

# THE BURNIAN

The Student Newspaper at Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL

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“I’ve connected to the girls and guys of North... We are essentially a family.”

- Karson Gragert



PHOTO BY BRYAN BETHEL

Challacombe (North) Hall will be changed back to a male-only dorm to make room for returning residents

## BYE-BYE BUNNIES!

By Miranda Critchfield

It is said that history repeats itself; this is certainly true for North (Challacombe) Hall. North is returning to its all-male dorm status next fall.

North was converted to a co-ed dorm before the 2012-2013 academic year. Prior to this, the North residents commonly called themselves the “kings of campus.” Once women were given the first

floor, the men were moved to the second.

Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life Abbey Hardin stated that reverting back to all males had nothing to do with any behaviors or the reputation of the women residing there. “North going back to all male was solely about numbers. After room draw was

completed I would not have had anywhere near enough housing for returning male students had it not gone back to being all male.” Hardin went on to explain that as enrollment grows, the gender division on campus evens out. “We simply needed more space for male residents,” she added.

Karson Gragert currently

resides in North. She was shocked when told she had to move but understands the reasoning. “When I first transferred to Blackburn, North is where I knew I wanted to be and it has been my home ever since. I planned on being here until I graduated next year. It was convenient to live near work, near the gym

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Hardin, We Have a Housing Situation...



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Squatters (students looking to keep their current rooms) go to their dorm’s table to reserve their place of residence

By Michael Troutt and Jess Willard

Crowds of students line up in Mahan holding schedules with shaky hands. They’ve gathered to find out whether or not they will achieve the room for which they’ve been waiting. At the end of every spring semester, students attend room draw. This event has been overseen by Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Residence Life Abbey Hardin both this year and the previous year. This year it was held at 9:00 p.m. to make sure students in evening classes had the opportunity to attend.

After squatters (students

with roommates keeping their current residence) go through room draw, double-single and single rooms are available to be reserved. The first group of students to attain these are managers. Displaced students go afterwards. Hardin said, “If we were to get into a housing crunch and the space was needed, the only double single rooms that will be guaranteed are those on Stoddard second floor. So, in short, space permitting they will receive a double single room.” From there, students who have resided on campus the longest

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## SILVER LAKE COLLEGE: A WORK IN PROGRESS

By Michael Troutt

Silver Lake College plans to join Blackburn College as one of the nation’s elite work colleges. As a member of the Work Colleges Consortium, Blackburn is one of only seven work colleges in the country. Along with Alice Lloyd and Berea College in Kentucky, College of the Ozarks in Missouri, Ecclesia College in Arkansas, Sterling College in Vermont and Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, Silver Lake College would be only the eighth work college in the U.S.

Silver Lake College is located in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, around 400 miles north of Carlinville, Illinois. With roots dating back to 1885 when the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity established a convent, by 1935 the Holy Family College was official. Today, Silver Lake College is a Catholic coeducational liberal arts college with approximately 500 students, an average class size of eight students and a student to faculty ratio of 7:1.

Over the past few years there have been talks of Silver Lake transitioning into a work college. Blackburn biology professor Dr. James Bray explained that Silver Lake had initially sent a representative to look around and get an idea of how Blackburn’s work program is structured. Last fall, Bray, Associate Dean of Work Robert Weis, Chair of Education Dr. Kelly Chaney and Director of Financial Aid Jane Kelsey visited Silver Lake College as consultants to discuss Blackburn’s work

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVER LAKE COLLEGE

Silver Lake College is set to become the eighth work college in the U.S.

# NO GIRLS ALLOWED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

and near where my classes were.” Gragert plans to live in Jones next semester but is not happy about the extra time it is going to take to get around campus. “I’ve connected to the girls and guys of North and we are essentially a family. It’s bittersweet to have to be leaving, but I know I will still have the friends I have made regardless.”

Lucas Rinderer also resides in North. This is his first year residing in the dorm but stated that he is excited for the change to all men. “I feel like it was a long time coming,” he said. “I love having all the other athletes around all the time so we can all get excited for a big game or a BC win.”

Hardin stated, “The biggest issue is that the current residents of North lowers were not allowed to squat their rooms” (squatting is when a resident wants to and is allowed to keep their current room; they can enter room draw first and choose to remain in their current room rather than moving). “While this is certainly an inconvenience, we did try to provide some measure of recompense by allowing them to select a new room, not a double single in Stoddard or a single room anywhere on campus, before the open portion of room draw.”

## DID YOU KNOW?

Challacombe Hall is commonly referred to as ‘North’ because it used to be the northernmost residence hall on campus, before Jewell Hall’s construction in 1969.

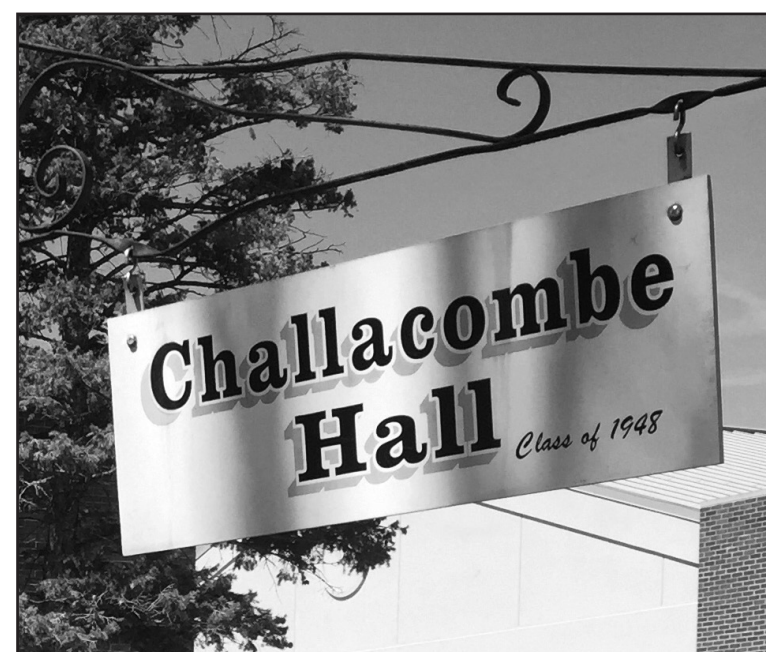


PHOTO BY MIRANDA CRITCHFIELD

While some students are sad to see the “Bunnies” leave North, others are happy to see the dorm revert to ‘boys only’



PHOTO BY DANI ANDERSON

Dr. Naomi Crumme welcomes high school students to the Graham Symposium in the Lumpkin Learning Commons

# Third Annual Graham Symposium

By Miranda Critchfield

The third annual Graham Symposium was held early this month and honored students from many departments and majors on campus. This event is named for Professor Roy Graham who served Blackburn in the English Department for 50 years. Graham attended the symposium.

Many awards were given out to current students including awards for the student newspaper, the Louise Allen Creative Writing contest and departmental excellence awards. The recipients were given the award and prize money and winners came from a variety of majors including

business management, computer science, education, communications, creative writing and English.

Sara Lewis entered pieces into the Louise Allen Creative Writing contest and was rewarded for her efforts, receiving first place in the fiction category and second place in poetry. She also received the excellence award in creative writing.

Dr. Karen Dillon stated, “The Graham Symposium is a lovely way to honor a former colleague, honor the good work our current students in the department are doing in their courses and promote the

department and Blackburn to high school students.” Dillon is a professor of English at Blackburn and stated that she ran a breakout session called “Flash Fiction: the Details Matter” which allowed high school students to practice the kind of analysis current students participate in during literature courses and allowed them to write their own flash fiction.

Department of English and Communications and Humanities Division Chair Dr. Naomi Crumme stated she and her colleagues love the event. “The idea is to foster scholarly activity and awareness within

the fields of English and Communications. This year, and for the foreseeable future, the primary audience will be high school students. One of the things we’re considering for next year is adding in a panel of presentations by current students so that high school students can get a sense of what kinds of work we do in college classes.” She stated that many prospective students enjoyed themselves and felt that the breakout sessions were fun and informative.

# SILVER LAKE COLLEGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

program and offer advice. Dr. Bray remembered a part of that advice was, “you have to have a faculty that is on-board. And I mean 100 percent, gung ho, wear a t-shirt about it everyday—otherwise—it doesn’t work.”

On May 22, 2015, Silver Lake College made the decision to begin operating as a work college at the start of the 2016-2017 academic year,

according to the Silver Lake College website. However, this initial change does not mean that Silver Lake is a work college. Colleges must operate as a work college for two years before applying for work college status. Silver Lake will be eligible to apply during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Upon receiving work college status, Silver Lake will have made two marks in

history; one, by establishing itself among the elite work-based higher learning institutions of the country, and two, by becoming the first Catholic work college in the U.S. While Silver Lake College anticipates the transition to a work-and-learn methodology, Blackburn looks to complete its 102nd year as a work college.

