

the burnian

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Blackburn College News Since 1881

March 2017



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

The Path of a Judge

By Michael Troutt

On Friday, Feb. 24, in the Lumpkin Learning Commons, Macoupin County Associate Judge Joshua Meyer of Carlinville presented a biographical account on how he came to be a judge. Meyer’s presentation was part of a lecture series sponsored by the Blackburn College Leadership, Law and Public Service Department as well as the Lumpkin Learning Commons. Director of Lumpkin Learning Commons Spencer Brayton reported

that Meyer was asked to speak because of his ties to the community. “He’s a Blackburn alum and he works in the area,” Brayton clarified. Meyer began his presentation by sharing a bit of background information. His father, Dr. Greg Meyer, served as chaplain, professor of philosophy and religion and, at times, counselor at Blackburn for 33 years until his retirement in 2014. Josh Meyer stated that he graduated

from Carlinville High School in 1994 and went on to graduate from Blackburn in 1998 with a degree in history. He reflected on his time at the college and stated, “It was excellent. I really enjoyed the teachers, that’s why I stayed there.” After Meyer attended law school at St. Louis University, he went on to work for a couple of law firms before becoming the first Public Defender of See **Judge Series**, page 2

MAJOR CHANGES COMING

By Gary Lowder and Michael Troutt

In the Blackburn announcements, towards the end of last semester, President Comerford addressed college faculty and staff members about the new classes and programs that are likely to be introduced in the coming months. The new majors to be offered will span across four departments. Comerford said, “The faculty and board haven’t approved anything yet but you could say we are strongly considering adding these classes” and reported that “the announcement also mentions nursing and athletic training but at this time those are longer term. I can tell you that in the next few weeks we are likely to approve some of the classes I talked about. This means we will be offering these programs in the fall.” The business department will offer a major in agricultural business which will call for hiring another professor with a background in agriculture. The performing arts will be offering four new tracks; two in music, with specialties in either piano or voice, along with two majors in musical theater and theater. The announcement also mentions that faculty are discussing a human resources minor in business and a program in social work. McClusky reported that “the new majors within music and theater are going to be much more focused on the disciplines,” and in regard to the agricultural business major, “if it goes forward, we’d expect See **Major Changes**, page 2

Write-up rollover responsible for dropouts?

By Gary Lowder

The Blackburn College Campus Services (C.S.) Department made the controversial decision this year to have write-ups rollover from last semester. This means if you got two write ups last semester, you’re only allowed one this semester before you will be issued a work contract and put on probation. This rule has also been applied to dining hall and snack bar workers. As a result, this program’s numbers have dropped recently because of the increase in students being fired. What many people don’t know is that this has always been standard policy at Blackburn. Associate Dean of Work Rob Weis explained, “We have 12 different departments, and they all have to follow the policies outlined

in the B-book. As long as they aren’t directly crossing over B-book policy, they can generate policies within their department.” Weis gave the following example, “Campus services said that they wouldn’t be issuing verbal warnings with write-ups. We are just going to write you up if you’re missing and it will be your job to appeal that write-up.” This is an example of a department staying within the context of the work departments guidelines, but supplementing it with its own policies. For the last couple of years, the C.S. department has used the “clean slate” policy, through which write-ups reset every semester. This school year they decided to go back to having them rollover.

C.S. assistant manager Ursa Matlock described the dilemma: “We started out this semester with over 60 workers and now we are down to See **Write-up Rollover**, page 3

C.S. WORKERS

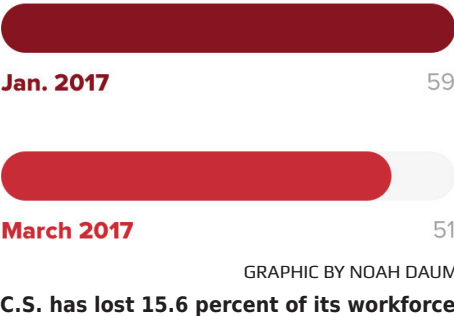


PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

NEVERTHELESS she persisted

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Judge Series

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Macoupin County. Meyer was then selected for his current position as an associate judge in June 2010.

