



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

## ANCHORS AWAY

By CHRISTOPHER BEST

Carlinville classics, The Anchor Inn and Taylor's Mexican Chili Parlor, have relocated to larger venues. Once tucked away behind Ace Hardware in the north-east corner of Carlinville's square, the two establishments, owned and operated by Carlinville native Bobby Whitlock, have officially moved across the square, on the same block as Reno's Pizza.

Though addresses have changed, Whitlock assures that both the restaurant and bar are "pretty much the same." The establishments retain the same hours, pricing, atmosphere and decor as before, but with the benefit of significantly more space.

Taylor's Mexican Chili Parlor - a Carlinville and Blackburn College

tradition since 1904 - has a significant amount of extra room in its new location. The venue provides patrons with a spacious, well-lit dining area capable of accommodating significantly larger crowds. Though the new and improved dining area is welcome, chili lovers will be pleased to hear that one thing that has not changed about Taylor's: its world famous chili.

The Anchor Inn's new location on East First North Street, just north of Taylor's new location, features four large television screens, an electronic dart board and a shuffleboard table. "It's great," said Blackburn's Associate Director of Admissions and former Anchor employee, Justin

Norwood. "I've actually been in there a few times. It's much more spacious." The new bar has over twice the standing room of its old location, an extra bar and tables for seating.

Though The Anchor Inn has left its historic 75 year home, the old building will not stay vacant for long. Joey Naples of Carlinville will be opening a new establishment next month in The Anchor Inn's former location.

The new bar, called The Uptown Tavern, plans to open March 1, though the grand opening celebration will not be held until St. Patrick's Day. The bar's first event will be the Macoupin County Military Support Group's Iraq-I-Roll Putt Putt charity on March 4. In

addition to the expected drinks, The Uptown Tavern plans to offer what Naples describes as "the usual" bar food, though he promises "Everything will be hand-made. Nothing will be frozen from the bag," resulting in what he describes as "a better quality product."

Naples indicated that there will likely be food and drink specials on certain nights for Blackburn students showing their student IDs, possibly including dollar drafts. "If you get a break from class or just want to come up, Blackburn students are more than welcome," he said, though he was quick to point out it is a 21 and over establishment. "We will be pretty hard on carding," he stressed.



The 'Burnian



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PHOTO BY REBECCA O'CONNELL

Everything happens for a reason

See Bound By Blood, Bond By Basketball, page 12



# Filthy Rich: Carlinville's Dirty Coal



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Shay mine was owned by Exxon Mobile until 2009 when it was sold to Macoupin Energy LLC

By GARY LOWDER

The Illinois coal industry has been a viable source of energy and jobs since the Civil War. However, stricter environmental policies enforced by the federal government have hit coal mines pretty hard. Carlinville’s own Shay coal mine is no stranger to layoffs or hardship. A few years ago it was called Monterey mine and was owned by Exxon Mobile. In 2009, Exxon sold the mine to Macoupin Energy LLC; a company that is a part of the Cline Group (owned by the Cline Mining Corporation). Cline Mining Corp’s owner Christopher Cline also owns Hillsboro Energy and several other mines in Illinois and West Virginia. Cline has been dubbed “King Coal” by those in the industry and for good reason. Forbes reports that he has a net worth of \$1.9 billion and is the 78th richest person in U.S.

As Cline can tell you, Illinois coal is a booming industry. According to the Illinois Coal Association’s estimations, coal contributes \$2 billion to the Illinois economy annually. According to the same source, the energy content of Illinois’ coal is greater than that of the oil in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait combined. The Illinois State Geological Survey estimates that, at one time, there was about 210 billion tons of coal beneath the state’s surface. In the last 200 years, companies have mined eight billion tons of coal. About half of this coal is recoverable physically or financially. Some of it cannot be reached by equipment or it would be too expensive to do so. That still leaves more than 100 billion tons to be mined.

The coal’s immense quantity ensures that Illinoisans do not have to worry about running out anytime soon. Illinois’ coal does have one drawback; it has a higher sulfur content than the coal mined in Pennsylvania or Wyoming. High sulfur coal, or “dirty

coal” as it is sometimes called, has been identified as the primary cause for acid rain. “We are looking at water with a PH of 5.5 or lower... Acid rain can destroy plant life, it can hurt infrastructure. I mean, it’s acid,” said Blackburn College chemistry adjunct professor Jim Pickett. The Clean Air Act of 1963 and the subsequent Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required power plants to reduce their sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions to try and slow down pollution and acid rain. Adhering to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) regulations and using Illinois coal would mean that U.S. power plants and businesses would have to put expensive scrubbers on their smokestacks. Although some power plants in Illinois and other states do this (less than 25 percent as of 2005), it is not considered cost-effective and makes power plants and factories much more likely to use coal from other states.

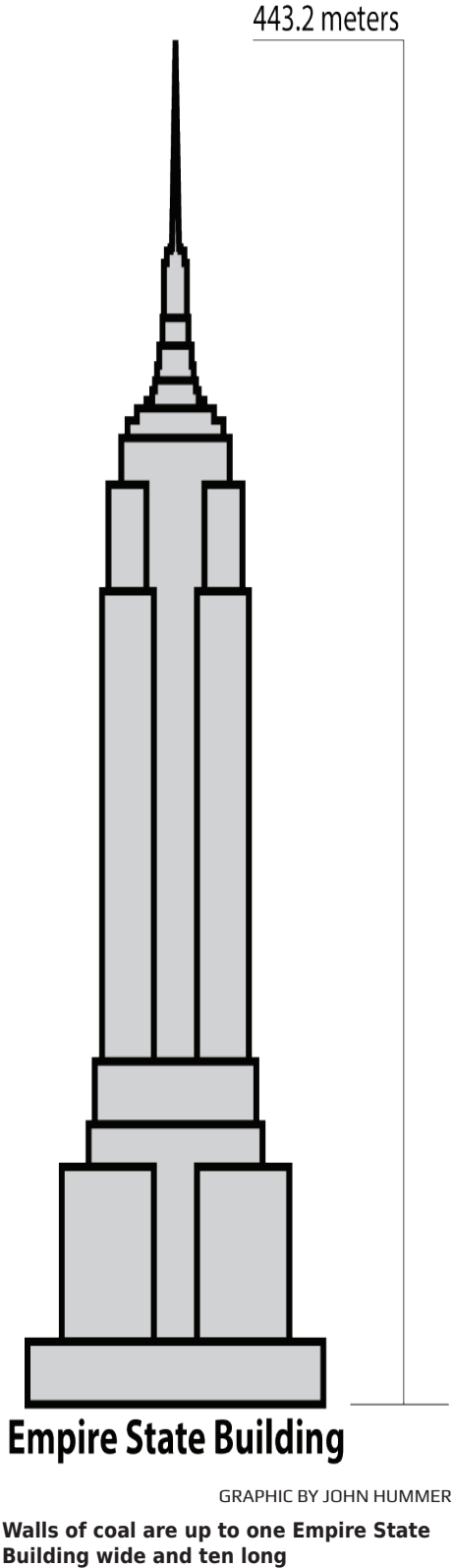
So if Illinois coal is such a booming industry and most people in the U.S. will not buy it, then who is buying it? It is being sold to Europe, India and China, nations that have more relaxed environmental policies or that actually use scrubbers. The way this coal is being removed from the ground is through a process called longwall mining. Used mostly in the midwest, this process is where a long wall of coal is mined in a single slice. These walls are typically three to four kilometers long and between 200-500 meters wide. Longwall mining has enabled Illinois mines to increase their production. Sixty percent of the coal production in Illinois in 2015 was due to longwall mining. President of the Illinois Coal Association Phillip Monet explained, “They are among the most productive mines in the world and they are safer for miners because the ground subsides and there is no roof fall... One of the reasons why

they (Shay or Monterey) longwallled was the ceiling or the roof of that area was unstable so they allow the ground to subside to protect miners.” Ground subsidence is inevitable which means that private property is sometimes affected and both ground and surface water can be polluted. Shay mine in particular has become somewhat infamous for its groundwater pollution which has been recorded on site and has received over 800 EPA violations in the past six years. Attempts were made to contact mine officials but they proved unreachable by phone and in person.