# We Have A Housing Situation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

can draw for these rooms. They rummage through a bowl, select a number between one and 100 and the student with the lowest number gets to go first. “Students are assigned a time based on their housing selection and corresponding number of semesters on campus in order to prevent people from camping out in order to be first in line or a stampede trying to get to the front of the housing line to select a single room,” Hardin said. “It’s just more orderly. Plus, it’s completely unbiased.”

Even though changes to the event have been made to accommodate students, not everyone winds up with the room they want. Freshman elementary education major Gariel Pierce reported that she was waitlisted for her first choice of room and after

being denied, she remained at room draw for her second choice. She was turned down again because she has attended Blackburn for only two semesters. When asked if room draw should be changed in some way to accommodate all students, she said, “I don’t believe it should be based on the number of semesters you’re here. I think it should be based on a first-come, first-serve basis.” She also related to the students who were displaced as a result of North Hall’s change to an all-male dorm and said, “Freshmen are basically displaced students too- they can’t go back to Jewell.”

Students who are waitlisted for single or double-single rooms do have an opportunity to figure out a housing situation. The second

day of room draw allows these students to either find a roommate or figure out a backup plan. However, if the type of rooms the students were originally seeking

become available, then they will be offered to those who are first on the list. Hardin mentioned that those who don’t like this process or want to offer changes to room draw

can either contact her, their Student Senate representative, a Residence Life staff member or anyone on Student Life Committee.



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Resident Director for Graham Hall Andrew Fox and Resident Director for Butler Hall Emily Bahr help students find a place in their dorms

# Empowering Through Imprisonment

By Jess Willard

Students, faculty, staff and community members gathered in Olin Lecture Hall at 7 p.m. on April 15. An excited air hung over the crowd as they waited to hear professional speaker Stacey Lannert share her experiences. This event was the first in the Kathleen J. Eberle Memorial Lecture Series in the Social Sciences. The series was funded by alumna Nancy Roberts (class of 1972) to honor the memory of her partner alumna Kathleen Eberle (class of 1972). Roberts’ donation will allow for a guest speaker to come to campus each year and lecture about a topic within the social sciences.

Provost Dr. John McClusky introduced Lannert to the audience; he outlined her story and described how she intended to share a message of forgiveness and love of life. After being handed the floor, Lannert spoke about sexual violence statistics. For example, she said that one in three women and one in four men in the U.S. have experienced sexual violence

at some point in their lifetime. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention elaborated on this statistic in “The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report.” They said that approximately 36 percent of women and 29 percent of men in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. She discussed how the attendees had the power to change this: “When we communicate, we create,” she said. Lannert acknowledged that empowering victims of sexual violence and asking them what we can do to help is taking steps in the right direction.

Lannert shared her story of living through sexual violence for 10 years. She discussed how she was afraid to talk to anyone about her experiences and despite showing warning signs, no one helped her out of her situation. At 18, Lannert was sentenced to life without parole in prison after murdering her abuser. She

was her father. In addition, the jury was told to disregard her 10 years of sexual abuse. However, Lannert was not bitter about her time in prison. She said, “We can be more than the mistake we made.”

Despite feeling safer behind bars, Lannert determined that she wanted more from life. With the help of a diligent public defender, she was granted clemency after spending 18 years in prison. After her release, Lannert found ways to help other sexual violence victims. She created a nonprofit organization called Healing Sisters (an online resource for sexual violence “victors” to empower each other), told her story through a book titled “Redemption” and is currently attending law school. She concluded her discussion by giving the audience resources to help sexual violence victims. Overall, she said that she hoped her story “challenges stereotypes, creates conversation and changes perceptions.”

Freshman psychology major Mia Edwards attended the event and was moved by Lannert’s message. “What most impacted me was the fact that no matter the situation, you can make the best out of it,” she said. “Never limit your capabilities because it can decrease the possibilities. And never think that a certain person can’t be a victim of rape because it can happen to anyone.”



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Stacey Lannert used her experiences to help empower sexual violence victims

# College Aged and Making Change

By Jess Willard

Blackburn students have a lot on their plates. Whether they are working the necessary 10 hours for their tuition job or completing assignments for class, there is usually one way they describe how they are doing: busy. Despite this, students still want to make an impact on the world around them. Circle K is doing exactly that with their two part anti-bullying event. The club set up an informational booth in the Demuzio Campus Center for a week and hosted a forum in an effort to raise awareness about the negative effects of bullying.

Freshman secondary social science education major Austin Ives said the founding members of the group had been contemplating the idea since the summer before the fall 2015 semester. Along with several club members, he helped run the informational booth, which was organized by freshman elementary education major Katelynn Nagelmler and freshman computer science major Olivia Price. “At the table, people in the Blackburn community were encouraged to sign one of our posters pledging to ‘help stop bullying’ and then they were asked if they’d like to take a friendship bracelet,” he said. “The club’s hope was that the act of signing the poster would have the signer spend at least some time reflecting and thinking of ways they can contribute to stopping bullying.” It was also his hope that students would remember their pledge when they looked at their bracelet. Over 100 people signed the club’s poster and visited their

booth. He added, “I think our table helped encourage conscious thought about how bullying affects people and also encouraged them to have conversations with others about how we all can work together to stop bullying.”

Freshman legal studies major Cheyenne Wilson helped organize the anti-bullying forum with the President of Circle K Fatima Noor. “[We] chose to pull Suzanne Krupica into the forum because she knows a great deal about careers and future choices. She is knowledgeable in what is possible. Erica Brown because she is the school chaplain and can give a caring voice. Finally, we chose Courtney Egner as the student voice -- the experience,” she said. The speakers discussed their thoughts on the causes of anti-bullying and preventative measures. A short video clip was also a part of the event’s repertoire. Wilson’s goal was to increase awareness about bullying for the entire Blackburn community.

In the initial plans for the event, the club wanted to visit other schools in the area. However, Ives said time constraints prevented this. Circle K is still confident that this event was effective. Freshman elementary education major Hannah Braman was on the planning committee for the informational booth. “Some people actually took time to read the poster board and learn about the statistics,” she said. “[They] were really shocked at how many suicides there are because of bullying.”

# Blackburn to Begin Student Ambassador Program

By Miranda Critchfield

Alumni and community relations is seen as one of the most important aspects of a strong college and President John Comerford and his wife Rachel know this as they were eager to suggest the return of the student ambassador program here at Blackburn. The previous student ambassador program ended in 2012 but is being resurrected and will start in the fall of 2016.

Comerford has asked for the assistance of Coordinator of Alumni Relations Dr. Mark Zobel in making this program possible. Faculty members have nominated students to be named ambassadors and students are now being asked to nominate themselves if they have the credentials.

The student ambassador program is a volunteer leadership opportunity coordinated with the office of the president. This is an opportunity for twelve to fifteen current students to act as liaisons between community members, alumni and others present at college events. The main duty of the ambassadors will be to talk to those attending events that are waiting to speak to the president. Zobel stated, "We want the students to be a visible presence to the alumni. The alumni enjoy seeing and hearing what is happening on campus and we want to make that more accessible to them."

To be a student ambassador you must be enrolled full time,

live on campus, be employed in the work program, maintain a 2.8 GPA, and not have been on either academic, social or work probation for at least two semesters prior to application or during time as ambassador. You must also have good communication skills, be willing to talk to alumni, government officials and others and be willing to travel (all expenses are paid by the college). Zobel stated, "Ambassadors are going to get to know a lot of people very quickly. It is an amazing networking opportunity. We are moving from the old regulations which only allowed presidential scholars to participate to allowing a very wide range of students

to take advantage of this great opportunity."

Both Zobel and Comerford are excited about this program and have high hopes for success. Comerford stated, "It is also going to be a great experience for the selected students. They'll get special access to our alumni and friend network, training on professional socializing and something great for their résumé." Zobel stated that he is working with Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning Suzanne Krupica to get into contact with alumni members in the corporate world to make strong connections with current students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

President Comerford is reviving the student ambassador program

## Title IX Concerns on Campus

By Katie Payne

At the beginning of the semester, flyers advertising the Title IX Grievance Flowchart began popping up all around campus, primarily in women's bathrooms. The original idea was that advertising and raising awareness for Title IX would affect rates of sexual misconduct on Blackburn campus.

Title IX is a federal program designed to prevent institutional discrimination based on sex. According to the U.S. Department of Education, areas included under Title IX are: recruitment, admissions and counseling; financial assistance; athletics; sex-based harassment; treatment of pregnant and parenting students; discipline; single-sex education and employment. Due to the wide variety of areas under Title IX, the Grievance Flowchart has many applications. According to Blackburn College's Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jarrod Gray, there has been an increase in sexual harassment reports.