Meyer elaborated on what a day in the life of a judge entails. He reported that most of his time is spent reading, writing and analyzing cases to prepare for court. Meyer also debunked the Hollywood representation of courtroom procedure and explained that “they show these lawyers that kind of walk into the courtroom, and it’s almost like they’re winging it ... that’s not the case.” Meyer emphasized that there are certain guidelines that must be followed during court proceedings and that he can’t just say or do whatever he wants. He also reported that a majority of work surrounding the legal process is done before entering the courtroom. He gave an example of that work by reading the Illinois statute that defines battery. He pointed out that while the definition was only three sentences long, there are thousands of pages to read from former cases that help to interpret that one definition. Meyer then used the example of battery to present students with a hypothetical situation, and then asked their thoughts



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

on how they interpreted it.

Meyer reflected on his presentation and stated, “I really enjoyed it. I was also really impressed with the questions students asked.” Sophomore leadership major Logan Elliott was in attendance and commented, “The way he showed a chronological order was pretty cool, I thought. That was definitely my favorite part.”

Major Changes

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to hire an expert in ag business ... we expect, next year, to be searching for someone.”

The performing arts department will coordinate a major in arts administration. This will essentially be a reconfiguration of a currently offered major in organizational leadership with an arts and management track. Provost Dr. John McClusky commented that the arts administration major will be “focused on giving people the background they need to run and be involved in a nonprofit arts organization.”

Blackburn computer science professor Dr. Kevin Coogan commented that the new computer science tracks, security and game design, “are two areas of computer science that are very popular ... people come in and say ‘I’m specifically interested in security, I’m specifically interested in game design.’ What we’ve tried to do is give those potential students something worth coming here for.” He also added that “they are, in both cases, slightly more stringent, more demanding tracks.”

Professor of computer science Dr. Joshua Gross was able to give some insight into the game programming and

design courses. “Students going into these classes will already have to know how to program games. These classes are for those who are pretty far along the computer science major track... We’ll be exploring ideas about how to incorporate challenge and different definitions of entertainment,” he said. “The software that we need is all free... and keeping computer hardware up-to-date is something we have to do anyway... but at this point we don’t have any room in the computer science calendar so we will have to bring on somebody new to help teach these classes.” Gross believes that these classes will be added to the course catalogs but professors won’t be able to teach the courses until the department gets more resources. McClusky said, “We’re excited about the opportunity it will bring to our students and what they will be able to do with those degrees once they graduate.” Senior computer science and business management major Josh Muepu noted that “nowadays the world is moving a little more towards gaming, especially in the computer science field. I think it’s really adding more opportunity to the students.”

Bourne visits Blackburn

By RACHAEL CHONG

State representative for Illinois’ 95th district Avery Bourne visited Blackburn College on March 1. A member of the Republican Party, she represents all of Montgomery County and parts of Christian, Macoupin and Madison counties. At 24, Bourne is the youngest legislator in Illinois, though, at only 20, Saira Blair of the West Virginia House of Delegates is the youngest in the U.S.

Bourne’s biggest concern for the state is passing a budget. She will not vote for partial budgets because she feels a comprehensive budget must be passed in order to improve Illinois. She also listed “jobs and education funding” as her two largest concerns in the 95th district.

Bourne believes the way to achieve her goals is through bipartisanship. She feels that Republicans and Democrats have more in common than most people think, citing a conversation with Representative Sonya Harper (Dem.) who serves the south side of Chicago. Harper’s main concerns also included jobs and education though the south side and rural Illinois are very different places.

Bourne also wants to modernize the way Illinois makes laws. She supports term limits because, “It’s arrogant to think someone else can’t do your job,” and wants to introduce more technology into the lawmaking process. She is very present on social media and frequently creates graphics for her Twitter because, “I think people read graphics.” Additionally, Bourne serves on a committee that met in Chicago



PHOTO BY RACHAEL CHONG

Avery Bourne spoke at Lumpkin Learning Commons

on March 2. By current rules, she is required to attend in person, meaning she had to travel roughly 250 miles or four hours by car or train to attend, “but there’s no reason I can’t video conference.” She also feels the rule could negatively affect a single parent who might have a sick child on the day of a vote. She feels representatives should be able to vote by proxy or attend via a service such as Skype.

Correction

In Vol. 16, Issue 1, there was a mistake in correctly identifying the Macoupin County Sheriff’s

Department. The ‘Burnian regrets this error.

