



THE 'BURNIAN

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PHOTO BY AARON SZERLETICH

NEW PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED

by Clayt Scheller and Katie Ward

As next year approaches, Blackburn College has been buzzing with anticipation over having a new president. While deeply grateful for President Mim Pride's 22 years of service, the college community was eager to see the new president announced last Friday.

After the candidates visited, members of the Presidential Search Committee and the Board of Trustees evaluated online survey responses for each candidate.

The committee met on Monday, November 19. There they weighed all the survey responses and voted.

Members of the committee and the Board of Trustees held a teleconference later that day. The committee put forth their recommendation to the board,

who in turn deliberated and made their final choice among Dr. John Comerford, Dr. Ellen Beaulieu and Dr. Christopher Ames.

Comerford was publically announced as the next president on Friday, November 30 at 1:30 p.m. in Bothwell Auditorium.

Met by a standing and applauding audience, Comerford thanked the Board of Trustees for its enthusiasm and President Mim Pride for her leadership.

During his acceptance presentation Comerford addressed challenges to liberal arts education such as the popularization of online learning. In response to each

challenge, Comerford assured the audience that he will advocate for Blackburn's current program while fostering development.



PHOTO BY AARON SZERLETICH
Board of Trustees Chair Ed Young greets Comerford onstage at the announcement.

When asked where we can find him in the upcoming semester, Comerford chuckled, "Our kids' favorite restaurant is the dining hall, so that will be the first place to look."

Student Senate calls for At-Large Representatives

by Kayla Koayne

With current Student Senate President Paul Kline studying abroad next semester, sophomore Jacob Maag has been elected to fill the role of president next semester.

There are two at-large positions now open: Maag's



PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

Jacob Maag will serve as Student Senate President next semester.

current position and Tim Erton's position. Maag, who began his time on Student

Senate during the Spring 2012 semester as Graham Hall representative, was then elected to a t-l-a-r-g-e representative during the current fall semester.

Upon being asked why he wanted to take on the position, Maag said, "We as a student government couldn't and shouldn't exist without the support of the student body, and I feel the members of the Blackburn community deserve to be informed and aware of Student Senate members and decisions."

Elections for the two



PHOTO BY ROB WEIS

(left to right) Top row: Lindsey Leach, Lucas Rochkes, Renee Young, Tim Erton, Traci Kamp, Kayla Koayne. Bottom Row: DJ Rudd, Katie Ward, Katlyn Halstead, Skyler Dees, Paul Kline, Jacob Maag, Ashley Brooks.

open at-large positions will take place next semester. Current president Paul Kline clarified what being an at-large representative entails: "At-large reps represent the entire student body and therefore must try to represent the viewpoints of the entire student body as well as their own." Additionally, "students should feel comfortable approaching senators with issues. Therefore, senators

should be approachable and remember that we as senators serve the student body, not the other way around."

If you have what it takes, be sure to check e-mail announcements for the election and submit a petition! For more information, contact Katie Ward at catherine.ward@blackburn.edu.

Rob Weis named Assistant Dean of Students

by Traci Kamp

College counselor Rob Weis was recently named Assistant Dean of Students at Blackburn College.

When asked about which new duties came with the title of assistant dean, Weis stated, "it's an evolving position. There aren't really any new duties that come along with it other than assisting the Dean of Students with some of the daily tasks that must be completed. I already do almost everything else an assistant dean should. It just doesn't fit under the guise of 'college counselor.'"

Some of the duties that

see News, page 2



PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

(left to right) Student Allison Corey, Professor Craig Newsom, Provost Dr. Jeff Aper, student Ethan Weber, Professor Christopher Day and student Abby Walls at the art seminar show on November 30.

Be sure to stop by the Visual Arts Center before Winter Break to see the latest student art seminar work!

The gallery features:

- Digital photography by Abby Walls
- Thematic paintings by Ethan Weber
- Character designs by Allison Corey

For information on upcoming Blackburn art programs, log onto blackburnart.blogspot.com or visit Art Department Chair Bob Huber in VAC office 112.

Weis cont. from cover

Weis assists with are retention initiatives and coordinating the judicial board. Weis has been doing this for some time and says that his position as assistant dean is recognition of his fulfillment of these duties. He will also be able to sign off on documents that would usually require Dean

Heidi Heinz's signature, so if students can't work in a free minute to see Heinz, Weis is an alternative.

As many returning students may recall, Weis acted as the Dean of Students over the summer of 2012 while Dean of Students Heidi Heinz went on sabbatical.

Student Life considers amnesty policy

by Traci Kamp

Recently it was brought to the attention of Student Senate that Student Life administrators are pursuing an amnesty policy for the college.

An amnesty policy is a good Samaritan policy that would encourage students to seek medical or professional attention for themselves or others in need without facing the judicial board or receiving an offense after revealing their situation to campus officials.

Abbey Hardin is the lead administrator researching similar policies at other institutions.

When asked why Blackburn is pursuing an amnesty policy, Hardin explained that a small section of the B-Book discusses this kind of situation (on page 14) but "does not present itself as a whole policy." She explained

that amnesty has been granted in the past for students who acted in good faith, and the goal of the policy would be to ensure that students seek help without hesitating because of the prospect of a judicial hearing.

The policy would not require the student who sought help to appear before the judicial board or receive an offense. However, a student found to repeatedly need medical or professional attention may face repercussions.

"We encourage ALL students," says Hardin, "to seek help for themselves, friends or even total strangers if they think the person needs medical attention. We're pursuing putting the policy in place to help safeguard our students."

Hurricane Sandy leaves BC alum in a jam

by Taylor Hess



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA ORZECZOWSKI

It's been a few weeks since Hurricane Sandy struck the United States and left the East Coast badly damaged. While the Carlinville area has not been affected by the hurricane, Blackburn alumna Amanda Orzechowski, 22, is in Newark, New Jersey, a location directly hit by Sandy. She moved to Newark to teach eighth grade math last year. Amanda weathered the storm okay and agreed to answer some questions in order to help the Blackburn community understand what it was like to be in the path of a devastating hurricane.