Freshman Kara Aldridge-Folger found the flowchart useful for a personal issue: "I was assaulted earlier in the semester... I felt 'exposed,' and so I reported what happened." However, junior Sara Lewis says she was harassed "twice, in the form of catcalling. I didn't report it either time because I didn't know who my harassers were and I didn't have the time or resources to

figure it out. Also, I have heard reports from several other students whom I am close to who have experienced more severe forms of harassment that they have reported in the past three months."

Title IX Awareness programs are currently being used this month to raise awareness of what Title IX is as a program and what sexual harassment is. Aldridge-Folger stated, "I think we need to tell both men and women on campus what is appropriate behavior when trying to 'flirt' and what is not appropriate." Lewis concurred, stating, "There have been cases, in general, where people have not

realized that they were sexually harassed or were harassing others simply because of a lack of understanding [of] what constitutes. Hopefully, future cases will decrease as more people understand what sexual harassment is and that there are consequences for their actions."

Gray responded to questions regarding Title IX as well as concerns about increases in reporting: "As anticipated, whenever there is more awareness of the issues, there is more reporting of the issues from all members of the community," he said. "This is true for all campuses across the country right now."



PHOTO BY DANI ANDERSON

Some stars of "On the Town" (from left to right) Owen Meredith, Abigail Groves, Jessica Groves, Sawyer Burton holding Patterson Freese

## Review: On The Town

By Miranda Critchfield

Earlier this month Dr. Kate Roark directed her final show and took her last bow at Blackburn. The musical, which was "On the Town," is based in the 1940s. It follows three sailors and their experiences during a 24-hour leave from the ship. The ship is docked in no other place than New York, New York, so there are surprises and mischief throughout the entire show. Like most musicals, there is love, humor, drama and fun within the plot that make a great storyline and energetic show.

Roark stated, "All my shows at Blackburn have been ambitious in some way, and "On The Town" is ambitious in dance and music! This show has required two student choreographers- Ajay Minton and Lisa Knight- who have done a truly stellar job. And the student dancers- wow! Audiences are in for a rare treat in 'On The Town!' In addition to the highly-skilled dancers, we have amazing singers and really gifted comic actors in the show, plus brilliantly creative scenery, props and costumes from the talented theater tuition workers. Honestly, this show has everything and then

some. I couldn't be prouder."

The props and set pieces, constructed by the theater workers, added a whole different level to the show. There was a standing dinosaur skeleton designed and created by freshman Victoria Lee and intricate set pieces crafted and created by Teora Schumacher and Kirsten Montgomery. The costumes took you back in time to a more glamorous place in a city that has only grown and it was truly amazing. These were put together by Katherine Beeler and Lee.

The lead female character is Hildy Esterhazy, a taxi driver who is played by junior Abigail Groves. This was Groves' musical debut at Blackburn and she could not be more proud of everyone who helped pull off the show. "Hildy is such a fun part to play and I am so grateful that I was given this opportunity," said Groves. "It's such a great show and I was blessed with the greatest cast imaginable."

Roark added, "I'm proud of the work I've done with Blackburn students, alums, and the community. We've done miraculous things, and I'll miss many people here."

# Blackburn Science Day

By Veronica Milligan

This year's Science Day was on April 15 and 10 area schools attended. Science Day introduces high school students to Blackburn faculty and students in hopes that they will be encouraged to consider Blackburn as their future college. This year it was estimated that 240 students attended. Students take tests in biology, physics and chemistry so they can see how they are doing academically and compare themselves to

other students. They are also treated to lunch and various demonstrations from the faculty.

Faculty and their teaching assistants put on demonstrations for the students. Most of the demonstrations were the same as previous years with the addition of a dog training demonstration by biology professor Dr. Jonathan Micancin and his dog Black. Chemistry teaching assistants did demonstrations with

liquid nitrogen and physics and chemistry professor Dr. Karl Luth lay on a bed of nails. Biology professor Dr. David Reid showed students how to stain a slide and see the bacteria in their mouths. A potato gun was used to shoot a variety of fruits and vegetables by biology professor Dr. James Bray.

In the past, former biology professor Richard Crowell helped make Science Day all that it is, but this year a student coordinated the event. Senior biology major Kayla Liebman took charge and spent the entire semester planning out the day in great detail. She said, "There is a specific process that you have to follow." Liebman had notes from the previous years and used those to help get everything organized. Science faculty and students assisted her throughout the



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Photos from Science Day



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Photos from Science Day

process and the last few days were a group effort.

Chemistry professor Dr. Mark Armstrong said of the event, "[Science Day] is a classic wonderful example of how Blackburn works; the students do everything basically. There is very little faculty input... It's

just amazing. It makes me really proud of Blackburn [students] and how you just take it and run with it and make it a success every year." Armstrong has participated in Science Day for as long as it has been around, more than 25 years he estimated.

## Raining, Flooding, Snowstorms, Oh My!

By Shelby Rainford

Students on Blackburn College's campus have experienced some extreme weather in the past few months. From severe flooding to snowstorms, to sunny and warm, this weird weather raises the question: "Does global warming have a hand in the unusual weather and should Blackburn students be worried?"

Junior biochemistry major Veronica Milligan noted that while the world is naturally warming she believes that humans are drastically accelerating the rate of global warming through factors such as pollutants and over population. Milligan thinks that this accelerated warming should cause students to be concerned. The earth has been warming due to natural buildup of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This natural buildup, known as the greenhouse effect, regulates the planet's temperature and is necessary to life on earth. Carbon dioxide (CO2)

is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases and is largely produced by the animal kingdom, which includes humans. Therefore, as the animal and human populations rise so does the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere.

In addition to being the largest natural cause of global warming CO2 also became the largest human-based cause of global warming around the Industrial Revolution in the 1750s. According to the EPA, "the average person, through the natural process of breathing, produces approximately 2.3 pounds of carbon dioxide per day." In a world of over 7 billion people, the total population contributes 16.1 billion pounds of CO2 by simply breathing every day, warming the planet with each breath.

As a leader of Blackburn's Sustainability club, Milligan has done much research on global warming believes that it is a contributing factor to the extreme weather that Blackburn students have been experiencing, noting that global warming produces



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROY THEHUTCH

contrasting weather patterns which lead to El Nino conditions. According to a report by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) severe changes in weather are caused by the warmer water in the Pacific Ocean oscillating back and forth, much like the water in a bathtub. This causes North America to experience what is known as El Nino conditions which lead to milder winters and warmer than normal temperatures. The NWF notes that winters are also becoming shorter than they were 20 years ago, with spring arriving ten to 14 days earlier on average.

This warmer weather causes larger storms because warm air holds more water which can lead to more severe rain and snowstorms like the ones that Blackburn students have been experiencing this semester. One such storm in February was so severe that Blackburn lost power for several hours and classes were cancelled.

This type of weather is not unique to Illinois; states across the nation are experiencing extreme forms of weather, according to Milligan. Sophomore environmental studies major Sam Lomanto confirmed

Milligan's claim when he noted that his hometown in southern California has been experiencing a severe drought for some time. Both Milligan and Lomanto think that Blackburn students should be concerned with the state of the environment and should stop placing the responsibility of taking care of the earth on the next generation. "Our generation in the very near future will be dealing with the consequences of what our ancestors have done and what we're doing right now," Milligan stated.

# How to Write a Wicked Composition and Rock Your Performance

## Blackburn Radio Open mic night

By Eric Walsh

After one year of being on the air, the co-managers of Blackburn Radio and the Campus Activity Board (CAB) decided to hold a one year anniversary for the success of the Blackburn Radio at Blackburn College. The event was held earlier this month in the Demuzio Campus Center.



Zach Zurawski performed two songs including an instrumental he had composed

**Cesos!**

Did you know zombies speak Spanish?

Check out these cool current and upcoming classes:

Zombies, Ghosts, Witches and Monsters in Hispanic Literature  
 Rock and Dictatorship: Protest Music in Spanish  
 Contemporary Spanish and Latin American Film

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES**

By Jess Willard

Students from the college had the choice to perform an original piece of work and be recorded for the radio program or perform a cover of a piece of work that wasn't original and not be recorded for the radio program. This event was to inform more of the student body of the radio department and to show off the performers' talent. The sound system was set up by CAB while the co-managers were on the set to record students that performed original pieces of work.

When the announcement for Open Mic Night came out, I was excited to perform another rendition of musician Billy Idol's "Rebel Yell." Then, I actually read the flyer and saw the bold letters called for original work only. Whether you write slam poetry or comedic skits, producing your own work involves time and creativity. But writing your own song is another story entirely—especially if you're looking to accompany the music with lyrics. Here are some suggestions from myself and sophomore psychology major Robert Wingerter to get you headed in the right direction.

