

CIA Veteran and Blackburn Alumnus Honored at Convocation

By JORDYN SMITH

On the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, Blackburn College and the Carlinville community gathered together in Clegg Chapel to honor all those who fought and served.

The 12th annual Veterans Day Convocation was attended by 250-300 students, faculty and staff as well as various members of the community, according to Senior Director of Development and class of '73 alumnus Nate Rush. The presentation and retrieval of colors was provided by the Color Guard of the Carlinville American Legion Guy Baird Post 554.

Rush provided opening remarks then later announced the distinguished alumni veterans and recognized the veterans present. The opening and closing prayers and litany for veterans were provided by Rev. Dr. Carter Aikin, Chair of Philosophy and Religion at Blackburn.

The Blackburn College choir, directed by Dr. Elizabeth Zobel and

accompanied by Dr. Joseph Welch, made an appearance. The choir sang both "River in Judea" at the start of the ceremony and the traditional "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" at close. "Taps" was played by community member Bill Hoff.

Senior Student Marshal Nate Kinnison was responsible for introducing the guest speaker, veteran and class of '57 alumnus Richard (Dick) Holm. Born in Chicago and raised in Elmhurst, Illinois, Holm had a 35-year career in the CIA. Holm was dispatched to various locations, including Laos, the Republic of the Congo and Paris. During an aerial reconnaissance mission, Holm's plane crashed, and he was severely burned and blinded. He was rescued 10 days later and began a three-year rehabilitation process before being stationed in Hong Kong for 12 years. Holm was instrumental in anti-terrorist operations and was recognized for his sacrifices. He has received many awards for his service, including the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the highest honor the CIA can bestow.

"It's very warming for me to see the kinds of values and the kinds of people that are here," remarked Holm. He described the history of Veterans Day and its transition from Armistice Day to the holiday that is commemorated today. He then went on to honor individual veterans as well as all those who are currently serving. He also recognized first responders, police officers, firefighters and members of SWAT teams.

While Holm had many thanks



PHOTO BY DANI ANDERSON

Richard "Dick" Holm was the guest speaker at Blackburn's Veterans Day Convocation

and praises to give, he also expressed "laments" for the country, including the recent controversy sparked by several professional athletes refusing to stand and acknowledge the flag during the national anthem. "Regrettably there are now some individuals that feel compelled to reject the long-standing tradition to stand and honor, put your hand over your heart when our national anthem is played. To me [that is] serious; it's disrespect not only to those symbols but to the veterans that in many ways fought for those things, served for those things...While I know that it is their right to free speech and free action not to stand up, it is absolutely the wrong thing to do."

He also called for the veterans administration to "get its act together" and "rebuild from the bottom up, if necessary" to provide the kinds of assistance that veterans deserve. Holm

concluded, "This is the day when all of us... patriotic Americans need to think about and appreciate and honor all of our veterans."

Junior elementary major Magin Judd attended and enjoyed the ceremony. "It was a beautiful service," said Judd. "I enjoyed the connections Mr. Holm made about sitting in the same chapel, and how comfortable he must have been to share his personal opinions on what was happening in the world today."

"It is always amazing to see how many people's lives are touched by the lives of veterans," she added.

After the convocation, students and veterans were invited to meet with Holm during the Thanksgiving meal provided in the ADRs in the Demuzio Campus Center. Veterans in attendance ate courtesy of the college.



PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

The colors retrieved during the Veterans Day Convocation in Clegg Chapel

Student Actors did the Impossible in "Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast"

By GARY LOWDER

The Blackburn Performing Arts Department's fall play, "Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast," had been eagerly awaited by many students

and professors alike. It debuted on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m. and had several subsequent performances on Friday and over the weekend. "Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast" is an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic wonderland stories. The play differs from Carroll's Victorian stories by having a more psychedelic 1960s and 1970s vibe. Blackburn theater professor Andrea Swift-Hanlon acted as the play's designer and technical director and achieved this by using era-appropriate clothing, music and sets.

Sophomore communications major Kaitlyn Scott played the lead role of Alice in the play and said, "I was a little nervous, but rehearsal helped me get out the pre-show jitters. I think we all were very nervous, but also excited. Sophomore literature major See **Six Impossible Things**, page 2



PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

Sophomore Kaitlyn Scott as Alice

The Final Whistle for a Golden Coach

By JORDAN WOOD

Before his time as head coach of the women's soccer team, Tim Gould first came to Blackburn College to play soccer and earn a bachelor's degree in secondary education in English. As a member of the Blackburn men's soccer team, Gould was a four-year starter on a team that finished in the top four three times during his career.

After graduation Gould was hired as the head coach of the Carlinville High School girl's soccer team. He finished his coaching stint there with a record of 103-50-5 and was named the 2010 Alton Telegraph small school girl's coach of the year. While at Carlinville High School, he was also hired as the head coach of the boy's team. In six seasons he compiled a record of 100-47-6 and collected the boy's soccer team's only sectional championship.

See **Coach Gould**, page 12

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Six Impossible Things



PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

Junior Abigayle Anne Groves as the White Queen

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Rachel Chong said, "No, I wasn't very nervous. I would say I was more nervous yesterday during rehearsal." Most actors agreed that once they got on stage they were not nervous anymore. "I was very nervous before the show, but once the music started all my nerves just melted away," said freshman secondary English education major Alex Roberts, who played The Cheshire Cat.

Many audience members enjoyed the show and ended up seeing it more than once. Blackburn President John Comerford came to opening night and said, "I loved it! I thought it was very cool. I haven't seen a play like it, very fast paced and very funny." Blackburn theater professor and the play's director Carolyn Conover said, "I'm thrilled for the actors and very proud. They really deserve this supportive of an audience because they put in a lot of hard work. People were smiling in the audience, we got some laughs, they all did their job very well."

After a small celebration, all of the play's actors were focused on the next performances and improving upon opening night. "We always have to be improving, I think we can never study our lines enough," said Roberts. If you missed this year's performance theater professors would like to remind you to attend Blackburn's annual Madrigal Dinner. If you are interested in theater or would like to audition for a future play you can contact Professor Carolyn Conover at carolyn.conover@blackburn.edu or Professor Andrea Swift-Hanlon at andrea.swift-hanlon@blackburn.edu.

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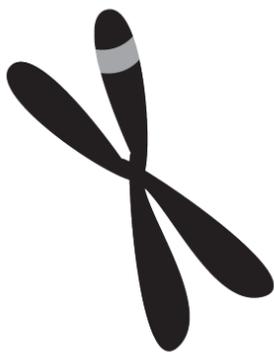
Carolyn Conover

CRISPR-Cas 9

By MICHAEL TROUTT

CRISPR-Cas 9 is a relatively new genetic editing technique that has accumulated a great deal of attention in the science world. Research suggests that this technique has the potential to end humanity's struggle against disease and could one day allow people to choose what genes their children inherit. From eradicating cancer to producing designer babies, CRISPR-Cas 9 might sound more like science fiction than reality.

Throughout the 1990s, research conducted at the University of Alicante, Spain, revealed repeating patterns of DNA found in bacteria. These repetitive segments of DNA became known as clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, or simply CRISPR. These repeats were not very well understood until the unique DNA segments between the repeats were discovered to match the DNA of certain viruses. In 2005, research at the French Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) revealed the presence of a CRISPR-associated protein called Cas 9. The CRISPR-Cas 9 system was identified as an old adaptive immune response to help



bacteria fight off foreign pathogens like viruses.

When bacteria are attacked by a virus, the virus injects some of its DNA into the bacterial cell and eventually destroys the cell while it reproduces more of the virus. If the bacteria survive, part of the pathogen's DNA is stored between the repeating segments of CRISPR for future immunity. If the same pathogen is encountered again, CRISPR recognizes it and uses the Cas 9 protein to disable the pathogen's DNA, preventing it from spreading and destroying the bacterial cell.

In 2010, research at the University of Laval, Quebec City, Canada, revealed that CRISPR-Cas 9 could be used to cut out and replace or edit

Offering comfort in conversation

By JESS WILLARD

Although the counseling services department offers several extracurricular programs such as coloring in the Demuzio Campus Center and the mindfulness and meditation meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays, Blackburn College does not have a group that is focused entirely on counseling. According to the American Psychological Association, group therapy provides benefits, like a support network, that individual therapy cannot offer. Graduate intern for counseling services Brooke Schmidt decided to start "Fishbowl Conversations" in order to remedy the lack of a therapeutic group discussions at Blackburn.

Schmidt was inspired to create this group due to her experience at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. She mentioned that they had a similar group called "Sex in a Fishbowl" where students would ask questions and discuss experiences in a safe environment. "Some conversations would be extremely funny, and participants can laugh, or it will be serious and heartfelt," she added.