Guitarist David Burgess Plays at Blackburn

By Grace Allen

Late last month in Bothwell auditorium, guitarist David Burgess performed several pieces of Latin American music.

According to the biography handed out at the event, Burgess is a renowned guitarist with an established reputation and several accolades. He began to study guitar at the Estudio de Arte Guitarristico in Mexico City with distinguished Argentine guitarist Manuel Lopez Ramos, graduating with a Diploma di Merito. He then attended the Academia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, and earned a bachelor’s in Music from the University of Washington where he was also appointed as the guitar instructor. He held the same position at the Cornish Institute of Arts in Seattle. Burgess was the winner of the Mexico City Ponce International Competition, the Guitar ‘81 Competition in Toronto and the 31st International Music Competition

in Munich. The Blackburn show consisted of several pieces from different locations and guitarists in Latin America, including arrangements by Hector Ayala, a travelling Argentinian guitarist and folklorist, four pieces from Anibal Augusto Sardinha, as known as “El Garoto” (the Kid), three Cuban pieces from various artists and two pieces by Yamandu Costa.

After the show, Burgess was available to talk to members of the audience and several students flocked around him. When one asked the best advice he had for becoming a good guitarist he responded, “Find a good teacher.” When asked what he hoped audience members would take away, Burgess said, “I hope they learned something about the music and heard some different styles of music they hadn’t heard before. I hope people were able to expand their mind on

listening to music. A lot of people don’t truly listen to music all that much. A lot of [what I played tonight] was written before they had recordings, so the only time you heard music was live and I think that when that was the case, people would hear music and they’d

drop everything to listen because it was so unusual. But now, we’re bombarded with it – it’s a whole different sort of thing. People probably don’t listen to music as intently as they used to.”



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Renowned guitarist David Burgess performed in Bothwell on Friday, Feb. 24

Write-Up Rollover

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“We already have enough trouble retaining workers from first to second semester without the write-ups rolling over.”

Sebastian Hitzelburger

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the low 50s. (C.S. manager Christina Newton confirmed that the department had 59 workers at the beginning of the semester and has 51 now.) This has definitely put a strain on workers... on the best of days when everyone shows up, everyone’s schedule isn’t ideal so we might only have three workers to clean two whole buildings.” Matlock also spoke about the write-up policy and said, “That policy has definitely made it difficult on some workers... I’m not personally a fan of the write-ups not resetting, but I do understand the reason why.” Matlock explained that having a set number of write-ups per semester might allow some students to skip or goof-off and that resetting them at the end of each semester allows them to begin again. “So like I said, I understand why they do it but it does make it very hard, even on those who I

would consider good workers who just had some family issues, personal issues or might have just been sick with no opportunity to go to the doctor,” said Matlock.

This policy has negatively affected several students. Former Blackburn freshman Benjamin Billings said, “I think it’s absurd that I didn’t know about this rule sooner. I know it was in the B-book but I feel like it should have been stressed more, especially if there was so much confusion about it.” Billings was forced to drop out of Blackburn after getting too many write-ups and being fired from his job. Crew head Sebastian Hitzelburger was very surprised by the rollover of write-ups. “A lot of people were unaware of the rollover of write-ups. Most of us thought that they were going to reset like they had in previous years. I

personally was surprised when I had to have a meeting with Nate [the general manager] and had to be put on contract for the month because I wasn’t aware that the rule had even changed,” he said. He wasn’t fond of the rollover either and said, “I personally think that the write-up system should go back to how it was previously, at least for campus services. We already have enough trouble retaining workers from first to second semester without the write-ups rolling over.” Hitzelburger also mentioned the shortage of workers and believed that it made his job harder. “We make it work the best we can. Workers have to pick up extra slack if we’re down on numbers for that shift,” he said.

Weis said, “One of the things that I’m going to be encouraging the work committee to look at is the process. The

write-up process needs to be reviewed and I think we need to take a look at the disciplinary process all around.” Weis revealed that Blackburn’s present work program general managers are in support of a revision of disciplinary procedure and that it is likely that future general managers will be too. “... Are write-ups necessarily serving their purpose? Are there some things that we can put in place ... that helps people to navigate the work program?” said Weis.

Weis didn’t confirm that a revision of disciplinary procedure was imminent but said, “What I will say is that the work committee is going to be encouraged to review the policy and procedure. And if people have an opinion of that it would be great if they would share that with their department managers.”