Make sure you have allotted enough time to put your song together. This depends entirely on your skillset. For those who are well-versed in their instrument of choice, it will take a shorter amount of time. Wingerter plays the guitar and sings. He said, "I usually write my songs in about 30 minutes to an hour. I just need the inspiration first, I can't just call on it whenever I want."

After you have determined that you can complete your song by the performance date, you need to delve into the creative process. Like Wingerter, you may need inspiration to write music. People vary in terms what inspires them. A couple of places to start may be looking back through old memories, going to a quiet place or considering what you feel strongly about. The goal of writing is to make your audience react to your song. Wingerter's writing process is different depending on whether he writes riffs or lyrics. "I'll usually just doodle around on the guitar for instrumental songs and set up



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Open Mic Night was cohosted by DJ Chaos (Deja Bell) and DJ Lumberjack (Eric Walsh)

a chord progression with my looper pedal (a tool that records short passages played on an instrument and plays them back in a repeating loop)," he said. "When I write a lyrical song I'll either have some lyrics ready or a melody I'd like to put lyrics to and try my best to finish it."

Writing is not an easy process but once it's completed, you need to practice until you feel comfortable performing. This can be the most difficult part about being a musician. Junior chemistry major Zach Zurawski and I figured this out almost immediately. Even though we wrote the song in a day, we practiced for four days during the week of Open Mic Night. I ended up rewriting the lyrics multiple times to make the song run smoother. Wingerter also agreed that this was one of the most difficult

parts of preparing. For the song "River" he performed with junior music major Emerald Martin, they "rehearsed on two or three occasions for about 10 to 20 minutes."

Once your song is written and you have practiced until you feel ready, make some time to relax before you hit the stage. The worst thing you can do is worry before you perform. Things won't always go according to plan but as long as you show the audience that you are having a good time, the show will be a success.

*N.B. The author of this article is the lead vocalist for The Eternity Slip and performed in Open Mic Night.*

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# Job Hunting: The Struggle is Real

By Miranda Critchfield

The stress of finding and landing a job after graduation can be an intense struggle. Graduating seniors around campus and around the U.S. are seeking employment, acceptance into graduate schools or attempting to find ways to not grow up. Joining "the real world" (no, not the television show) takes a toll on Blackburn students, too.

Senior human resource management major Abbey Jones has been on the job hunt for several months. She was recently offered a job at Karmak, located in Carlinville, in their training department. Jones stated, "I am so excited to start my career with Karmak. I searched for a job for months. I started to get really frustrated but I knew what I was capable of. I am so thankful for this opportunity."

Senior human resource management major Tess Layton also secured a job for after graduation. Layton said she believes she applied to over 75 jobs trying to find the right fit for her. "I got really frustrated after months of rejection, but I was so happy when Grimco called me for an interview." Grimco is located in Fenton, Missouri. Layton stated she felt confident after her interview for the Human Resource Coordinator position and hoped for the best. "When they called and offered me the position, I literally think my

jaw hit the floor," she said. "I am beyond excited to start after graduation."

Others have not been so lucky in their search. Senior Kristin Naples stated that she has applied to too many jobs to count. An accounting major, she said there have been a few places that were interested in her, but there have been no solid offers yet. "I am confident that I can find a job, I just get frustrated after applying and applying and having no result to show from it," she said. "I have been constantly told that I'm a good fit, but they want to immediately hire someone."

Director of Career Services and Experiential Learning Suzanne Krupica stated, "Career Services is available and willing to help students with all aspects of their career and career search. We have many resources in our office to assist students with their job search." Krupica went on to list many tools available in her office including a career portal that connects students looking for employment to jobs based on their majors, opportunities for building professional networks and information about résumés. "The job search can be very frustrating," she added. "Set aside time every day to exercise, plan healthy meals and make time to visit with someone who can offer support...Career Services can help with that too!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA LELSE

This sign can bring hope or fear to those in the midst of their job search

# Earthquaaake

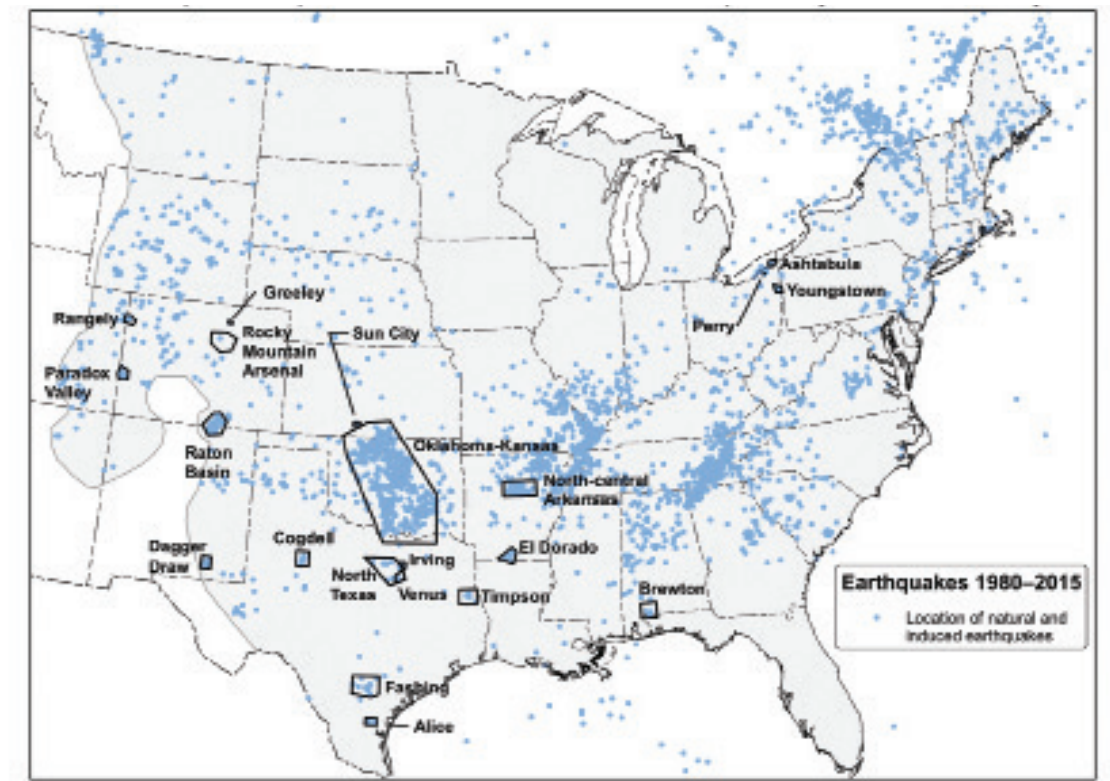


PHOTO BY USGS WEBSITE

USGS Map of Earthquakes since 1980 and recent areas impacted by induced seismicity

By Veronica Milligan

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), due to manmade activities related to oil and gas production, Oklahoma and surrounding areas are likely to experience earthquakes as often as California. These earthquakes are also likely to be of similar magnitudes. Six states have been added to the USGS's earthquake map: Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Arkansas.

Chief of the USGS National Seismic Hazard Mapping Project Mark Peterson said in a statement on the USGS website, "In the past five years, the USGS has documented high shaking and damage in areas of these six states, mostly from induced earthquakes." Induced earthquakes are caused by wastewater disposal, enhanced oil recovery and to a lesser extent, hydraulic fracturing. All of these involve fluid injection into the ground that can cause

earthquakes in different ways.

The different methods all change the stress conditions on the fault and lead to failure which induces an earthquake. This is concerning because earthquakes can do a lot of damage. Junior communications major Parker Ramaker has lived in Rancho Cucamonga, California, for the past 10 years and has experienced several earthquakes. He said, "What scares me is when it starts you have no idea how big it's going to be. It could be a life changer." The largest induced earthquake was in Prague, Oklahoma, in 2011 and had a 5.6 magnitude.

Biology professor Dr. Jonathan Micancin said, "The chance of damaging earthquakes has gone up in extreme Southern Illinois." According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources there are 10,500 Class II injection wells in the state. These wells are where fluids associated with oil

and gas production are injected back into the ground. This process can also have harmful effects on the environment in other ways too, like polluting water sources. Micancin added, "As an environmentalist I was immediately disappointed and concerned when fracking became more popular and they passed a rule that made waste water disposal really easy."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides a list of guidelines for staying safe during an earthquake. Some of the suggestions include covering your head and neck to protect yourself from falling debris, drop to the ground, do not get into a doorway, and hold onto a sturdy covering so you can move with it until the shaking stops. The website also provides guidelines for several situations where you might experience an earthquake like while in a bed, outside or in a vehicle.