Schmidt thought that Blackburn College offered opportunity for students since they can be involved with a multitude of organizations. "But where are the groups where students can just get together and talk about what's up? There is such a stigma with mental health that people would rather stuff it than actually seek help," she noted. "So I wanted to create an open group where students could comfortably come and discuss topics of interest or general concerns in a safe environment."

"Fishbowl Conversations" offers anonymity to its participants. Each person takes a slip of paper, writes down a topic and places it in a fishbowl. Schmidt added, "There's a chance his or her topic will or won't be chosen. The only way people find out who wrote what is if that person says, 'Oh, that's mine,' or if they feel they want to explain the background for that topic." Participants are given the option at the end of the meeting to toss leftover topics or keep them for future sessions.

The group meets every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the alcove by the Blackburn College Admissions Office. Based on student attendance, location is subject to change in the future. Schmidt added that attendance is currently low, but she believes that the group will grow with time. "I've had students approach me asking about it during coloring or venting tables for more information," she said. "I have a feeling there's some discomfort with the group for being associated with counseling services, and I understand."

Schmidt's overarching hope for these gatherings is that students will discover comfort in numbers. She said that so far the group has covered topics such as stress management, conflict resolution, communication skills and building healthy relationships. Schmidt hopes to continue these meetings into the coming semester and noted that, "Studies show that students who process concerns with those within their community – and thus are sharing in similar experiences – are more resilient in life."



GENES AND DNA GRAPHICS BY JOHN HUMMER

segments of DNA. Furthermore, in 2013, research from Harvard and MIT suggested that the CRISPR-Cas 9 system could be programmed to target specific segments of DNA for editing in mouse and human cells. With the ability to edit DNA, scientists could potentially target and eliminate diseases. Theoretically, CRISPR-Cas 9 is thought to be effective at editing the genetic makeup of any animal.

With the growth of research surrounding CRISPR-Cas 9, the data suggests that this technique could one day be used to cure liver diseases, cancer, HIV and many more of the diseases that continue to plague humanity. While the positive effects of gene editing are being discussed,

the ethics of using this technology will eventually come into question. Blackburn professor of biology Dr. David Reid commented that CRISPR-Cas 9 may "have huge therapeutic capabilities, but there's also this huge ethical debate that should accompany this kind of therapy."

Reid raised another concern for gene editing with the question: "Are we going to edit something out, inadvertently, that we might need later?" He went on to discuss a genetic mutation called CCR5-Delta32, which basically makes individuals immune to HIV. According to research from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), this mutation was estimated to occur in only 1 in 20,000 Europeans during the plagues. Today the frequency of CCR5-Delta32 is estimated at 1 in 100 Europeans, and the reason for this increase is due to the genetic mutation. Furthermore, if the population of immune Europeans did not have a genetic mutation to inherit, they would be vulnerable to contracting HIV.

While genetic editing may be on the horizon, the question of whether or not it is ethical remains.

DCC Emergency!

By GARY LOWDER

On Monday, Oct. 24, around 4 p.m., an ambulance pulled into Demuzio Campus Center (DCC) parking lot to take freshman elementary education and physical education major Destiny Barnett to the hospital. At the time of the incident no one really knew what had

happened to Barnett; many bystanders claimed “she just collapsed.” Barnett said, “I was feeling very tired and had chest pains out of the world, but that didn’t stop me from attending any of my classes. I was done with classes and on my way to work when the incident

happened. I told [my] roommate Brianna and my sister Antenece Barnett. My friend Victory Odunukwe went and got our RD Alondra Olvera and before I knew it I passed out.”

The ambulance took Barnett to the hospital where she was told she had

costochondritis. The National Library of Medicine defines this condition as “an inflammation of the junctions where the upper ribs join with the cartilage that holds them to the breastbone, or sternum.” This condition can cause uncomfortable chest pain for those inflicted. Barnett didn’t know she had this condition and said, “Honestly, this was my first time being admitted to a hospital. I have never broken a bone, been very sick or anything. I was very scared - scared for the fact that I didn’t know what was going on and scared for the outcome.”

Barnett notes that she is okay now and is feeling much better, “I wake up every morning with the unbearable chest pains and go to sleep with them. I try not to let them interfere with me or my classes.”

“I would like to give thanks to all my wonderful friends who were there for me and texted me every morning and night. I want to give thanks to Alondra, and I would also like to thank Brooke Meyer from the bookstore. They all helped me,” said Barnett.



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Destiny Barnett is loaded into an ambulance

Blackburn College Science Wall of Honor Ceremony

By MICHAEL TROUTT

On the evening of Nov. 4, 2016, Blackburn College inducted four individuals into the Science Wall of Honor. Blackburn alumni Dr. Herman Brockman, Dr. Irving “Larry” Graves, Dr. William R. Jewell and Blackburn faculty emeritus Dr. Marsha (Ekstrom) Meredith were celebrated at the event which took place in the Mahan Laboratory Wing Atrium.

The Blackburn College Science Wall of Honor was founded in 2012 and nominees are selected based on certain criteria:

-either they have graduated from Blackburn and made a significant contribution to science, or they have served 20 or more years as Blackburn faculty

-they are retired from Blackburn and have inspired former students.

Before presenting the inductees, Blackburn Chair of Biology Dr. James Bray, senior biochemistry major Veronica Milligan, professor of biology and ecology Dr. Jonathan Micancin and senior biology major Ross Albert spoke about their experiences of conducting research on sustainability through Blackburn College.

Professor of chemistry Dr. Mark Armstrong served as the host of the induction ceremony on behalf of the Science Wall of Honor Committee, and President Dr. John Comerford unveiled the plaques in honor of the inductees while presenting them with an award.

The ceremony began with Micancin presenting Dr. Graves. Micancin spoke on the highlights of Graves’ life and contributions to science by noting that Graves attended Blackburn in 1949 and continued his education at the University of Minnesota where he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1956. He also earned his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of North Carolina in 1963. Most notably, he was a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where he also conducted research on “bird flu” and published over 45 scientific articles. Graves passed away in 2011 and was presented the honor in his memory.

Dr. Brockman was then presented by Bray, who provided a summary of Brockman’s career honors. Brockman graduated from Blackburn in 1956, earned his master’s from Northwestern University in 1957 and a Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1960. Brockman was a professor at Illinois State University (ISU) from 1963 to 1998 when he retired. The research he directed at ISU focused on genetic mutations. Brockman said that he felt “overwhelmed” by the honor, and that he has a “great appreciation for Blackburn College.”

The next inductee was Dr. Jewell, who was presented by Blackburn Chair of chemistry Dr. Karl Luth. Jewell graduated Blackburn College in 1957



PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

Dr. Herman Brockman speaks at his induction to the Science Wall of Honor after being introduced by Dr. Jim Bray

with a degree in chemistry and earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois in 1966. Jewell was a surgeon for 40 years and had a strong interest in the early detection of cancer. He was involved in research and trials that related the drug Tamoxifen, which is used as an effective treatment for breast cancer. Jewell said upon receiving the award, “It’s a great honor,” and elaborated on the superb preparation for medical school provided by his education at Blackburn College and stated, “This is what Blackburn is good at doing.”

The final inductee, Dr. Meredith, was presented by Blackburn Chair

of mathematics Dr. Chris Morin, who recounted the years he worked alongside Meredith. He attested to her inspiration and mentorship of students over her 35 year career at Blackburn. After graduating Hunter College-CUNY, she went on to Indiana University (IU) to earn a master’s in mathematics as well as computer science and was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in computer science at IU. Meredith also pioneered the computer science major at Blackburn College. When asked about her induction, she said, “It’s an amazing honor,” and that she was very grateful.

One in a Melon

By JORDYN SMITH

Love Your Melon is a new organization on campus, otherwise known as the Blackburn College Love Your Melon Campus Crew. The crew, which got its start in mid-September, has 18 members so far and is sponsored by Development Officer for Institutional Advancement Sarah Rysell.

Love Your Melon is an apparel brand dedicated to giving a hat to every child battling cancer in the U.S. For every hat sold, another is donated to a child fighting cancer and 50 percent of all net proceeds go to their nonprofit partners, The Pinky Swear Foundation and CureSearch, which both work in the field of pediatric oncology by funding cancer research initiatives and provide immediate support for families with children undergoing treatment.

The brand sells not only hats but also clothes, bags, scarves, keychains, mugs and other merchandise. Products are made in the U.S. from 100 percent all natural fibers. However, products

are currently only sold online at www.loveyourmelon.com.

