

C.S. cleans up the resignation mess

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The supervisor of C.S. does not want a student manager, or at the very least, does not know what a student manager is supposed to be.”

Phillip Johnson



By DUSTY GLASS AND JESS WILLARD

Earlier this month, former campus services manager Phillip Johnson resigned from his supervisory role. He had worked in the department since fall 2015 but he felt that it was no longer a good fit for three reasons:

- the new sick day policy within campus services (C.S.)
- inadequate communication with

his supervisor and
-his receipt of a write-up.

Campus services supervisor Torry Grady stated he was under the impression that Johnson's resignation was for personal reasons. "The position doesn't come without pressure. He decided to focus on himself and his studies," he said. Grady thought it was

Former campus services manager Phillip Johnson

a responsible decision, considering that C.S. is a large department and it can be difficult to keep track of the workers.

Despite Grady's impression, Johnson's decision to leave C.S. had little to do with the pressure. He started See **C.S. Manager**, page 2

PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD

Stolen Sense of Security

By PATRICK BENEDICT

On Friday, Sept. 9, two students were victims of theft on campus. After having a normal morning just like any other, freshmen Maya March and Blake Adkins returned to their room in Butler Hall to find the door wide open. On the inside there was clear evidence that the room had been searched and March found that many of her possessions, including a camera, a laptop and the money from her wallet, had gone missing.

March immediately went to the security office to report the incident to Campus and Community Safety Manager Karson Gragert who then contacted Director of Campus Safety Morrison Fraser, to handle the situation. According to Fraser the room showed no signs of forced entry which led him to believe that either the door was left unlocked or that the perpetrator had a key. March disagrees and believes that her room door looked as if it "had been tampered with."

After the initial inspection, Fraser contacted the Carlinville Police Department in order to have the room investigated further. While there was an item sent off to be checked for fingerprints, there have been no results in discovering who committed the theft.

In an effort to bump up security See **Dorm Break-In**, page 4

Global Warning

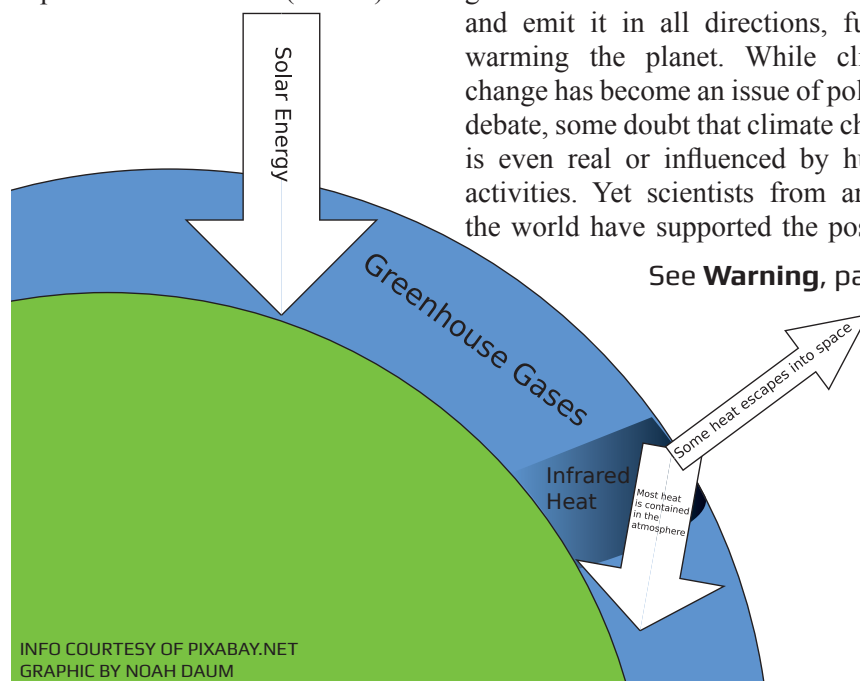
By MICHAEL TROUTT

September 2016 might forever be remembered as the beginning of a new era for carbon dioxide emissions. Scientists at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii reported that the worldwide average of atmospheric carbon dioxide is just above 400 parts per million (ppm). In comparison to the last 400,000 years, levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had never peaked above 300 ppm until 1950 according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

There are a couple of reasons why the 400 ppm average could be historic. Firstly, in September carbon dioxide levels are typically at their lowest due to the growth of vegetation and the use of carbon dioxide via plants. Secondly, the earth may never again see levels below 400 ppm—ever.

Sunlight passes through the atmosphere and warms the earth's surface, and the earth radiates heat outward toward space. Greenhouse gases absorb the radiant heat from earth and emit it in all directions, further warming the planet. While climate change has become an issue of political debate, some doubt that climate change is even real or influenced by human activities. Yet scientists from around the world have supported the position

See **Warning**, page 2



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Warning

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that human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation and a number of other processes, have contributed to the increase of greenhouse gases.

Over the last 150 years, the levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide have increased from 280 ppm to 400 ppm, and this change is believed to be the reason for warmer temperatures over the last 50 years, according to NASA. Blackburn professor of chemistry Dr. Mark Armstrong agreed and stated that there is “a pretty clear chain of causation from human activities to carbon dioxide levels to climate change.”

Since the Industrial Revolution, particularly after the steam engine came about in 1712, levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have risen dramatically according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). With the advent of the steam

engine and increased mining and burning of coal for energy to support mass production, more greenhouse gases accumulated in the atmosphere. Specifically carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, fluorinated gases and water vapor in the atmosphere have contributed to climate change.

Scientists believe that carbon dioxide levels may never decrease below 400 ppm unless the rates of carbon emissions are significantly decreased. Even if carbon emissions were to dramatically decrease, carbon dioxide can remain in the atmosphere for thousands of years, meaning that the average levels in the atmosphere would not begin to decrease for years according to the EPA.

To help reduce carbon emissions and learn about your carbon footprint, visit www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator.

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“[There’s] a pretty clear chain of causation from human activities to carbon dioxide levels to climate change.”

Dr. Mark Armstrong

Courts Rule that “Lockblocking” is Legal

By MICHAEL TROUTT

In September, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that companies have the right to refuse employment to individuals with dreadlocks. The ruling came in light of a 2010 lawsuit that was brought about by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on behalf of Chastity Jones.

Jones, an African-American woman with dreadlocks, was offered employment at Catastrophe Management Solutions (CMS), a company that processes insurance claims in Mobile, Alabama. After successfully completing the interview process, Jones met with a CMS human resources manager to discuss a scheduling conflict. In this private meeting, Jones was informed that there was a strict grooming policy and that she would be required to cut her dreads in order to be employed at CMS. When Jones questioned the policy, she was told that “they tend to get a little messy.” Jones protested and her job offer at CMS was retracted.

According to court documents, the EEOC argued that, historically, dreadlocks came from Africans who were aboard slave ships for long periods of time, while crossing the ocean. During that time their hair was matted with feces, sweat and blood, and upon being unloaded from the ships, the slave traders were known to remark on how “dreadful” their hair looked. Thus the name dreadlocks became the common term for this naturally coiling hairstyle. Perhaps the most common association with dreadlocks is the Rastafarian religious movement

out of Jamaica, made famous by the legendary musician Bob Marley. Rastafarians wear dreadlocks because they believe that strength is associated with hair length and that dreads are a way of living in harmony with nature.

In light of this history, the EEOC argued that dreadlocks are a hairstyle that is culturally and racially associated with African-Americans, and is therefore discrimination, according to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which “prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin.”

Despite this argument, the court upheld the grooming policy of CMS as being race-neutral and stated that it was not discriminatory based on Title VII. The court ruled that Title VII protects “immutable” characteristics, and though dreadlocks may be racially and historically tied to African culture, the hairstyle is “mutable” and can be changed to conform to company policy. Blackburn Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jarrod Gray believes that an employer should have some say in how their employees conform to a company model. However, Gray also pointed out how ridiculous the excuse CMS used for being against dreadlocks was, and stated that “If you’re going to make a case for something, make a strong case that makes sense,” instead of basing it on a false truth that dreadlocks are messy.

For now, the court’s ruling stands and the EEOC has not indicated any plans to appeal the case.

C.S. Manager

Continued from page 1

feeling differently about the department after there were disagreements with the new sick day policy. Johnson stated that the new policy regarding attendance was a “major blow” in their working relationship. According to Johnson, the policy did improve attendance but the amount of write-ups issued to workers was reaching levels higher than the department had seen in the past. Even though C.S. has a policy that erases write-ups at the end of each semester allowing students to have a clean slate in the new semester, he said, “If this trend continues, we are not going to have any workers.”