**116 S. PLUM, CARLINVILLE, IL 62626**

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# The Cult Classic VS. The Box Office Topper: The Battle within the “Mad Max” Franchise

By Jess Willard

Best Costume Design, Best Film Editing and Best Production Design were only three of six awards “Mad Max: Fury Road” won at the 2016 Oscars. The film made \$153.6 million at the domestic box office, \$378.4 million worldwide and is the highest grossing movie in the “Mad Max” franchise. In comparison, the original “Mad Max” only made \$28.3 million at the domestic box office with an adjustment for ticket price inflation. Despite having watched the original trilogy and being a fan of the rugged harshness featured within the film series, “Mad Max: Fury Road” was a magnificent addition to the collection.

When senior biology major Emily Hausman initially watched “Mad Max: Fury Road,” she was shocked by the difference between it and the rest of the franchise. “When I first started watching the new ‘Mad Max,’ I kept thinking, ‘What the hell is going on?’” she said. “However there was a point where I realized that Toecutter (Hugh Keays-Byrne) from the original ‘Mad

Max’ was playing Immortan Joe. That was kind of neat.” Hausman determined that she preferred the trilogy to the new movie. According to her, the new film was okay but it didn’t seem like a “Mad Max” movie.

Hausman is right- the differences between the films are stark. The original series told the story of Max Rockatansky (portrayed by actor Mel Gibson), a revenge-driven ex-police officer who would do whatever it took to further his own goals. “Mad Max: Fury Road” doesn’t further Rockatansky’s story; it focuses on renegade truck driver Imperator Furiosa. At first, this was a confusing change but it turned out to be very enjoyable. Viewers of the original trilogy know Rockatansky’s story. It was time for someone else to have their tale spun.

Senior communications major Courtney Egner was not a fan of the earlier “Mad Max” movies. In fact, she didn’t initially plan on seeing the new movie until it was labeled “feminist propaganda”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Director George Miller wanted to use as little special effects as possible throughout the movie

by men’s rights activist blog Return of Kings. “I completely dismissed it until I saw that and then I was like, ‘Well if it’s feminist propaganda, I have to see this,’” she said. “But visually, the movie was incredible. The use of color, special effects and really extreme settings really made

the film remarkable.” She also enjoyed the storyline and the characters- particularly Furiosa, who Egner considered the new Mad Max.

Although the original trilogy was filled with high-octane thrills, the new film had more substance. It wasn’t so much the special effects that

left a lasting impact as it was the storyline. “Mad Max: Fury Road” placed an emphasis on a society’s need for resources and honed in on the characters’ drive to survive. Ultimately, this made the post-apocalyptic society idea more tangible.

# Game of Thrones: Season 6 Fan Theories

By Veronica Milligan

The long-awaited season six premiere of “Game of Thrones” airs April 24 on the Home Box Office (HBO) television network. The show is based on the “Song of Ice and Fire” series by George R.R. Martin. This season is particularly unique because several of the plotlines in the show are now at the same place as the most recent book, “A Dance with Dragons.” The next novel, “The Winds of Winter” isn’t set to be published until 2017 so fans are going to see the continuation of character plots before they get to read them. There are several theories surrounding the upcoming plots of many of these characters.

Bran Stark, a young boy who has mysterious powers, was last seen in season four and returns in season six. In the show’s trailer we see him with the white walker Night King. There is a lot of speculation about what this means and what Bran’s future role will be. Some have suggested he will revive Jon Snow, his older half-brother, or warg into him (take over his body) and play a role that way. Others think he might be the one to reveal

that Snow is actually the son of deceased Prince Rhaegar Targaryen. Another theory is that he will somehow assist the white walkers in their mysterious mission.

Jon Snow’s final scene in season five was shocking and led to many theories on his future. In the last episode he was left to die after having been stabbed several times by his fellow men of the Night’s Watch. Senior Spanish major Jordan GeRue believes that Snow will be resurrected by the Lady Melisandre and may take his place as a dragon rider by Daenerys Targaryen’s side. Professor of English Dr. Karen Dillon also believes that Lady Melisandre will resurrect Jon Snow. Other theories suggest that he will rise as a white walker and maybe lead their army.

Rickon Stark was last seen heading south with the woman Osha. It is likely that he too will appear in season six. There aren’t many clues about where Rickon and Osha are headed but one strong possibility is that they have headed to The Neck. The Neck is the home of the Crannogmen where Jojen and Meera Reed are from.

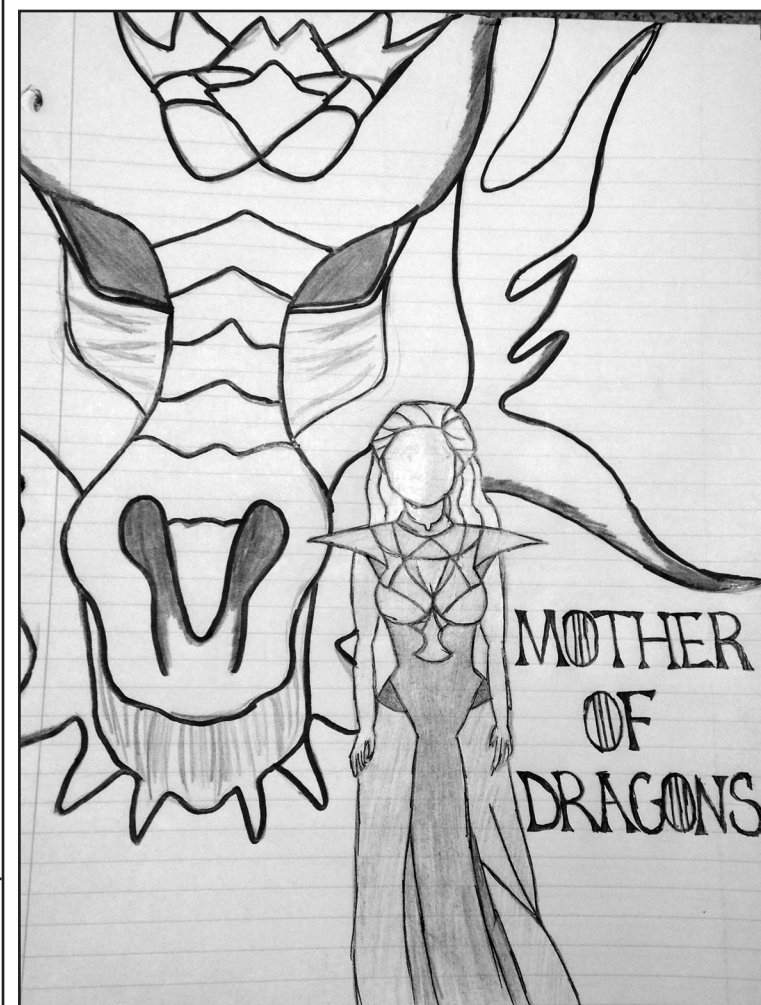
Their father Howland Reed was Ned Stark’s best friend. Dillon said of him, “I think he’s training Rickon.”

Daenerys Targaryen was left surrounded by a Dothraki army at the end of season five. The big question is whether or not she will be their prisoner or become their leader and add to her army. GeRue said, “Her missing dragons will come out of nowhere and burn the place up, and she’ll learn how to be a dragon rider.” If Daenerys does become a dragon rider, legend has it that she will also have two others to ride with her. GeRue predicts that the other riders will be Jon Snow and Tyrion Lannister.

With or without a Dothraki army, fans will be interested to see if she returns to the city of Meereen and what state she will find it in.

## FUN FACT:

“Game of Thrones” is credited with inventing the phrase “sexposition,” which basically means revealing important plot points of a story while tons of gratuitous sex is happening.



FAN ART BY JESSICA MILLIGAN

# Should the Government Trust In God?

By Veronica Milligan

The constitution states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” This phrase, while not the exact words “the separation of church and state” provides that meaning in two ways. Firstly, it

prevents the government from controlling religious beliefs. Secondly, it also prevents the government from promoting belief in any particular god or gods or religious doctrine.

Despite these constitutional restrictions, religion is still obviously

present in our government. A fine example is the statement “In God we trust” on our money. According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the phrase first appeared on the 1864 two-cent coin. It was incrementally added to other coins and was first added to

paper money in 1957. On July 30, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved a law passed by the 84th Congress declaring “In God we trust” as the official motto of the U.S.

This clearly violates the First Amendment. By creating an official motto of the U.S. that unites us under one “God”, Congress and the president had made a law “respecting an establishment of religion.” They promote Christianity and disrespect other religions that are practiced in this country. According to the Pew Research Center, as of 2014 the U.S. population is about 1.9 percent Jewish, 0.9 percent Muslim, 0.7 percent Buddhist and 22.8 percent not affiliated with religion (this includes Atheists, Agnostics and others). In their fear of communism (in 1956) they wanted to separate the U.S. from the Soviet Union, but instead they promoted hate and distrust.