The Blackburn campus crew program functions on a credit-based system. For every product sold and credited to Blackburn College, the crew gets a credit. Once the crew earned 10 credits, they received a “starter kit” which includes promotional materials such as informational cards, stickers, pins and bracelets, as well as signage and even a sample beanie. These materials are provided so that the crew can begin tabling, or setting up a table at various events on campus and around the community in order to promote products and provide a venue for individuals to make online purchases. When the crew accumulates 250 credits, they will dress up as superheroes to visit children with cancer in local hospitals to donate the hats. They will also get the opportunity to spend some time with them outside of the hospital, whether it be at the zoo, a public park or even a Blackburn



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

The Blackburn College Love Your Melon crew painted the rock outside of Butler Hall



PHOTO BY ALEXIS PLATTO

Carlinville residents Danika Pratt (right) and son Allen Gooding (left) wear their Love Your Melon hats

sporting event.

The crew has now earned 30 credits, and is hoping to reach their goal of 250 credits by the end of the semester. In order to credit the organization when checking out, you can go to their cart, click the drop down menu that says, “Select a Campus Crew to Support,” and select Blackburn College Campus Crew before hitting “Check Out.”

The crew meets every other Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Woodson 111. So far the organization has painted “The Rock” outside of Butler Hall in honor of Love Your Melon, and has also hosted a “#GoForGold” event in which Blackburn students, faculty and staff were invited to take a pledge to “go gold” and wear a gold ribbon for a day in support of childhood cancer awareness. The club also did a tabling event at homecoming. Currently there are over 11,000 members who represent 740 crews at colleges and universities across the nation. To date, over 75,000 hats have been donated to children and over 1.1 million dollars has been donated to pediatric cancer research funds.

So why are students so interested in Love Your Melon? “I love philanthropy, especially when I can connect it to helping children out,” said senior club

secretary Alexis Platto. “I was in and out of hospitals growing up so this touches my heart— trying to brighten a child’s day.”

“Love Your Melon is an excellent organization for our students to be involved in,” said Rysell. Our Blackburn [crew members] are benefiting both personally and professionally from being involved...They are gaining leadership experience, implementing marketing and entrepreneurial strategies to encourage sales, while also engaging in a philanthropic mission that expands further than campus.”

“I’m really looking forward to going to the hospitals, giving kids the hats and spending the day with them to try and take their minds off of things for at least a few hours,” added Platto.

At this time the crew is unable to accept donations on behalf of Love Your Melon. If you would like to help the crew out, go to loveyourmelon.com, or visit the Facebook page Blackburn College LYM Campus Crew for any questions. The crew is also on Instagram and Twitter @bc_lym_crew.

*This article was written by the founder and president of the Blackburn College Love Your Melon Campus Crew.

A Sip of Poison

By DUSTY GLASS

One of the stereotypical dangers of college is binge drinking, and without knowledge of what symptoms are dangerous, many can suffer from severe blood alcohol poisoning.

Blood alcohol level is the percentage of alcohol in an individual’s body and is the standard of measuring for alcohol poisoning which, due to alcohol being a depressant, slows down the body and, at high levels, can shut down vital processes. It is important to know the symptoms of poisoning so that medical help can be sought when it is needed.

Blood alcohol poisoning has stages of impairment, according to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. The first stage is mild impairment and it starts when the blood alcohol levels are from 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent. This stage is known

as being “buzzed” and the effects are minor with small impairments to speech, motor control and memory as well as drowsiness. Following this stage is a time of increased impairment as blood alcohol reaches 0.06 percent to 0.15 percent. The body can have difficulty doing most physical actions, aggression can increase and judgment is impaired. From 0.16 percent to 0.3 percent, the body is severely impaired and it can begin to have life threatening consequences. Vomiting, passing out, blacking out, a lack of mental capabilities and trouble functioning are all symptoms.

Finally, at 0.31 percent and up, the blood alcohol level is life threatening. The body suppresses life support functions, consciousness is doubtful and the symptoms of severe poisoning such as hypothermia, hypoglycemia,

heart issues and the person’s breathing can stop. At this point, the drinker needs medical attention immediately. Blood alcohol levels will continue to rise even once the individual stops drinking due to undigested alcohol in the stomach. At the hospital symptoms can be stabilized and the stomach pumped to prevent further poisoning. Many students will refuse to seek medical attention, however, due to fear of the law.

This is where the amnesty policy comes into play. According to Blackburn’s Director of Campus Safety Morrie Fraser there are two separate amnesty policies: one for the state and one for the Blackburn campus. The state policy protects anyone from possible charges if they call for medical help for another person. This policy does not protect

the unconscious person for whom the help was sought. The Blackburn policy protects anyone involved with calling for assistance, including caller and the student needing medical attention. This policy was created in order to allow students to focus on finding help for the person in need without having to worry about the consequences. The policy is used maybe once a semester according to Fraser.

Blackburn’s amnesty policy does not need any paperwork filed before hand, nor does the individual have to claim it as it comes into play automatically. If a student calls the police or an ambulance for help, the Blackburn amnesty policy is immediately initiated and, although students may be asked questions or need to report, it will not affect them in any way.

Justin case you didn't know

By JORDYN SMITH

While he may have a calm and quiet demeanor, he is able to convince hundreds of students to come to Blackburn College each year.

Without Justin Norwood, many students would have never attended the college. "Justin Norwood is an awesome person and admissions counselor," said sophomore elementary education major Gariel Pierce. "He's the reason I am at Blackburn."

Although he is selflessly averse to talking about himself, Norwood, who serves as the college's Associate Director of Admissions, plays an important role in recruiting students. Norwood recruits freshmen at high school and college fairs within a 50-mile radius of Blackburn. He said that his favorite part about recruiting is "working with students to go on to that next step and see how they change from being a freshman in college all the way to their senior year and how they become more defined people."

"I remember when he called me to tell me I got accepted into Blackburn with a few scholarships," said Pierce. "Not only was he informative and nice, he kept in contact with me constantly and was always looking for a way to help my transition to college be easier."

Norwood was a student at



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

Pictured is Norwood's '67 Mercury Cougar, a treasured possession inspired by his grandfather

Blackburn, graduating in December of 2003 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education - history. Aside from one semester working as a Resident Assistant and two weeks as Resident Director of Challacombe "North" Hall, Norwood spent the majority of his work program experience in food service.

Blackburn is also where Norwood met his wife of 16 years. The two met in Butler Hall, where Norwood lived for the majority of his time, and the rest is history. Norwood and his wife Stephanie have two kids who are 10 and 12 years old.

Prior to attending Blackburn, Norwood received his associate's degree in surgical technology from Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. When looking for a school to transfer to, he visited McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, which was playing Blackburn's football team that day. Norwood decided he liked Blackburn's offense better, and he and his family decided to visit the campus on their way home.

Thus, Norwood's main reason for coming to Blackburn was to play football, which he looked forward to every weekend. "Students would put couches on the end zone to watch games," he recollected. Norwood still supports Beaver athletics today. "He is one of the few people who got me to continue my basketball career, because I was 50/50 about playing in college," said Pierce. "Now that I'm here, Justin has had my back and is always checking up on me. He comes to some of my basketball games, too. Justin is the type

of person who cares genuinely."

Norwood very much enjoyed his experience as a student at Blackburn, and he wishes students today could get a taste of what the college was like for him. "One of the things that made Blackburn such a memory for me was the fact that we wouldn't go home on the weekends. It seems like a lot of students now are constantly going home. For us, there was a reason to stay on Saturdays, whether it was football, or ya know, we all wanted to be around each other and this was our home," Norwood said.

"The funny thing about Blackburn is, even from when I was a student, the students make the place. You're only going to be as happy what you allow yourself to be. Embrace how much control you guys [the students] have of what's going on around here, and if you don't like it, change it for the better." Norwood hopes to stay at Blackburn for the long run, as this is his 12th year in admissions. "I probably wouldn't be at peace anywhere else just because I'm so tied to this school."

Outside from Blackburn, Norwood enjoys reading and playing records, as well as watching movies and playing his favorite video game, the "old Dungeons and Dragons." He also loves to drive his red 1967 Mercury Cougar.

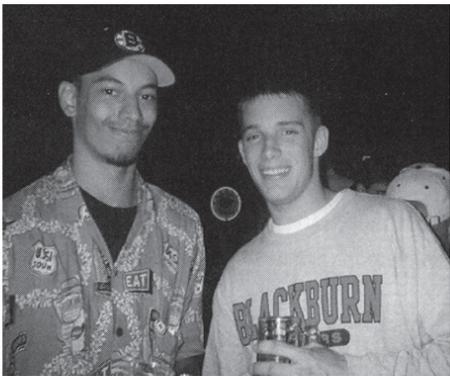


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

Justin Norwood as a student with another RA, Rob Horn



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

The 1998-1999 football team



By Jess Willard

Between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31, the Campus Community and Safety department and Residence Life handled a total of 16 incidents. Six of these incidents were reported to Clery:

Oct. 1: Underage alcohol possession/consumption was reported in a residence hall. A Clery report was made.