The Cline group has been criticized before for buying land from struggling farmers at unfair prices. The Center for Media and Democracy’s (a national advocacy group that conducts investigations into corruption and the influence of corporations in the media) Sourcewatch website said, “In Litchfield, IL, Cline Mining Corp. began buying land, prepping the ground for mining but leaving it unusable... Yet as of 2010 Cline Mining continues to buy land from struggling farmers and its mining efforts are expanding... Many townspeople begrudgingly support the business. In a time when

jobs are increasingly hard to find, the development of longwall mining in the area promises to bring jobs to many people in the area, despite the cost for others.” Often times these coal seams could have been procured without exploiting down-on-their-luck farmers by utilizing the traditional room and pillar method, where pillars of rock, stone or other manmade support structures are left to support the ground. However, this method simply is not as good for business. Monet explained, “Longwall allows you to extract close to 80 percent of a coal seam that you are mining. With room and pillar mines this can range from 45-55 percent because of the coal you have to leave to support the service.” The subsidence and groundwater pollution that occurs due to this decision can also affect more than the environment, as biology professor Dr. James Bray explained. “A school up near Gillespie has been affected by the mine subsidence,” he said. “And I remember I was here [Carlinville] when we had those real subsidence issues. Just south and east of town and you could literally drive by farms and see houses that had been swallowed or hanging over a hole that hadn’t been there yesterday. It looked like something out of a Tim Burton movie.”

Under the Obama administration, coal took a bit of a hit. The layoffs and EPA policies that occurred under Barack Obama’s presidency are called the ‘War on Coal’ by those in the industry. Despite some casualties in the so-called war, Illinois coal is doing pretty great. Massive profits by Cline and others in the industry prove this. What is the future of Illinois coal under a Trump administration and a Scott Pruitt EPA? Monet said, “I would be shocked if the Trump administration does not stop most of the rule making. The Clean Power Plan, the Waters of the United States rule (WOTUS rule)... the MATS rule (Mercury and Air Toxic Substances rule)... a Trump administration is gonna stop the bleeding... We won’t have to contend with overriding any presidential vetoes. All the regulations that I gave you we expect to be undone either by congressional action or the new administration pretty soon.” Pickett agreed, “Politically, a campaign promise has been made to the coal industry in general. I think we are gonna see big changes under a Trump administration and a Republican congress.” For better or worse Trump and the Republicans have already set their sights on some of Obama’s environmental policies. On Jan. 30, the Stream Protection Rule passed in Obama’s final weeks as president, began the process of being overturned. On Feb. 1, the House of Representatives voted 228 to 194 to officially repeal the rule and on Feb. 2 the Senate followed suit. It remains to be seen how these changes will affect the environment, Carlinville and other Illinois communities.



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

Walls of coal are up to one Empire State Building wide and ten long



# Temporary U.S. Attorney General is Carlinville Native

By Grace Allen

Former attorney general Sally Yates was fired by President Donald Trump on Jan. 31. Yates was fired after she announced the Justice Department would not defend Trump’s executive order to ban people coming into the U.S. from majority Muslim countries. “At present,” Yates said in a statement to the Justice Department, “I am not convinced that the defense of the executive order is consistent with these responsibilities nor am I convinced that the executive order is lawful.” Trump then dismissed Yates, while the White House released a statement claiming that Yates had “betrayed the Department of Justice by refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens of the United States. It is time to get serious about protecting our country.”

Dana Boente, a prosecutor from North Virginia who has been a member of the Justice Department under both Republican and Democratic administrations since 1984, was appointed by the president to replace Yates. Boente is originally from Carlinville and attended college at Saint Louis University. In late 2015, former president Barack Obama appointed Boente to be the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of

Virginia, which holds over 6 million people and is regularly responsible for national security cases as the Pentagon and the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency.

“I am honored to serve President Donald Trump in this role until Senator Sessions is confirmed,” Boente said in the same White House statement as acting attorney general. “I will defend and enforce the laws of our country to ensure that our people and our nation are protected.” He acted as Attorney General until Trump’s pick, Jeff Sessions was voted in by Congress. Sessions was a junior United States Senator from Alabama from 1997 to his appointment.

Carlinville Mayor Deanna Demuzio was watching the news when Yates was fired and Boente was announced as her successor. “I saw it all in real time,” Demuzio said. “It was quite a shock to me - not because Dana is incapable, he isn’t - but because he is from Carlinville. He comes from a large, wonderful family in town and returns all the time to visit. I’m on the library board with his mother, Doris. When you see someone like Dana rise to that position, you can’t help but feel a great sense of pride.”

Blackburn Psychology and

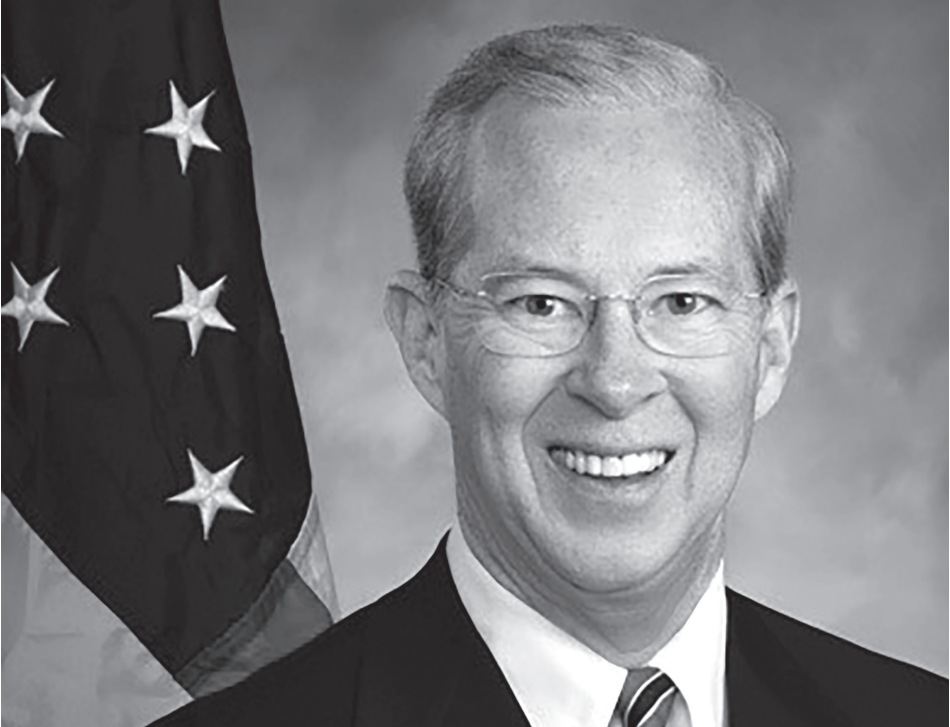


PHOTO COURTESY OF ???

Dana Boente, acting Attorney General from Jan. 30 to Feb. 9

Creative Writing major Katie Payne however, did not see the change in a positive light, “Trump firing Yates for disagreeing with him is terrifying and frankly shows how he’s trying to turn this country into something less of a democracy and more of a dictatorship. It’s disgusting and I have no idea how anyone can think him a worthy or

competent president - or human, for that matter - at this point in time. As far as her replacement coming from Carlinville, my only comment is that it is no shock he chose someone from a place like Carlinville. Birds of a feather, right?”

# New Policies Could Prove DeVos-tating for Public Schools



PHOTO COURTESY OF AL DRAGO OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Betsy DeVos testifying at her confirmation hearing

By Gary Lowder

President Trump’s Secretary of Education pick Betsy DeVos has not been very popular with Democrats and some Republicans. With her recent confirmation, it seems that the U.S. has a new Secretary of Education for better or worse. The billionaire’s official website describes her as, “...a proven leader, an innovator, a disruptor and an advocate...” but some are worried about her lack of experience. Although DeVos served as chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party this was mostly at a

state level and her ability to perform at a federal level is largely untested. Her vocal support of private and charter school also make some educators wary. Two Republicans voted against her. One of the them, Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said, “I simply cannot support her confirmation.” If Democrats had been successful in recruiting one more Republican senator, DeVos would have been the first Republican Cabinet nominee defeated by a Republican Senate in nearly a century. The vote was close

enough to require the tie-breaking vote of Vice President Mike Pence, which was an unprecedented action in U.S. history.

All of the Blackburn College education majors who wished to express their opinion feel negatively about DeVos and her policies. They felt that DeVos could negatively affect the school system. Junior science education major Jonathan Shaw said, “I feel that she is unqualified, ignorant and all around a poor choice. For better and worse, the federal government has a tremendous amount of influence in the public school system. I feel like she could do a lot of harm. I’d much rather have a career educator who knows the ins and outs of the American school system than a successful business person.”