Q: How did you feel before, during and after the hurricane struck?

A: Before the hurricane struck I did not know what to expect, but I was a little worried because I heard on the news that it was going to be the largest hurricane ever recorded. During the hurricane, I was alert because I wanted to see what was going on. One of my roommates and I actually went outside on Monday night to see what the wind felt like. When we went outside the winds were

very powerful, we saw trees on the ground and we heard car alarms going off and glass shattering (that's when we ran back inside). After the hurricane struck we were worried about what happened to our place, but when we got back [from taking shelter at a friend's place] we saw that no damage was done to our apartment except that the power was out on the entire block.

Q: Where exactly were you located during the storm?

A: When I received the news about the storm I was at my apartment with my two roommates. This was on Sunday, October 28. During the day on Monday we received a phone call around 2:00 p.m. that told us Newark public schools would be closed on Tuesday and that the eastward and the southward needed to evacuate (we live in the eastward). It was convenient that our friend from East Orange County was staying with us, so we packed and went to her place to spend the night Monday, October 29.

Q: What are you going to do now? In other words, have your plans changed because of the hurricane?

A: My plans have changed because of school being canceled during the hurricane. This means that we will have a lot of catch up to do! In addition it has caused me to think more carefully about gas and groceries. The lines for gas have been so long that people have been waiting for over 5 hours! Now the gas ration says that license plates ending in odd numbers can only get gas on an odd day, and evens

get gas on even days. This has only helped slightly. As far as groceries, that entire first week it was near impossible to find any place that was open, let alone carry anything that needs to be refrigerated.

Q: How would you describe this whole experience?

A: Overall, I feel very grateful that I was not affected very much by the hurricane. Some of my co-workers have it much worse off. Some still do not have power, and one of my fellow 8th grade teachers actually lost her house because she lives in Seaside Heights. She is right on the shore and is located by that boardwalk with the roller coaster that has been destroyed. Some other co-workers have had major damage to their houses due to trees falling down. All of this has caused a lot of people to get closer together to try to help each other out. We have started collections for shelters, and countless people have opened up their homes to others.

While Amanda came out of the storm okay, Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast hard. Not only did Sandy flood New York's transit system; it forced Wall Street to close for two days (the last time the NY Stock Exchange closed for two days was in 1888) and has an estimated damage cost of up to \$50 billion. The hurricane claimed the lives of over one hundred people and destroyed countless homes. The East Coast is a long way from returning to normal.

Shout Outs!

"The Hammer":

Thanks for covering Karen's class.

Dr. Draya, Prof. Graham, Barbara Clark & Amanda G :

Thanks for your support!

Professor Roark:

Thanks for covering Karen's class.

Kristi Nelms:

Thanks for being a guest speaker.

Art Darken :

Thanks for supporting The 'Burnian!

Dr. Aper:

Thanks for supporting the 'Burnian's Associated Collegiate Press application!

Rob Weis :

Congrats on your new job!

Dr. Comerford & family:

Welcome aboard!

Students:

Good luck with finals

Urinetown cast and crew:

Get crackin' on rehearsals!

Carlinville Christmas Market

by Amber Smith

The Christmas Market is a tradition in the Carlinville community. This year the event runs Friday, December 7 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, December 8 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Square.

Local businesses and exhibitors set up tables with their various products in tents around the town square. Usually there are some samples so you can taste before purchasing. The exhibitors' schedule for this year has not been finalized. However, in the past there have been exhibitors who

sell cheese, fudge, jewelry, decorations and much more.

Other events during the Christmas Market include ice carvings, a trolley ride and a bake sale at the museum. There is a three dollar admission charge for adults and a one dollar admission for children under the age of twelve. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also make appearances.

New this year is gingerbread house competition organized by Blackburn College's Habitat for Humanity. There is a ten dollar entry fee, and you must supply your own materials. Proceeds will benefit

Blackburn College's Habitat for Humanity. To sign up for the competition, go to the Knights of Columbus Hall on North side of the Square. The Christmas gingerbread house competition is designed to help the community become more aware of the Habitat for Humanity organization and what it does.

The Carlinville Christmas Market is a great way to see more of the people who make up Carlinville and have a fun time. More information about the weekend events can be found at www.carlinvillechristmasmarket.com.

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Edwardsville Intelligencer

Islamic speaker ignites controversy, perpetuates cultural debate

by Ron Smith

On Thursday November 15, Council on American-Islamic Relations Outreach Coordinator Raed Abu Hamdah was invited by Professor Natasha Casey to speak at Bothwell Auditorium about Islam and to dispel current negative stereotypes of Muslims. This was primarily for her Media & Diversity class because they were covering the media's stereotyping of Arabs and Muslims, but it was open to all Blackburn students. Raed converted to Islam in 2007 and seeks to educate those who wish to learn.

Raed expressed a conservative point of view in a manner and vernacular similar to the Emergent Christian movement. These were fundamentalist Christians who traded in their suits for faded blue jeans, grew their goatees long and looked to Bono of U2 as their patron saint for missional Christianity. However, Abu Hamdah did not dress up his view of Islam to be more palatable. When asked about Islam's opinion on homosexuality, he stated simply that it is "sinful" and punishable by "execution" and

ignored the notion that people are born with different sexual orientations.

He spent most of the eighty minutes assigned to him speaking on his view of Islam. Professor Casey raised the question of different expressions of Islam like there is in Christianity, as not all Muslims are conservative. He shrugged off the question and continued with his view. This was quite problematic because he was brought to Blackburn to present a different side of Islam instead of the mainstream media's portrayal.

There are different branches of Islam, and there are Muslims who are progressive and modern, but these get the negative image attached to them because of the more vocal, conservative members. Professor Casey stated that she was "a little disappointed," and that "he didn't dispel a lot of stereotypes but solidified them." However, some student's responses surprised her "because they were so positive" and "they were affected in a positive way." Abu Hamdah did meet with a few students on a

more personal level after his presentation, and he was able to better explain his position to them one-on-one. The presentation could have gone better, and –to his credit– Abu Hamdah did note this after the fact. His point of view was not the only point of view he wanted to communicate. It would be unfair to judge all of Islam based on one person just like it would be unfair to judge any philosophy/religion on the misunderstanding of an individual follower.