Oct. 3: Sexual harassment was reported on campus in a non-residence building.

Oct. 4: A report was made for fondling without consent in a residence hall. This incident was reported to

Clery.

Oct. 5: A microwave was reported as smoking in a residence hall.

Oct. 9: There was a report made for entering the dining hall without swiping.

Oct. 10: Underage alcohol possession/consumption was reported in a residence hall. There was a Clery report made.

Oct. 12: Suspicion of marijuana in addition to possession of alcohol by a minor was reported on campus' public property. Paraphernalia was found. A report was made to Clery.

Oct. 13: Sexual harassment was reported in various locations around campus.

Oct. 14: There was a report made for inappropriate behavior in snack bar.

Oct. 18: Suspicion of marijuana was reported in residence halls.

Oct. 23: Three separate incidents were reported: damage to a vehicle in a campus parking lot; making threats on campus in a non-residence hall; and a medical emergency in addition to underage alcohol consumption in a residence hall. The underage alcohol consumption incident was reported to

Clery.

Oct. 25: Inappropriate writing on a door board was reported in a residence hall.

Oct. 27: There was a report made for unfounded sexual assault in a residence hall; it was later founded to be consensual. This incident was reported to Clery as an unfounded crime.

Oct. 31: A fire alarm was sounded due to smoke from cooking in a residence hall.

Illinoisans Showed Up to the Polls

By GARY LOWDER

In the recent election more Illinois citizens showed up to the polls than any other time since the 1970s, according to Illinois State Board of Elections spokesman Jim Tenuto, whose research showed that Illinois had more than 7.9 million active registered voters as of Oct. 24. Illinois also experienced record numbers of early voters. The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners spokesman Jim Allen said, "We've never seen early voting 40 days before the election. In 2008, we started 22 days before and in 2002, we started 15 days before." This large turnout is believed to be the result of a very important federal

election, but the senatorial race and more local representative elections have also brought out a lot of voters. On Friday, Oct. 28, students of Blackburn College gathered in the Demuzio Campus Center (DCC) to register to vote if they hadn't already, or cast their ballot early. Macoupin county clerk Pete Duncan was in DCC to help students vote from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. "Right now we are very focused on elections, this election especially has been crazy for us," said Duncan. This was the first time Duncan and his team of election judges had traveled to a school to register students. "It was



Macoupin county clerk Pete Duncan registers students to vote

PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER



Students and community members came out to register and vote early

PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

pretty successful," said Duncan. "Back in the primary was the first election where we had what is called 'grace period registration' on election day. This made it so people could come up to the courthouse, register to vote and vote the same day. A lot of Blackburn students who wanted to vote (primarily for Senator Sanders) came to the courthouse to do this grace period registration. We thought why not cut to the chase and come directly out to the college and let them do it ahead of time."

Duncan believes this election's increase in voters was largely due to young people becoming more politically active. "For anyone younger, voting is definitely important because we are the ones who

these decisions are going to affect the most and the longest. Unfortunately usually we are the ones who participate the least; but hopefully that is changing for the better." This seems to be quite the opposite for Blackburn students who were eager to cast their ballot. Junior science education major Johnathon Shaw said, "I voted because that's the only way for democracy to work, you have to." While junior environmental studies major Bonny Eyer said, "If we don't vote now we won't be able to change anything later." Even professors appreciated the opportunity to vote early. History professor Gary Long said, "If we don't use it we lose it. So we have to vote!"

Remedy Music Feels

By PARKER RAMAKER

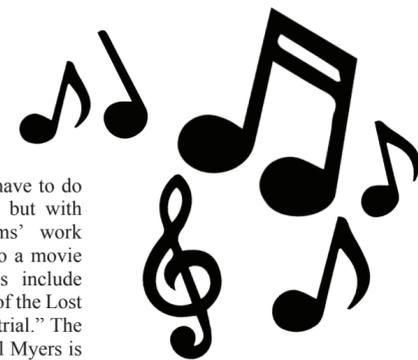
Our moods are important in how the day goes. Music provides a soundtrack to everyday lives. It can help you focus, get your adrenaline pumping and cry. Music gives people an opportunity to feel and express emotions. The mindset music can help with is sports, studying and meditating. Neuropsychologist Dr. David Levitin, of McGill University (Montreal) said, "[Music] can increase immune system functions. There's stronger evidence that it can affect mood and heart rate and respiration rate. So, fast stimulating music stimulates the production of adrenaline and other hormones that get your heart racing faster and your pulse increases and blood pressure increases and then soothing, relaxing music has the opposite effect."

Many people use music for soothing their current mood or to help change it. Blackburn sophomore Chris Morrison said, "I listen to Eminem and G-Eazy before my baseball games because it gets me focused and game ready. It gets me in the zone." Morrison is among many athletes who use music to get their mind and body game ready. Major League Baseball players all use a walk-up song to get them in the right mindset. Third baseman for the Chicago White Sox Todd Frazier uses Frank Sinatra for his walk-up songs.

body movements, it does not have to do with articulation of language, but with something spiritual." Williams' work is to add music and emotion to a movie experience. His movie scores include "Star Wars," "Jaws," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "E.T. the Extraterrestrial." The feeling of horror when Michael Myers is gaining on his next victim or the crying of violins when a person dies in a movie impacts us.

Movie score composer John Williams has been an important figure in the music industry creating emotional music. "There is a very basic human, non-verbal aspect to our need to make music and use it as part of our human expression. It does not have to do with

Music provides a certain edge for performers like athletes and actors. "For me, music always has a positive effect on me even if the song has a sad theme," said musical theater/computer science major Jessica Cramer. She is active in most of Blackburn's musical productions and said, "While performing, music motivates me." Cramer uses music to



guide her focus and to enhance her life moments with the feelings that music can provide her.

Music continues to be play a part in our emotions and health. People enjoy music and use it for therapy, to get through their day or to get motivated. Whether it is The Beatles or the heavy metal band Avenged Sevenfold, there is music for everyone.

Getting to know

TED

By MICHAEL TROUT

TED is a nonprofit organization built upon the mission of sharing interesting ideas with the world. Today, TED hosts thousands of conferences in over 70 countries and has an ever-growing collection of online videos that have collectively acquired over one billion views since 2006, according to ted.com. With a wide range of speakers from celebrities, scientists, musicians and authors, TED allows them a maximum of 18 minutes to share and explain their important and interesting ideas.

designer Harry Marks, wanted to organize a gathering of interesting people that had powerful ideas to share. After the first conference was recorded as a financial loss, Wurman and Marks waited six years before attempting the conference again. Then, in 1990, the beginning of annual TED conferences began in Monterey, California. At that point, the conference was by invitation only, which limited the access of the ideas that were presented. The conference continued under Wurman and Marks until 2001 when TED was obtained by the Sapling Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by British author and entrepreneur Chris Anderson, with the goal of spreading these important ideas throughout the world.

Once Chris Anderson became the curator for TED, the organization made two important additions to help expand the reach and access of the conferences to the global community. The first addition was TEDGlobal, a sister conference held in different locations around the world. The second was the audio and video podcasts named TED Talks, that began releasing some of the content of these conferences for free online.

On Jun. 27, 2006, the first six TED Talks videos were posted online for public viewing and, by September that year, reached over one million views.

By 2009, the videos had amassed over 100 million views and independently organized events, called TEDx, began to take place worldwide. That same year, TED Talks began a project to have their videos translated into over 100 different languages, and, by late 2012, had grown to over one billion views.

With literally thousands of videos on YouTube and ted.com, the range of topics span from education to quantum mechanics to philosophy, and everything in between.



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Shades of Antiquity

By DUSTY GLASS

The 'Burnian is Blackburn College's student operated newspaper that reports essential news to the campus and provides a source of employment for students to fulfill tuition hours for the work program. The paper has had multiple renditions during its time at Blackburn, with The 'Burnian being the latest.

The very first of these papers was "The Gleaner," which began in 1868. The Gleaner was short lived, only surviving until 1871, due to the limited print and time frame; there are no known existing copies left. In 1871, a new paper called The Blackburn Gazette took over.

The Blackburn Gazette is a far cry from what is expected of today's newspapers, as it began not with the latest news, but rather literature, including the poem "The Vale of Tears" by Calamus and short stories. However, like The Gleaner, The Blackburn Gazette did not last long and in 1873 the paper was terminated.

In November 1881, the campus attempted another college paper: The Blackburn Courier. The Courier was similar to the previous versions of the paper, with the addition of monthly subscriptions being made available for a dollar a year. Within a year, The Courier was renamed The Blackburnian.