The lack of communication between Johnson and Grady also caused him to rethink his position. “The supervisor of C.S. does not want a student manager, or at the very least, does not know what a student manager is supposed to be,” Johnson said. He felt as though he did nothing in terms of managing his department since Grady would “step over” him and refrain from consulting him on work matters. Compounding the issue was debate over which guidelines managers were supposed to enforce. Johnson stated the write-ups he gave workers for violating policy were being repeatedly dismissed by Grady.

Johnson said the final straw in pushing him to resignation was a write-up issued by Grady. According to Johnson, he was written up for not being in the office, although he was attending a pair of required manager meetings. Despite the assistant manager on duty being informed of Johnson’s location, Grady gave it to him anyway. Upon receipt, Johnson returned to the general managers’ office to discuss his decision to leave as he felt like he did nothing wrong. When asked about possible solutions for these issues, Johnson suggested “better education involving the interactions between the managers and supervisors.”

In response to Johnson’s reasons

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“I think Phillip is a good person and wish him all the best in his endeavors.”

Torry Grady

for resignation, Grady said when he left, he did so on his own terms and did not communicate any reasons for leaving. “I think Phillip is a good person and wish him all the best in his endeavors,” he added. “Whatever reasons he had for leaving [C.S.] is his decision and I respect that.”

English major Christina Newton took over Johnson’s position as interim campus services manager. Grady noted that the transition has been smooth. The position will not be officially filled until the application process is over. Applications, due on Oct. 28, were open to the entire campus; however, there were requirements for grade point average, and students could not be on any type of probationary status. Interviews with Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis, Grady and general managers Hollie Davidson and Nate Kinnison have yet to take place.

Newton intends on applying for the managerial position and believes that she has done well despite having little guidance for her new role. She believed that the lack of instruction was the most difficult part of taking on the job. “Phillip has been difficult,” she said. “He resigned with no looking back, so I didn’t have anyone to show me the ropes or tell me what needed to be done.” Currently, Newton’s responsibilities are keeping up on time cards, transporting write-ups from Physical Plant to the Work Office, making sure her workers are at their shifts and doing paperwork. She hopes to implement more changes to the department, such as a reward system and creating closeness between the workers.

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President Comerford Caught on Tape

By GARY LOWDER

On Friday, Sept. 30, Blackburn President John Comerford was taped to a pillar outside of the Demuzio Campus Center as a fundraiser for the 20th Mini Olympics at the Macoupin Center for the Developmentally Disabled (MCDD). The fundraiser, which also included a bake sale, was hosted by Dr. Laura Wiedlocher’s Leadership Skills class in order to raise money for the MCDD - an organization that provides classes for adults with mobility or learning disabilities. The funds helped purchase T-shirts, lunch and other necessities for the Mini Olympics event that took place in Carlinville on Oct. 7.

Comerford was nervous before being taped. “I’m a little apprehensive... I’ve actually never done this before, and I’d like to still have my arm hair by the end of this,” he said. “I think we should probably have a EMT on standby.” He joked, “I intentionally didn’t wear my best suit.” Shortly after arriving, Comerford was boosted two feet high up onto the wall by a stool, and students began purchasing duct tape in which to wrap him. Wiedlocher and her class charged students a dollar per foot of duct tape and even allowed students to place the tape on Comerford

wherever they wanted.

Once Comerford was taped fully to the wall with nothing else supporting him, he described the feeling “like being on one of those spinning rides that push you up against the wall.” He also described it as “feeling like Max at the beginning of ‘Mad Max: Fury Road.’” Students, staff and even some alumni all donated money to see Comerford suspended in the air. With the combined efforts of the bake sale and the duct tape fundraiser, the class and Wiedlocher raised over \$500 to help support the Mini Olympics. Wiedlocher said, “I’m really impressed with the students. They came up with the idea, and I was so surprised President Comerford agreed. They have shown exemplary leadership skills and have done a great service to the community. I couldn’t be prouder.”

While the fundraiser was wrapping up Comerford was completely wrapped up in brightly colored tape and still insisted that it was not uncomfortable. Wiedlocher fed him some cookies from the bake sale. Soon after, he was cut down from the pillar.



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Dr. Laura Wiedlocher feeds President Comerford one of the cookies from the bake sale

Nightmare on Clown Street

By DUSTY GLASS AND JORDAN WOOD

Painted faces, big red noses and mismatched clothing.

What was once used to make children laugh at birthday parties and the circus is now striking terror across the country. It has also given new meaning to coulrophobia, the irrational fear of clowns, from which many people around the U.S. suffer.

While the fear of clowns is not uncommon, a recent wave of reported clown activity has swept college campuses, including Springfield College in Massachusetts, the University of Iowa, the University of Miami and Auburn University.

Blackburn has had several drawings of clowns on its sidewalks, which is perfectly legal until the drawings become threatening or offensive. However, according to campus safety and security crewhead Alex McAuley, there have been no physical reports of clowns on campus.

If a student does not feel comfortable walking alone at night, he or she can take advantage of Blackburn’s campus escort service. Any student can be escorted by campus security to wherever they need to go by calling the campus security office. Other options include traveling in groups and simply walking away from any suspicious individuals in order to prevent interaction. Students should report any suspicious individuals to campus security via calling the security office or through their Resident Assistant.

The issue with reporting clowns lies in the legality of their actions. According to Director of Campus Safety Morrie Fraser, it is perfectly

within the rights of an individual to dress as a clown “until they are doing something in a threatening manner.”

“When my aunt was little, a clown broke into her house, so I’ve grown up with a healthy dose of fear instilled in me towards clowns,” said freshman communications major Grace Allen. Allen described the trend as a “cry for attention” by those who heard about the original reports.

Reported sightings and video evidence have been posted on various social media websites in recent weeks due to copycat pranksters. The craze began after reports came in from Greenville, South Carolina, of clowns lurking in the woods - and the story spread like wildfire. The Northeast is the epicenter of sightings, with the numbers dwindling in states that are further away from the East Coast.

A majority of these sightings occur when people are driving down a backroad during the night and spot something further down the road. They slow down to figure out what is going on and then they see that it is someone dressed as a clown and standing either in the middle of the road or right beside it. In some videos, the driver has gotten out of the vehicle to confront the clown, resulting in the clown running towards them in an attempt at intimidation.

Other encounters include people walking near woods and seeing a brightly colored object, only to later discover that it is a clown when it starts chasing them through the trees. So far these sightings have remained nonviolent with the clowns scaring those they can and quickly disappearing.

Natives Garden



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLICDOMAINPICTURES.NET
A bee pollinating a flower.

By MICHAEL TROUTT

This fall Blackburn College will begin breaking ground on a new project - a Natives Garden. Spearheaded by the biology department, the garden will consist of a variety of plants that are native to the Carlinville area. Blackburn biology professors Dr. Jonathan Micancin and Dr. James Bray had initially brainstormed the idea, and Micancin is now in the process of developing plans for the project.

Micancin reported that there are a number of reasons for planting the Natives Garden, the most crucial being “a decline in pollinators in the Carlinville area.” He explained that the bee population and native plant species have decreased significantly. This is supported by research conducted by former Blackburn professor of biology

Dr. Charles Robertson. According to the Illinois News Bureau, Robertson recorded detailed accounts of the interactions between wild bees and the plants they pollinate in the Carlinville area between 1884 and 1916 while employed at Blackburn College. His work was revisited 75 years later by John Marlin, a researcher for the Illinois Natural Resource Survey at the University of Illinois. Marlin’s research could only account for 82 percent of the plants that Robertson recorded as harboring the most bee species, which marked an 18 percent decline. In 2013, Marlin and other researchers from Washington University in St. Louis recorded a significant decline in the bee population and native plant species in the Carlinville area. Micancin stated that because of Robertson’s research, “We know very well that the pollen-producing native plants...and the animals that visit them have declined in this immediate area.”

Micancin reported that the Natives Garden would enhance the Blackburn campus aesthetically, as well as serve an educational purpose for students who will learn about these topics. He also stated that local members of the Illinois Master Gardeners Program are working on potential designs for the Natives Garden. Micancin added that the garden is receiving a great deal of support from the Blackburn administration and students, along with members of the community.

The initial work begins this fall and Micancin believes that once the garden has had time to flourish, “It’s going to be something spectacular.”

Life Paths and Potterheads

By GARY LOWDER

Blackburn has several new clubs for students to join. One of these is the ‘Harry Potter Club,’ alternatively referred to as ‘Beaver’s Army’ or ‘The School of Witchcraft and Beaverdry.’ Medical laboratory science major and Chilean exchange student Giovanna Navarro Martinez acts as Dumbledore to the wizardry club. “The first club meeting was for us to get to know each other,” explained Martinez. “In the next couple of meetings we are going to make our own wands, begin sorting into houses and study spells and magical creatures.” Martinez has also set up professors and house point reward systems so that the club can have its own house cup at the end of the year.

Freshman club member Noelia Martinez-Voight said, “I chose to participate in this club because I really like Harry Potter. I loved the books when my grandfather read them to me. And I think it is fun to be able to share our love for the stories with others.”