Another reason many educators feel that DeVos is the wrong choice is that her support of private and charter schools have made her unpopular with some individual educators and teachers’ unions who believe her nomination is detrimental to public schools. North Mac High School history teacher Tina Lowry explained, “She is a \$5 million contributor to various GOP candidates. She herself has never attended a public school, nor have her children. She has never taken or paid a student loan, and as

Secretary of Education would be managing the government student loan program.” Lowry went on to say that Devos’ lack of formal education experience make her a bad choice. She continued, “DeVos simply has no idea what public education can do when equitable funding is available. Her lack of qualifications for this position is glaring. I am frightened about what her outlandish ideas about coupons and vouchers will do to rural districts. She is simply not the person for this position.” After DeVos’ victory Lowry said, “This is a sad day for public education.”

Devos supporters believe that formal teacher experience is not necessary to act as Secretary of Education. During her confirmation process, DeVos made a point of repeatedly pointing out that she would shrink the federal government’s involvement in schools and devolve control back to the states and their lawmakers. This could be good for teachers and parents who wish to make policy changes because they would only have to operate at a state level. Others praise her for not being a part of the “education establishment.” In any case, U.S. education policies are sure to see some change in the future.



# Campus Life

## Springfield's NAACP History

By GARY LOWDER

On Feb. 12 Blackburn College provided transportation to a NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Banquet at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois. Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jarrod Gray said, "...I think connecting with our surrounding communities in Springfield and St. Louis are essential activities to have a well rounded and engaging college experience. Also, I believe it is especially important to offer all students an opportunity to engage, connect, and become part of a community with a strong historical emphasis on equal rights. As we know, Carlinville and Blackburn are both predominantly white communities and joining in other communities and efforts that promote racial inclusion is good not only for students of color but also for white students."

Once they arrived at the event, Blackburn students were provided with a table, food and listened to several local speakers. One of these speakers was Springfield and Illinois NAACP Chapter President Teresa Haley. Haley recognized Blackburn's presence by having them stand up and

be applauded by the audience. When asked why she thought it was important for young people to attend events like these Haley said, "We really like to highlight our students... to remind the adults that we have young people out here doing incredible things..." Sophomore political science major Deja Luckett enjoyed the event and said, "I think it's important that they choose to honor older black people, it was a nice gesture."

The speakers also gave a brief history about the origins of the NAACP in Illinois and Springfield. In 1908 the incarceration of two black men for alleged crimes against white people (one of them was later proved innocent). In response, a white lynch mob numbering 5,000 to 10,000 went to the Springfield jail and demanded Sheriff Charles Werner release the prisoners so that they could be lynched. Fearing a mob Werner had already taken the precaution of moving the prisoners to Bloomington. After the mob learned this, they went on to attack black residential and business areas of the city. By this time, the mob had swelled to at least 12,000 and the local militia had to be activated to

keep order. The mob burned down black-owned homes and, when the fire department was called, the mob impeded their progress by getting in their way and cutting their hoses. At the end of the riot there was \$200,000 worth of damage done to black businesses and homes and seven were reported dead; this number is rumored to be higher.

As a direct result of this race-riot, concerned African Americans and whites traveled to New York City to discuss the a solution to the social and racial problems of the time. They formed the NAACP in 1909 and quickly established themselves as one of the leading civil rights groups. "Knowing the history and being born and raised here," said Haley, "... you see things that you want to improve and being a part of this community I feel not only honored, but obligated as a Springfield resident to work hard and improve race relations."



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

NAACP President Teresa Hailey delivered several speeches.



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Blackburn students were treated to a meal at the event.



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Caption

## Information for Graduating Seniors

By VERONICA MILLIGAN

Important Dates to keep in mind:

**Feb. 24:** CB Grad will be in the Demuzio Campus Center to take announcement orders or you can order from [www.cbgrad.balfour.com](http://www.cbgrad.balfour.com) or 1-800-433-0296

**April 3:** Deadline to order caps and gowns. Order from <http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/blackburn/>

**May 12:**

10:00 AM Rehearsal for Baccalaureate and Commencement

5:30PM Senior Banquet in Woodson

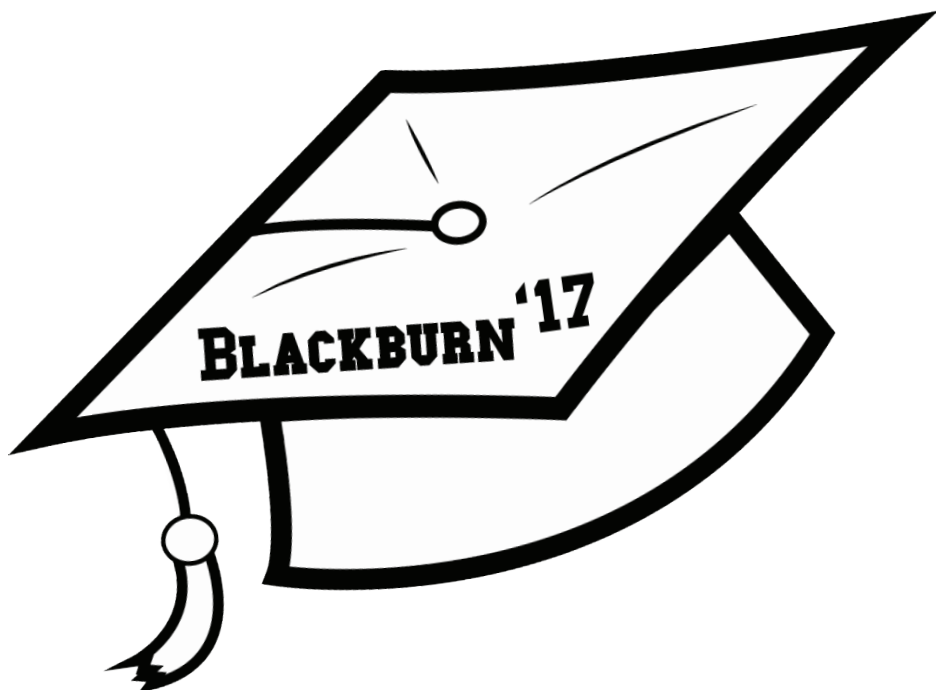
7:30PM Gather in robes in Bothwell classroom hallway

8:00PM Baccalaureate in Bothwell Auditorium

**May 13:**

8:00 AM Breakfast for graduates and families at McKinley House

9:30AM Gather on second floor



Hudson to robe and line up

10:30AM Commencement on hudson quad (or Gym in case of rain)

Caps may not be decorated.

Cords and hoods from academic societies may be worn

Baccalaureate and Rehearsal are mandatory

Look for more information and updates in the announcements and your Blackburn email

Questions may be directed to class president Veronica Milligan or College Marshall Dr. Mark Armstrong



# The Hardest Working Beaver in Carlinville

By Gary Lowder

Barney the Beaver, Blackburn College’s lovable mascot, celebrated his 70th Birthday on Feb. 2. Barney’s celebration had cake, drinks and even a place where students could build their own beaver stuffed animal, complete with a Blackburn t-shirt. In order to properly celebrate Barney’s life, it is important to understand his origins.

Barney was created in 1947 as a mascot for Blackburn College which had been established in 1837. The first mention of the name Beavers in regards to Blackburn was in the Feb. 8, 1947 issue of “The Blackburnian.” In an article titled “The Camera’s Eye,” writer Tim Lane said, “It has been suggested that the name ‘Beavers’ be adopted for the Blackburn basketball team. This name was suggested because it has a direct bearing on the work plan. I think the connotation is good. If there are no indignant protests to the proposal, and if a better one is not contributed, the team will hereafter be known as the ‘Beavers.’” Now deceased, Lane went on to become a scientific glassblower. There was also a paper in his alumni file in the archives that claimed he went on to work on the atomic bomb project.

There is a bit of controversy as to Barney’s origin story. In Blackburn’s

archives there is another source that states Barney’s birthdate as happening a week earlier in Clegg Chapel. In this story, he was introduced to “ward off the February blahs” and decrease stress before final grades came out. This other source was not located in the archives although it was referenced in numerous other documents. One of these being an interview with Tim Lane himself. History major and Blackburn archivist Autumn Haas said, “I like the way old Barney looked, I feel like his current rendition looks a little smug.”

In any case, the name caught on pretty fast. The Blackburnian began to refer to athletics teams as the “Beavers” and, shortly after, the name began to appear on athletic clothing. In the early 1950s Barney appeared as a cartoon in the college newspaper and, later, in the yearbooks. These cartoons depicted a long necked beaver wearing a derby hat and a Blackburn sweater, but they were still pretty different looking from our current rendition. According to Blackburn’s records Barney was not represented as a full costumed mascot until 1976 when the first known picture of the mascot was taken.