The Blackburnian (The 'Burnian for short) was the first campus paper to not premiere with a literature section, replacing this section with featured editorials and campus news. The subscription for the paper was, once again, a dollar per year and was issued monthly. The Blackburnian also covered important times of the year by releasing special issues such as the Commencement Issue

Old News

in June 1882. The paper is currently the longest-lasting Blackburn paper and it is still present today on campus with this being its 134th year in print. However, the paper has been through several changes to get to where it is today, such as the shift from the paper being a student club to a campus service. This alteration in 2011 allowed for the paper to hire students to write as a tuition job, and expand the budget provided for The 'Burnian. The 'Burnian used these new resources and went on to win the school five awards from the Illinois College Press Association for 2014-2015 and two more awards in 2015-2016.



The Blackburn Gazette, printed in 1871, featured a literature section

Behind the Ink:

By GARY LOWDER

Losing a loved one is never easy, especially if they are young. When senior theater major Lisa Knight's niece and nephew died shortly after birth, she was heartbroken. "It was hard on everyone in the family," said Knight. She decided to get commemorative tattoos in honor of Allison and Cooper, her deceased family members. After waiting four years and thinking of what would best represent her niece and nephew, Knight decided to get two large feathery wings covering her back and shoulders. Knight explained, "Both wings are unique, just like the personalities of the babies themselves. I wanted something to remember them, but the tattoo also helped me get through a hard time. I'm deathly afraid of needles and shots and getting it done helped prove to myself that I was strong enough to get out of the situation or do anything I needed to do." The wings also serve as a reminder of Knight's faith. "I'm Catholic so I wanted angel wings to remind me that no matter

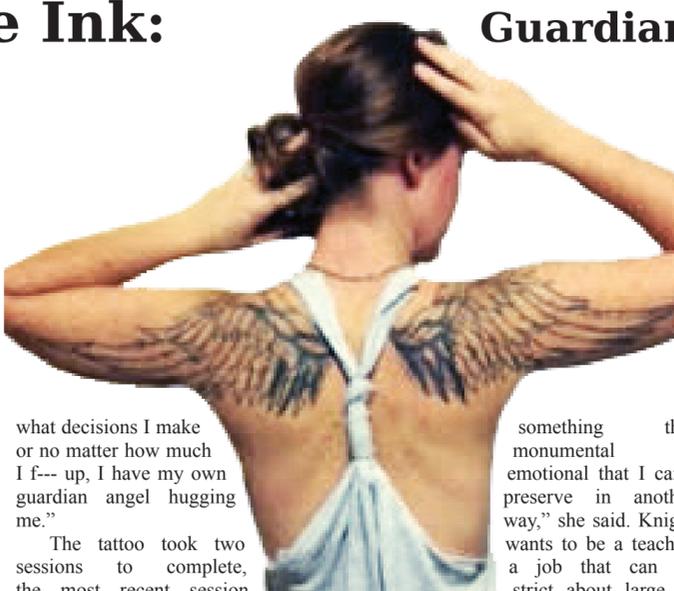


PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Senior Lisa Knight has feathery angel wings tattooed on her back and shoulders

what decisions I make or no matter how much I f--- up, I have my own guardian angel hugging me."

The tattoo took two sessions to complete, the most recent session happened over fall break. "I don't see myself getting anymore tattoos anytime soon, unless I experience

Guardian Angel Wings

with sleeves. "There is definitely a real stigma about tattoos. When I was talking to one of the supervisors at physical plant I mentioned my tattoos and how I was getting them finished over fall break. He was like, 'You have a tattoo?' You could really see his whole demeanor change in a second." Knight's supervisor has not treated her any differently, but it really opened her eyes to how employers can view body art.

"I believe that for me and other people who have tattoos, that the best way to fight that stigma is to prove them wrong," said Knight. "This supervisor knew me as a hard worker before he knew I had a tattoo so I know it's hard for him to think of me as anything else." Knight advises those who are judged for their tattoos to "Kill 'em with kindness. Whenever that old couple looks at you wrong, just go up and talk to them until they fall in love with you and realize you're friendly," smiled Knight. She took this into account and made the tattoo hidable



By CALEB LONG

Playing the blues may seem simple to the casual listener, but once you dig into this music genre and actually play it, you learn what a challenge it really is. One must have soul to be able to do the genre justice. These days, there are not many albums in the public eye that represent the blues in addition to contributing something new to the genre. However, there are exceptions: Alabama Shakes' "Sound & Color" is one of them.

Alabama Shakes is a blues rock band from Athens, Alabama. The band consists of singer and guitarist Brittany Howard, bass player Zac Cockrell, guitarist Heath Fogg and drummer Steve Johnson. Howard, a self taught multi-instrumentalist who wrote songs from a young age, met Fogg at a high school party. After recruiting Fogg's friends, Cockrell and Johnson, they started playing in local venues and bars. The band became very successful

after their album "Boys & Girls" (2012) gained notoriety in the musical press, opening for acts like Jack White and Drive-By Truckers. The band continued to gain success when their second album "Sound & Color" (2015) debuted at number one on the Billboard 200.

I was unfamiliar with Alabama Shakes until earlier this year when I was introduced to "Sound & Color" through an internet video series called



PHOTO BY CALEB LONG

Artwork for Alabama Shakes' award winning record, "Sound & Color"

"What's In My Bag." Usually, it takes a great deal of time before I can appreciate an album in its entirety, but this album blew me away upon first listen. The band pulls from many different styles of music such as funk, shoegaze, folk and punk, constructing an album that is not only danceable and catchy, but that will also tug at your heartstrings. Songs like "Over My Head" evokes feelings that remind you how overwhelming love can be, while "Don't Wanna Fight" makes you want to get out of your chair and groove.

Howard has more emotion and soul in her voice than a 28-year-old should. Her voice is moving and powerful enough to lead a revolution, which you can hear in a song like "Future People." Howard has also shown through this collection of songs that she is a killer songwriter. Songs like "Dunes" and the album's title track are perfect examples of her mastery of the craft.

If you have not heard this album, I implore you to pick up a copy as soon as possible. While the blues may be a difficult genre to tackle, Alabama Shakes play as though they invented it. "Sound & Color" is proof of that.

Talk Nerdy to Me: We Didn't Playtest This at All



PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT

The "We Didn't Playtest This at All" game box and its sequel

By PATRICK BENEDICT

Is variety the true spice of life or is it unpredictability? Asmadi Games' 2007 card game "We Didn't Playtest This at All" (WDPT) would argue that unpredictability is the answer since it is the main theme of the game. The game has very simple rules, stating that the objective of WDPT is to win. The fun of the game is discovering how one might go about accomplishing that goal.

A round of WDPT can last anywhere from 30 seconds to a full five minutes. Play begins with each player receiving two cards and a demand to determine who goes first "as randomly as possible." This leaves the players with many creative options on how they will determine order of play. Order could be based on height, age, color of underwear and everything in between.

Once the first player is decided,

he or she draws a single card from the deck and then plays one of the cards from his or her hand. What happens next depends on the instructions given by the played card. For example, there are a few cards which dictate that a player must ask the fellow participants if they would like presents. Depending on the responses of the other players and what the specific card says, several players could win, lose or remain unaffected. What makes the game even more unpredictable is that there are several different versions of the various cards. For instance one version of the "Presents" card could say that all players that accept a present lose while another version will say that those who refused presents lose. This can fool novice players into making the wrong choices.

Other cards impose rules on all the

players of the game for the full duration of the round. For instance, one card reads, "Zombies! Play face up in front of you. If a player doesn't say 'AHH Zombies!' before playing a card on their turn, zombies eat their brains and they lose. Unless they have a banana."

Deciding a winner in WDPT can be difficult. Some combination of cards played can force all players in the game to lose or have all remaining players win. In general, however, the rules dictate that the last person standing is the winner. There can be exceptions such as the "Spite" card which says, "Play this card if another player just won, and you're otherwise still in the game. They lose instead! But so do you."

WDPT becomes even more unpredictable when the Chaos Pack expansion is included. These cards act as extra rules to make play even more interesting. The "Utensil" Chaos Pack card requires that players state a piece of cutlery before their turn can commence. There are also several blank cards included so players can come up with their own rule bending cards. Even more fun can be had with the inclusion of WDPT's sequel "We Didn't Playtest This Either."

The game can be fun due to its simple and quick-fire nature. The game is ideal for college students since it can be purchased for only \$15 online, played in a matter of minutes and can feature between two and 15 players.