The club does not have a concrete schedule yet, but in the future Martinez would like to meet every two weeks. The first meeting was in the Demuzio Campus Center, but that may change in the future. She encourages anyone who thinks they may be interested to come to a meeting.

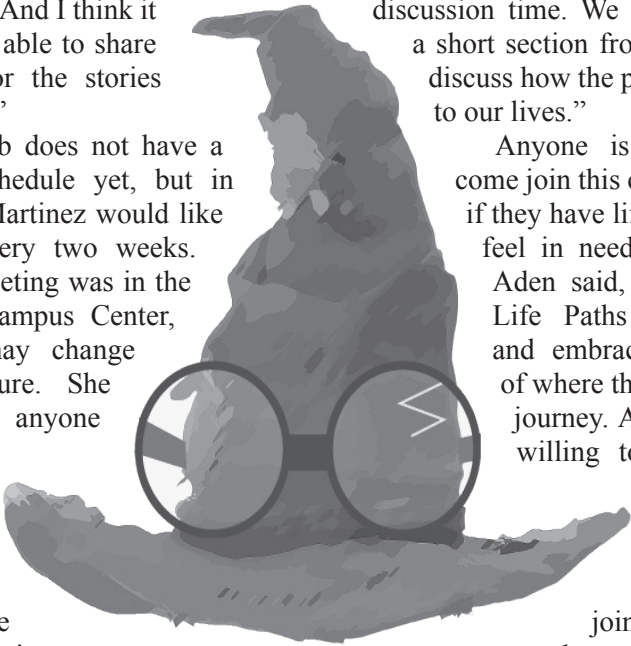
She said that the club is for “everyone who likes Harry Potter or the wizarding world or even has some interest in reading the books. If you are interested in helping with the creation of a new world away from muggle life, you should even come if you

just want to pass the time with some people who have similar interests.” Martinez plans on expanding the club over time and making a quidditch team if enough people are available. If you are interested in the wizarding world or joining this club you can contact Dumbledore at giovanna.navarro@blackburn.edu.

Another new club available to students is ‘Cardinal Directions to Life Paths’ or just ‘Life Paths’ for short. Do not be intimidated by the long name; this club was made by students, for students, and uses group discussions and readings to offer guidance and help answer frequently asked questions like “What is my purpose?”

Meetings are on Thursday at 6 p.m. in room 120 in the Lumpkin Learning Commons. Club treasurer and junior accounting major John Aden said, “Meetings consist of a brief period of announcements before diving into our discussion time. We normally read a short section from a book and discuss how the passage applies to our lives.”

Anyone is welcome to come join this club especially if they have life questions or feel in need of guidance. Aden said, “Everyone at Life Paths is respected and embraced regardless of where they are on their journey. Anyone who is willing to openly and honestly search for truth is welcome to join. Life Paths is a place where you can find support from a diverse group of people and feel free to explore any question that is important to you.” If you are interested in joining or have any questions you can email the club president at jessie.willard@blackburn.edu.



Dorm break-in

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after the incident, security student workers were advised to “watch and walk around the building [Butler] more,” said Fraser. March had noticed something odd the night before. While doing homework with her roommate in the parlor of Butler Hall with several of the items that would be taken the next day, she noted “There was a strange amount of people that did not belong in Butler.” While it is not uncommon to see students from across campus spending time with their friends in various dorm halls, March believed that something was just a bit off. She felt a sense of “violation” since her personal space had been invaded. “You could tell that the room had been gone through and stuff was dug around,” she said.

March had apprehensions about coming to Blackburn in the first place when she found out that none of the dorms or any of the buildings on campus had surveillance cameras. “The lack of cameras made me really nervous,” said March. Now she is sure that there should be cameras on campus to help with incidents of all types, including future thefts.

The college maintains a strict policy of not being liable for any items lost or stolen on campus; however, both March and her roommate were issued \$200 checks by the college.

Despite the intensity of the incident, March has been able to return to her normal routine. She is not as concerned with the stolen possessions as she is with the stolen memories. March explained that her

laptop contained photos of “a friend that passed away... and I have pictures of her and I on there that I can’t get back.” After the initial shock of the incident passed, she moved to a new room on campus due to no longer feeling safe in the room back in Butler. March’s soccer teammates have been very supportive and the game is a much needed distraction since the theft.

Fraser advises all students to “Lock your door, lock your door, lock your door,” to prevent incidents like this from happening in the future. He also urges anyone who sees suspicious activity to report it to him at (217) 854-5550 or campus security at (217) 825-3042 immediately.



Off Campus Job May Work for Tuition Credit

By PATRICK BENEDICT

The Work Program is supposed to be about expanding horizons and raising the level of work experience for all those who participate. The Work Office is not only trying to give students experiences on campus that emulate the working world outside of Blackburn, but also the opportunity to gain real-world job experience. Furthermore the college hopes to give students tuition credit for these real world experiences, just like any on-campus job.

A new concept that is under development is meant to foster relationships between the college and different organizations and businesses that operate beyond the campus. The idea is to create internship-like positions for which students can receive tuition credit.

Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis wants students “to have experiences that go beyond what we provide here

and to start providing students with experiences in their fields of interest.” Weis is seeking students that currently have jobs off campus with the ultimate goal of partnering with the business or organization to provide these same jobs to students in the future.

But why move work off the Blackburn campus? For many the tuition jobs on campus provide a service to the institution, such as Campus Services which cleans the dorms and academic buildings. In exchange for this service, the college credits a portion of the student worker’s tuition. In order to account for what would be lost in turning over some student labor to jobs in the surrounding community and beyond, the establishments that students will be working for off campus will pay for a portion of their tuition.

According to Weis the ideal candidates for this program would be

Looking to Expand Jobs in the Work Program

Do you have a job off campus that you think you would love to make your tuition credit job instead of working on campus? Then contact Robert.Weis@blackburn.edu.

SCREENSHOT BY PATRICK BENEDICT

The email as it appeared in the announcements.

juniors and seniors who have spent a considerable amount of time in an on-campus job.

In addition, not all off-campus jobs would be eligible, but there may be exceptions on a case-by-case basis. For instance, “What we would be looking for typically are companies and businesses that are in a person’s field of interest,” said Weis. “Let’s say someone is in a management role at McDonald’s and their major is business management... why not?” remarked Weis in reference to the kind of jobs the new program may include. “What we are looking for

at this point is something that would be applicable.” However, senior computer science major Matt Pfannenstiel disagrees. “It seems like it would be a good idea in theory, but it would be difficult to qualify an off-campus job for the program,” said Pfannenstiel.

Since this new program is only in the development phase, Weis is still gathering ideas about jobs that could be included. Weis urges anyone with an off-campus job that they think would be a good fit for this new program to contact him at robert.weis@blackburn.edu.

Exploring the Dark Roots of Carlinville’s History

By JESS WILLARD

As the crowd creeps through a darkened room towards a staircase, chills slide down their spines. They look around, yet there is nothing but blackness. However, when they press forward, they feel like they are being watched. Carlinville Haunted Tours, one of several expeditions conducted by American Hauntings, offers the opportunity to experience what goes bump in the night.

Lead tour guide Kaylan Schardan explained that the tours start at 7 p.m. in front of the Macoupin County Courthouse located at 200 East Main Street. They last approximately two and a half to three hours and currently take place every weekend in October. “While our tour is a walking tour, it is not consistent walking. There are places to sit down and we do go inside a couple locations,” Schardan noted. “On the tour, you will learn about the history, strange and unusual tales of Carlinville and the many hauntings that still roam the town.” The journey ends where it began as attendees enter the courthouse and experience what it feels like to be a paranormal investigator.

Former tour anchor (one who monitors the group from behind)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARLINVILLE HAUNTED TOURS

Carlinville Haunted Tours hosted seven opportunities in fall 2016 for people to explore the mysterious and even murderous side of Carlinville

and 2016 communications alumna Courtney Egner got involved with the organization after Schardan read an article she wrote in The ‘Burnian about Blackburn hauntings. Egner recommended that students give the tour a try. She said they can learn about a darker angle of Carlinville’s history, and that she really enjoyed getting to explore new parts of the town. According to Egner, “It’s a really fun tour and you get to do your

own exploring throughout. It’s also important to know a little bit about the town you inhabit, and those tours will definitely give you some interesting information about Carlinville you never knew before.”

Schardan said one major change this year is that Carlinville Haunted Tours spend more time in the Macoupin County Courthouse. Additionally, guests get to use some paranormal detection equipment. “While in the

courthouse, some of our guests have experienced the unexplained firsthand, some for the very first time,” she added. “Being able to share in this exploration with our guests is always exciting, and many come away from our tour with their own story to tell.”