Since then, Barney’s mascot costume and cartoon representation have grown to resemble their



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

**Barney’s first day as a real mascot.**

contemporary forms. In 2012, Barney was replaced in athletics by Buzz, a simpler and easier beaver design to produce. Buzz the Beaver’s minimalistic look and aggressive face makes him a perfect candidate to adorn sports jerseys. Director of Marketing and Public Relations Peter Oswald said, “There was some concern after he was designed that Barney would go away... he (Buzz) is just a little simpler and a little more contemporary which makes him good for jerseys and merchandise but the old Barney can’t be replaced.”

Beavers typically do not live to be older than 20; however, Barney is special case. It seems that as long as Blackburn is around we will always have a him.



COMPILED BY JESS WILLARD

[Author’s Note]: The Blackburn Blotter is a collection of monthly incident logs filed by Blackburn College. Since reports are compiled the following month by the Campus Community and Safety department, as well as Residence Life, they are published a month behind. For example, March’s log will be published in April.

Some important terms to note are Clery and Title IX. A report made to Clery involves incidents that fall under the Clery Act. Examples of these incidents include: stalking, intimidation, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, underage alcohol consumption, hate speech and Title IX violations. Title IX reports are made when discrimination on the basis of sex or gender, sexual harassment or sexual violence is involved.

It is important that these logs are published so that the Blackburn community can be aware of crime on campus. This listing also promotes a better understanding of how incidents are handled at Blackburn College.

Between Dec. 1 and Dec. 19,

the Campus Community and Safety department and Residence Life handled a total of 10 incidents:

Dec. 1: A report was made for an exterior door that would not lock in a residence hall.

Dec. 3: Theft from a residence hall room was reported.

Dec. 10: There were two separate incidents reported in residence halls. One report was made for a student with suicidal ideation (thoughts of killing oneself). Additionally, underage alcohol possession and consumption was reported to Clery.

Dec. 12: A car was reported as being hit and damaged on campus property. No known violator was confirmed.

Dec. 14: A student medical emergency in a residence hall was reported.

Dec. 15: There were three separate incidents reported: a fire alarm sounded as a result of burned popcorn in a residence hall; property theft took place in a residence hall; and a car was hit and damaged with no known violator on campus property.

Dec. 19: Damage to campus property was reported.

Between Jan. 9 and Jan. 31, the Campus Community and Safety department and Residence Life handled a total of 17 incidents, of which, seven were reported to Clery:

Jan. 9: Recovery of stolen property from Macoupin and Morgan County was reported in residence halls.

Jan. 12: A report was made for possession and use of cannabis on campus property. This incident was Clery reportable.

Jan. 14: There were two separate incidents reported to Clery. Breaking and entering as well as burglary took place in a residence hall. Additionally, five underaged students were reported consuming and possessing alcohol in a residence hall.

Jan. 15: Two separate incidents were reported in residence halls. A Clery report was made for underage alcohol possession and consumption. Suspicious behavior (possible entry to a room without permission) was also reported.

Jan. 17: A medical emergency was reported in a residence hall.

Jan. 18: Possession and use of cannabis in a residence hall was reported to Clery.

Jan. 20: A Clery report was made for armed robbery in a residence hall.

Jan. 21: The smell of marijuana was reported in a residence hall though the exact location was undetermined.

Jan. 24: There was a roommate dispute reported in a residence hall.

Jan. 26: A banned individual was reported in a residence hall.

Jan. 28: The smell of marijuana was reported in a residence hall though the exact location was undetermined.

Jan. 29: A medical emergency was reported.

Jan. 30: Vandalism/property damage was reported in a residence hall.

Jan. 31: There was a report of sexual misconduct made in a residence hall. This was reported to Clery.

Date not specified: Vandalism/property damage was reported in a residence hall.



# Panda Portrait

By CHRISTOPHER BEST

Any visitor to Carlinville's square is sure to have seen the boldly painted yellow and green bricks of Panda, the locally famous Chinese buffet and restaurant. Since opening its doors in January 2010, Panda has firmly established itself as a fixture in the community, quickly becoming a favorite dining destination for Blackburn students. "When someone says, 'You wanna go eat at Panda?' I'm down," said senior music major Patterson Frieze.

The food speaks for itself, but as any regular customer can tell you, the heart and soul of Panda are its owners, Ivy Chen and her husband Jack. "They call him Jack and his last name's Chen, so a lot of people say it's Jackie Chan's restaurant," Ivy said with a laugh.

But what brought a couple from small-town China to the U.S. – and Carlinville, Illinois, of all places? The answer was simple: job opportunities.

The Chens moved to the U.S. in 2001 to work at a restaurant in Chicago. "When you first come here there's the English problem," Ivy said of her early days at the restaurant. "We hung in the kitchen with the cook. That way it was easier to speak to people." Over time she and her husband were able to pick up bits of the language, eventually obtaining a CD to help speed along the process. "[It took] lots of repetition!"

Eventually the Chens saved up enough to purchase their own restaurant in Chicago, before selling it to move to Carlinville, but why here of all places? "We're from a small town in China and



PHOTO COURTESY OF IVY CHEN

Jack and Ivy Chen

we wanted to find another small town," Ivy said. Jack began searching the internet until finally stumbling across Carlinville. "We saw this town didn't have a Chinese restaurant, and that's why we're here."

The Chens' have four children: daughters April (nine), Ashley (seven), Elane (four) and son Hanson (nine months), all living with their parents above the restaurant. Without a doubt, Panda is a family affair; aside from the immediate Chen family, several members of the staff are also relatives; "Mostly brothers and cousins," Ivy clarified.

Jack's role at Panda is usually behind the scenes but Ivy can frequently be found greeting her customers with a smile from behind the checkout counter of the restaurant. For her, the best part of the job is the satisfaction of the customer. "I like to take care of people," she said, "and I like cooking; I cook for the restaurant too."

The one drawback to running Panda is the long hours. "We try to close every Saturday to spend time with family," she said, and that's all they have time for. "Home, work, kids. That's it."

On the occasion that she does find some free time, Ivy said she likes to read a book and listen to music. Her favorites are '90s boy bands "98 Degrees" and "Backstreet Boys." "We are old," Jack said in reference to her music preference. "My daughter likes Taylor Swift. 'Shake it off! Shake it off!'"



PHOTO COURTESY OF IVY CHEN

The Chen children



## What struggles did you experience as an undergraduate?

By MICHAEL TROUTT



**Dr. Karl Luth**  
Chair of Chemistry and  
Physics Professor

*"I always had trouble getting started on a test. I would be too keyed up ... I realized I had a lot of real nervous energy ... every once in awhile, right before a test, I would run around the building three times."*



**Christopher Day**  
Art Professor

*"I always had a problem with math and English ... before or after every single math class, I would have an hour's worth of tutor session ... I did the same for English ... and I did very well because of that."*



**Dr. Pamela Danker**  
Chair of Psychology

*"Probably the biggest challenge for me was trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life ... I started in a different major and then switched to psychology. But I still didn't know what I wanted to do."*



**Dr. Naomi Crummey**  
Chair of English and  
Communications

*"I remember it as a time of ... an extraordinary expansion of my mind ... I don't think I ever necessarily struggled with that ... I struggled much more in high school, with who I was and what I wanted."*



**Dr. Laura Wiedlocher**  
Political Science  
Professor

*"I failed chemistry - not even close! That was shocking; I had never been bad at anything ... When I finally got over my pride and went to the tutor, the tutor was amazingly helpful. But at that point in the course it was too late."*



# Prions: Scary as Zombies

By VERONICA MILLIGAN

The living dead. Slow moving, groaning, disgusting looking and just plain scary people with a desire for human brains. Popular in shows like “The Walking Dead” and the new Netflix original “Santa Clara Diet,” there are many variations on this in popular culture. Could zombies really be a thing though?

In many science fictions novels and movies, a strange viral outbreak causes the dead to rise or people to go mad. In real life there is a scary infection that has astoundingly similar symptoms and associations to a zombie outbreak. Prions are a type of infectious protein that cause disease in humans, cows, deer, mice and sheep. Generally speaking, the diseases are called spongiform encephalopathies, but each has its own name depending on the animal it affects. The most common is mad cow disease. From 1986 to 2001

the United Kingdom (U.K.) was plagued by an outbreak of mad cow disease that devastated farming communities.