Carlinville Dairy Queen
724 West Main St
Carlinville, IL 62626
217-854-8218
Hours 10 AM –10 PM

Leave it to Beaver: what’s inside



PHOTO BY MICHAEL TROUTT

Leave It To Beaver provides students with gently used items

By Michael Troutt

Leave It To Beaver is a small “swap shop” tucked away in Olin 128 where students donate gently used items ranging from shoes and clothes to televisions and other miscellaneous appliances. In turn, students in need can stop by and take whatever necessities are available, free of charge.

While many students have heard

about Leave It To Beaver through Blackburn email announcements, traffic remains sparse. Senior biology major April Goodwin reported that “my freshman year I had heard about a job opening in Leave It To Beaver, but I didn’t apply because I didn’t know what it was.” Although she has never been to Leave It To Beaver, Goodwin

noted, “I’ve had a couple of friends that have gone there ... they liked it.”

Junior business management major Danielle Jackson is the sole worker this semester and therefore the 10 open hours per week revolve around her schedule. Jackson commented that “it is hard for students to come in during the only times I have available.”

InordertobetterservetheBlackburn community, Leave It To Beaver is working with the Sustainability Club to improve student utilization of their resources. Jackson stated that “right now we’re working on a survey that we will send out to the Blackburn community,” and, following the results of the survey, “we’ll decide where to go with how we’re going to run Leave It To Beaver.” Both organizations have also discussed a proposed solution to reconcile the number of open hours for the coming fall semester. Instead of just 10 hours per week that are subject to her schedule, Jackson reported that “we’re thinking about ... eight in the morning to eight at night.” With the significant expansion of open hours, there are hopes that more students will frequent Leave It To Beaver, and will

have their needs met.

While additional hours could mean more opportunity for students to stop in, Jackson also explained that the time change wouldn’t necessarily mean more workers. It may require “having a couple people from Sustainability, or myself, come in to check and make sure everything is running smoothly.”

Jackson also commented on another proposal of changing the overall atmosphere of the shop. She stated that “we could, maybe, revamp Leave It To Beaver ... get some new clothing racks and new shelving units so we can actually organize a little better. We’ve also thought about painting the walls to make it a little more inviting.”

The open hours for Leave It To Beaver this semester are:

- Monday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.,
- Tuesday 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.,
- Wednesday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.,
- Thursday 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.,
- Friday 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Portal Problem

By Patrick Benedict

As with many education institutions across the globe, Blackburn College provides access to an online student information system. The student portal, known as CAMS Three River Systems, allows for faculty to post important information for courses such as downloadable documents, syllabi or hyperlinks to articles. One important function that the portal system serves is a record keeper of students’ grades. However the portal does not always reflect the most current grades for students. Sometimes students don’t find out how they are performing in a class until after a mid-term or final examination.

Some students are disgruntled by what they see as a lack of attentiveness on the part of their professors. “Most of the professors that I have, they only update grades for mid-term and finals and if you want to know how you’re doing in the course otherwise you have to talk to them about it. And then they make it out to be a hassle for them,” said junior creative writing major Kaja Carter. Other students

are not sure that the process is quite as big a hassle as the professors make it out to be. Senior creative writing and psychology major Katie Payne thinks, “if they would just put [the grades] in [the portal] as they do it, it wouldn’t be that big of a deal.”

Some professors are quick to defend the portal. While English and communications professor Dr. Mark Benedetti agrees that the portal has less tools than other online student information systems such as Moodle or Blackboard, he does find the portal easier to use than any of the other applications available. “In some of my classes I might have regular small assignments...I tend not to post grades for those on the Portal much at all. I generally reserve the Portal grades for larger assignments,” said Benedetti. “I don’t think it benefits students much to see that they got ten points out of 1,000.” There are students who wish to know every detail of how they are performing in a class and disagree with waiting until a midterm to see those results. Payne has already turned in several assignments for her courses

but she argues “I don’t know how I’m doing because there’s nothing on the Portal.”

