarrhea, loss of kidney and

liver function as well as internal and external bleeding. The average fatality rate for EVD is 50 percent says WHO. In 2014, four people in the United States were diagnosed with EVD and one person died according to the CDC.

Current treatment for EVD depends on the medical facility available and its ability to quarantine the disease. The CDC says treatment currently relies on intravenous fluids (IVs), maintaining oxygen levels, and treating any other infections that may occur. However scientists in Sierra Leone in conjunction with the CDC are working hard to create a vaccine for the virus that could save lives. Biology professor at Blackburn College, Dr. David Reid, said, “We’re pretty close to getting a good vaccine... There’s certain things that the FDA will rush if they have good promise and this has good promise.” Reid predicts that if things go well we might have a vaccine within the year.

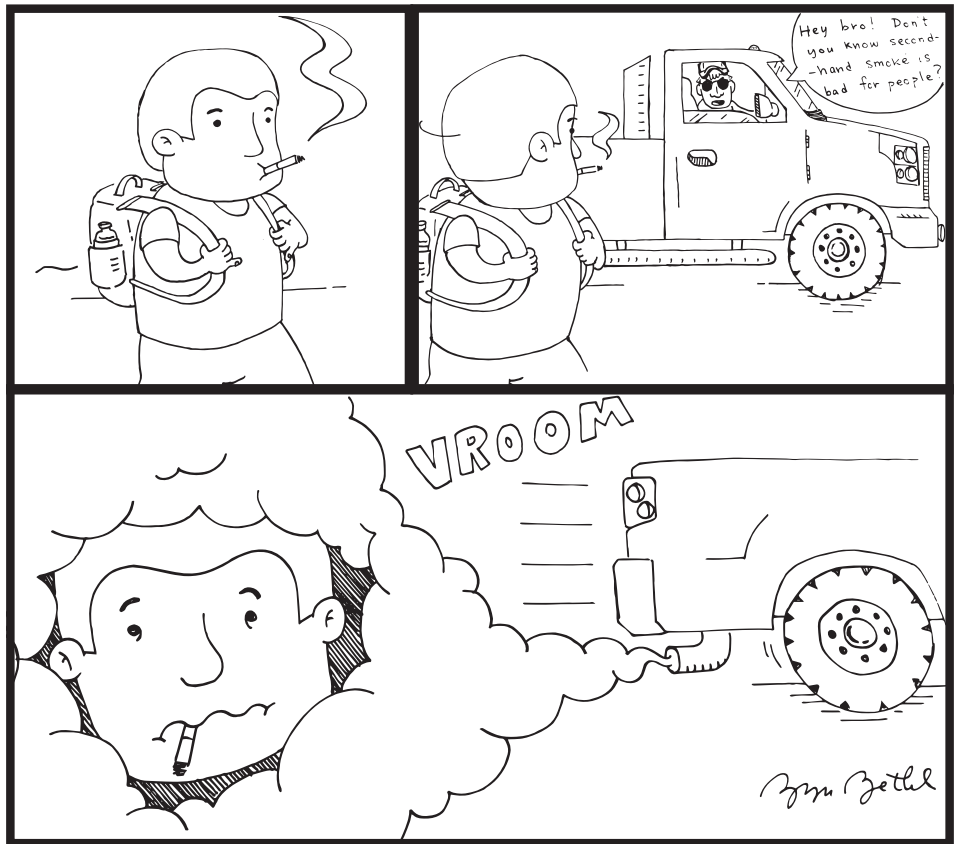
Even if the vaccine becomes available in the United States, it is really Africa that has seen the devastating effects of EVD due to the lack of adequate healthcare. Reid thinks there is the potential for another outbreak in Africa for this reason. Luckily, we do not have this concern in the United States but travellers should be wary. Ian Thomas, a biochemistry major, did his senior seminar on the Ebola virus and said, “After my seminar research, I honestly feel as though I would be less concerned by another outbreak as it seems as though our easily accessible medical care would be sufficient in combatting the virus.”



ILLUSTRATION BY DR. JAMES BRAY

A drawing of the microscopic view of the Ebola virus

The Adventures of Clint Mathis



Comic by Bryan Bethel
Editor’s Note: *The Adventures of Clint Mathis* does not reflect the views of *The 'Burnian*

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Hoopin' Into School History

By Miranda Critchfield

The Blackburn men's basketball team is on track to complete one of the best seasons they've had in a long time. The Beavers had an intense 67-63 win over Spalding University for the first time in school history last month. Also last month junior Chris Davis set his own personal history by scoring his 1000th point in the team's loss against the Greenville Panthers. The Beavers also had an overtime win against the Principia Panthers on Feb 6th giving the Panthers their 14th loss of the season.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams are under new coaches. Coach Steve Kollar is the new men's basketball coach and is considered to be excelling by many members of the Blackburn community. Kollar said, "I knew that taking over would be a process and I've been working on getting players to play for each other, building the culture and improving overall team chemistry." When asked about the Spalding win Kollar explained that he was aware

of Blackburn's past against Spalding and was thrilled with the win.