The U.S. then and now is certainly ruled by Christianity. I do not believe it is wrong to worship a single God or to

be a Christian. On the other hand, I do believe it is wrong for the government to promote Christianity above all other religions and step on the rights of other religions. It is the responsibility of all branches of government to remain neutral and unbiased.

Unfortunately, we see God on our money, in our schools and in our presidential candidates. No president would openly admit to being anything but Christian if they wanted to be elected. Schools are required to encourage the Pledge of Allegiance and evolution is a taboo topic. Christians are entitled to private schools but imagine the reaction to a school for Atheists or Buddhists.

The interference of religion in government serves only to promote fear, hate and distrust of other religions or those without a religion. In order to promote peace and unity, the word “God” should be removed from all government.



PHOTO BY VERONICA MILLIGAN

Whose God are we trusting and does this really unite everyone?

# Calling for a World-Wide Disconnect

By Jess Willard

If the terms Facebook, Twitter or texting immediately make you want to grab your phone and check for notifications, then you aren’t alone. Cellular devices provide great opportunities for networking and learning about other cultures. But they also cause a massive problem: a disconnect from the people around us. Phones have essentially become a third appendage for many people. So how do we ditch the digital world and return to reality?

Professor of marketing and business management Dr. Christina McCurley starts in the classroom. Upon entering, students have to place their phones at the front of the class. Out of everything else she’s tried, McCurley believes this is the most effective way to keep students off their phones. However, sophomore biology major Laurel Petri thinks a different method would be better. “A lot of people get nervous leaving their phone up on desk because there’s been instances where someone will grab someone else’s phone without looking, thinking that’s their phone,” she said. Biology and chemistry professor Dr. David Reid allows his students to utilize their phones for class such as searching certain vocabulary terms. Based on her experiences in both classrooms, Petri thinks Reid has the best approach. “When

we have to Google stuff, it allows us to use our own resources,” she said.

While looking at the phone as a tool may encourage students to use phones to enhance their learning experience, McCurley has the right idea. Having the phone right in front of you may make it too difficult to focus. With every notification, we dive further into our digital lives and miss the learning opportunities right in front of us. Petri’s concern about stealing phones is understandable but how often does this actually occur? As college students, our education should be more important than a technological device- especially when so much money is coming out of our pockets. In addition, if we are making it a habit to be distracted in class, then imagine what we look like outside of class.

We are buried in our phones. It doesn’t matter if we’re with or without friends and it’s not just college students. There are middle-aged adults wrapped up in “Candy Crush Saga” or perpetually answering emails and text messages. This problem is bigger than just getting students off them in class. It extends to family gatherings and date nights. It’s all ages. It’s all the time. We need to recognize that we have a problem and it needs

to be fixed. Maybe phone policies don’t just belong in the classroom. Junior communications major Robert Fagg found a solution that works for his family.

When Fagg’s family goes out to dinner, sometimes they will put their phones in the center of the table. The first person to grab their phone has to pay for dinner. He said it tests their ability to disconnect from the digital realm and be present. However, if there

are extraneous circumstances such as an emergency with another family member, then they are allowed to use their phones. “Even at home my parents don’t want me and my sister on our phones or on our iPods during dinner just so it’s ‘dinner time with the family,’” he said. The policy was implemented about four years ago when Fagg started dating. He started sending around 13,000 texts per month. That’s approximately 433 text

messages per day. He said, “So my mom was cutting me off and we saw a significant cut back from the 12 to 13,000 to 7,000.”

Overall, having advanced technology is not a bad thing. Being able to receive information at the click of a button is amazing. The problem is when technology takes over and prevents real interaction. It may be time for everyone to start implementing their own phone policy.

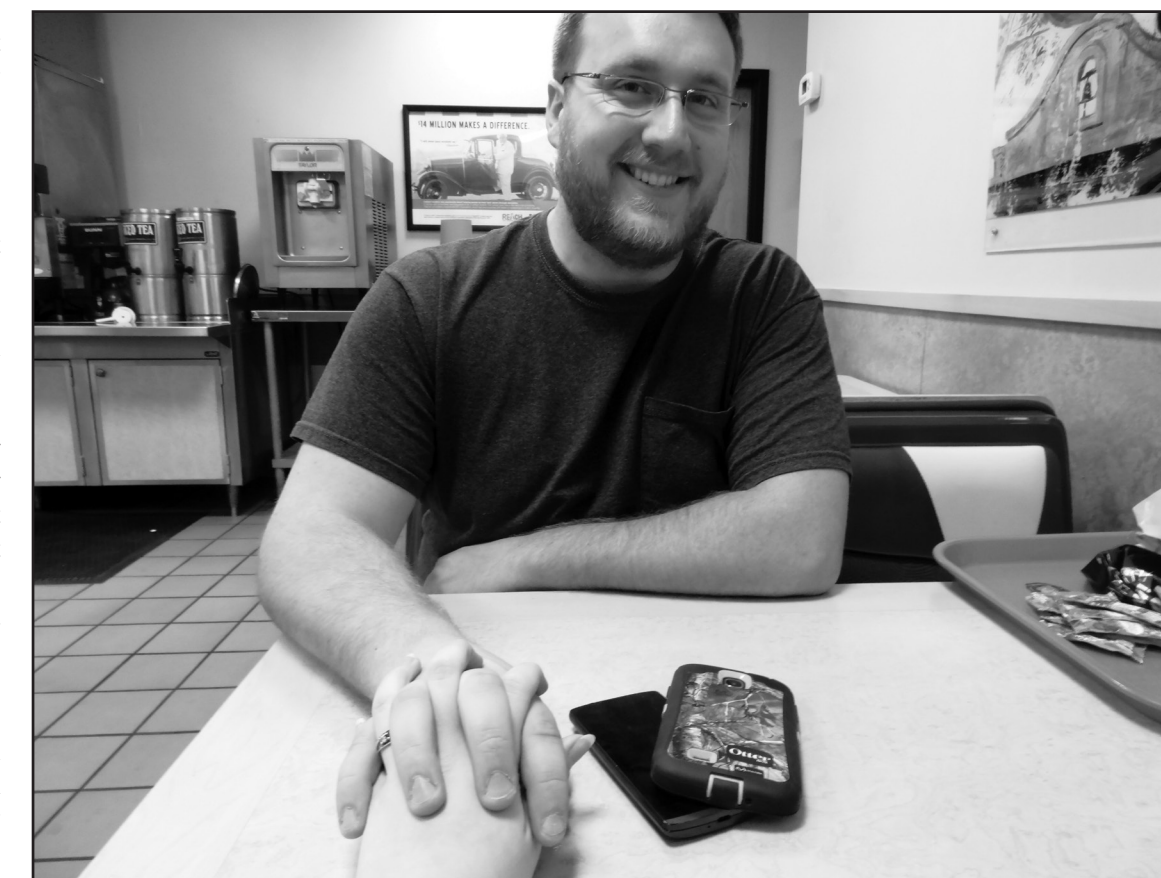


PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Detaching from technology can improve connections with actual human beings

# The 49th Hour

By Sarah Collman

The 'Burnian was my first and last job at Blackburn, with virtually nothing else in-between. Like so many before me and so many after, being a general reporter was nothing like I'd expected. In fact, the entire student newspaper scene was nothing like I'd expected and beyond that, college was nothing like I'd expected. Being in over my head seemed to be an understatement, thrown off was only one portion of how I felt and for the first time in my life, I felt intellectually stimulated and challenged.

Before entering the second semester of senior year, I was aggressively advised by a friend, a college graduate, to really enjoy the semester. He expressed his woes for neglecting to enjoy his last semester of school, and suggested that I try to soak up the college experience before graduation. Unfortunately, it was one piece of advice that I couldn't take for a variety of reasons, but mainly because I felt I did not have the time.

One of the most major life lessons that I've learned through my involvement with The 'Burnian, NSAC, senior seminar, etc., is that deadlines don't care about your happiness or your health. Sometimes to get things done, and more importantly to get them done correctly, sacrifices need to be made. Since January, I have sacrificed one

or two full nights of sleep each week. On two separate occasions I pulled back-to-back all-nighters, and it wasn't until later after catching up on sleep that I realized the other lessons these all-nighters taught me.

1. Deadlines don't care about your happiness or your health, but oftentimes people do. The biggest error I made when I entered college was entering with the belief that I had to do everything all by myself. One of the best things about college, and definitely about Blackburn in particular, is how many people are willing to help you if you ask for it. Make sure you speak up.