The prions that cause mad cow disease can be transferred to humans if neural tissue from the cow is consumed. Prions are not a normally occurring protein in the body. Proteins have special shapes that they are folded into and if not folded properly they won’t function. However prions are misfolded and continue to function but in a new and dangerous way. There is no cure for a prion infection. They are resistant to almost any form of sterilization and must be burned or undergo intense chemical treatment, such as a formalin treatment. In the U.K. outbreak, the infected cows were killed and burned to prevent the spread of the prions.

Humans can become infected through inheriting a gene for the


misfolded protein, consuming neural tissue from an infected animal (think brain), and from cannibalistic activity (continue thinking brain). When the human version of mad cow disease was discovered, called Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) or Kuru, it was in a cannibalistic tribe of people who exhibited strange symptoms.

Symptoms of prion infection may not reveal themselves for many years, even decades. A person will begin to lose control of their motor skills and may jerk, walk strangely, have random outbursts of laughter and stop sleeping. They may also form grotesque lesions on the skin. The disease is fatal. The Center for Food Safety reports that at least 143 people died from consuming infected meat during the U.K. outbreak. Professor of biology Dr. David Reid said of prions, “It is a really scary concept

to think of an infectious protein. How do you fight it? You can’t. You have to prevent transmission. Period. That’s the only thing we can do.” Reid 100 percent recommends that you do not eat brain, ever.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VERONICA MILLIGAN  
Chemistry major Hayley Magruder's bitmoji is looking for brains. Is she infected with a prion?



# Jurassic Journalism

By MICHAEL TROUTT

“A Celebration of Black History” was written by alumna Lorry A. Hester, who graduated in 1991 with a degree in political science.

Something inside so strong. This sentence refers to an inner passion that drives a person to achieve a goal. It’s the mechanism that causes a person to act or maybe even react to a certain situation. Fredrick Douglass, Shirley Chisholm, Malcolm X, Mary Mclean Bethune, Martin Luther King Jr., and the list continues of the African-Americans who had this mechanism. Some were actions from the passion to discover: Daniel Hale Williams performed the

first successful operation on the human heart; George Washington Carver gave us many new uses for the peanut and the sweet potatoe. Some of the actions were reactions to an undesirable situation: Rosa Parks and the Atlantic Bus System; A. Philip Randolph and the first Black Union. This passion can also be creator of an art: Langston Hughes, poet; Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington, musician and composer. It’s the passion of Carter G. Woodson that makes it possible for African-Americans to celebrate our history and share it with all of America. He is the founder of the Association for the Study of African-

American Life and History. Stemming from this, he is also the founder of the first Negro History Week.

Black History Month is a celebration and also an education. The celebration is for the survival of a race that has been suppressed for over 300 years. African-Americans have come a long way down the road and even though the road stretches much further than we can see, we march on. The celebration is for those who mixed the mortar for the road, it is for those who poured the cement, and finally for those smoothing and keeping the cracks filled.

Many Americans question why

an entire month is dedicated to Afro-American history. Without the realization of the actual contribution of African-Americans to American History, it would be forgotten. There is a movie out today depicting the contributions of Blacks to the civil war, this isn’t in our “standard” history books. A black man performed the first human heart surgery, a black man invented the system of traffic lights. There is a very rich history in the African-American culture. African-American History isn’t just made of civil rights activists and entertainers there is a host of many areas that we have given to and continue to give. The education comes in here. It is the obligation of today’s African-Americans to further this history by educating the people around.

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# Riff Raff's Rhythmic Growth



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Riff Raff performing in December 2011

By JESS WILLARD

The first time I listened to rapper Riff Raff I thought, ‘This artist is a joke.’ He was featured in a song performed by hip hop group The Far East Movement titled “The Illest” (2013). Riff Raff’s rapping was jarring against the beat of the song, and I questioned if he had a sense of rhythm at all. Additionally, his lyrics made no sense when they were

strung together. However, with Riff Raff’s recent release of his mixtape “Aquaberry Aquarius” (2017), I was left feeling like the artist had a little more to offer than I originally thought. “Aquaberry Aquarius” opened with an acoustic guitar and elegant vocals from singer Lisa Cimorelli in the song “Hit Me Up.” Surprisingly

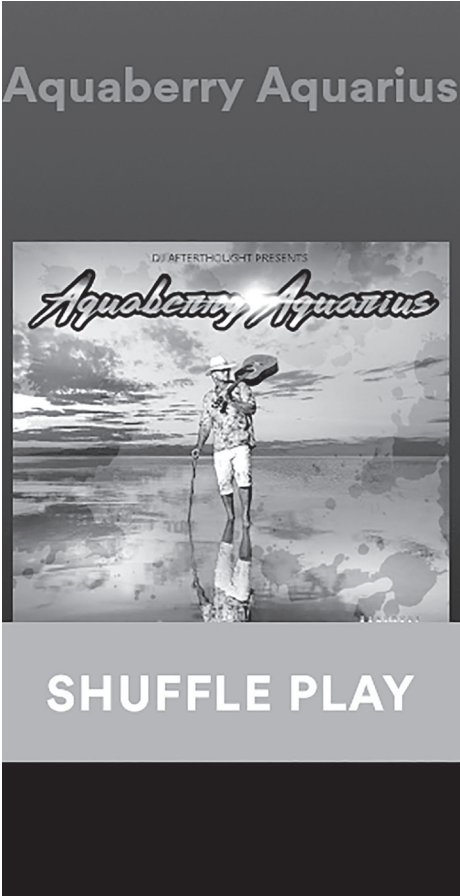
enough, when Riff Raff entered the song, he managed to keep up with the beat and keep a tone fitting for the pace. But it was the fourth track, “Root Beer Float Ghost,” that had me feeling impressed. The rapper’s intensity as the song progressed drew me into his words: “Copycats gain purchase, so I changed my verse up.” Paired with the smooth beat and breathy vocals from singer Tomi DiBiase, the tune left the listener feeling a lot more mellow; it was stuck in my head for days.

Junior English major Katrina Jahn said she was first introduced to Riff Raff a few years ago. However, she was hesitant to listen to his music because of the way he portrayed himself. The rapper explained his exaggerated appearance in an interview with LA Weekly. The article said, “Though he seems intent to present as a clueless, lazy stereotype, in reality, he’s a calculated, hardworking striver with a genius for self-promotion.” Riff Raff uses his attire to display his career.

“Riff Raff is a prime example of how you shouldn’t judge a book by its cover,” she said. “Whether his lyrics are goofy or not, I wasn’t anticipating a white dude with multi-colored cornrows and a shark tooth grill to produce anything worth listening to.” Jahn enjoys some of his older songs like “Bat Phone” (2012) because of the catchiness. She described the sound as “getting stuck with you for weeks but it’s not annoying.”

Jahn may approve of the rapper’s

catchiness, which seems to be a goal for Riff Raff in a majority of his popular releases, but I don’t think getting lyrics like “tip-toeing in my Jordans” repeated in my brain waves is altogether pleasing. For those who may not need meaningful lyrics, Riff Raff’s backing beats makes giving him a chance a reasonable suggestion.



SCREENSHOT BY JESS WILLARD  
Rapper Riff Raff’s new album “Aquaberry Aquarius” was released earlier this year. It can be found on Spotify

# Talk Nerdy to Me: Stronghold Crusader

By PATRICK BENEDICT

Firefly Studios’ 2002 title “Stronghold Crusader” is a real-time strategy (rts) game for the PC that has really stood the test of time. The game is billed as a “castle simulator” which is not too far-fetched. The player takes on the role of a European lord during the Crusades in 1095-1291 A.D. in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The basic objective is to gather resources from the landscape including wood, stone, iron and food to effectively build a castle and stable army and defeat opponents. What makes the game stand out is that the people the player rules over can be quite fickle. If the player does not have a good amount of food coming in as well as other positive factors to counteract the negatives such as high taxes, the player’s lord will lose popularity and their people will leave. The key strategy to the game is to find the ideal balance between army production and keeping people happy in order to keep production high. The real strategical secrets of the game are difficult to describe as the combinations are endless.

One negative aspect of the game is the soundtrack. While the messages you get from the “scribe” character that inform of incoming attacks and unhappiness in the castle are helpful

they are often drowned out by an overzealous song that sounds like someone wailing. This, however, can be remedied in the sound options of the game by turning down the ambient music. Another sound issue, though, is the frequent messages the player gets from their opponents. Since the single player campaign is fought against computer generated opponents, the developers tried to spice up that isolation by adding short, full- motion videos that taunt the player. This would be an acceptable feature if there was more variety to them. Since some campaign stages can take a few real-world days to complete, hearing the same messages over and over again can be annoying. That being said, some of the opposing lord characters are actually quite humorous and entertaining at first. Many of them are named after, resemble and behave like various animals such as the Pig and the Rat.