A bat briefing

by Clayt Scheller

In terms of public perception, bats have it fairly rough. A lot of people seem to think of them either as flying rats on a good day or blind, rabid bloodsuckers on a bad one. Neither description holds up to much scrutiny, but the bat's widely accepted status as a "creepy" animal ensures that few people will ever get close enough to know any better.

I think it's worthwhile to shed some light on these nocturnal critters. Bats may not be very cuddly, but strip away the myths surrounding them and you'll find a fascinating bunch of animals that play a vital role in their ecosystem.

It will probably not be alone: a typical Big Brown colony, for instance, ranges anywhere from 15 to 200 bats in size. Given enough time and space, a Little Brown colony can grow to be tens of thousands strong.

Bats are not aggressive, but an infestation of them can be problematic due to guano accumulation and the unique parasite they harbor. In warm, humid conditions, inhaling guano particulates can potentially lead to a nasty fungal disease called histoplasmosis. "Bat bugs," on the other hand, are blood-sucking ectoparasites closely

All bats in Illinois are state protected. This does not mean they are endangered, but it does mean that any lethal means of removing them are out of the question. There's no such thing as an effective bat repellent, either. As a result, the most effective bat removal strategy involves sealing up every potential point of ingress except for a few main entries. These highways are fitted with one-way tubes which force the bats to vacate.

When excluding bats, timing is crucial. An early eviction can take place from April until they have their young mid-May. From then until July is what my dad calls a "blackout period" where the bats give birth and nurse their young. The young can't fly at this point, so don't put up one-way tubes during this time unless you like the sound/smell of legal complications, lots of stranded (that is, dead) baby bats and loads of parasites crawling through your house. Wait until early August through mid-October instead.

You certainly don't want any in your house, but bats are great to have around – each one eats and quickly digests thousands of insects every night. Furthermore, they transmute these insects into extraordinarily effective fertilizer.

Bats aren't blind, and no they won't fly into your hair. To reiterate, they aren't aggressive whatsoever and the prevalence of rabies among them is very low. Even so, don't take any unnecessary risks: if you find a sickly looking bat, don't try to pick it up with your bare hands.

What follows is a related to bedbugs (don't worry – they don't transmit rabies from the statistically few bats that carry it).

If left to their own devices, bats will happily hang around in attics, dormers, eaves and gable vents, among other places. Bat-proofing a building is tricky. A bat can squeeze through any gap the size of a pencil eraser. They are also very sensitive to temperature changes and will follow air currents to any holes left unsealed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAYT SCHELLER

Scheller's father found a little brown bat (above) hiding in a client's home.

Let's start with a little housekeeping. There are around 14 different kinds of bats in Illinois, all of which are insectivores. If you should find a bat in your house, it will probably be a Big Brown or a Little Brown. Unfortunately,

The one and only Paul Kline

by Emily Fisher

When first starting out at Blackburn three years ago, Kline and his Graham roommate Jack Homan signed up to be part of multiple clubs. Then they participated in Newman Club, Habitat for Humanity, Ignite, The Element and Investment Club.

During his sophomore year (he had the credit hours of a junior) he was inducted into Alpha Psi and Alpha Chi, two of the highest honor programs at Blackburn. "Fear of regret is a big motivation for me to do everything I do," said Kline.

After he finishes the 4/2 engineering program at Blackburn, Paul plans to either head to the University of Missouri-Kansas City or return to Blackburn for another year. At the moment, his dream job is to work for the Khan Academy, which involves computer science and tutoring, two of his favorite passions.

Recently, Paul was chosen to study in Wales. "I got accepted to study abroad because I worked hard in high school, was involved and haven't stopped. You have to think of the long term rewards and I'm a 'future thinker.'



Perhaps the reward may be taking a while to see it, but it's there!"

If students on campus know Paul, then they also know his roommate Jack. When asked what it was like living with Jack, Paul stated: "He's pretty independent. He just needs reminding every now and then that his class started ten minutes ago. Rooming with Jack has been very rewarding. It's really impressive how much higher Jack can prioritize making other people happy over things like sleeping, eating, and being in class. Last year, he went to Wal-Mart at 3 a.m. to get me toothpaste and a bundle of bananas, when I didn't even ask him to! We can all learn a thing or two from his selflessness."

Paul's Blackburn Extra-curricular Activities

CLUBS

Christian Fellowship (President)
The Element (Secretary)
Habitat for Humanity
Ignite
Investment Club
Newman Club
Student Senate (President)
Volunteer Club (Co-President)

ACTING

"Ideal Husband" (FA-10)
"Waiting for Lefty" (FA-10)
"Rocky Horror Picture Show" Shadowcast (SP-11)
"Cabaret" (SP-11)
"The Zoo Story" (SP-11)
"The Sound of Music" (SU-11)

SPORTS

Cross Country's (Co-Captain)

HONOR SOCIETIES

Alpha Chi
Alpha Psi Omega

Training elephants, detecting lies... teaching at Blackburn?

by Haley Welch

Whether you have had David Camp as a professor or seen him outside Hudson with a cigarette in one hand and juggling walnuts in the other, he is hard to overlook. Famous for his quirky personality, Pink Floyd tee-shirts, and habit of bringing a Coca Cola to class every day, Dr. Camp is undoubtedly one of the most unique characters on the Blackburn campus.

Even as a child growing up in Oklahoma, Camp's story was far from typical. As a result of his aunt's death from a rare disease that caused her body to become allergic to itself, Camp's mother (who was convinced that the death was a result of mental weakness) was determined to make her son mentally strong. Camp recalled, "While other

kids got, you know, G.I Joes and things I got chemistry sets. By the time I was ten I'd read ... four complete sets of encyclopedias because that's what I did for fun. That's why I have a wide interest area." This wide interest area carried on through Camp's college career. A straight-A college student, Camp switched his major from the general sciences to botany, prelaw, psych then anthropology before finally settling on sociology and graduating with over 200 credit hours. Camp later went on to receive his doctorate from Oklahoma State University in sociology with research focusing on deviant behavior, which he described as his "thing."