2. Being your own harshest critic is both a blessing and a curse. If you are anything like me, then you hold yourself to an incredibly (sometimes impossibly) high caliber... in almost all areas of life. For coursework, this means spending an unnecessary amount of time on each assignment trying to make it as perfect as possible. Sometimes students forget that in most cases the only ones who are going to see the assignments are the professors--do good enough to get the grade you want and then stop working. It's not worth the extra headache and losing even more time and effort on something that ultimately has zero impact on your life.

3. No one can tell you how

you did, do or will feel. I am pleading with all professors, alumni and other college graduates out there, please stop telling us that we are going to miss this. Stop telling us that these are the best years of our lives. Stop telling us that we will regret not taking the time to enjoy our last semesters. Pulling back-to-back all-nighters is not easy or enjoyable, but after 48 hours of being awake it became very clear that I will not miss this semester of college. Maybe each and every student who graduates from Blackburn will one day realize that they do miss college, but also maybe not. Let us figure that out for ourselves.

Four years ago I joined the newspaper as a general reporter. The moment this issue hits stands, my reign as editor-in-chief will officially be over. It's been four years of writing, four years of editing and proofing, four years of design, headlines, photos, advertising and relentlessly hard work. We aren't professional journalists, but we're doing the best we can. Leading this team has been one of the most difficult and most fulfilling things I've done on this campus, so I'm glad to know that I'm leaving the paper in hands that are even more capable than my own. I can't wait to see what happens next.



PHOTO BY NATASHA CASEY

'Burnian staff members Jess Willard, Miranda Critchfield, Sarah Collman, Jordyn Smith, Brendan Riley Lersch, Bryan Bethel and Noah Daum gathered for the annual Illinois Collegiate Press Association conference in Chicago

## Free the Tampons - Wait, What Tampons?



PHOTO COURTESY OF VINNIE LAURIA

By Allison Matt

"Free the Tampons" is a national campaign that started in 2013 by creator Nancy Kramer to bring awareness to public restrooms and its audience that "not all bathrooms are created equal. All public bathrooms provide free toilet paper, soap, and even seat covers--but tampons? That's another story." Harris Interactive poll done by Kramer had women across the U.S. describe their menstrual experiences. The results found that 78 percent of women will resort to making their own pads out of toilet paper by rolling it up around their hand since they don't have money to buy a tampon from the dispenser or because the bathroom does not have one at all.

Sophomore biology major Laurel Petri said, "it is necessary to provide free tampons/pads in all women's bathrooms and unexpectedly having my period does not affect my daily schedule when I am on my period unless I start earlier than usual and am not prepared for it." More than 86 percent of U.S. women including Petri by age 18 report that they've started their period unexpectedly in public without the supplies they need. Petri is also a Resident Assistant in the all girl dorm Allison-Jones Hall and noticed that there are no tampons or pads provided in bathrooms. "I have not had any of my residents come to me for pads or tampons, but I do believe this is because

Resident Assistants do not handout them out like we do condoms," she said. A survey of bathrooms was carried out earlier this semester and found that out of 33 bathrooms on the Blackburn campus two had tampon dispensers.

As Blackburn does not provide dispensers in each women's restroom on campus, female students must resort to buying their own. Most students at Blackburn will buy their products at the nearby Walmart. "Tampons and pads are both extremely expensive and that it is hard to fit in the budget," said Petri. Walmart sells a pack of 36 count tampons for \$12.96 and a 32 count pads for \$6.99. This is an added expense for women that men do not have to worry about. Freshman biology major, Elisabeth Johnston, said that "tampons are very expensive and when I have to buy extra just so I don't run out it burns a hole in my pocket." Johnston is also a first year softball player. Johnston said that she has to plan out her period when it comes to game days and has to pack tampons in her bag. Johnston believes that "it would be helpful to not just athletes but every girl if we didn't have to pay because we already pay so much already." You can join the "Free the Tampons Campaign" by visiting their website at freethetampons.org by joining the conversation, writing your story, or giving to the foundation.

# HIV Dropped from Top 10 Lists

By Veronica Milligan

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is no longer one of the top ten leading causes of death in the world or the U.S. Neither the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) has HIV on their "top ten" lists. However, HIV still affects millions of people worldwide and about 1.2 million in the U.S. According to the CDC, one in eight people don't know that they are infected.

HIV is a retrovirus that attacks the cells of the immune system, specifically CD4 cells (white blood cells that play a major role in the body's defense). This attack prevents

the entire immune system from recognizing and fighting off the virus, making it especially harmful. Over time the immune system weakens and becomes susceptible to disease and infection. In its final stage HIV leads to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). There is currently no cure for either, but there are medications that suppress the viral count and prolong life.

According to the CDC, scientists think that HIV was transmitted to humans from chimpanzees as far back as the 1800s. This would have happened when people ate chimpanzee meat and came into contact with their infected

blood. Over time the virus spread across Africa and then to other countries around the world.

The only way to confirm the virus is by being tested. There are three stages to the disease. The first is called Acute HIV Infection and occurs two to four weeks after infection. The person may experience flu-like symptoms. The next stage is called Clinical Latency and may last for decades, especially if the person is taking the medicines mentioned above. There are usually few symptoms but as the immune system progressively declines, the infected person may become

sick increasingly often. Stage three is AIDS and it is officially termed this when the person's CD4 cell count drops below 200 cells/mm. The CDC reports that AIDS symptoms include fever, chills, sweating, swollen lymph glands, weakness and weight loss.

HIV can be spread through contact with bodily fluids including breast milk, blood, semen and vaginal secretions. However, it cannot be spread through day-to-day contact like hugging, kissing or shaking hands. The WHO suggests the following prevention methods: male and female condom use, getting tested if you think you may have been exposed

to any risk factors, voluntary medical male circumcision and antiretroviral medication use.

A campus club, Spectrum, had the intention to hold free HIV testing on campus, however, they were unable to do so this year due to an unreliable health department contact. Current president of Spectrum and senior communications major Courtney Egner is encouraging the other members of the group to make another attempt for HIV testing on campus next year.

# Dorm Room Recipes

By Katie Payne



PHOTO BY KATIE PAYNE

## Microwave Buffalo Chicken Dip

You will need:  
1 package cream cheese  
1 can chicken breast, drained  
1 cup mozzarella cheese  
¼ cup hot sauce (or to taste)  
¼ cup ranch dressing (or to taste)

Put the cream cheese in a microwave-safe dish. Microwave for 1 minute,

until the cream cheese has begun to soften. Add the drained can of chicken, the mozzarella cheese, the hot sauce, and the ranch dressing. Mix well. Microwave for 2 more minutes. Mix well.

Serve hot or cold. Good on sandwiches, with tortilla chips and on saltine crackers.

## Slow Cooker Vegetarian Chili

You will need:  
Non-stick cooking spray  
1 can chili beans (no meat) (any brand)  
1 can light red kidney beans\*  
1 can dark red kidney beans\*  
1 can black beans\*  
1 can cannellini beans\*  
1 can sweet corn  
1 can diced tomatoes with green chiles (any brand)

Water  
Dried chopped onions  
Chili Powder  
Cajun Seasoning  
Greek Seasoning  
Salt and Pepper

\*I know this list of ingredients looks intimidating. I promise, it's not bad. To make it less scary, think of it like this: you need about 5 cans of beans. The beans listed are suggestions to give variety to your chili; however, if you prefer putting all kidney beans in there, you can do that! If you put all black beans in there, it's a black bean chili. If you put all cannellini beans in there, it's a white bean chili. The beauty of cooking is that it's all up to you and what sounds good to you.

Steps:  
Spray the inside of your slow cooker with the non-stick cooking spray. Trust



PHOTO BY KATIE PAYNE

me, this will make cleaning up later so much easier. Drain your beans (EXCEPT THE CHILI BEANS) of their liquids. This is optional, but I always do it because the liquids can change the taste of some of the spices later. You don't want to drain the chili beans, however; they're made with chili powder and will give a base to your sauce. Put all beans in the slow cooker. Drain the corn and add corn. Add the tomatoes - don't drain them, they have a tomato juice in them that will add flavor. Add enough water to see the liquid through the beans. This will probably be about ½ to 1 cup of water. Add a scant palmful (about 2 teaspoons) of the dried

onions - more if you like onions, a little less if you don't. You just need to add a little bit of onions, because onions enhance the flavor of tomatoes and chili powder. Add 1-2 heaping palmfuls of the chili powder (2-4 tablespoons) to the slow cooker. Mix thoroughly. Add Cajun seasoning, Greek seasoning, and salt and pepper to taste.

Set on low for 3-6 hours. Everything in the chili is pre-cooked and won't harm you if somehow undercooked; you simply want the soup to get hot.