Some other professors believe that students should have access to their grade information quickly and efficiently. Political science professor Dr. Laura Wiedlocher puts assignment grades on the portal for students to track as soon as she has graded them. She also doesn’t think of the process as any sort of hassle. “Two minutes” is how long it takes Wiedlocher to put in grades for each student. However she feels that there isn’t much of a reason to use the portal other than as a secure place to put grades. “I personally don’t like the portal system at all. I find it clunky, hard to use. It’s not intuitive,” said Wiedlocher. She prefers to use the Moodle system for posting assignments and documents online for students.

There are some professors that do use Moodle to post student grades. Senior psychology major Meghan Naugle said “I like how the Moodle has [grades] set up. Dr. Karl does weekly quizzes and so we get to know how each quiz turned out.”

Student Portal

Home

Calendar

Document Tracking

Administrative Services

Course Offering

Registration

My Schedule

My Ledger

My Housing

My Grades

Letter Grades

Number Grades

My Transcript

Letter Transcript

Number Transcript

Home

Physical Education

Theresa Teacher

UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS

No assignments

Design 101

Intro course

0 students

UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS

No assignments

Art history

Period 1

9 students

UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS

No assignments

Intro to World History

Period 3

1 student

UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS

No assignments

Animals on Campus

By Michael Troutt

This coming fall semester students may notice a slight change in the community on campus. Aside from the typical population spike due to incoming freshmen, Blackburn College is also anticipating an increase in the animal population on campus as well. Thus, a new policy will be put into place called “Animals On Campus”.

Blackburn Director of Counseling services Tim Morenz explained that the new policy is going to help keep Blackburn up-to-date “especially when it comes to compliance with the ADA, the Americans with Disabilities Act.” With a policy in place, students with various disabilities and special needs will be provided the opportunity to have service animals or emotional support animals on campus.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 defines a service animal as a dog that has been specially trained to assist a disabled individual in performing everyday tasks. Morenz stated that “with a service animal, there is a certification or license that goes with that.” The certification is to confirm that an animal has undergone the proper training to be legally considered a service animal. In accordance with the ADA, disabled individuals can be accompanied by service animals anywhere on campus including residence halls, classrooms and other campus facilities.

While service animals typically involve specially trained dogs, emotional support animals cover a wider range of animals. Support animals are defined as any animals

that help alleviate specific emotional or psychological symptoms from which an individual may suffer such as anxiety and depression. Additionally, the ADA does not require any training or certification for emotional support animals and Morenz added that an “emotional support animal would be restricted to the residence hall.”

The Student Life Office is currently accepting applications for service and emotional support animals. Students must also submit supporting documents from a healthcare provider that confirm a student’s need for an emotional support animal. Like students, animals are required to be properly vaccinated and to adhere to a standard of appropriate conduct. Students with animals will be required to ensure proper care of their animals and to clean up after them. Morenz also stated that Blackburn will “notify the community where the animal will be housed” as a precautionary measure for any students who may be allergic or afraid of a particular animal. Morenz reported that overall “we want to make sure that we have policies that help meet the needs of a very diverse student base.”

Sophomore biology major Haley Cash is in favor of the new animal policy. “I think it’s a good thing,” she stated. She also reported that she has a loved one who suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder who “has a service dog and it helps her out a lot ... you might think it’s not really that big of a deal, but it really does help people.”



ILLUSTRATION BY LUIZA MYSLINSKA

Service dogs will be allowed anywhere on campus

Lumpkin Learning Commons hosts “speed friending”

By Racheal Chong

February is national “make a friend month” according to sophomore education major Gariel Pierce and freshman Jillian Smiley, who helped host a “speed friending” event in the Lumpkin Learning Commons Feb. 23. “Our goal was just bringing the Blackburn community together and letting people who are more shy or

introverted meet new people, and also [so] social people who have tons of friends...get to meet more people,” Pierce said.

The setup of the event was fairly simple. Like a speed dating event, participants were given a number and a nametag. There were several rounds - each five minutes long - in which

participants introduced themselves and held a short conversation about anything and everything. For those less apt at thinking on the spot, a sheet of paper was provided on each table with conversation starter suggestions ranging from, “What was the last funny video you saw?” to, “What’s the most interesting place you’ve ever been?”

People talked about what was on the sheet, but they also discussed their lives, the reasons they picked their majors and events that had shaped who they are. So while asking someone about his or her major might become boring or even tedious, asking why they have that major can tell you much about that person in a short amount of time. It was these sorts of discussions that helped form real connections between people and they abounded at speed friending.