Through the years Camp has worked an array of jobs,

the most interesting of which he said was training elephants. Camp elaborated, "It's kind of weird, but people don't realize elephant training is particularly dangerous. The year that I quit working elephants I had four people I knew killed by elephants, and getting married at the time I decided I wanted to live long enough to have kids."

Camp's list of hobbies and interests are just as unique as his job history. A music lover, Camp plays guitar and says his favorite band is Pink Floyd, who he described as "ahead of their time." In addition, Camp enjoys writing and is the author of four books, with titles ranging from "Poisonous Snakes of the World" to "The Teen Girl's Guide to Lies, Lying, and Liars." In his



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID CAMP
Believe it or not: Dr. Camp back in the day with a young elephant.

free time Camp and his wife also have a Youtube channel (DMTVLiFiChannel) to promote lie detection tactics, and have created videos where viewers can see frame by frame breakdowns of politicians lying or how to spot deception.

When asked to describe himself in three words, without hesitation Camp responded "intelligent, inquisitive and

open-minded." After spending time with him, it is clear this is accurate. "A lot of people think I'm strange for a good reason," Camp said smiling. With stories like his, it is safe to say he is one of the most uniquely quirky and interesting professors on campus.



PHOTO BY NATASHA CASEY

English professors Roy Graham and Dr. Ren Draya (far left and far right) pose with English majors Brandy Crane and Cindy Cambell (center left and center right) at their senior seminar presentations on November 27.

What's cooking in chemistry?

by Sarah Collman

Chemistry can be the most boring thing in the world or the most fascinating. It just depends how you look at it. Stereotypes often stem from ignorance, and this can cloud the image that people have of chemists and people majoring in Chemistry. So, to separate the facts from fiction, where can you turn?

"Literally everything you see, smell, breathe, touch, drink and eat is composed of chemicals," says former industrial chemist of 30 years and Blackburn Chemistry 100 Professor James Pickett, "Just look around." Chemistry is often called the central science because it includes problems that involve almost every other scientific field. There's no doubt that Chemistry is important to all of us, so why does it provoke people to be so

judgmental about the people who involve themselves with it?

In his 44 years of telling people about his involvement in Chemistry, Mr. Pickett has found that 2 out of 3 people will respond by saying they either hated Chemistry or flunked it. "You just have to have 'the knack,'" he says. Perhaps stereotypes stem from the ones who don't seem to have that "knack" for chemistry.

"Chemistry majors are often seen as 'geeks,'" remarks Mr. Pickett. "They're associated with lab coats, pocket protectors and calculators." Anyone who's ever worn an oversized lab coat and a pair of scratched up safety glasses can understand that it's hard to feel "cool" in that kind of attire. However, if you've ever mixed chemicals

to create a reaction producing intense heat or light, you might think it is "cool." Or you might not.

"Chemistry is, indeed, a difficult field of study, but all the hard work and long lab hours will prove to be worth the effort," says Mr. Pickett. With just a few potential job opportunities being quality control, product development research, environmental studies, academia, pharmaceutical QC and research, biochemical research, forensics, and sales and marketing in areas related to Chemistry, those interested in Chemistry have quite a few options after graduating. The advice Mr. Pickett offers is to "keep your options open as you look for your niche."

Blackburn has much to offer for those interested

Green Collar Jobs

by Suzanne Krupica

Green Collar Jobs are employment opportunities that deal with environmental issues and sustainability. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that "green" jobs will increase by as much as 28% by the year 2020 (an average increase for any occupation is 10-19%).

Originally the main focus of the environmental movement centered on protection of wild and scenic areas and preserving natural habitats in a rapidly urbanizing world. At the time, this industry was predominantly employed by scientists. This has drastically changed. Whatever your interest or background, there is a "green" career for you. There are environmental careers for health professionals, journalists, attorneys, engineers, educators, accountants and computer scientists, just to name a few.

O*NET (<http://www.onetonline.org/>) is a website that was created by the U. S. Department of Labor. This resource lists hundreds of environmental occupations and provides an opportunity to learn about a variety of jobs. There is a description

of each job title as well as information on the job outlook and salaries.

Where do you find environmental jobs? The largest employer is the Federal Government. The agencies employing the largest number of environmentalists are the National Park Service, The Bureau of Land Management, The Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. There are also opportunities in the private sector with engineering firms, law firms, agriculture and transportation agencies. If you are interested in a career with a nonprofit organization, the EnviroDirectory (available in the Career Services office) lists about 200 environmental nonprofit opportunities.

How do you prepare for an environmental career? Blackburn now offers a degree in Environmental Studies. This degree includes coursework in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities and is designed to prepare students for a wide range of career opportunities. If interested, contact Dr. Greg Meyer or Dr. Jeff Aper.

For more information on careers in the environment, visit the Career Services office, room 110 in the Demuzio Campus Center.

in pursuing a degree in chemistry. "My colleagues Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Luth and Dr. Reid are experienced, intelligent and involved," commented Mr. Pickett. "For a small school, Blackburn has a great Chemistry faculty." With professors who care, students

aren't just getting a degree; they are getting an education. "However," remarks Mr. Pickett, "I would be remiss if I didn't brag at least a little about the new Mahan Science Wing – World Class!"

RAs celebrate manliness with beard contest and ping-pong tournament

by Brandon Ellis



Scott Antrobus, Adam Marshall, John Martin, Jesse Medina, Jordan GeRue and Brandon Ellis act manly at the ping-pong tournament.

PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

To celebrate 'No Shave November' Graham Resident Assistant Aaron Szerletich hosted a contest for the best beards in Graham Hall's parlor on Thursday, November 29.

The categories were: best beard grown during November, best pre-November beard and best fake beard.