According to the Blackburn website the 2013-2014 season ended with a win-loss ratio of 2-16. In the 2014-2015 season their record was 5-13. The Beavers are currently 9-7 with one home game on the 17th and an away game on the 20th. The men are tied for 3rd in the conference with Iowa Wesleyan, Webster and Westminster.

Senior marketing major Henry Hicks who has been on the team for two years believes that there are significant differences from last season to the current season. Hicks stated, "Compared to last season we are having a very productive year with the new program being brought into place and we are in a tight race right now trying to make the conference tournament. There has been a lot of changes since Coach Kollar started. There is more of a commitment in trying to win and to compete every time we step on the court as a team. We have a different philosophy and game

planning since Kollar, we are going after it more and competing for each other to get that win." The Beavers are fifth in the conference and the top four teams compete in the conference game.

Kollar knew there was talent here, his main goal was getting the team to play as a team and to increase morale. He believes that there has been

a shift in the way the men play on the court. He went on to explain that these games are more than just for him and the players, "It's bigger than just us, we are playing for the men who played before us and the men that will play after us. I read the team emails from alumni and community members about their efforts. The guys have the ability to

bring something to Blackburn that hasn't been here for a while. We have a long way to go, but it's a good start." Koller went on to say that the team and him appreciate all the support they have received so far this season how they need continued support from the Blackburn community.



Chris Davis making a shot against Spalding last month

PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Look to the Team, Not the Scoreboard

By Jessie Willard

There has been a lot of talk about the men's basketball team improving this season, and in the excitement, the women's basketball team has been overlooked. In the 2014-15 season, the team didn't win any of their 25 games. The women have managed to turn that zero into two this season. Many of the 23 games they've played so far have turned into close battles for the win. Considering they have two players injured, the team has been putting up a strong fight.

Sophomore point guard Candace Pollock played last year. One of the biggest differences she noticed in comparison with the previous season is that the team is coming together more. She said, "Last year it felt more divided, I guess you could say. You can still tell there are groups within the team, but once we hit the court, it doesn't matter." The team is currently participating in the playoffs for the 2016 St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Tournament. Pollock thinks they have a shot if they can pull some wins and keep up their confidence. "The

conference is not going the way that anybody predicted in any sort of way," she said. "I mean we have top teams losing to bottom teams. We lost to [MacMurray] which has never happened. It's stuff like that where it kinda makes you think anything could happen at this point."

Sophomore shooting guard Aleisha Stiltner also played last year. She noticed that the team is more fundamentally sound, and they've worked harder this season. "The score board

doesn't always reflect it but we're a much better team," she said. "It's just gonna take some time for us to get where we want to be." She attributed all of the team's success to Head Women's Basketball Coach Katie Fonseca. According to Stiltner, Fonseca's high expectations and large amounts of energy help the team play a lot better. "Your coach and your point guard, those are your floor generals. They're kinda running the show. We go out there and execute but she's

kinda like the puppeteer," she said.

Student Assistant Chris O'Connor has been helping out the women for his second year in a row. He attends practices, travels with the team and helps out on the sidelines. In his opinion, he's seen a lot of individual improvement from the women – both first year players and returners. "The overall morale is a lot different from last year. It's a positive change. The team is working and taking steps in

the right direction," he said. O'Connor believes Fonseca's upbeat, high velocity coaching style and the off season conditioning workouts were two of the biggest factors in the team's growth. He said that he couldn't be more proud of the transition the team has made in the past year.

Stiltner and Pollock have noticed that a lot of people have been discouraging towards the team. They mentioned that more people would rather go to the men's basketball games than support the women. Pollock urged students to look at the closeness of games. According to her, the smaller amount of players leave the women exhausted but if they had the numbers, they'd have a shot at more wins. Both women feel like the lack of crowd support leaves them without the extra boost of energy they need during games. Stiltner said, "A lot of times I feel like we come out flat in the first half and not that I'm attributing that – you know, that's our own fault not being focused and ready – but it would be helpful if people actually came out for our game too."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

The women's basketball team has been making strides in becoming closer as a team and playing with more drive