With less than 20 people in attendance, the event was small, but Pierce said, “I think we succeeded.” She said she believed scheduling conflicts were the biggest reason the turnout wasn’t very large. Blackburn was also hosting a screening of “Concerned Student 1950” as part one of the three-



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Chardonnae Nash and Victory Odunukwe getting to know each other at Speed-Friending

part “Can We Talk About Race?” series that night. Pierce said she believes if there had been a bigger time gap between the events, that people could have eaten dinner and more might have come.

Still, those who did come enjoyed the event. Freshman communications major Ally Fowler said, “I enjoyed meeting new people ... I got to meet a few people I hadn’t talked to before.” Freshman graphic design major Alyssa Rigel said the event was what she expected, “and more,” adding, “I have more common interests with people than I thought I did.”



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Students making friends at the Speed-Friending event in the Lumpkin Learning Commons

Jurassic Journalism

By Grace Allen

["Marrying Sam Visits Blackburn" was written by reporter Tom Porter, who graduated with a degree in English, and was printed Feb. 23, 1963.]

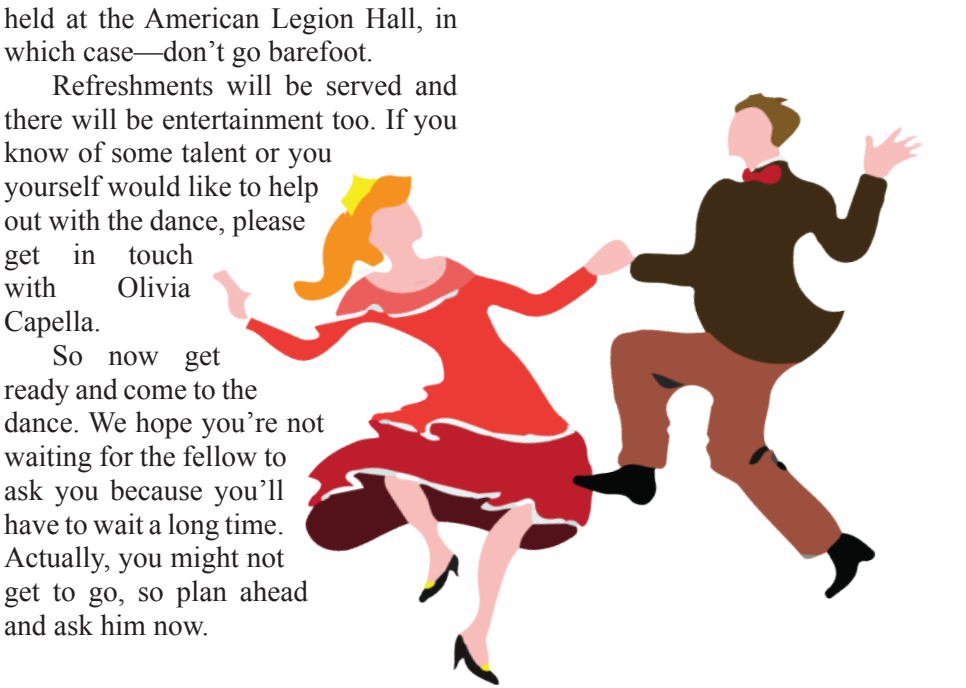
Wanna get married? Aw go ahead—your parents will have it annulled Monday. Besides, “marrying Sam” isn’t an honest to goodness Justice of the Peace.

Judging from the usual turn-out just about everyone looks forward to the “Sadie Hawkin’s Dance” which officially begins Twirp Week (The

Woman is Required to Pay), Monday 2. The dance and Twirp Week were started by the Social Committee a number of years ago and they have now become a part of B.U. tradition.

This is the only event to which costumes are worn and everyone takes advantage of it. From some of the outrageous costumes of the past, just about any type of outfit is acceptable. The more you look like Lil Abner and Daisy Mae, the better.

Tentative plans say the dance will be



TRAPPIST-1: A New Frontier

By Patrick Benedict

Last month, scientists at NASA announced the discovery of four approximately Earth-sized planets orbiting a star 39.5 light-years away. While the discovery of planets beyond Earth’s solar system is not particularly unique, the planets discovered in orbit around the ultra-cool dwarf star TRAPPIST-1(aka 2MASS J23062928-0502285) may be capable of supporting life.