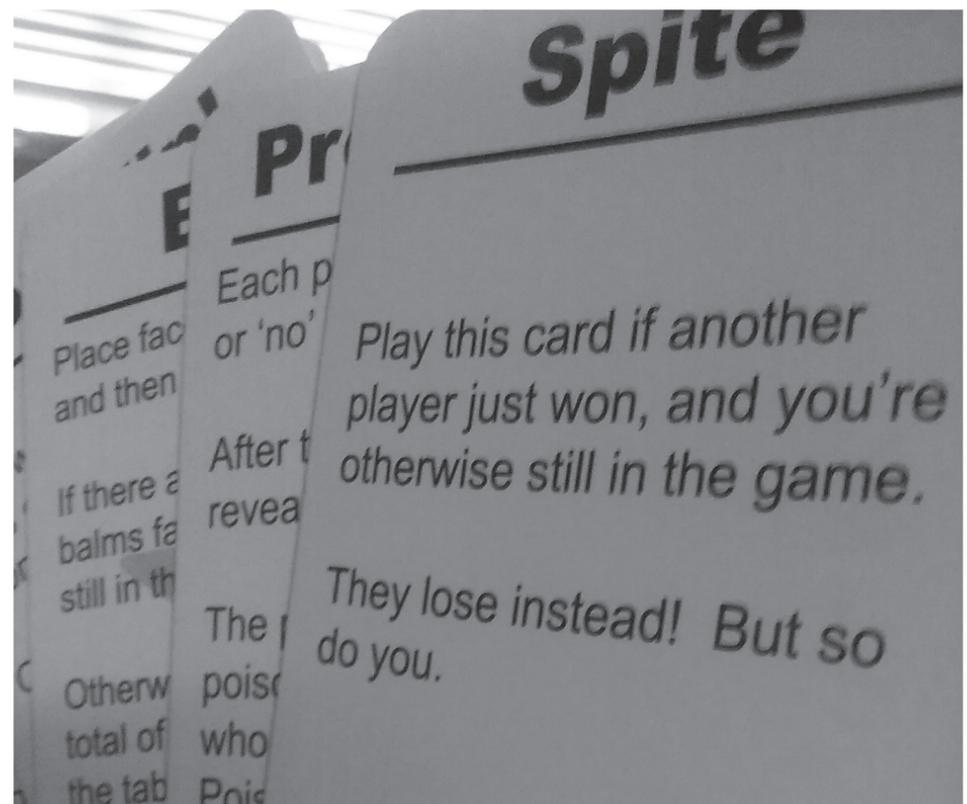


PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT

The zany instructions of "We Didn't Playtest This at All"

Lonely Beavers

By PARKER RAMAKER

Being a college student is a time to gain your independence and to start learning how to live without your parents. At college, we get to live with our friends and mold ourselves into educated adults. It is the time away from our parents we get to learn lessons of being on our own. Going home every weekend can hurt your growth as an adult as well as your college community by not being active on the weekends.

The weekends are meant for doing fun activities and relaxing with your friends. Blackburn College has around 600 students and many leave the campus on weekends to go home. Students who do not have the opportunity to go home on the weekends are alone and it creates an atmosphere of a divided community. When students continue to leave every weekend, the weekends seem meaningless to the students who stay on campus. "It is sad because it reminds me of how lonely it can be this far away from home. I feel useless because I do not have any means of transportation and [because no one is here] I [am] confined to my dorm room," said junior Spanish major Samary Garcia.

Garcia is among several students who are at least 10 hours from home. There are students from California, Florida, Texas, New Zealand and Puerto Rico, to name a few, who

remain on campus and have to deal with a population of students who do not want to spend their free time with the community.

Not all students who cannot go home on the weekends oppose an emptier campus. Junior Ugo Pierantoni is from New Zealand and said he uses the time of emptiness on campus to wind down and get a lot of studying done.

Freshman Mikayla Morgan goes home nearly every weekend. "I like getting away from the campus. It reduces my feeling of being overwhelmed with work and school," she said. If students who live far away are given the opportunity to go home, many would exercise the option to go home once in awhile, but that would not change the issue of the campus being empty on the weekends.

Weekends are a gift to college students. There are no classes, so weekends should be celebrated. If there is no one around to have fun with, then the gift seems meaningless. Staying on campus most weekends creates a more positive and fun environment to live in. The more you invest in your community, the more you will get out of it. It is not a bad thing to visit family or to enjoy a special family outing, but it is time to claim your independence and enjoy the freedom college has allowed you.

“

"It is sad because it reminds me of how lonely it can be this far away from home"

Samary Garcia

Thankskipping

By PATRICK BENEDICT

November has come once again and, with it, the immediate and constant onslaught of Christmas cheer. Christmas is not a bad thing but skipping straight to it without the consideration of another time-honored tradition is just wrong. Thanksgiving comes first, despite what the songs in retail stores and decorations around town may suggest. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the last Thursday of November (in this year's case, Nov. 24). This means that there are 31 days from Thanksgiving to Christmas morning. This should be plenty of time to roll out Christmas decorations, music and themed products. After all, 31 days are given to celebrators of Halloween. Is that not be enough for Christmas too?

Many Americans certainly enjoy Thanksgiving quite a bit, thanks to the excuse to overindulge in turkey and pie. However, other than possibly the day before when food is being prepared the most attention that Thanksgiving gets is just one single day - not even a whole day either, given that the tradition

of Black Friday has come. With the shopping deals that come on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving is a bigger deal than Thanksgiving itself.

What is also irksome about the immediate switch to Christmas decorations and music on Nov. 1 is that no other holiday is given an entire

By PATRICK BENEDICT

The Empty Lot That Ought to Not

Blackburn College owns a rather sizeable plot of land across from the main campus off of Nicholas Street that, as is quite plain to see, is completely empty. There could be many uses for this plot of land and yet it goes on without purpose. The college only really uses it as extra parking on graduation day but the area has far greater potential.

Given that there are several cars that park in front of this lot in the road on a daily basis, it could be turned into a fully paved parking lot. This would also provide reasonable parking spots for the woefully crowded parking areas of the Jones and Stoddard Residence halls, while creating extra parking for visitors.

However, a more effective use of the lot could be an entire commuter center. Currently, commuters have a lounge in the Demuzio Campus Center (DCC) that provides a place to sit, do homework and watch TV. However, the excessive noise level in DCC does not make the commuter lounge an ideal environment. Commuters could go to the Lumpkin Learning Commons (LLC) for a quiet studying environment, but the parking area for the LLC is small and, when full, forces commuters to walk from farther away parking lots. With a commuter center on the empty lot, commuting students

could have a dedicated area to study and relax between classes that has suitable parking facilities.

Another possible use for the land comes from Blackburn's past. The lot used to hold a special type of housing that was granted to students of high achievement. The empty plot of land could be used to build a new dorm only available as an academic reward. Students with a certain GPA could be offered a spot in the nicer dorm that could feature larger, single person rooms.

Perhaps the lot could also be used for a particular academic major. For example, art majors have their own buildings, as do science and other majors, but there aren't any buildings that particularly house history or communications majors. The new academic buildings could house specialized tools or facilities for those particular departments.

I do not necessarily have an opinion on what should go in the empty lot, or even how it would be accomplished, but I do believe that the space should be used for something. Even if the lot was used for special events or storing grounds equipment, it would be going to better use than complete emptiness. It is time for the college to use the empty lot for something other than empty space.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT

Decorations on the Carlinville Square on Monday Nov. 7

two months - if not more - worth of reverence. The general public does not prepare for Halloween in September.

Christmas music can be enjoyable but it is also less than entertaining when played too soon. This is especially true when entire radio stations play strictly Christmas music. Many Christmas

songs are older and there is rarely anything new to be heard from the previous year. This coupled with the fact that the entirety of all Christmas music cannot take up a full 24 hour period many people are left listening to the same songs over and over again.

One major reason why the celebration of Christmas too early can bother some people is that not everyone celebrates Christmas at all. For instance, members of the Jewish faith celebrate Hanukkah before Christmas, yet they are still forced to hear all the songs and see all the decorations that have nothing to do with how they celebrate. Perhaps this is tolerable for one whole month but there is a chance that two months get on the nerves of those who do not celebrate Christmas.

The year moves way too fast as it is and there is no reason to rush things any further. Slowing down to appreciate one or two more holidays could really help make the year seem that much better.

Laundered and Triggered

By JORDYN SMITH

Almost nothing irks me more than when a stranger touches my underwear.

As a result of the new and improved laundry services offered at Blackburn, some students feel compelled to do three loads of their laundry at one time, regardless of other residents' needs.

While I am not a perfect laundress, I always try to do my laundry one load at a time as a courtesy to other dorm residents. I set my phone's alarm clock for 29 minutes for my clothes to wash, immediately switch my clothes to the dryer then set my alarm for 45 minutes for my clothes to dry. Then I put another load in the same washer I just used, that is, *IF* I have multiple loads that need laundered. On multiple occasions, however, I have trekked down to the basement of my dormitory only to find that my wet clothes had been placed on top of a washer, on a table or even on the floor so that the person who moved them could have dibs for the next "available" washer. Why, yes, I would love for my clothes to sit wet and exposed on the dirty floor for passersby to see.