Paul Kline won best November beard, earning a bag of beef jerky to celebrate his manhood. John Martin

won best pre-existing beard, snagging a mountain-man hat. Jesse Medina took the prize for the best fake beard with his glorious Sharpie-drawn representation of his inner man.

Butler Resident Assistant Jake DeRousse hosted a ping pong tournament simultaneously. DeRousse himself won the tournament after a heated match with runner-up Drew Rowe.

Overall, it was a successful event full of heartbreak for some and great achievement for others. Tim Erton expressed his thoughts about the subject: "[Table Tennis] is the most important sport of our generation. It is necessary in order to help fine-tune our hand-eye coordination."

With all the testosterone, hair and sweat in the immediate area, how could one not take such a stance on the matter?



Kinsey Hilliard (left) acts as Tim Erton's fake beard (right).

PHOTO BY KATIE WARD



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON SMITH

Smith skates in Indianapolis during Thanksgiving Break.

Hobbies: the anti-finals

by Ron Smith

Finals are coming up, and that means papers, projects and late night studying with copious amounts of coffee. It is good to be prepared and study for finals, but doing just that will make you crash and burn. There must be balance. Blowing off steam reconnects the wires in your brain and improves your intellectual

performance. How do you relax and recharge? For me it's skateboarding and longboarding. Going home to Indianapolis for Thanksgiving, I went to skate parks and took on quarter pipes with kickturns and grinding. I become so

focused on the moment that it has a Zen-like quality.

Does this mean that taking a break will make you top grades? No, but it does mean you will possess more clarity. Balance is necessary to health – even if it's just taking five minutes to focus on your breath. It's about taking care of your internal need while simultaneously taking care of your external duties.

Quiet residents and perpetually closed doors: A Charlie Brown Butler Hall

by Clayt Scheller

Now that we've reached the end of the semester, you'd think I would be able to provide some meaningful appraisal of the place on campus where I've been living. You'd be wrong.

The thing about the men's side of first floor Butler is that it defies neat classification. I really struggle to associate any kind of overarching identity with the floor except for the fact that everybody living here is part of the Wellness Living Learning Community. Most rooms on the floor only have one inhabitant; owing to some of that independence, I think it's fair to say that it's not very cliquey here.

It's a substance-free floor, so drunken revelry is kept to a minimum. Actually, as far as I can tell, revelry of any kind is kept to a minimum. It's really quiet— there have been days where the hum of the microwave (which is now sadly out of commission) and the sound of doors closing are the only indicators that anybody even lives here.

Of course, I spend a good deal of my time in Butler sleeping, so take what I've written with a grain of salt. For what it's worth, though, it's a pretty nice place to live.

BC Film Club attends St. Louis Film Festival

by Clayt Scheller

On Saturday, November 17, members of the Blackburn College Film Club attended the 21st annual Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF), where participating theatres screened over 400 critically-acclaimed short and feature films from around the world.

Film Club members Aaron Szerletich, John Martin and Clayt Scheller

were in attendance. Despite a detour-laden trip through St. Louis, the three arrived at Plaza Frontenac in time for a bite to eat at St. Louis Bread Co. Afterward they attended the Plaza Frontenac Cinema's 6:15p.m. screening of "The Rabbi's Cat," a French animated film directed by Antoine Delesvaux and Joann Sfar.

After leaving Plaza

Frontenac, Film Club joined forces with College Counselor Rob Weis – who happened to be in St. Louis at the time – at the Delmar Loop. The four wandered around the Loop, briefly stopping by Vintage Vinyl to browse its selection before going to the Tivoli Theater at 9:15 p.m. There, they caught a showing of "Fat Kid Rules the World," the directorial debut of Matthew

Lillard (that's Shaggy from 2002's "Scooby Doo," for those keeping track at home).

Film Club and Rob Weis parted ways shortly after the movie ended. Szerletich, Martin and Scheller rounded off the trip by further exploring the Loop and subsequently heading back to Blackburn in high spirits.

Stoddard Sleepover

by Ray Johnson

On Saturday November 17, Stoddard Hall Resident Assistant Rachael Lancey hosted a sleepover in the spacious parlor. Invitations were sent to residents from every dorm on the campus to come out and have a good time. This event consisted of residents staying up all night in which they played games and enjoyed a big helping of Krabby Patties (hamburgers). They watched various episodes

of "SpongeBob Squarepants" and a variety of movies via Netflix. Though there were not many residents that attended, everyone that did come out enjoyed themselves, taking pictures, joking about each other PJs and eating candy and Krabby Patties. The event turned out to be a good and quiet one as residents woke up the next morning and returned to their normal resting beds.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHAEL LANCEY

(left to right) Top row: Jack Homan, Rachael Lancey, Haley Cohan. Middle row: Natasha Anthony, Edia Mushundusi, Sharrika Wyatt, Ray Johnson. Bottom row: Paul Kline, Sydney Walsh.

“Pitch Perfect”: Aca-awesome!

by Sarah Collman

Vomiting is not something I enjoy watching. When this fall’s hit movie “Pitch Perfect” opens with a girl throwing up on stage, I almost left the theatre. That would have been a big mistake.

The film follows Beca (Anna Kendrick) through her initial college experience. With the help of a love interest, she transforms from

an antisocial student to the inspirational leader of an all-girl cappella group.

Though the outcome of the movie is rather predictable, the twists along the way make up for it. However, there are points where even the most un-critical viewers would roll their eyes. Characters have an annoying habit of putting “aca” (as in a cappella) in

front of things they say, such as “that’s aca-awesome” or “we’re going to have aca-babies.” Aca-seriously?

Thankfully the hilarious characters and kick-ass soundtrack make up for these minor downfalls. With Rebel Wilson playing the part of Fat Amy, an overweight but confident member of the group, you cannot help but throw

your head back in laughter. In a scene where another girl asks Fat Amy why she calls herself Fat Amy she retorts that it’s “so twig bitches like you don’t do it behind my back.” Snarky comments like these make the movie great fun for sarcasm-loving college students such as myself.