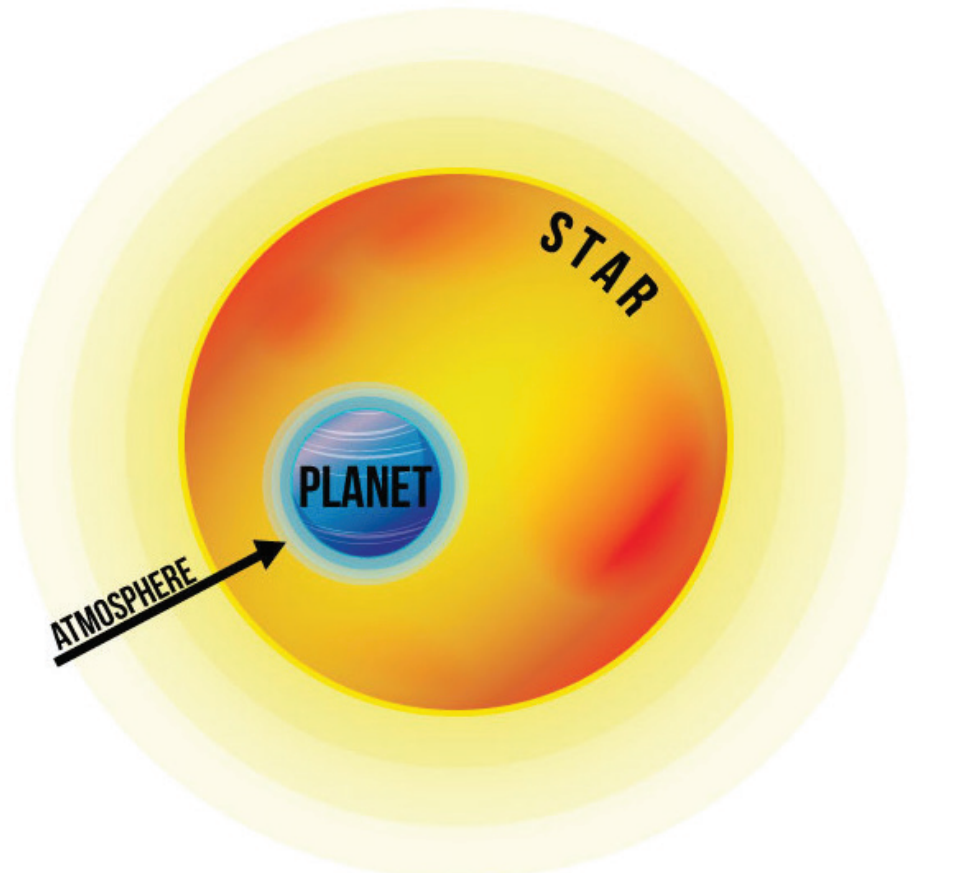
According to the TRAPPIST-1 website headed by the scientists that discovered the system of planets, TRAPPIST-1, that sits 12.1 parsecs (Kessel Run anybody?) from Earth’s sun, visible in the constellation Aquarius, was first discovered in 1999 during the Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS). This survey catalogued over 300 million objects in space including various galaxies, planets and stars. In 2015 and 2016, a team from the University of Liege in Belgium led by Michael Gillon used the Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope (TRAPPIST) to discover three of the seven total planets. The scientists used a method known as transit photometry

to discover the planets in orbit around the star. Blackburn College Provost and discoverer of several minor planets Dr. John McClusky describes transit photometry with his computer screen serving as the light of the TRAPPIST-1 star. “Think of the screen; it’s giving off light like the sun. With telescopes, we can measure the light intensity very accurately. Then if a planet goes in front [of the star] it blocks some of the light,” said McClusky. Essentially, scientists were able to determine that there were planets orbiting around TRAPPIST-1 by measuring the dimming of the star’s light when one of the planets crossed in front of it. Just last month, four more planets were announced to be orbiting around TRAPPIST-1. But if three of the planets were discovered in 2016, why are scientists just now excited about them?