Despite the audio shortcomings, the game offers hours of entertainment with a decent level of difficulty. The game received a 78 percent on Metacritic. Be ready for the long haul, however, as this game can take quite a bit of time to complete.

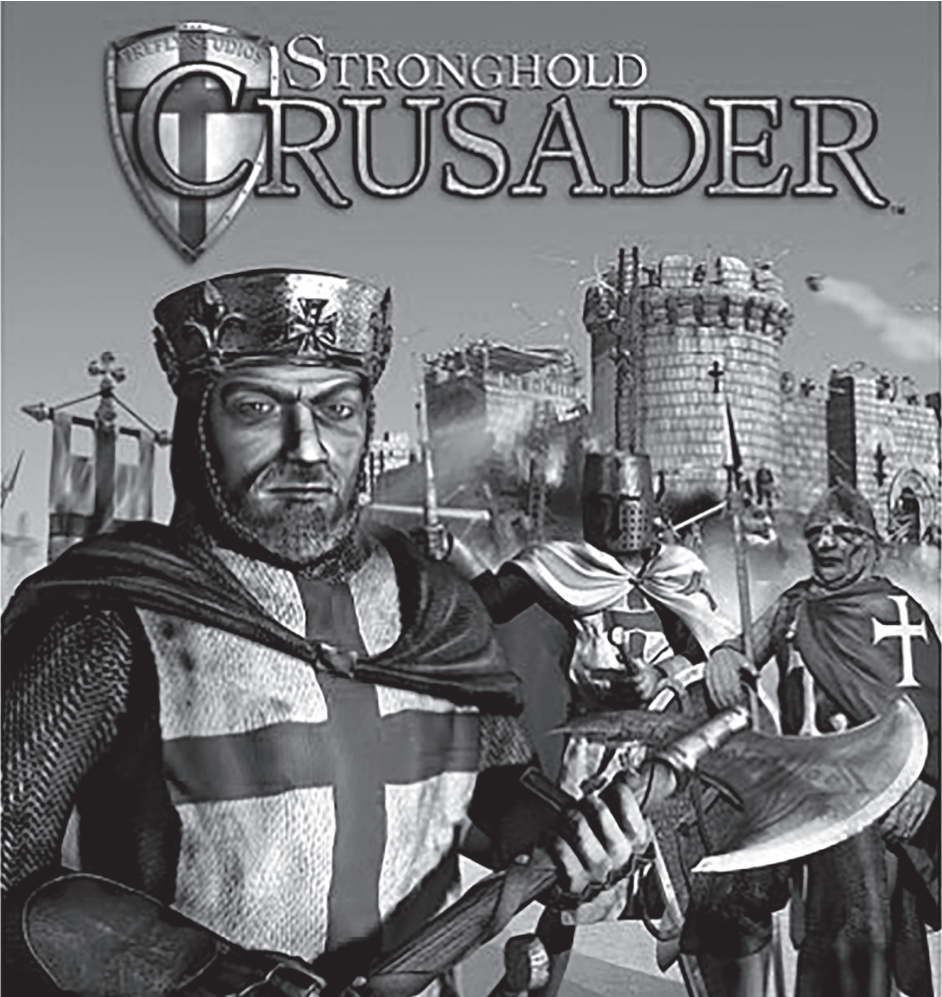


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Build your own castle and conquer your enemies in Stronghold Crusader

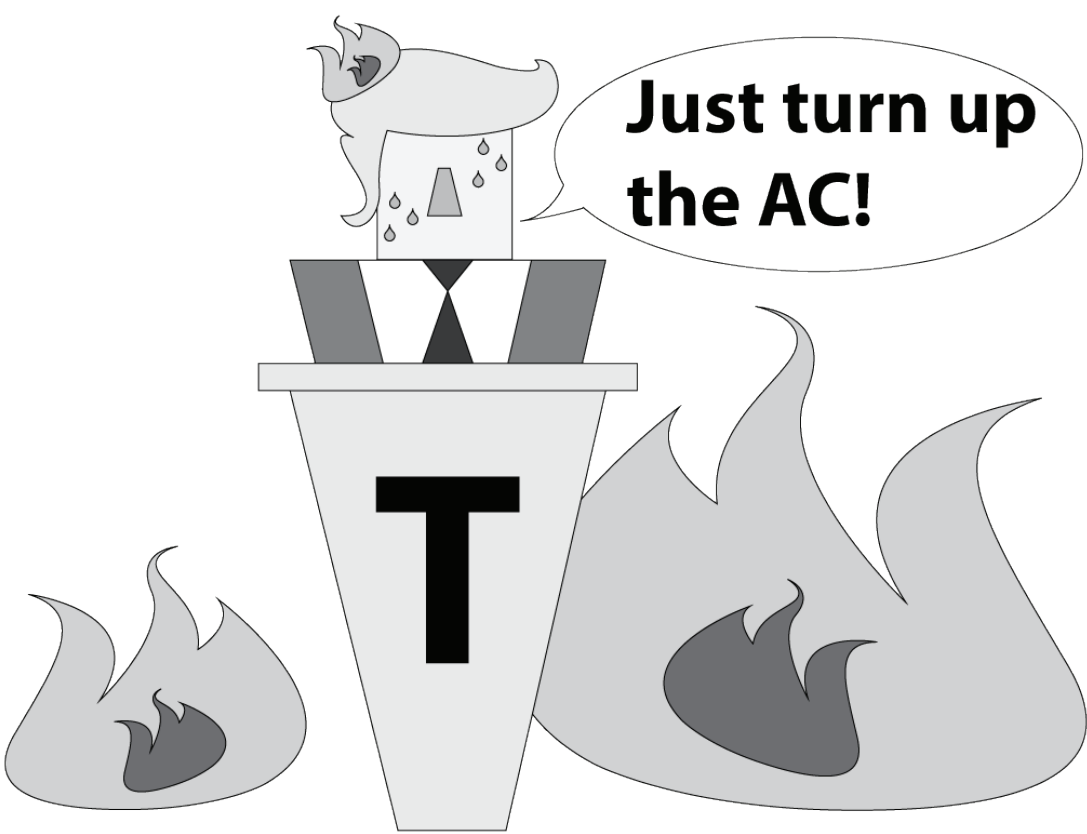


# Has Climate Change Been “Trumped”?

By MICHAEL TROUT

Has climate change been “Trumped”? Yes. And we will experience a major setback in preserving and maintaining a quality environment for future generations. While a vast majority of scientific research suggests that human activities are, and have been, contributing to climate change, the Trump administration seems to have taken a different stance. Especially in regards to the President’s Cabinet appointees who remain on the fence about climate change. Particularly, the candidate to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), attorney general of Oklahoma Scott Pruitt. Pruitt is currently involved in a lawsuit against the EPA over the Clean Air Act established by former president Barack Obama. Pruitt believes that EPA regulations impede a state’s right to govern itself and stated before a Senate subcommittee in 2016 that “when the EPA exceeds the constraints placed upon the agency by Congress, the relationship is thrown out of balance and the rule of law and state sovereignty is affected adversely.”

In 2006, the American Association for the Advancement of Science released an official position on climate change which stated that “the scientific evidence is clear: global climate change caused by human activities is occurring now, and it’s a growing threat to



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

**Presedent Donald Trump feeling the heat**

society.” Yet, despite the overwhelming evidence published by environmental scientists and statements released by multiple scientific organizations, Pruitt remains skeptical.

Individuals like Pruitt maintain that they want something to be “proven” or argue that the science is not “settled.” Unfortunately, Pruitt and others that use these kinds of arguments do not understand science.

Science never “proves” anything nor is it ever “settled.” Blackburn professor of biology Dr. Edward Zalisko noted that “science is not certain” and that he does not “know what it means for something in science to be ‘settled.’ Science is tentative. There are degrees of confidence.” Meaning that science offers explanations that are supported by evidence. As more evidence is collected that supports an explanation,

the more confident scientists are in regard to that explanation. And that explanations remain subject to change in light of new evidence. Zalisko also added that “on issues with global or great human or environmental impact, we often face a dilemma. At what point are we confident enough to act cautiously, especially when inaction is action?” While Pruitt would rather wait to be convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt -- which will never happen -- the research on climate change has generated enough confidence for the scientific community to call for action.