Even if one actually thought it acceptable to move somebody else's wet laundry, perhaps he or she should consider putting it in the dryer, since, you know, we have "free" laundry and all. Oftentimes, however, the same culprit who took it upon him or herself to move my clothes has miraculously managed to fill up all three dryers at one time. How does that even happen?

I know I can't be the only one who experiences frustration while doing laundry on campus. "I personally hate it when people mess with my laundry," said Stoddard resident Ashley Spears. "Sometimes if you don't get there the minute your laundry gets done, people will have already moved it to the top of the washers or the table. Then there are other times when you're waiting for a washer or dryer to open up, and



PHOTO BY JORDYN SMITH

Laundry thrown on top of a washer

somebody doesn't come to get their clothes for an hour or more. I don't like to move their stuff because it bugs me when people do that to me, but it's not like they left it sitting for just 10 or 20 minutes, they forget about it for hours."

It is my understanding that some dorms have provided solutions so that this issue is kept at bay. Graham Hall, for example, uses magnetic whiteboards for their washers and dryers, on which residents can write their name and phone number in case contact with that person needs to be made. In Challacombe "North" Hall, residents leave their room numbers on the whiteboards to contact each other in regards to laundry.

Another complaint I have about our communal laundry system is that I often see guests of current students using the facilities. While I do appreciate good hygiene, I think it is unfair that commuters, graduates, siblings and boyfriends/girlfriends of current students enjoy the privileges that I, a very broke college student, pay for each semester.

All that I ask of you, fellow Blackburn students (and your significant others), is to have some laundry etiquette, wait your turn and do not touch other people's underwear.

MAKE ALL AMERICANS GREAT AGAIN

By ETHAN LEACH

As I'm writing this, it is now the day after the election, and Donald Trump has been declared the next president of the United States. In the hours since Mr. Trump passed the 270 electoral vote count, I have seen countless news broadcasts and social media posts reacting to the news.

Some people are overjoyed, some are dismayed, and a great number, I think, are simply bewildered. In the midst of all of this chaos, I've observed many wary citizens who seem to be bracing themselves for the coming months.

I can certainly understand their fear. After a brutal campaign season that devolved into hyperbole and personal attacks, I believe that most of Trump's political rivals are terrified at the prospect of a Trump presidency. And this fear doesn't seem to be limited to Democrats and Hillary supporters. Many moderates, and even some Republicans are deeply concerned about the presidential actions of a man who, for most of the campaign, showed little self-restraint.

While Trump's impulsive speech would appear to foreshadow erratic behavior, I believe there are a few things we can anticipate from a President Trump.

First of all, I believe that illegal immigration will be drastically reduced. Since the call to "build the wall" was a major part of Trump's campaign, securing the border should be one of the primary goals of his administration. Whether he proposes building a physical wall or deploying more border guards, the net effect should be a decrease in the flow of immigrants illegally crossing the border.

Secondly, I believe that Trump will allow the economy to grow. As he is an experienced businessman, I can envision Trump slashing taxes and loosening restrictions on free trade. Both actions would allow business owners to invest in their businesses rather than sending their money to Washington, D.C.

In the same way, I foresee President Trump easing restrictions on energy exploration, leading to greater energy independence. Whether it's drilling for

offshore oil, fracking for natural gas, or utilizing the country's coal deposits, Trump's rejection of stifling restrictions should reduce America's dependence on foreign energy sources.

Referencing law enforcement, Trump said in a debate with Hillary Clinton, "We need law and order, but we need justice too." This statement reflects Trump's call to enforce federal law. While his tough stance on immigration law is well known, he also received an endorsement from the Fraternal Order of Police, which indicates that law enforcement officials support his intention to enforce existing laws.

Trump's ideas of law and order are reflected in his remarks about national security, and particularly his stance against terrorism. In a speech regarding terrorism that he gave on August 15, Trump said, "ISIS [is] rounding up what it calls 'the nation of the cross' in a campaign of genocide. We cannot let this evil continue. Nor can we let the hateful ideology of radical Islam - its oppression of women, gays, children, and nonbelievers - be allowed to reside or spread within our own countries."

While denouncing the violence that ISIS and other groups have perpetrated in other countries, Trump also recognized domestic attacks in Orlando, Boston, San Bernardino, Chattanooga, and Fort Hood.

In order to differentiate between the actions of ISIS and those of peaceful Muslims, Trump said, "Our administration will be a friend to all moderate Muslim reformers in the Middle East, and will amplify their voices."

It remains to be seen whether Trump will fulfill his campaign promises, and whether his calls to reach across the aisle will break down partisan barriers in Washington. Many conservatives are skeptical of Trump's Republican allegiances, and many liberals are wary of political retribution. As the campaign season has demonstrated, American voters remain fractured, and following his inauguration, President Trump must prove that his promise to "Make America Great Again" applies to all Americans.

the burnian

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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.

One sport, Two cities

By JESS WILLARD

Sophomore psychology major Angela Andrews is a center for Blackburn College's women's basketball team; however, this is not her first experience playing college basketball. In fall 2015, she transferred from Scottsdale Community College in Arizona where she also played center. "I was only able to play the preseason since I had problems with my health, but I still traveled with the team and went to all of their games," she said. Andrews added that there were several notable differences between her experience as a player at Scottsdale than at Blackburn.

According to Andrews, the challenge rating of teams was higher when she played for Scottsdale since they have a Division II athletics program. However, she thought it was better that the teams she has played against with Blackburn have been less difficult. She said, "It made it easier on me to face off against Blackburn's rivals, which helped me feel like winning was within reach." Andrews noted that both Blackburn and Scottsdale have a reputation of not winning as many games as other teams within their divisions, but she did not think that was a negative. "It increases the eagerness to win," she said.

Even though Andrews felt like both teams share in the drive to succeed and have a strong dynamic, she said that they go about team bonding differently. When she played for Scottsdale, every weekend the players would go hiking in the mountains together. "There could be more team bonding activities here," she added. "But you have to travel far to get to somewhere of interest here. There were more options in Arizona."

Andrews also mentioned that there was a shift between coaches and how they ran practices. She had

a male coach at Scottsdale, whom she described as more lenient. He also had experienced assistant coaches, which took pressure off of him. Similar to Scottsdale, Blackburn's head women's basketball coach Katie Fonseca has student assistants to guide the team. Andrews noted that while Blackburn focuses on team-involved practices, Scottsdale had more specialized practices that would focus on certain groups of players. Andrews said, "I believe those practice sessions could go hand-in-hand. It's a team sport, but individuals need assistance too."

Overall, Andrews prefers her athletic experience at Blackburn and credits that to Fonseca. "She doesn't give up on her players, which makes playing on the team 10 times better," she said. Her advice to other transfer students - particularly athletes - is to remember that change is a good thing. Andrews stated, "Whether it's good or bad, you learn something from it."



PHOTO BY JESS WILLARD
Angela Andrews will be playing her second women's basketball season at Blackburn this year

Concussions on and off Campus

By JORDAN WOOD

Every athlete knows the risk they run of sustaining a concussion while playing their sport. This raises a question: How does a concussion affect someone in the short and long term?

The Mayo Clinic classifies a concussion as a "traumatic brain injury that alters the way your brain functions...caused by a blow to the head, they can also occur when the head and upper body are violently shaken." Perhaps the most dangerous part of a concussion is that many people who have suffered from one do not realize it because most concussions are not accompanied with unconsciousness and the symptoms may take time to appear. This is particularly dangerous in terms of sports.

A website dedicated to brain injury research, protectthebrain.org, has a memorial page dedicated to 15 former athletes who suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). CTE is a degenerative disease that is found in someone who has experienced multiple, severe blows to the head and causes the brain to deteriorate over time. Two of the athletes recognized are Adrienne Simmons and Christopher Benoit.

Adrienne Simmons was a 34 year-old female kickboxer who was knocked unconscious during a championship fight after suffering a left hook to the face. She was treated in the ring and then taken back to the locker rooms where she responded to doctors, however she lost consciousness again and was rushed to a hospital where she later died.

Christopher Benoit, a professional wrestler who was "widely regarded as

one of the most popular, respected and gifted technical wrestlers in history," according to protectthebrain.org, later became infamous for a double murder-suicide involving himself, son and wife. According to web.archives.org, he strangled both his wife and son, placing Bibles beside each of them and the following day, himself. His autopsy and other medical findings following the deaths revealed Benoit suffered from CTE.