Although the last tour date (Oct. 28) is sold out, there is still a chance to sign up for a paranormal investigation in the Macoupin County Courthouse Dec. 3 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. for \$50. Spots can be reserved at bumpinthenight.net.



Carlinville Square is one of the stops on the tour



COMPILED BY JESS WILLARD

[Author’s Note]: Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz addressed two issues with this month’s campus report. She said that the Carlinville Police Department has been more cooperative with Blackburn and are assisting in informing the college about incidents regarding students. Additionally, Heinz noted that the amount of reports made in September was larger than usual.

Between Sept. 5 and Sept. 29, the Campus Community and Safety Department and Resident Life handled a total of 29 incidents:

- Sept. 5:** Shoplifting by students was reported off campus.
- Sept. 8:** In a non-residential campus building, a medical emergency was reported.
- Sept. 9:** A report was made in a residential hall for room theft.
- Sept. 10:** Three incidents were reported: theft of campus property (which was later retrieved), strong odor of marijuana and a medical emergency. All incidents took place in a residential hall.
- Sept. 11:** Two incidents were reported: a student anxiety attack took place in a residential hall, and an underage alcohol violation in addition to a medical emergency occurred on and off campus. The alcohol violation and emergency were reported to Clery.
- Sept. 12:** A report was made for six underage alcohol violations off campus by the Carlinville Police Department. This incident was reported to Clery.
- Sept. 13:** Campus property damage was reported.
- Sept. 14:** A fire safety violation was reported in a residential hall.
- Sept. 15:** Two incidents were reported: a theft happened in a residential hall with the property later being found, and a strong odor of marijuana was noted in a residential hall.
- Sept. 17:** A report was made for stalking in a residential hall; this was reported to Clery.
- Sept. 18:** An underage alcohol offense was reported in a residential hall; this was reported to Clery.
- Sept. 21:** Two incidents were reported: two underage alcohol offenses occurred

- in a residential hall, and a report was made for race based intimidation in a non-residential campus building. Both incidents were reported to Clery. Heinz said that Title IX has been involved with the report of intimidation, to the satisfaction of the complainant.
- Sept. 22:** Two incidents were reported: a student anxiety attack took place in a residential hall, and a report was made for suspicion of marijuana in a residential hall. A warning was given for the suspicion of marijuana.
- Sept. 23:** Two incidents were reported: a fire alarm was sounded in a residential hall, and a report was made for a strong odor of marijuana in a residential hall. There was no fire.
- Sept. 26:** Two incidents were reported: possession of prohibited life safety equipment occurred in a residential hall, and a report was made for a violation of a no contact order in a residential hall.
- Sept. 27:** Three incidents were reported: stalking took place in a residential hall, a report was made for overheard harassment in a non-residential campus building, and a fire alarm was sounded after a microwave was left unattended in a residential hall. The stalking was reported to Clery. Heinz stated that the harassment was addressed, but no complaining party wanted to take action.
- Sept. 29:** Three incidents were reported: a fire alarm was sounded from a leak in a residential hall, a report was made for a strong odor of marijuana in a residential hall, and a student DUI (driving under the influence) was reported by the Carlinville Police Department off campus. The DUI was reported to Clery.



Blackburn students at the 1956 campus picnic



Blackburn students at a 1956 school dance

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

60 Years and Still Going Strong

By GARY LOWDER

Blackburn alumnus James Barr kicked off the 60 year reunion for the class of 1956 with a small monologue. “The year was 1955,” he began, “and this is what people were saying... ‘I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it’s going to be impossible to buy a week’s worth of groceries for \$10.’” This comment was met with smiles and laughter from the other graduates gathered around the table. Barr continued listing the ways that life had changed in the 60 years since they had attended Blackburn College. The alumni had their reunion in at Magnolia’s, a restaurant in Carlinville. Barr, who helped organize the event, said that he was very glad that over 20 people were able to come.

The graduates all had stories about when they had attended Blackburn. Bob Beatres remembered one night a fire started in the small woods near campus, “A military boy - I think his name was Rich Miller - busted through the door and screamed, ‘Quick men! We have to save the girls in Stoddard!’ I missed those woods; they were a good place to go spoon with girls.” Beatres also remembered a friend of his who would always pull pranks. “He would do pretty standard stuff. He would put farm animals on the upper floors [Blackburn

still had a farm on campus at this time]. The best prank he ever pulled, though, was one spring when he hung up a sign that said, ‘30 Days Until.’ No one knew what he was planning. The next day he hung up a sign that said, ‘29 Days Until.’ This continued for the rest of the month until he hung up a sign that said, ‘One Day Left.’ At this point the entire campus was excited but also nervous about his prank. The next day nothing had happened. He had fooled the students and the staff into thinking some big prank was gonna be pulled.”

Alumnus John Edwards recalled a funny story that occurred while he was on trash duty for Campus Services. In those days, students in the work program would ride around in trucks and collect garbage from various

buildings and burn them in pits. “We were making our rounds, picking up trash like any other trash day,” he said. “In this one instance, we accidentally stopped the truck on another burn pit while stopping to collect trash.” When Barr and his partner returned to the truck, the tire was completely engulfed in flames. “I could see the headlines in ‘The ‘Burnian saying ‘James Barr Burned to a Crisp’ but I knew we had to try and save the truck.” Barr’s partner drove the truck with the tire still on fire to a nearby water pump. Barr and his partner managed to put out the fire. “I don’t recall the crew head ever finding out that that happened,” smiled Barr.

The alumni agreed Blackburn was a great place to go to school and all of them praised the work program. “The work program,” said Barr, “is a great opportunity. You get to know people ahead of you, people behind you. I met my wife there; it was a great experience overall.”

STARR'S

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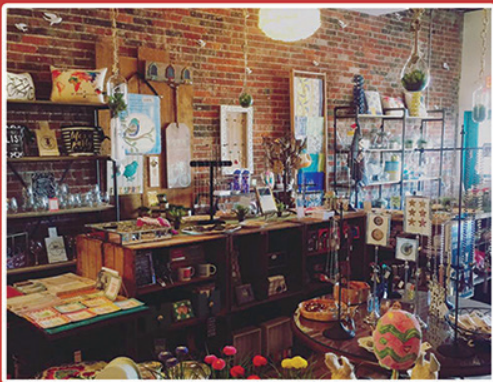
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Beneath the Ink: Dr. Naomi Crummey

By GARY LOWDER

Students are not the only ones on campus who have cool tattoos. Chair of English and communications Dr. Naomi Crummey has the letters “V W I” tattooed on the inside of her forearm. Each of the letters are drawn with different fonts. The three letters on Crummey’s arm represent her three children: Valentin who is 12 years old, Willa who is 9 and Inigo who 7. Crummey said, “I got this tattoo around a year and a half ago. I had always wanted a tattoo, but I never knew what it should’ve been. I had my kids and I thought it was the time.

My oldest son began to draw and play around with elaborate fonts. I thought that was pretty cool and would be a good idea for a tattoo.” Crummey was originally going to let Valentin design the whole tattoo but after protest

from her daughter she decided she would have each child design their own initial. “Valentin’s ‘V’ with feathers was originally part of a more elaborate design that had to be made simpler by the tattoo artist so that it would not blur over time. “My daughter’s ‘W’ turned out well. At this time Inigo had just learned to write so he scratched out a little ‘I’ and the tattoo artist picked up the theme in order to finish it,” said Crummey.

Over the past couple of decades it has become more common for adults to have tattoos. According to the Pew Research Center, 40 percent of adults ages 26 to 40 have at least one tattoo and the total amount of Americans with tattoos is approximately 45 million or 14 percent. Despite the increase in popularity, tattoos can



still be considered a stigma when looking for a job or trying to impress a potential employer. Crummey said, “ I wasn’t really worried about that, I’m pretty established here. If I was searching for a job, I might be reluctant to get a super visible tattoo. Here I have tenure, it’s a pretty secure position.”

Crummey disagrees with some employers’ judgment and said, “Body modification is a socially acceptable art form and identity expression in many parts of the world. You wouldn’t judge other people from different cultures from expressing themselves in other ways. It’s definitely a holdover from a much more conservative era.”

PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER
Chair of English & communications Naomi Crummey’s tattoo on the inside of her forearm.

Science with Say Goodbye to Measles

By VERONICA MILLIGAN

In an official announcement from the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/ WHO), the Americas (South America and North America) were declared as the first region to have eliminated measles. This is the fifth vaccine-preventable disease to have been eliminated in the region. The others are smallpox, poliomyelitis, rubella and congenital rubella. The U.S. now can use the label “eliminated” but that does not mean there will never be a case of measles in this country again.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that is transferred via airborne droplets or by sneezing and coughing. Symptoms include high fever, a severe rash, stuffy nose and reddened eyes. Complications with the infection can lead to death. However, any case of measles would be travel-related, unlike smallpox which currently is eliminated everywhere in the world and only exists in laboratories.