To make matters worse, Trump’s candidate for secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, is also a CEO for ExxonMobil and would represent the U.S. in climate change negotiations. Beyond the obvious conflict of interest, this has brought about speculations that the U.S. will withdraw from the Paris Act; an agreement between many countries, including China, to actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In light of Pruitt’s misunderstanding of science and Tillerson’s paycheck that relies on the harvesting of fossil fuels, future generations will look back and say that we got it wrong. Whether we actively or passively supported the current administration, climate change has been “Trumped” for at least the next four years.

# Give Me a Sassy Gay Main Character: The Problem with “The Magicians”

By RACHEL CHONG

Billed as “like ‘Harry Potter’ but with sex and drugs,” Syfy’s “The Magicians” has compelling storytelling and an interesting (if not quite revolutionary) premise. I binge-watched it in two days and I loved it, even though I don’t typically like drama television. But the characters in “The Magicians” were so well-written and acted that I fell in love with each and everyone one of them. But there is one glaring problem.

Eliot is, by far, the most interesting character. He is funny, sharp, witty and arguably the smartest of the core group of characters. So why, despite being featured in every single episode, does he still feel like the sassy gay sidekick? He is clearly the “gay best friend” to another character who is had infinitely less potential and who is, frankly, more boring -- though that’s not to say that I don’t still adore her.

It is to say -- or scream, “Please give me a sassy gay main character and please make him Eliot Waugh.” The sassy gay sidekick, sassy gay friend, or gay best friend is such a tired trope. He -- and it’s always a he -- seems to crop up every time a show wants “more diversity,” or “representation.” But this isn’t 1998 anymore. “Will & Grace” is far from groundbreaking now. I am not satisfied with Kurt from “Glee,” Damian from “Mean Girls,” or Titus from “The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt” and D’Fwan from “30 Rock.” Notably, three of the four are written by Tina Fey. These characters don’t represent the lives and experiences of real gay people and they add about as much diversity as the token black friend.

While I’m all for comic relief and I love a well-placed, “Gurl,” I feel like I’m starving for a modicum of realistic



PHOTO COURTESY OF SYFY.COM

**Hale Appleman as Eliot in Syfy’s “The Magicians”**

gay representation in a world filled with one-note gay men. It’s not the character of the sassy gay sidekick that bothers me, it’s the lack of depth he’s given by showrunners. While D’Fwan was little more than a running joke, characters like Kurt, Titus, Damian and, yes, Eliot are interesting people if only their writers would let us see into their rich lives.

So I’m not asking to see them be less sassy as much as I am asking to see them. To really see them the way I see my own sassy gay friends and, to be frank, myself. We are our own main characters with real, complex and nuanced stories to be told. So is Kurt Hummel. So is Titus Andromedon. So are D’Fwan and Damian. So is Eliot Waugh, darn it. Make them the sassy gay main characters of their own shows.



# Dropping the “F” Bomb

By HALEY WELCH

On Jan. 21, 2017 women across the country came together to participate in the Women’s March on Washington which, according to the demonstration’s mission statement, was meant to “send a bold message to our new government on their first day in office, and to the world that women’s rights are human rights.” I’m not sure how wearing a vagina hat accomplishes that, but carry on. After all, perhaps I’m just too blinded by my white-lady privilege to have an opinion. Pardon me for breathing.

When I left Blackburn in the spring of 2015 I wholeheartedly identified as a feminist. I’d learned enough about it by that point to appreciate what it had done and where it had gotten women.

Do I want to get paid the same as a man doing the same work? Yup. Do I want equal career opportunities? Sure (minus coal-mining and being drafted). That’s sane feminism, and something most ordinary bigots - I mean people - can probably get on board with. But what about this new, combative, in-your-face feminism that seems to be running rampant? Nope. Count me out.

Present day feminism has become all about aggressive victimhood, making the ideology overly self-righteous and all too willing to shut-out the opinions of opposition. To see proof of this, look no further than social media, a relative live-streaming of Victimhood Olympics. Self-proclaimed feminists tout the apparent woes of our

society, such as the imaginary pay gap (a falsified statistic that has been overly repeated and doesn’t take into account the career choices women make), or how you’re ignorant if you’re adamantly against abortion (I mean, how dare you oppose snuffing a life out at will). And if you have the gall to disagree with any of these opinions and voice your dissent? Prepare to have hordes of women screaming at you Ashley Judd style. This is a problem and something that is going to cause more and more women to slowly side-step away from the ideology. Extreme anger, lack of reason, and in-your-face victimhood is not an attractive way to promote a cause

So, I’m dropping the “F” bomb,

or shall I say, dropping the descriptor of “feminist” to describe myself. Almost as quickly as I warmed up to the ideology, it has turned sour for me. Modern day feminism is becoming volatile and, most importantly, it’s hurting women more than it is helping them. There is nothing empowering about shouting profanities on a stage for the world to see, shutting out pro-life groups from an “inclusive” march, or threatening to blow up the White House. It’s embarrassing, and I’ll let you in on a little secret: it makes you look like a raging hypocrite. Sure, our new president is a dirty old man, but judging from the behavior of a lot of women I have seen lately, we have lot of “nasty” women out there, too.

# Has Climate Change Been “Trumped”?

Michael Troutt

Has climate change been “Trumped”? Yes. And we will experience a major setback in preserving and maintaining a quality environment for future generations. While a vast majority of scientific research suggests that human activities are, and have been, contributing to climate change, the Trump administration seems to have taken a different stance. Especially in regards to the President’s Cabinet appointees who remain on the fence about climate change. Particularly, the candidate to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), attorney general of Oklahoma Scott Pruitt. Pruitt is currently involved in a lawsuit against the EPA over the Clean Air Act established by former president Barack Obama. Pruitt believes that EPA regulations impede a state’s right to govern itself and stated before a Senate subcommittee in 2016 that

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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.

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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.



# ALS Benefit for Former Blackburn Track Coach

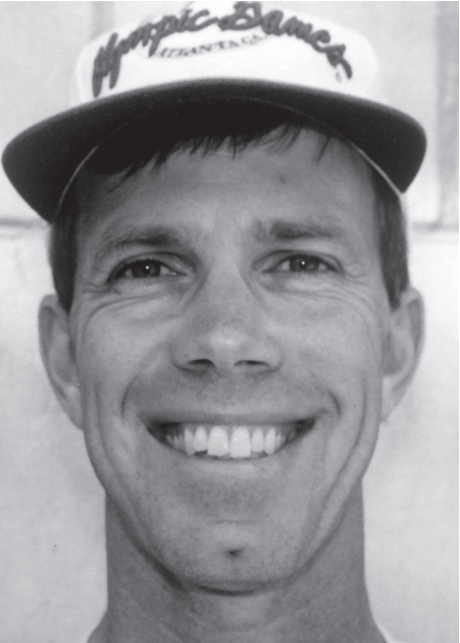


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

**Coach Pohlman in 1994**

**By Grace Allen**

Charlie Pohlman was a physical education teacher, driver’s education teacher and track coach at the nearby Girard and later North Mac school districts for 32 years. He also coached cross country at Blackburn starting in 1994. Last year, he retired as a teacher and coach only to be diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a rare and chronic degenerative disease of the nervous system that targets the brain and spinal cord’s nerve cells by weakening muscles and impacting

physical function. ALS is incurable but can be helped with treatment. There are only 20,000 cases in the U.S. each year.

North Mac middle school science teacher Ashley Creasey and other teachers from the North Mac School District are planning a five kilometer benefit run for Pohlman to raise awareness and money for him and his family. Creasey said she believed it is important to show up if possible for not only Pohlman but for the community.

“Mr. Pohlman has been an active and valuable member of our community and nearby communities for years as a teacher and coach. Not only has he played an important role in the lives of children and athletes – he really is one of the nicest, most genuine people I’ve ever been lucky enough to know,” said Creasey.

The benefit will be held on March 25 at North Mac Middle School in Girard where participants will run and walk in honor for Pohlman and receive t-shirts designed by the North Mac high school art class. Students are required to pay \$15; adults \$20. The race is set to start at 10 a.m. You can register at the middle school from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Head Cross Country Coach Mark Hopping said runners from Blackburn will participate in the race. If you wish to help Pohlman with treatment, you are to send donations to any North Mac school and with your intent specified.

# The ‘Burnian’s Featured Beaver

**By Jess Willard**

Senior pre-med biology major John Esparza has been playing baseball since he was eight years old but has been a Chicago Cubs fan since he was only six. Now he pitches for the Blackburn College baseball team.