The Brain Injury Research Institute believes that "an estimated 1.6-3.8 million sports-and recreation-related concussions occur in the United States each year" and many of them are in the non-professional setting. Last basketball season, then-freshman psychology major Angela Andrews suffered two concussions. The first came when she and an opposing player went up for a rebound. "We both went up for the same rebound, came down, she turned with an elbow and hit me dead center in the middle of the forehead and I went back and I fell," Andrews said. She was able to recall the injury without much trouble, but she could not remember how or when her second concussion happened. Andrews also said that she does not feel any repercussions of the injuries except for her loss of memory of the event.

While Andrews does not feel affected by her concussions, many people are not so lucky. Repercussions can include conditions like CTE and Post-Concussion Syndrome and continued difficulty solving problems and taking in and comprehending certain information.

Athletics Schedule

Women's Basketball

Fri	Nov. 18	Blackburn at Wheaton	3:00 PM
Sat	Nov. 19	Blackburn at TBA	TBA
Tue	Nov. 22	Blackburn at Concordia Chicago	6:00 PM
Wed	Nov. 30	Eureka at Blackburn	6:00 PM
Sat	Dec. 3	Iowa Wesleyan at Blackburn	1:00 PM
Sat	Dec. 10	Blackburn at Fontbonne	1:00 PM
Mon	Dec. 12	Blackburn at North Park	6:00 PM

Men's Basketball

Fri	Nov. 18	Blackburn vs. St. Scholastica @ Carroll University Tournament	5:00 PM
Sat	Nov. 19	Blackburn at Carroll	3:00 PM
Tue	Nov. 22	Blackburn at Ill.-Springfield	7:30 PM
Fri	Nov. 25	Blackburn at Neb. Wesleyan	7:00 PM
Sat	Nov. 26	Cornell College vs. Blackburn @ Doc Snyder Tournament	5:00 PM
Wed	Nov. 30	Eureka at Blackburn	8:00 PM
Sat	Dec. 3	Iowa Wesleyan at Blackburn	3:00 PM
Sat	Dec. 10	Blackburn at Fontbonne	3:00 PM



Are We the Cubs of Division III?



PHOTO BY JORDAN WOOD

Cubs fans pack Wrigley Field as they take on the Cincinnati Reds on the 4th of July

By JORDAN WOOD

A combined 174 lost seasons between the Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians have left fans asking, "When will 'next year' be this year?" In the 2016 World Series, "next year" became "this year" for one of baseball's two longest World Series droughts, while the other was left with another "just wait until next year."

Bringing a World Series title back to their respective cities and fans was the driving force for both the Cubs and Indians, both teams full of young, opportunistic and future greats. Major League Baseball (MLB) features an All-Star break during mid-season. It is a time when the best of the best from the National League and American League play against each other as entertainment for the fans and to determine home-field advantage during the World Series. It allows teams rest and a break to refocus for the second

half of the season. It also is what tends to separate the good teams from the great ones.

For the Indians, a slow starting record of 10-11 through April was overshadowed during a 14-game winning streak and a battle that earned them a 52-36 record at the All-Star break. After the break, they came out firing, showing the MLB that their strong first half was no fluke and giving fans hope for Cleveland's first title since 1948.

The Cubs got out of the gate hot - a 17-5 record through the month of April - and never looked back by finishing 103-58. When they hit a brief slump going 1-5 before the All-Star break, the team came back reenergized and refocused on one goal: to bring Chicago its first World Series win since 1908. Doing so would be no easy task. Even before the first pitch of the 2016

season, they were heavily favored to win the Series and, in sports, winning when you're expected to is often a difficult feat. Despite the pressure and hiccups, after 108 seasons of 'next years' the Chicago Cubs overcame a 3-1 deficit in the best-of-seven series by defeating the Cleveland Indians in three straight games to become the 2016 World Series Champions.

Heading into the series, conversations centered around which team would end their historic drought and how a title for either team would bring immense joy to their loyal fan bases. Prior to Game 6, senior organizational leadership major and Cubs fan Anneliese Darow spoke of how much a championship would mean to her: "I would probably go to Disney World, and then I'd probably cry for all of the old people who never got to see it happen," she said. Sophomore elementary education major Gariel Pierce, who is also an avid Chicago fan, was grinning from ear-to-ear when she realized how historic a Cubs victory would be and was excited for the older fans' first opportunity of seeing their team in the World Series.

Throughout the weeks of the MLB postseason, many Blackburn students and faculty could be seen supporting

their favorite team and sometimes bantering back and forth with fans of the rival team, making the campus' love of sports undeniable. From the college's many athletes to student managers and student assistant coaches, the passion for athletics is often a common ground. Spectators pack the bleachers to cheer for their peers. Players push themselves to their absolute max to keep fighting for the win. Coaches sweat it out in close games and keep their players focused. For anyone who steps into Dawes gymnasium, it is hard to ignore the bright red banners which proudly display Blackburn's championships and tournament appearances. Upon a closer look at the years neatly stitched on, one can see that prior to 2010, championships and tournament appearances came fairly close together. The most recent banner is currently six years old and it came by a SLIAC conference championship by the men's golf team. Although not nearly as long as the 108-year drought by the Cubs, Blackburn's athletics teams have still come up dry, begging the question: Could Blackburn be the Cubs of Division III? Only time will tell, but with the high potential of teams in the upcoming seasons, maybe this year is our "next year."

Coach Gould



PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

The 2016 Blackburn Women's Soccer team finished their season with a record of 5-13-1 under head coach Tim Gould

Continued from page 1

He was then hired as the head coach of the Blackburn women's soccer team in 2013. With Gould at the helm the Beavers finished their seasons with records of 6-11-1 in 2013, 8-10-1 in 2014, 7-11 in 2015 and 5-13-1 in 2016.

Despite rebuilding and reorganizing the Blackburn team, Gould earlier this month called a meeting with the women. According to freshman Allison Lutz, the team walked into the meeting confused, with no idea of the purpose. All were silent before players were told the news: Gould was resigning, effective Nov. 11. "When he said he was leaving, a lot of girls started crying.

Right now the team, the seniors and the juniors, feel like it's their duty to start recruiting people because we are going to have a spring season as well and they want to keep building this team," Lutz stated.

Gould's is now head coach of the new men's soccer program at Mississippi University for Women. Despite the name, it is a co-ed public university in Columbus, MS. After spending 15 years in Carlinville, Gould said he is looking forward to both the challenge of a new environment and the chance to build a new program.

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"The opportunity to join the [MUW] athletics department where I'm starting the men's soccer program."

Tim Gould

Taking a Look at Athletes and Their Majors

By JORDAN WOOD AND JESS WILLARD

Athleticism does not always correlate with an academic major in sports. Both head women's basketball coach Katie Fonseca and head women's softball coach Kerry Crum acknowledged that their teams were composed of individuals with a diverse set of majors. Overall, athletes still retain skills from the sports they participate in that carry over into their academic careers, and having a team with a variety of career goals impacts the group in a positive way.

Crum believes that playing a sport displays a student's ability to balance and prioritize. "There's a huge amount of commitment when you have both classes and a sport to worry about. You also gain the opportunity to develop discipline and teamwork skills," he added. His philosophy is that a student in any major can gain life experience from participating in a sport because the entire purpose is to achieve a bigger goal. Crum compared it to if he owned a business and two college graduates with the same grade point average applied to work there. He said, "If one of those applicants were a student athlete, they would get the position because being involved in multiple activities makes you stand out as a diligent and dedicated worker."

Junior accounting major and former pitcher for the men's baseball team Jacob Whitcomb said there are two main things he gained from his athletic career: a good work ethic and attention to detail. Freshman accounting major and guard for the women's basketball team Helen Vargo shared Whitcomb's thoughts and said she has learned sportsmanship, trust and communication. "My experience as an athlete has taught me how to interact with others and be part of a team that

shares the same interests. Hopefully, my career will do the same," she added.

Freshman psychology major and point guard for the women's basketball team Alexia Duncan plans on applying her experience playing basketball to achieve a future career as well. "I intend to use my athletic experience for a career outside my sport by staying focused and always going after what I want," she said. "And the main skill I carry over from playing basketball that I apply to my major and future goals is hard work. You have to be able to work hard to be successful."

In regards to how a diverse set of majors adds to a sports team, Fonseca explained that the women she coaches have majors ranging from criminal justice to communications. "All of the players, regardless of their major, are on the team because they love the sport, but their likes, dislikes and course of study may be different. This is what makes our team unique," she said. Fonseca believes the different perspectives and insights brought to the table are beneficial to the team.

Duncan also discussed how she personally applies her major to specific aspects of playing the game; she focuses on the mentality behind the gameplay. She added, "My major is in psychology, so we focus on the mental side of things a lot. With basketball I try to stay mentally tough to where I'm telling myself I can do things, and it keeps pushing me forward."

An athlete does not have to major in sports management or coaching to learn something from playing the game, nor does having a major outside of the sports realm lack impact on the team as a whole. There are still lessons to be learned, and each person brings their own set of skills to the game.