Considering the focus is on college a cappella groups, it is an absolute must that the music be nothing less than fantastic. The range of music is all-encompassing. From the

classic hit “Mickey” by Toni Basil to “Titanium” by David Guetta, the soundtrack of “Pitch Perfect” has something for everyone. A scene where the college a cappella groups are going head to head in a pre-competition challenge and Beca begins singing “No Diggity” by Blackstreet is enticing enough to reach orgasm. Even if a cappella isn’t something that you typically find appealing, it’s hard to avoid mentally rocking out to this movie.

Madrigal Dinner satisfies

by Katie Ward

On November 16 and 17 DCC was transformed into a medieval court, and those at the annual Madrigal Dinner were transported into the past for an evening of singing, comedic skits and food.

Directed by Dr. Elizabeth Zobel and facilitated by the Blackburn Performing Arts Department, this year’s dinner was well attended and successful.

Students Taylor Critchfield and Katie Reif played the king and queen of court. At their side were Sawyer Burton, Jeanette Kelly, Morgan Baldner and Evan Johnson. As attendees ate, the court performed traditional songs a capella.

Toward the end of the meal the skit began. Owen Meredith cracked up the crowd with his usual zany antics as the court jester, Jesse Medina got some giggles as the seer/teller and Tayler Edelen amused as the court thespian. However, the scene-stealer was Blackburn Provost Dr. Jeff Aper.

In the prepared skit, a group of bumbling, cowardly knights have to get a dragon – played by Dr. Aper in a costume

closer to footie pajamas than a terrifying monster – to tap dance. Aper met hysterical laughter and applause as he danced at the skit’s climax.

Audience members were not the only ones surprised by Aper’s performance. Zobel commented after opening night that Aper had never gotten “so into the dancing” during rehearsals.

Throughout the evening, costumed pages passed notes

for audience members who laughed as they scribbled silly notes to others at the dinner.

Although the production had a few challenges such as an only partially updated program and some stilted dialog, the evening was enjoyed by all. The court’s vocal performances represented Blackburn Voices well, Sodexo’s catering was tasty and note-passing became an entertainment of its own.



PHOTOS BY KATIE WARD

(top to bottom) DeAaron Williams, Dr. Aper, Owen Meredith.



PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

(left to right) Jeanette Kelly, Jesse Medina, Evan Johnson, Katie Reif, Morgan Baldner, Taylor Critchfield.

Christmas-themed horror movies

by Adam Trovillion

I love the Christmas season and everything I associate with it: bright lights, pure snow, fresh green pine trees and spatters of jolly red blood. Everybody knows and loves classic holiday movies such as “It’s a Wonderful Life,” but horror fanatics among us love Christmas-themed fright films so we too can celebrate. Here are a few of my favorites.

Black Christmas (1974) – More frightening than standing with your grandmother underneath mistletoe, “Black Christmas” is one of the downright creepiest horror movies ever made, a landmark in the slasher subgenre. As Christmas break approaches, a sorority is harassed by ominous phone calls; soon after, members begin to go missing or turn up dead. Although it would be regarded as hackneyed today, in 1974

“Black Christmas” was original, and director Bob Clark creates an atmosphere of genuine dread and unease. The film’s final scene is perhaps the most disquietingly eerie ending in horror movie history.

Silent Night, Deadly Night (1984) – The controversy surrounding this infamous slasher is actually more salacious than the film itself. 18-year-old Billy, having watched his parents murdered by a man dressed as Saint Nick and then spent his formative years in a Catholic orphanage, is somewhat less than well-adjusted. After receiving a job playing Santa Claus at a toy store, Billy snaps and goes on a killing spree in order to punish “naughty” behavior. Because “Silent Night, Deadly Night” is far too ineptly made to be scary, it is great cheesy fun. However, repressed religious

conservatives took issue with the subject matter and successfully lobbied to have the film removed from theaters shortly after its release. At the time, film critic Leonard Maltin called it a “worthless splatter film” and asked, “What’s next? The Easter Bunny as a child molester?” One can only dream.

Christmas Evil (1980) – Less of a horror film than a psychological drama, the seasonal slasher Christmas Evil is more likely to make your skin crawl with discomfort than send chills of terror running down your spine. After being traumatized by a childhood incident in which he spies his father dressed as Santa Claus getting naughty with his mother, Harry, a toymaker develops an unhealthy obsession with Santa Claus. When Christmas

arrives, he decides to don a Santa outfit and give gifts to good children while punishing wicked adults, demonstrating seasonal largesse and homicidal menace in equal quantities. The out-of-the-blue fantastical ending must be seen to be believed.

Silent Night, Bloody Night (1972) – This obscure ‘70s horror flick which features a cast of Andy Warhol regulars deserves greater recognition. An unknown maniac is loose in a small Massachusetts town, hanging out at an abandoned mansion and killing anyone who drops by. Although the plot is a bit hard to follow and the pacing is almost glacial at points, its low-key atmosphere is truly creepy and there are a few brutally gory kill scenes to liven up the proceedings.

Spring musical announced

by Marissa Watson

Blackburn College’s Performing Arts Department has announced that the Spring 2013 musical will be the Broadway hit “Urinetown.”

“Urinetown” is set in a time where water has become extremely scarce, so the government has placed a ban on private toilets. Citizens are not only forced to use public bathrooms but must pay. Theater professor Dr. Kate Roark says “‘Urinetown’ is one of the funniest new musicals of the past few years. There are lovers, rebellions, cops, murders and ghosts in the show - something for everyone!”

Blackburn theater majors will perform or serve on crew in the musical. However, the auditions, which were held in Bothwell on November 28 and 30, were open to the Blackburn and Carlinville community. Rehearsals for the musical will start in the Spring 2013 semester. Performances will run from April 11-21, 2013. Mark your calendars!

Help enrich Blackburn’s campus culture: if you’ve seen a film, read a book or heard an album that you would recommend - or reprimand - submit a review to the 'Burnian and spread the word.