Before widespread vaccination, measles killed 2.6 million people around the world annually. The WHO reports that in 2014 approximately 114,900 people died from measles globally. Most of these people were under the age of five. To put that into perspective, this is equivalent to 13 deaths every hour for a year, and that is a significant decrease from the number of deaths before immunization projects began. Immunization activities have prevented

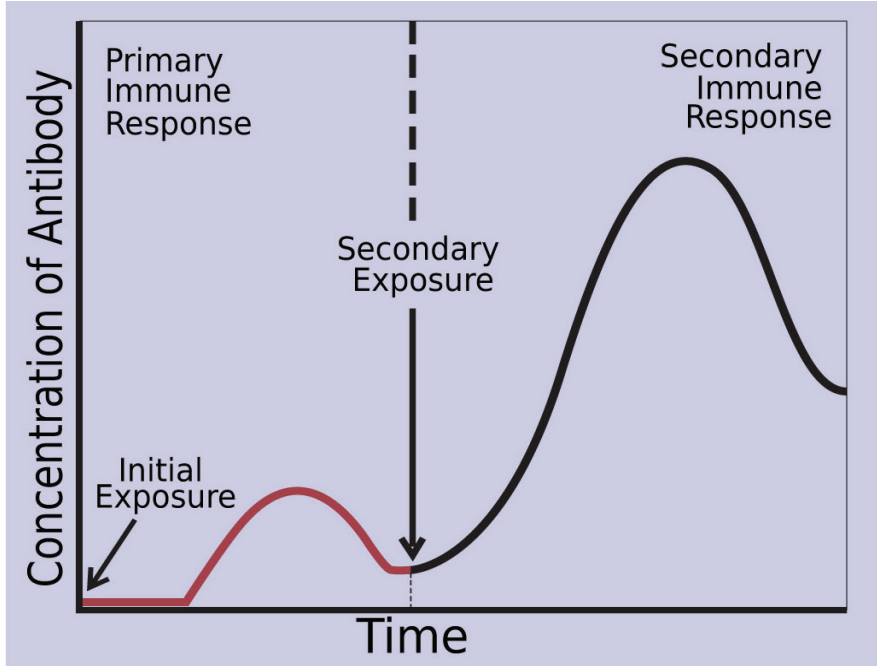
approximately 17 million deaths globally.

Professor of biology Dr. Jonathan Micancin explained how vaccines work: “They trigger an immune response where the cells have two different modes of attack... most of the cells become cells that are directly involved in the attack of that specific antigen (foreign substance that causes an immune response from the body), but some of the cells formed are memory cell. We have a bunch of these go into a ‘wait and see’ status throughout the body, particularly in lymphatic tissue. They are waiting for another exposure and then they can very quickly reproduce the immune response to the pathogen.”

Not every person is vaccinated against the disease, and there is something of an anti-vaccination trend that began with a false study from 1997 suggesting that vaccines cause autism. Publichealth.org reveals that this study was retracted due to severe ethical, financial and procedural errors and the author lost his medical license. As certain diseases become less common publichealth.org suggests that people develop the mindset that they no longer need to vaccinate against those diseases. Vaccination does need to continue in order to create a herd immunity.

The fight against measles in the Americas is successful because of herd immunity which occurs when a significant percentage of the population

has been vaccinated against a disease. Since so many people are immune, the disease becomes weaker and cannot transfer from person to person. When the disease is weakened enough that people are no longer getting it, then herd immunity has successfully protected those who are not vaccinated. This is an important type of immunity because it can protect people who may be medically incapable of receiving their own vaccines.



INFO BY VERONICA MILLIGAN
GRAPHIC BY LUIZA MYSLINSKA
The first response is the body’s reaction to a vaccine. The second is when the body encounters the actual pathogen. You can see that the second response is now much more powerful

Shades of Antiquity Gideon Blackburn

By DUSTY GLASS

Gideon Blackburn was born in Augusta County, Virginia, on Aug. 27, 1772. Blackburn’s young life was fairly uneventful until he was suddenly orphaned at the age of 11. After his tragic loss, he traveled to Washington County, Tennessee, to stay with relatives. According to the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, it was during this time that he began his biblical studies at Martin Academy in Limestone, Tennessee. Blackburn excelled in his classes, gaining his preacher’s license in five years and becoming ordained by the Abingdon Presbytery of Virginia in seven. Thus at the young age of 18, Blackburn began his career as a minister.

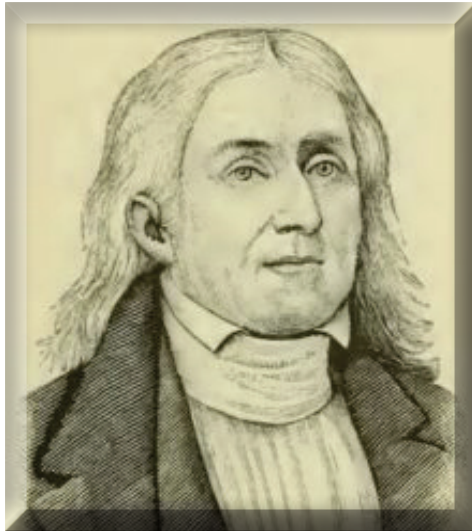
Followinghisordination,Blackburn established the New Providence Church in Maryville, Tennessee. He became well known as a powerful speaker, who served several congregations and was a successful landowner, establishing a farm and distillery close to Fort Craig, Tennessee.

After nearly a decade in Tennessee, Blackburn’s congregation had grown large. However, he found himself lacking in fulfillment. In the early 1800s he went to leaders of the church

and state to search for funds to begin missionary work with Cherokee youth. In 1803 Blackburn even managed to hold a meeting with then president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, who gave the funding.

Blackburn immediately set out and opened two schools in Tennessee, one in Bradley County and one in Hamilton County. These schools taught classes in English and Anglo-American customs as well as agriculture, mathematics and religion. These schools were very successful for their time but scandal struck in 1809. The Cherokee discovered Blackburn’s plan to ship whiskey illegally through the territories and it destroyed Blackburn’s reputation with the Native Americans.

Following the closing of his schools in 1809, Blackburn journeyed to Franklin, Tennessee, where he headed the Harpeth Academy and founded five separate congregations. In 1823 he moved once again to become the president and fundraiser for Centre College, according to the college’s website, and to be a pastor in Louisville, Kentucky. It was through his successful fundraising at Centre College that others began reaching out to Blackburn for help



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

Gideon Blackburn, 1772-1838
founding congregations and seminaries. One of the most notable of these requests came from a small town in Illinois called Carlinville, where Blackburn was asked to help fund a seminary.

In 1833, Blackburn accepted this request and journeyed to Carlinville to begin work on both the college and the founding of another two congregations. Four days short of his 66th birthday, Blackburn died on Aug. 23, 1838. However, the town named the school the Blackburn Theological Seminary in 1859. Later the seminary became what is known as Blackburn College.

YOUR DAM OPINION How do you manage your time?



“It’s all about prioritizing.”
Fatima Noor
Sophomore, International Relations and Organizational Leadership



“I wing it. Things will fall into place.”
Shelby Holybee
Senior, Graphic Design



“I put things first that I know I can get done and leave more difficult stuff for a little later on, that way I have less stress on my plate.”
Timothy Lacy
Junior, Accounting

PHOTOS BY PATRICK BENEDICT

Change Your Mind About the Brain

By MICHAEL TROUTT

Since the mid 1700s, the theory that brain structure and function was permanent dominated neuroscience, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This theory became known as localizationism and, until the 20th century, upheld the belief that a damaged brain could never recover structurally, and therefore function was lost as well.

In his book “The Brain That Changes Itself,” Dr. Norman Doidge argues that localizationism was reinforced by three factors: lack of patient recovery from brain injury, lack of technology and the idea that the brain works like a machine. He then goes on to describe the breakthrough research that brought about the theory of neuroplasticity. Doidge writes that, unlike localizationism, neuroplasticity is “the idea that the brain can change its own structure and function through thought and activity.”

Throughout his travels and interviews with a variety of experts and patients, Doidge presents an overwhelming amount of evidence to support neuroplasticity. From stroke victims to learning disabilities, mental

disorders and phantom limb pain, Doidge unveils amazing stories of research and recovery. In one account, a woman that had lost all sense of balance was treated with a device that consisted of a helmet and tongue apparatus. Doidge explains that the helmet monitors head movement and sends electrical signals to her tongue, which travel on to the brain. Over the course of several treatments the woman’s sense of balance is restored because her brain was able to adapt and process balance in a new way.