Serve warm. Suggested toppings: shredded cheese, diced onions, corn chips, oyster crackers and sour cream.

## THE BURNIAN

### EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Sarah Collman  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Jordyn Smith  
DESIGN & LAYOUT EDITOR: Noah Daum  
ASSISTANT DESIGN & LAYOUT: Bryan Bethel  
ASSISTANT DESIGN & LAYOUT: Alexis Dick  
FACULTY ADVISOR/EDITOR: Dr. Natasha Casey  
COPY EDITOR: Shelby Rainford

PUBLISHER: Edwardsville Intelligencer

### STAFF WRITERS

Bryan Bethel  
Miranda Critchfield  
Jordyn Smith  
Eric Walsh  
Jess Willard  
Michael Troutt

### FEATURED WRITERS

Allison Matt  
Shelby Rainford  
Veronica Milligan  
Katie Payne

### 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.

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## Mokriakow Becomes All-Time RBI Leader

Courtesy of Blackburn College Sports Information Office

It was a beautiful day for baseball on Saturday afternoon (March 26). With sunny skies and a slight breeze blowing out to dead center, conditions were perfect for a non-conference matchup between Blackburn College and Northland College. Northland escaped the snowy conditions of northern Wisconsin and traveled nine hours for a double header.

In the opening game, the Beavers found themselves behind early after Northland scored two runs in the top half of the first inning. Northland would extend their lead to 4-0 in the following inning off of two singles that followed two stolen bases.

But Blackburn would chip into the lead in the bottom of the second when Sophomore Walter Jarvis singled on a line drive to center that would score senior Aaron Moody. Later on in the inning, Brock Hill scored on a passed ball.

Then in the fifth inning, the Beavers took the lead when they loaded the bases with nobody out. Then, senior Matt Mokriakow singled to center field to score two runs. The two RBI's made Mokriakow Blackburn College's all-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE

time leader in RBI's. The Beavers capped off the inning with a two-run single from junior Joey Szerletich.

Blackburn was then down to needing only three outs to seal game one as they entered the top of the seventh. After a leadoff double, Northland grounded out to move the runner to third, who eventually scored on an error. Now with the tying run on first, the pressure raised on Blackburn. Sophomore reliever Dillon Hensley answered the pressure by inducing the game ending double play, giving the Beavers game one 6-5.

Tyler Morgan picked up the win for Blackburn after tossing six innings giving up one earned run on seven hits. Leading hitters for Blackburn were Mokriakow who went 1-4 with two RBI's and Szerletich who was 1-2 with two RBI's.

## Turning a Lifelong Love into a Career

By Jess Willard

Many people can look back to their childhood years and think of the first sport they played. Whether it was batting in tee ball or kicking a soccer ball across the field, those memories take us back to a time that was much easier. Senior sports management major Lauren Rhodes has played softball ever since she can remember. Growing up with a dad who played men's fastpitch softball helped shape her love for the sport. She said, "My dad put a bat in my hand as soon as I could hold it." Rhodes believes watching her dad play when she was young gave her an advantage and inspired her drive.

Rhodes is currently a pitcher and infielder for Blackburn's women's softball team. One of her favorite parts about playing for the Beavers is the closeness between the players. Senior infielder Abigail Sutton has been on the team with Rhodes for four years. Sutton enjoys playing with her because she believes Rhodes gives her all. "As a third baseman she is fearless. As a pitcher she controls the game. When pitchers are working hard on the mound, fielders want to give everything they have

to back up the pitcher and that's the level of respect I have for Lauren," she said.

When asked what the most difficult part of softball was, Rhodes said it was the toll on the body. During her sophomore year of high school, she tore her ACL. The injury typically requires nine months to a year of recovery time but she jumped back into the game within five months. She said, "I saw a doctor and he said, 'Well, you can go get surgery or you can play.' And I decided to suck it up and just deal with it." Although the wound caused a drop in her numbers, she persevered. Injury struck again before Rhodes' third season at Blackburn. "Prior to that season I had been working out, working my hardest to get back in shape. That was at the best I could be. And at the beginning of the season, before we even started games, I tore my labrum," she said. Rhodes was still on the team, but she couldn't play. It was one of the biggest challenges she had ever faced.

Throughout the 2015 season, Rhodes found a way to stay involved with the team: coaching. Sutton felt a lot of respect for her continued support of



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN RHODES

the team. Rhodes was at every practice and game. "Lauren didn't have to do what she did while she was injured and I'm not sure how many people would dedicate themselves to a team the way she did," she said. The experience inspired Rhodes to consider coaching as a career. She had the opportunity to help run practices and see what coaches go through. "It allowed me to see a different side of the game," she said. "I definitely want to coach and help as many people as I can with the game of softball."

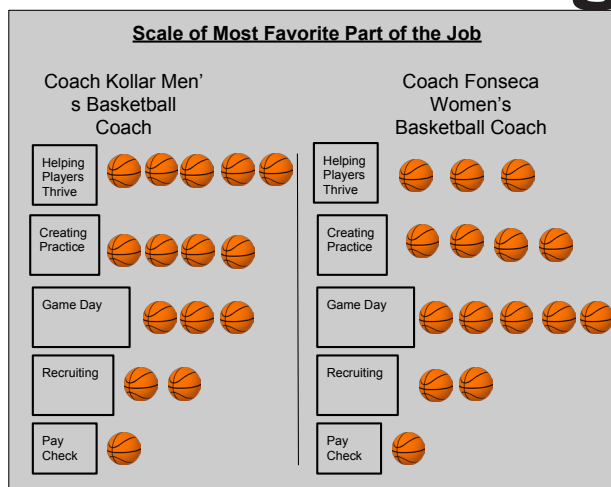
The spring 2016 season has begun and Rhodes is back on the field. Sutton has noticed her improvements. "Her level of play is like she has never missed a single game. I know I'm excited to have her back," she said. However, Rhodes doesn't let her drive stop there. She was also accepted into a graduate program for kinesiology with an emphasis in sports management through the University of Central Missouri.

## Requirements of Recruiting for Beaver Basketball

By Allison Matt

During playing season, a few parts of a coach's job includes game day preparation, planning practices, enhancing the player's athletic performance, budgeting, and being a motivator. However, one part of their job that happens all year long is recruiting.

At Blackburn College, Head Coach of men's basketball Coach Kollar, said that "recruiting happens all year and is on a rotation cycle". Kollar is already recruiting high school students that are in their junior year as well as with high school seniors for next year's roster. He is hoping to bring in a mix of 8 to 10 freshmen and transfer students to have an ideal roster of 20-22 players. Similarly, women's basketball Head Coach Fonseca has also been recruiting year round at high school games and tournaments across the nation. Fonseca



INFOGRAPHIC BY OF ALLISON MATT

stated that is important to know, "there are rules of contact and seeing them on days of completion and tournaments. You are supposed to wait until the days game is over or the entire tournament is over".

Coach Fonseca has traveled all over, Illinois, California, Missouri, Indiana and Arizona to watch prospective Blackburn players. Fonseca looks for a student-athlete that is "a tough kid who want to win

and are competitive. I want them to have a high basketball IQ. I need them to be able to have more than a basic fundamentals of basketball. They need to want to be a part of something special". If Coach Fonseca cannot make it to the game, she watches game clips and highlight films that are sent in by the student-athlete or has her assistants Coach Tena Krause and junior sports management student Chris O'Conner help her.

Similarly Kollar has traveled to Florida, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa and Chicago this year. Kollar stated, "it is not uncommon for me and my assistant to travel four hours away after practice and come back that same night". Assistant Coach Zack Jadzack helps Kollar with recruiting and they both look for players that will "fit the team, have character and respond in a good way after a wrong play". Kollar also uses a recruiting website called National Collegiate Scouting Association that matches student-athletes to a college using a free profile page. Coach Kollar can scout students by looking at their profile online. He also receives phone calls from high school and traveling coaches who have player recommendations.

Blackburn College helps pay for the traveling expenses of both basketball coaches. Kollar stated that it "comes

from his recruiting budget but when I traveled to Florida I paid for the plane ticket." Coach Fonseca said "I do have to put the wear and tear on my car which is not the best. I also get reimbursed for my meals. I have to shell out the money first which sometime hurts my budget".

Fonseca noted ultimately, "It is all about making a connection with the player that you are recruiting and making them feel important. I am only recruiting players that I feel can make an impact on our team next year".

If you are interested in playing for either the men's basketball team or women's basketball team, Coach Kollar and Coach Fonseca both accept walk-ons as well. If interested, please email them at [steve.kollar@blackburn.edu](mailto:steve.kollar@blackburn.edu) or [katie.fonseca@blackburn.edu](mailto:katie.fonseca@blackburn.edu).