Through his career playing baseball, Esparza believes his greatest accomplishment to date was winning the state championship on his high school team during his senior year. When he first started playing at the collegiate level Esparza broke his leg and couldn’t play. “It took a good year to get back into the rhythm of being able to run and throw again,” said Esparza. After his recovery he made his way back into practicing day in and day out to make himself better. As a senior he has set goals for becoming a better leader on the team. “A lot of the freshmen and underclassmen look up to you and look to you for guidance,” said Esparza.

He has a high opinion of his fellow teammates as well. “Being on the baseball team, you kinda become family with all the guys because you are with them 24/7,” said Esparza. While playing for the team Esparza has taken away many skills including a highly developed teamwork spirit.

With hopes for one day becoming a doctor, Esparza knows that doctors don’t work alone and teamwork isn’t something to take for granted.

Balancing his school work and athletics schedule has not always been easy but Esparza has figured out that time management and independent studying is key. The dream for becoming a doctor has not deterred him from wanting to play baseball after college. “I’ve been playing baseball for 13-14 years and I think it’s going to be hard giving it up,” said Esparza. He believes that he will find some way to keep baseball in his life by joining recreational leagues. Through his whole career Esparza found one particular piece of advice to be the most important: “Never give up.” Though noting its cheesy nature Esparza attributes the phrase’s message to his success both on and off the field.

# Celebrating Accomplishments

**By Anneliese Darow and Chardonnae Nash**

February 1, 2017. This day, for some, was filled with anticipation for the beginning of a new month and for others it was just another Wednesday. Feb. 1 was the 31st annual recognition of National Girls and Women in Sports Day. This day serves as an opportunity to place special recognition on the progress and ongoing effort to advance sport opportunities for women. This year’s theme was “Expanding Opportunity.”

Title IX, signed into law in 1972, was the first step toward more equal opportunity for women in sports. According to the Department of Justice, “Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.” The Women’s Sports Foundation recognizes the impact of Title IX legislation but notes that only 40 percent of high school girls are currently playing sports and only 40 percent of collegiate athletes are women.

Physical education chair Ms. Geraldine Albins, and physical education professor Ms. Tena Krause shared their experiences as female athletes competing prior to the progress that Title IX has created. Albins shared stories about the ridicule she felt from

the community and society for her interest in athletics, which came with name calling and spitting, prior to the law. Albins recalls the moment Title IX was passed, “I remember cheering and crying and jumping because we thought the whole world would be wonderful but it wasn’t because you had to change attitudes. The law doesn’t change attitudes.”

Krause detailed the struggle to find playing opportunities and the commitment that was required to continue, including driving far distances to find others to practice and play with. She also discussed the inequality that she faced as a coach, which included a lower season budget and limited practice times. She was required to speak up to insure her athletes were given the best chance at success. “I wasn’t fighting for me, I was fighting for my ladies to have it better than how I had it.”

Although progress may not seem as evident at Blackburn, where there is only one female head coach employed, Albins and Krause are proud of the opportunities that have come since their days as female athletes.

The question stands: What can individuals do to ensure that equality in women’s sports remains an important

“  
*“I wasn’t fighting for me, I was fighting for my ladies to have it better than how I had it”*

Tena Krause

issue? Albins calls for equal and appropriate publicity for women’s athletic programs. Krause challenges us to push for fairness and to not remain silent.

Society has conditioned most to use terms and hold beliefs about girls and women in sports that negatively impact

progress. Speaking up against labels that you feel are unfair and for chances can help propel female athletes forward. National Girls and Women in Sports Day is just one circumstance to discuss equality in sports but is fundamental in continuing the conversation.



# Blackburn Alumnus Brings Progress to CHS Football

By MICHAEL TROUTT

The Carlinville High School (CHS) football team inspired a great deal of pride within the Carlinville community this past season, finishing with an overall record of 12-2, including a run all the way to the Class 3A state championship game.

The season began with three victories over Roxana, Vandalia and Greenville. Then in week four, the Cavaliers suffered a narrow 25-23 loss to Pana. Head coach Chad Easterday, a Blackburn College graduate, reflected on the defeat and commented that “it might have been the best thing that ever happened to us, to be honest ... the loss in week four identified some stuff that we needed to work on, both as players and coaches.” Junior nose tackle and left guard Brian Golbricht stated, “We just realized that we didn’t play one of our best games [and] we moved past that.”

After recovering from an early loss, the Cavaliers finished their regular season with five straight victories



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA WAY

Bryan Golbricht is a junior at Carlinville High School

before heading into the playoffs. CHS began with a strong 76-19 first round victory over East Alton Wood River. In the quarterfinals against Williamsville, the Cavaliers pulled out a 42-35 victory. Golbricht attributed the win to good defensive stops and said, “We really went heavy with the passing that game and it worked out for us.” The Cavaliers went on to beat Newton in the semifinals 32-21 before edging out rival North Mac with a 27-21 win in the conference final. “That game was really intense ... our defense was really the key through everything,” Golbricht reflected.

Throughout the season and upon advancing to play in the state championship game, the Cavaliers received a great deal of support from their fans in the community. It had been 23 years since the last time CHS advanced to the state championship game. Coach Easterday confirmed that 700 tickets were sold for the championship game and that “the

amount of support from our community was just overwhelming.” Golbricht added that Carlinville fans “just kept coming and coming [to the games] and I think that helped us out a lot.”

The Cavaliers received a police escort to and from the championship game at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Illinois, on Nov. 25, 2016. Despite a 43-0 loss to IC Catholic Prep of Elmhurst, Illinois, the Cavaliers and the Carlinville community celebrated the progress of CHS football under Easterday. Easterday has been a part of the CHS coaching staff for the last 20 years and took over as head coach in 2008. Since then, the Cavaliers’ record has gradually improved and they have accumulated a 71-28 record over the last nine seasons.

Easterday attended Blackburn College, where he majored in chemistry and education, played football for from ‘92-’94 and graduated in ‘97. “I wouldn’t trade my experience at Blackburn for anything,” he said.

# Bound By Blood, Bond By Basketball

By JORDAN WOOD

Most of us have heard the sayings “everything happens for a reason” and “what is meant to be will be,” but those phrases are particularly true for junior biology major and co-captain of the women’s basketball team Aleisha Stiltner and the journey that brought her to Blackburn.

Growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, playing basketball at some point in your life is almost a given and for Stiltner, her first encounter was on her second birthday when she received a Little Tykes basketball hoop. She was fixated and couldn’t get enough. You could say that day changed her life or at least was the day that basketball became her life.

Through her career she found herself playing every chance she got. Her parents divorced when she was young and besides one half-sister, she was practically an only child. Her mom worked late most nights, sometimes not getting home until close to 8 so after school, she would hurry home, quickly do her homework and then run to the park near her home to shoot until it became too dark.

In elementary school she remembers while the other girls were playing on the swings or talking to their friends, “I was the girl out there with her hair tied up playing basketball with the boys.” From there she jumped into middle school basketball where she really got serious and then on to a successful Lafayette High School program that won a district title. While many see their careers end after high school, Stiltner found the opportunity to continue playing at Georgetown



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Stiltner handling the ball against Greenville College

College in Georgetown, Kentucky. Unfortunately she was never able to play as the team was reluctant to gamble on a player coming off of an Anterior Cruciate Ligament injury in the knee, which she sustained during her high school senior night.

In the meantime, her grandparents had moved to Carlinville and she began to look at Blackburn as not being able to play the game she loved was eating away at her.

Now as she nears the end of her third season, she prays for one more. Due to NCAA rules, an athlete is allowed 10 semesters of eligibility and this is Stiltner’s 10th semester of school. She hopes to be granted

another season of eligibility, however, since her knee injury led to a two-year absence from the sport. If she is given another season, she will embrace it wholeheartedly. If she is not, she hopes to get certified to help with strength and conditioning and possibly assist Coach Fonseca. “I love basketball and I don’t really know what I would do without it. I’m from Kentucky. I remember being like six years old and watching Tayshaun Prince hit four 3s in a row against the University of North Carolina and just going crazy; he was my all-time favorite player.”

As her eyes lit up and she looked back, Stiltner credits her mom for her own passion. “I remember me and

my mom, there was a game, we were playing Michigan State and it was down to the wire and we thought we were going to lose and me and my mom were on all fours down in front of the TV praying like ‘please Lord let us win this game.’ That’s just how it’s always been. I guess a lot of it came from her.”

It’s funny how things work out sometimes. Who would’ve thought that a game could hold such a strong connection between a mother and daughter. Or that a Little Tykes basketball hoop could have such an impact. Or that a single day could’ve sent a two-year-old little girl who fell in love with the game on a journey that still continues.