The "Sudden Freedom Effect": Freshmen Gone Wild

by Sarah Collman

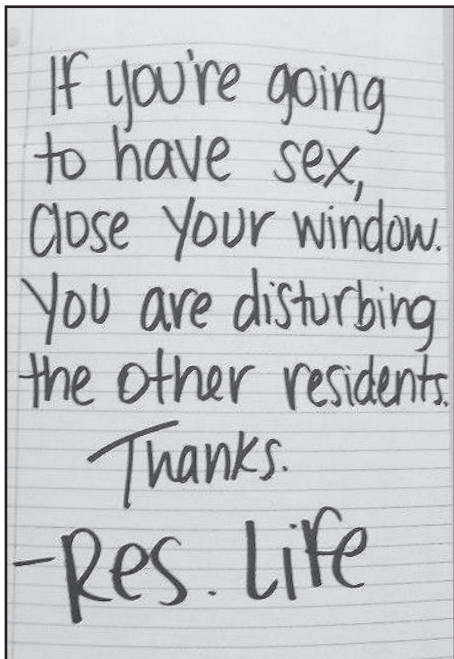


PHOTO BY KATIE WARD

The above sign was spotted on the first floor of Jones Hall on the morning of October 23 and caused a campus-wide stir for days after.

College: a time for experimenting. Is that really what the college experience has become? What happened to learning and preparing for the day when we look for a job? What is it about living in a dorm that turns students in their late teens and early twenties into a pack of wild, rampaging partiers?

In October signs appeared in the halls of Jones that read, "If you are going to have sex, close your window. You are disturbing the other residents." Within twenty-four hours, the

majority of the campus had heard about the signs. But why? Why does the entire campus discuss a sign about sex and not important issues such as governmental matters?

We aren't living with our parents anymore. Permission is no longer needed if we want to go out. We can go anywhere at any time. This is what I call the "Sudden Freedom Effect." Being thrown into a world where we suddenly control our own actions can be liberating but also destructive.

No one is breathing down our necks to go to classes or do homework, so what do we do? We skip, and we never fail to procrastinate. Then we stress out about tests because we



missed class and half-assed our homework. Once the weekend comes we feel the need to celebrate that we survived one more week of classes. That's where partying and drinking come into play.

Drinking (no, I don't just mean students over 21) and smoking (no, I don't just mean cigarettes) are major players in college parties. We want to let loose! We want to have fun! And why wouldn't we

when Asher Roth can tell us in one verse of his song "I Love College" what the college experience is really about:

"That party last night was awfully crazy I wish we taped it I danced my ass off and had this one girl completely naked Drink my beer and smoke my weed but my good friends is all I need Pass out at 3, wake up at 10, go out to eat then do it again Man, I love college."

This type of media representation of college enforces the idea that college is a time to go crazy and have no regrets. Is it right? Probably not. Should students be focused more on academics rather than having a good time? Absolutely. Is that going to happen? Not a chance.

"It's not me. It's definitely you." The Friend-Zone in Heterosexual Culture

by Katie Ward



remain friends, she is entirely in her right to dictate her social life; no matter what the guy has done for her, he is not entitled to her affection - and she certainly doesn't owe him.

I find it interesting that the most prominent victim of the mythical friend-zone is equally mythical: the nice guy.

The nice guy is left behind in high school because he is passive and sensitive. When he likes a girl, he befriends her and is "there" for her. But when he leans in for that kiss, the girl pulls away. Why?

According to the friend-zone myth, she has only toyed with the nice guy while waiting for a bad boy. Clearly that's the only explanation, right? There's no chance that he simply misread the signals, is there?

It's beyond me how any guy who expects romantic gratification for his kindness can call himself "nice."

Adolescent sexuality is tricky enough on its own; let's leave out unnecessary antagonism, huh?

For this argument, let's say "guys/girls" because "adolescent males/females" sounds too scientific. Let's face it: my only evidence is what I've seen. But stick with me because you've seen it, too.

A guy hopes to date a girl, but the only kiss he gets is the kiss of death: "You're such a good friend!" So many guys wince at "friend" that you'd think it's the new f-word.

Revelation: the friend-zone doesn't really exist. It's a social invention - a myth.

Instead of owning up to the messy reality of dating, rejected guys shirk responsibility. It's easier to claim a girl pegged you as a friend - making it impossible to woo her - than to accept that you didn't appeal to her.

Perpetuating the myth of the friend-zone isn't just lazy or cowardly; it's flat-out socially irresponsible. To claim that girls victimize guys by friend-zoning them is to say that guys are inherently entitled to girls' affection.

I'm not saying there aren't girls who manipulate guys only to ultimately deny them. Those girls are out there.

But in the more common scenario of a girl wanting to

Man, I Hate Like a Woman

by Haley Welch

"Men suck." This is a sentence most women have heard, if not said themselves. It has become the battle cry of every psychotic ex-girlfriend in the country and a bandwagon the media has recently jumped on. Women have resorted to classifying men as jerks, liars or cheaters and taken every chance they can to verbally beat the crap out of mankind. Movie titles like "John Tucker Must Die" or songs like "Do It Like A Dude" by Jessie J have only furthered this tendency to jokingly threaten or diss guys with little or no social repercussions. This bitter attitude towards men that has come about in our generation is a problem for a number of reasons. Why? Because except for a few jerks, most guys aren't waiting in the wings with a chloroform cloth to mess up our day, ladies.

While sitting in class I was struck by how bad this new trend of man hating has become. After listening to a girl go on a tirade about how men are jerks and that if she was ever cheated on she would

cut the man's disco stick off, I realized: 1. No one should ever buy that girl a hacksaw, and 2. If a man said he would chop a girl's lady parts off we would have had an outright brawl. Instead, the professor just laughed awkwardly and the male students stayed silent.

Curious about how men felt about this social phenomenon, I asked friends Ian Cox and Andrew Meffert their opinions. Cox responded, "Let's just say men are put down so much now I cannot comfortably give my opinion." This statement immediately sent red flags flying in my mind because if a woman had said something similar, society would be a lot more disturbed.