While Doidge provides a great deal of support for neuroplasticity, he also examines what he describes as the “plastic paradox.” The concept describes how plasticity can be a double-edged sword, as it provides a way for the brain to change and can prevent changes from occurring. He describes the negative effects of plasticity through patients with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), as they continually reinforce their thoughts and behaviors through repetition. Doidge explains that through repetitive behaviors the brain can display rigidity, which is why it can be more difficult to unlearn a

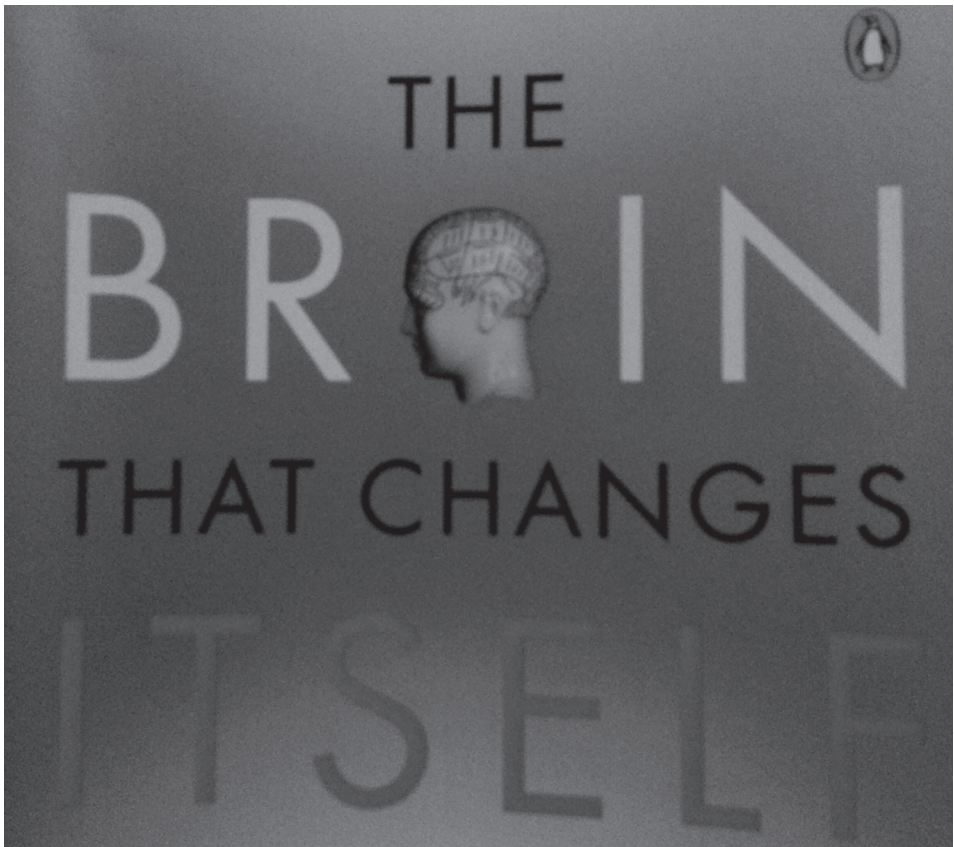


PHOTO BY MICHAEL TROUTT

The cover of Dr. Norman Doidge’s “The Brain That Changes Itself”
behavior than it is to learn one.

Overall this book is a fascinating read about the potential of the human brain. Doidge does an excellent job of explaining scientific research without the overwhelming scientific jargon. His clear interpretations make the book

easy to follow even if you have a limited understanding of neuroscience. If you want to gain a better understanding and appreciation for how miraculous the human brain truly is, I recommend “The Brain That Changes Itself.”

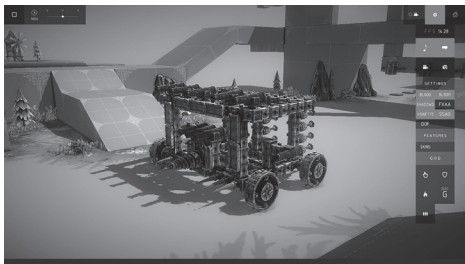
Talk Nerdy to Me: Besiege

By PATRICK BENEDICT

“Besiege,” the physics-based building game is probably not something of which many people have heard. This is because the title (created by Spiderling Studios), available on the Steam online game store for \$9, belongs to the indie subgenre of video games known as “early access games.” Early access games are unique in that they are games generally developed by unheard of companies and sometimes individuals that often never get fully finished. Besiege is one such early access game that is not quite complete. However, the game gets full points for creativity, allowing the player to create a fully functional machine of war out of wood, wheels, cannons, blades and flame-throwers.

The main part of the game features several challenge-based levels that puts the player’s creative mind to the test. Each level gives the player an objective that he or she must build a machine in order to accomplish. For instance, one of the early levels requires the player to traverse a small meadow filled with landmines and sheep (that can damage your machine for some reason) to reach a marker on the other side. The player could accomplish this using any of the tools at his or her disposal such as making a small R/C car-like structure and traversing the mines or using the propellers to create a machine that flies. The only limit is that there is a cube that dictates how large the machine can be.

Real creativity can shine in the game when the player goes into the sandbox mode to create a machine of any size and scale. Some players have even been able to create entire large plane-like machines by experimenting with how the different building materials in the game work. The sandbox mode has no objectives and



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF PATRICK BENEDICT

One of the millions of possible machines of war that can be created in Besiege

only has a sampling of various ramps, magical elevator lifts and obstacles, but allows the player to exercise his or her ideas. “Besiege” also allows players to save their creations that can be loaded at any time. This can be a good feature if the player has found that a certain design has worked well in the past to accomplish a goal but would not remember how to rebuild it. By simply loading up the design the player can get right into the action.

Because the game is early access, it is inherently unfinished and is updated at random intervals. This can be off-putting since it is difficult to say what the end result of the game will be - if anything at all. In addition to the gamble of the early access model, “Besiege” is also not very forthcoming on how the tools and materials used to build the war machines work. This can be frustrating but also gives the player a chance to experiment and discover how the game works on their own.

The game is great for those with a desire to create something from nothing and solve semi-complex puzzles. Even if the player spends all their time in the sandbox mode, the seemingly unlimited number of design options will keep the attention of even the most casual of players for hours.



By CALEB LONG

Not many people have the time or the patience to listen to a full-length album anymore. Everyone, including myself, is too busy to take 42 minutes (the standard length of a vinyl record) and listen to an album in its entirety. While there are not many records that are worth sitting through out there, every once in awhile I come across an album that blows my socks off. Meet The Last Shadow Puppets.

The Last Shadow Puppets are a British rock band formed by Alex Turner and Miles Kane. Turner is known primarily for being the frontman of Arctic Monkeys while Kane is known as a prolific performer in his own right. The two teamed up with producer and drummer James Ford to release their first record, “The Age of the Understatement” in 2008 before splitting up to focus on their individual projects. The band remained on hiatus until this year, when they recruited bass player Zach Dawes and released their latest record, “Everything You’ve Come To Expect.”

To be honest, I was never a huge fan of the band before this album. “The Age of the Understatement” was fine, but it lacked the fire and energy that was in each member’s other musical ventures. “Everything You’ve Come to Expect,” however, shows that Turner and Kane’s partnership is a force with which to be reckoned. The two execute what is arguably their best work with swagger and ferocity in an album that oozes sexiness.

Turner has been praised by critics for his lyrical prowess, musicianship and smooth, crooner-like voice. On

this album, he not only lives up to the hype, but also takes his talents to a new level by delivering some of the most diverse and interesting material he has ever developed. A song like “The Element of Surprise” could have easily been a 1970s-era David Bowie track. In “Sweet Dreams, TN,” Turner channels his inner Roy Orbison as the song crescendos into its bombastic ending.

Another factor that makes this album so great is the performance of Zach Dawes. Dawes, who is already famous for being a member of Los Angeles rock outfit Mini Mansions, brings an element of coolness to the table with his slinky, rich bass lines. Dawes’ playing on songs such as “Dracula Teeth” or “Bad Habits” is comparable to Paul McCartney’s performance on the Beatles’ “Abbey Road” (1969).

Unlike the other material that I have reviewed in this column so far, this album is meant for all listeners. Those who love cool bass lines, hot guitar licks and danceable tracks with



PHOTO BY CALEB LONG

Photo of the cover from the band’s 2015 album “Quarters!”

Jewell Isn't a Gem

By VERONICA MILLIGAN

Jewell has not always been an entirely freshman dorm. In years past it was for students of all class levels, like most other dorm on campus. In 2009 the Freshman Living Learning Community (FLCC) was introduced to the west wing of the building with one floor for men and the other for women. In the fall of 2011, the entire building was reserved for FLLC and has been ever since. After their freshman year, and sometimes sooner, students must leave Jewell and live in another residence hall.

There is legitimate research out there which suggests that programs like FLCC are very successful and encourage community and growth for incoming students. I have no doubt that in the schools that this research was done, their information was accurate. However, from my own observations and listening to other students, I question if this program is right for a school like Blackburn College.

By putting a high number of freshmen into one building, we are fostering a high school-like atmosphere from the beginning. Blackburn is small enough and we do not need to encourage more drama. There are few

upperclassmen residing in Jewell and almost all of them are members of Residence Life. There is no diversity in terms of class standing for freshmen to turn to.

I believe freshmen should be intentionally placed so that they are spread among upperclassmen. This gives them incredible opportunities. First, it increases their personal connections at Blackburn. Meeting upperclassmen can be scary and intimidating, but when you live next door it is easy to be a friendly neighbor and it is likely that upperclassmen will reach out to them.

Blackburn offers plenty of resources for students, but it is always those resources promoting themselves that we see. For example, the only people encouraging certain study sessions are those specific tutors. When freshmen and upperclassmen are mixed together, a more casual approach to promoting resources can be had. As a tutor, if I tell students to come to my study sessions they will probably be hesitant because they do not know me. However, if an upperclassman were to tell them, “Oh yeah, Veronica is really nice and helped me pass X test,” this



PHOTO BY VERONICA MILLIGAN

Blackburn should consider whether or not FLLC is successful at our unique college

suggests that I am approachable and have clearly helped others succeed.

Where are the other opportunities for lower and upperclassmen to mingle? Not work, because upperclassmen have finally reached top-tier jobs. Not events, because upperclassmen (from what I have witnessed) are less likely to attend, especially if they are of legal drinking age. Not clubs, because oftentimes the hierarchy that can develop in a club can lead to distance

between older and younger students. I believe the best opportunities for freshmen can be achieved by mixing them in with older students. In the residence halls where a comfortable, casual setting exists between neighbors, an upperclassman can be a guide and an example (sometimes of what not to do) to younger students. If this creates a more positive, well-rounded experience then maybe our retention rates would increase.

I Have a *Major* Problem

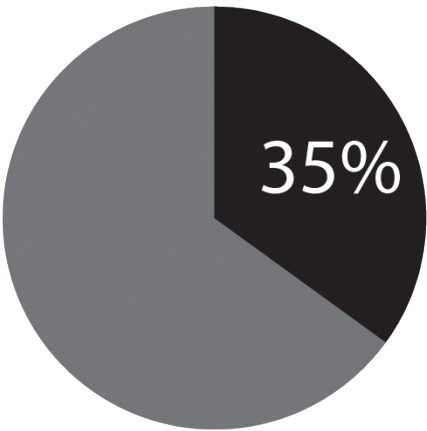
By JESS WILLARD

A person is typically considered a legal adult the day they turn 18. By this point, a majority of 18 year olds have either graduated or are about to graduate from high school. “In early adulthood, an individual is concerned with developing the ability to share intimacy, seeking to form relationships and find intimate love,” CliffsNotes’ article titled “Development in Early & Middle Adulthood” states. “The young adult is also faced with career decisions.” Attending college and selecting a major are a part of determining a future career. Ultimately, adolescents either considering or attending college should be aware that it’s okay to not have a major chosen and that they have options if they decide to change their major.

When I was in high school, I focused more on grade point average

than on what career path I was going to take. During my senior year, I was not entirely sure what I wanted to do after I graduated, but my teachers and parents continued to remind me that if I wanted a good career then I should continue my studies. Instead of trying to figure out what my major would be, I fixated on what scholarships I could get and what each college had to offer, such as residential accommodations and extracurricular activities.

The day came when I started filling out applications for my top three schools of choice, and once the paper asked me what my field of study would be, I drew a blank. Throughout my entire time in high school, I never stopped to think what my end goal was, but I had to figure it out before the applications were due. I frantically sprinted into my English teacher’s



Number of students that begin college “undecided”

office, as she had known me before I entered high school, and I asked her what major fit me. Eventually, we came to the conclusion that my talents laid in English studies.

In Fall 2014, I started at Blackburn College with a focus in professional writing. There were two problems with this: (1) I had no idea what I was going to do with my major, and (2) no one reassured me that I was not the only one who felt this way.

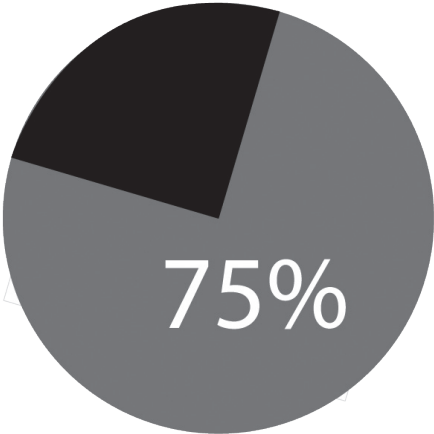
Virginia N. Gordon writes in her book, “The Undecided College Student: An Academic And Career Advising Challenge,” that approximately 20 to 50 percent of students enter college with an “undecided” major. About 75 percent of students change their major at least once before graduation.

I did not figure out that I wanted to use my future bachelor’s degree for journalism until my second semester of my freshman year. Although I have not changed my major, I changed my minor twice. Additionally, I have considered dropping out a multitude of times based

on the fact that I was not sure if I was ready to make a commitment to a career path. A majority of my friends found themselves in a similar boat and ended up either leaving college, changing their major or staying in school past their projected graduation date.

There are several different choices students have at Blackburn College if they are not sure about their major. Students can talk to their advisors about options for changing their major as well as the effects it would have on their schedule and graduation date. They can also refer to Blackburn’s counseling services to talk in general about their fears for the future. Students additionally have the opportunity to drop into the Career Services Office for assistance in discovering career interests and majors that would fit those interests.

My teachers and parents never told me that it would not be easy figuring out what I wanted my future career to be. However, I learned that it is okay to be unsure about your major and what



Students that change their major at least once before graduation

STATISTICS FROM “THE UNDECIDED COLLEGE STUDENT”

#Vote

The presidential election is on Nov. 8, and there is much at stake. In a contest that some have described as a make-or-break point in our nation’s history, it is clear now that you must vote.

With the debates now over, students and faculty alike are making predictions about who will win – Hillary Clinton of the Democratic Party or Donald Trump of the Republican Party. In a recent ‘Burnian poll, readers voted for their preferred candidate, and it was a tie. It is widely believed that neither Secretary Clinton nor GOP candidate Trump is fit for the job. Many say they are voting for the sole purpose of preventing their least favorite candidate from winning. However, many students forget that there are more than just two options for this high-stakes job. There is also Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party and Jill Stein of the Green Party.

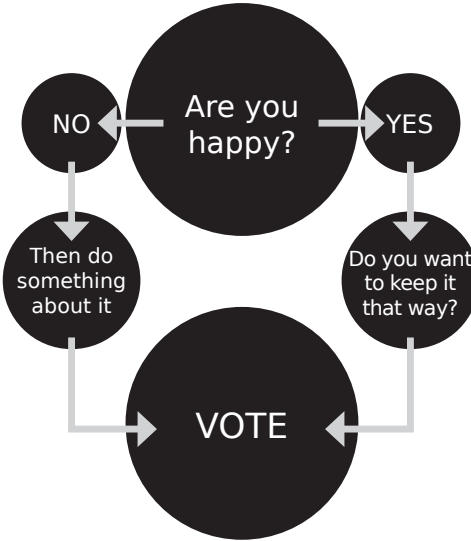
It is imperative that U.S. citizens are knowledgeable about the various positions the four candidates have. One issue that Blackburn students should be concerned about is education. According to the nonpartisan online encyclopedia site Ballotpedia, Clinton calls for student loan reform, believes that teachers should be paid more and maintains that teacher evaluations and pay should not solely be based on student test results. Trump believes that the nation should do away with Common Core Standards altogether. Stein supports a “student bailout” in which student debt is canceled, advocates for free tuition and opposes high-stakes testing as well as the privatization of public schools. Johnson believes in state control of public education and encourages competition among schools to stimulate improvement.

The ‘Burnian encourages the Blackburn community to take part in the mock presidential election hosted by Student Senate on Oct. 25-27. The event will feature five poll booths in which students, faculty and staff can cast their vote for president. The event

will take place in the Demuzio Campus Center (DCC) each day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5-6 p.m.

Following the mock election, on Friday, Oct. 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in DCC, an event will be held in which students can register to vote and actually vote early. Macoupin County Clerk Pete Duncan will assist students through the official voting process. Students who are registered in Macoupin County will just need one form of ID, while students who are not registered or are registered outside of Macoupin County will need two forms of ID, one of which must display Macoupin County residency. Students who are already registered in Macoupin County can vote that day, and students who register that day will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot.

The presidential election should not be about choosing the lesser of two evils. Our president should demonstrate experience, accountability and leadership. The candidate chosen in the 2016 presidential election will make decisions that will have an impact on your life. Don’t just waste your vote because you are busy or unhappy with the candidates. Choose to do your duty as a citizen. Choose to do your research. Choose to vote on Nov. 8.