Meffert also voiced annoyance on how men are portrayed, specifically in the dating world. "I hear all the time, 'Chivalry is dead' and crap like that. But it's not dead; there are true men out there every day being kind and sweet to their friends, girlfriends, wives and family." This statement brought to life a trend I have noticed repeatedly.



Women seem to have a knack for ignoring nice guys in favor of reforming a "bad boy" and then are shocked when it backfires on them. They then opt to play the victim and assume that their misfortune came about because ALL men are jerks, not because they made a boneheaded choice. The only response I have to this is if the only place you look for something is in a dumpster, don't be shocked when all you find is trash.

So the next time you get your torches and pitchforks ready for a good ole' manhunt, stop and decide if your theoretical John Tucker really does need to die, or if you're just on a "men suck" tirade of your own. Either way, you should still probably put the pitchfork down.

The 'Burnian staff thanks its readers and the larger Blackburn community for providing diverse voices and creating thoughtful discussion.

Hope to see you (and your ideas) next semester!



PHOTO BY NATASHA CASEY

(left to right) Top row: Chelsea Jacobs, Clayt Scheller, Adam Trovillion, Sarah Collman, Ron Smith. Bottom row: Emily Fisher, Traci Kamp, Amber Smith, Katie Ward, Haley Welch, Kayla Koyné. Not pictured: Brandon Ellis, Marissa Watson.

Basketball season rolls through

by Emily Fisher

With basketball season upon us, Blackburn students can look forward to an exciting season with the men and women's basketball teams. The season kicked off for the men on November 16, where they faced Illinois College and fell 41-78. They won their first home game on November 20 when they played against Millikin University with the

score being 60-51. The team consists of Lanard James, Jahmiya Campbell, Lucas Rochkes, Nihat Girgin, Colin Gowin, Kelly Williams, Tyler Moore, Jonathan Lowry, Evan Wells, Diarra Cropper, Austin Kirby, James Gowin, Jeremy King, Matthew Chandler and Jonathan Griffel.

Head Coach Jason Baribeau states, "The team

is progressing very quickly. Their understanding of teamwork and chemistry will be very important as we work each and every day to meet our goals. We have a competitive schedule and that spirit and team togetherness will be very important for continued growth as a team."

The season kicked off for the women's team on November 16 when the Beavers faced Wheaton College and fell 28-81.

Currently the team's record is 0-3 with 23 games left in the season. The team consists of Danae Smith, Jamie Russow, Erin Bell, Rashonda Willis, Charitie Goodman, Danique Smith, Shelby Smith, Kylie Sparks, Ashley Miller and Briana Rae.

Head Coach Jen Windmiller states, "This season we expect to build upon the progress that started last season. We have more game experience this year, and are

looking to take advantage of that into the conference season. We're playing some tough non-conference teams that will push us to get better and hopefully we will learn from those games and find success in that process. We're looking to have solid contributions from our two senior captains: Kylie Sparks and Rashonda Willis."

To look at the upcoming basketball schedules, you can go to Blackburn's website.

Interested in BC sports?

The 'Burnian staff is looking for a sports writer for next semester!

- Attend games
- Interview players & coaches
- See your game previews/reviews published
- Get paid! \$\$\$

Contact Professor Natasha Casey at natasha.casey@blackburn.edu for more info.



This season's basketball team poses proudly in Dawes Gymnasium.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Women's basketball December 1 game

The women's basketball team lost to Fontbonne University by a score of 54-46 on Saturday afternoon.

Shelby Smith lead scorers with 19 points. Smith also

added 7 rebounds and 3 blocks. Briana Rae collected 10 points and 6 boards for the Beavers.

Blackburn shot 2 for 32 from the field in the first half

but came out in the second half and shot 4 for 31. Both teams were less than average from the free throw line. Fontbonne was 4 for 188 while Blackburn was 10 for 23.



This season's women's basketball team gathers in Dawes Gymnasium.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Men's basketball December 1 game

The men's basketball team lost against Fontbonne on Saturday by a score of 81-68.

Blackburn had a 6-0 lead, but Fontbonne maintained a slight lead throughout the first half. The Beavers ended with a 13 point deficit.

The leading scorer was senior Brandon Adams with 18 points. He and Diarra Cropper had 7 rebounds. Jon Griffel added 12 points.

Blackburn shot 9-20 from the line and 28-58 from the field. The Beavers also outrebounded the Griffins by a 43-37 margin. Fontbonne's Blake Welch lead all scorers by notching 26 points on the afternoon.

The Beavers are now 0-7 on the year and will go to the University of Dubuque next Saturday. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Game recaps brought to you by the Sports Information Department

Double Instruction Period Schedule

If your class meets:	Your Final Class Meets:	At this time:
Monday 08:00 a.m.	Wednesday, December 12	08:00-09:50 a.m.
Monday 09:00 a.m.	Friday, December 14	08:00-09:50 a.m.
Monday 10:00 a.m.	Wednesday, December 12	10:00-11:50 a.m.
Monday 11:00 a.m.	Friday, December 14	10:00-11:50 a.m.
Monday 12:00 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	01:00-02:50 p.m.
Monday 01:00 p.m.	Friday, December 14	01:00-02:50 p.m.
Monday 02:00 p.m.	Wednesday, December 12	03:00-04:50 p.m.
Monday 03:00 p.m.	Friday, December 14	03:00-04:50 p.m.
Tuesday 08:00 a.m.	Tuesday, December 11	08:00-09:50 a.m.
Tuesday 09:30 a.m.	Thursday, December 13	08:00-09:50 a.m.
Tuesday 11:00 a.m.	Tuesday, December 11	10:00-11:50 a.m.
Tuesday 12:30 p.m.	Thursday, December 13	10:00-11:50 a.m.
Tuesday 02:00 p.m.	Tuesday, December 11	01:00-02:50 p.m.
Monday Night Class	Tuesday, December 11	07:00-09:30 p.m.
Tuesday Night Class	Thursday, December 13	07:00-09:30 p.m.

All double instruction periods are scheduled for the regular classroom.

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