GRAPHIC BY NOAH DAUM

Gamer Girlfriends Tell All

By Allison Matt ‘16

Some common dorm activities on Blackburn’s campus include the following: watching countless hours of Netflix, getting cozy with a partner (or two) and endless amounts of videogaming. These activities may take over someone’s homework and studying times, but one activity seems to always beat out the rest. And that is videogaming. On average, gamers play approximately 22 hours per week according to a 2015 study from a gaming website called Boy Genius Report.

I have to admit, I am not an avid “gamer” like most of my friends. To say the very least, I never imagined that I would actually start dating a “gamer” because I always thought they were geeks. In the beginning of our relationship, I complained that my boyfriend wasn’t paying enough attention to me and I really didn’t know how to handle the situation. After consulting my friends and lots of Google searches, I found the right path to follow in order to save our relationship. Blackburn graduate Liz Quick and junior Liz Orr also have boyfriends who play a lot of video games on Blackburn’s campus. Quick is dating alumni William Cockrell who plays an average of 40 hours per week and Orr is dating senior Alex Greff who plays an average of 10 hours per week.

Here are five ways that were discussed why we “gamer gals” feel like video games can actually be great for your relationship!

1. If You Can’t Beat ‘Em, Join ‘Em!

Rather than sulking and fighting with him to stop playing video games, I thought it doesn’t hurt to join him! I’m so glad I did because it’s an easy way to spend time together. Even if you’re not fully into playing video games, it will mean a lot to him that you tried. With this being said, he might be more willing to go shopping or go see a chick-flick with you.

2. Remember There is a Pause Button

Most games do have a pause button and it is important to know when to use it. For instance, when your

partner walks into the room after a long day, this is a perfect time to press pause, stand up and give them a kiss. Sometimes though your partner may not know to do this. It is important to set expectations and guidelines in order to have a smooth relationship. Unless, your partner is playing “League of Legends” then just walk away. There is no pause button on that game!

3. It is Important to Care About Each Other’s Interests

It’s totally cool to have separate interests. Relationships are a two-way street. My boyfriend likes the strategy games where I like more of the shooting games. He goes out of his way to find a game we can play together and his thoughtfulness results in us getting along even better! Orr commented, “I like to watch him play because of his reactions to the story line...so we can talk about different scenarios or aspects of the game he is playing.” Having something you both enjoy together is quality time well spent and can improve your relationship all around

4. Your Partner Will Become Your Hero

You’ll get some insight into your relationship by playing video games. It’s not every day that you are running away from zombies like in “Black Ops 2.” If he leaves the safe room to save you from a zombie, you know he is a man who will stick by you no matter what. Quick said “It’s also an opportunity for the both of you to problem solve together in order to figure out the mission like on ‘Portal’.”

5. It’s an Adrenaline Rush

When you finally reach the next level after playing for hours, or killing the enemy that has kicked your butt for days, your adrenaline will be pumping. With that adrenaline juice pumping, there is more than one way to celebrate, if you know what I mean...take this opportunity and have fun celebrating the win. It will be definitely a win-win for you!

Now that I have dated a “gamer” for the last three years, I can only imagine the adventures we will have as a married couple in the future. At least I can still beat him at my favorite 1972

the burnian

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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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.

SLIAC Fall Standings

By BRIAN LOVELLETTE

MEN'S SOCCER			WOMEN'S SOCCER			VOLLEYBALL		
School	SLIAC	Overall	School	SLIAC	Overall	School	SLIAC	Overall
Spalding	5-0	7-6	Fontbonne	6-0	10-5-1	Greenville	11-2	18-6
Fontbonne	5-1	5-9-1	Webster	5-0	7-7	Webster	11-3	15-7
Webster	4-1	6-7	Spalding	4-1	8-4-1	Westminster	9-3	13-9
Westminster	4-1-1	8-3-1	Westminster	4-2	6-6	Spalding	10-4	16-8
Blackburn	2-2-1	5-6-3	Principia	3-3	4-9	Principia	8-7	15-9
Greenville	1-2-2	4-7-4	Blackburn	2-3	5-9-1	Eureka	6-8	10-12
Principia	2-4	5-8	MacMurray	2-4	7-7	Fontbonne	5-8	9-14
Eureka	1-4	6-7-1	Greenville	1-4	5-9-1	Iowa Wesleyan	5-9	6-17
MacMurray	0-4-2	3-9-2	Eureka	0-5	1-11	MacMurray	3-10	4-24
Iowa Wesleyan	0-5	3-12-1	Iowa Wesleyan	0-5	0-13	Blackburn	0-14	1-22

Athletics Schedule

Women’s Soccer

Tue	Oct. 25	Principia at Blackburn	1:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 29	Blackburn at Greenville	5:00 PM

Men’s Soccer

Tue	Oct. 25	Principia at Blackburn	3:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 29	Blackburn at Greenville	7:00 PM

Men & Women’s Cross Country

Sat	Oct. 29	SLIAC Championships at Louisville, Kentucky	10:30 AM
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Women’s Volleyball

Thu	Oct. 20	Blackburn at Westminster	7:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 22	Principia at Blackburn	11:00 AM
Wed	Oct. 26	St. Mary-Woods at Blackburn	6:00 PM
Sat	Oct. 29	Westminster at Blackburn	10:00 AM
		Fontbonne at Blackburn	4:00 PM



Digging Deep



Maria Cline, Emily Schroeder, Alanni Young and Shelsie Timmermeier during the team's game vs Greenville

PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

By JORDAN WOOD

In volleyball, a dig is a physical act that controls an attack from the opposing team; this year “dig” has taken on a whole new meaning. For the Blackburn women’s volleyball team, the past few seasons haven’t necessarily gone according to plan. In their 2014 campaign, the Beavers went 3-29 with a .094 winning percentage. Last season, they finished 4-25 with a .138. And in their first 20 games this season they have collected a record of 1-19 with a sub .100 winning percentage. Despite the numbers, the team remains positive and hopeful.

Often in sports, the box score and win-loss record doesn’t fully do justice to how the game actually went and it certainly doesn’t tell the complete story. It leaves out the most important parts: the ups and downs, the competitive desire to win and the determination of both teams. With those, you only get one glimpse into a long hard-fought battle. It’s not uncommon for a basketball team to play a great game, but lose by double digits. The box score may look bad, but what it doesn’t show is that the game may have been back and forth

until the last two or three minutes of the fourth quarter and then one team pulled away after the losing team began fouling and sending the first to the line to stop the clock and shoot free throws. The same idea can be said for the Beavers’ record. What are the three aspects the volleyball team’s record doesn’t show? Heart. Determination. Hope. It’s not the big picture; the big picture is so much larger than a simple record. For the volleyball team, it’s about growth, keeping a positive attitude, building the program up and digging deep within themselves to keep

fighting it out in every set. As a senior criminal justice major, Marlee Lindstrom remains hopeful for both the season and the future of the program. “My hope for the rest of the season is to play to the best of our ability and continue growing as a team everyday,” she said. “The more we grow this year, the easier it will be to carry into next year for the girls who will still be here. I also have high hopes that the program will be able to grow. The talent is there; we just need to put all the pieces together.”

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“My hope for the rest of the season is to play to the best of our ability and continue growing as a team everyday”

Marlee Lindstrom

Tebow Throws a Changeup

By JORDAN WOOD

Tim Tebow experienced many highs and lows in his football career. As a sophomore, he won college football’s most prestigious award, the Heisman Trophy, given to the most outstanding player in NCAA football. He also won two national championships with the University of Florida. Entering the NFL, the hype surrounding him was intense. Although he had some success, it was nowhere near the success he experienced at Florida. Freshmen Abby Frerichs and

Jordan Laczkowski agreed that his biggest weakness was that “people had higher expectations of him because of his successful college career,” and that “he had his ups and downs like any quarterback, but people were so hard on him.” Tebow’s stint in the NFL lasted from 2010-2012 with the Denver Broncos and New York Jets, and included brief off-season appearances with the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles before he was

released. Laczkowski believed he had his chance. She said, “He didn’t need anymore chances; he tried and he failed and now he’s in baseball. I think it’s a great idea because he’s excelling at it and if it makes him happy, great. It’s kind of cool that he’s one of the few that go from one professional sport to another and excel so quickly.” After his time in the NFL Tebow released a book titled “Through My Eyes” about his life and football experiences. He also experimented

with careers in broadcasting and TV. Despite his hiatus from sports, Tebow could not completely walk away and announced that he was going to play baseball. Despite criticism and skepticism, he signed with the New York Mets on Sept. 8, 2016. On Sept. 28, Tebow played in his first professional game in an Instructional League. In his first at-bat and in dramatic fashion, he left his mark, driving a homerun over the left field fence.