Some of the reason for TRAPPIST-1’s recent rise to fame has to do with three of the planet’s locations in what is known as the star’s habitable zone. The habitable zone refers to planets inside the star’s orbit that are not too close and not too far away from the star itself so that water can exist on the surface. This is

sometimes referred to as “the Goldilocks Zone” because of the planet’s distance being just right. An unusual aspect of the planets surrounding TRAPPIST-1 are how close they are to each other and the star itself. The reason they can be so close and still be capable of supporting life is due to the star being ultra-cool (as in temperature) and several times dimmer than the Earth’s sun. According to McClusky, a possible wrench in any of the planet’s capabilities of supporting life is the likelihood that all of them are tidally locked. This means that much like Earth’s moon, the planets would have only one side permanently facing the star, leaving a half of each planet in eternal daylight and the other in perpetual night. This also leaves one half very warm and the other very cold, respectively. The only way for any of the planets to support life rests on the kind of atmosphere that they have. The planets’ atmospheres could be determined much in the same way the planets themselves were discovered. McClusky explains that “different molecules, different compounds absorb light differently,” which scientists can use to establish infrared wavelength patterns that signify different molecules. Once they have established what each pattern means they can look for the patterns while observing the planets in transit around TRAPPIST-1. If the patterns for molecules present in a livable atmosphere are visible, then scientists can determine if any of the planets are habitable.

While scientists are relatively far off from knowing whether or not the planets around TRAPPIST-1 are habitable, it is certain that without some major technological breakthrough that no human alive today is likely to ever visit any of the planets. Even if humans were capable of travelling at the speed of light through space it would still take 39.5 years to reach TRAPPIST-1. The current fastest manmade object, Voyager 1, is only capable of travelling 17 km per second, making the trip to TRAPPIST-1 an impossible to survive 688,000 years long. The Juno spacecraft is technically faster at approximately 40 km per second at its max speed, but is only capable of doing so with assistance from a planet’s field of gravity through a slingshot maneuver.



GRAPHIC BY LUIZA MYSLINSKA

In transit photometry scientists are able to determine the existence of a planet as it passes in front of a star because it blocks some of the light. The same method can be used to determine the planet’s atmosphere as light passes through different molecules at different color wavelengths

Nevertheless She Persisted

By Rachael Chong

To say that freshman psychology major Amanda Brann has been through a lot would be a massive understatement. To say she’s been to hell and back would be an understatement.

In 2012, she nearly lost her mother and spent eight months in a rehab center “for depression, suicidal ideation, mood disorders, PTSD, self harm, anorexia, bulimia and a few other things.” Nevertheless, she persisted.

It is no surprise that the journey to college has not been easy or smooth for many Blackburn College students. Director of Institutional Research Kristi Nelms said that that 33 percent of the 2016 fall applicants for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid were first-generation college students. Due mainly to the work program,

Blackburn is, “the most affordable private college in Illinois,” according to its website. Blackburn is unique, and so are students like Brann.

When she left rehab, Brann worked to improve her life and eventually attended an open audition for a recording company. Through them, she said, “I traveled to New York, Los Angeles and Nashville. I have four songs on iTunes and a music video.” She ultimately decided not to pursue a recording career any further, in favor of persisting in a different way: attending Blackburn College.

Her lowest point, she said, was “one of the times I tried to take my life and my whole family got involved and I just saw the look on my brothers’ faces and they were just terrified...My mom

walked in on me covered in my own blood and...she bandaged me up and told me to tell my brothers everything was okay.” Brann has attempted suicide eight times, but she feels she’s still alive because she has a purpose. Things have changed for her. “I think I’m not even on the same page right now. I’m in a whole different book...I don’t think the way I used to where...I’m gonna take it out on myself.”

She said her struggles are why she stays so open and honest. Brann looked at her past and thought, “There has to be an alternative to this.” For her, it’s music. She’s now attending Blackburn with the goal of becoming a music therapist, but she still struggles. Just this year, she attempted suicide again by intentional overdose but “it was

The Drones and the Bees

By Veronica Milligan

The global trend of pollinator decline can most readily be seen in bee populations. The U.S. is adding more bees to the endangered species list every year. At Blackburn College, many are trying to combat this issue. Biology professor Dr. Jonathan Micancin, for example, is working on developing a native garden that will hopefully attract local pollinators, like bees.

Recently, a Japanese company, Nanomaterials Research Institute, published a paper on the application of robotic drone bees. It suggested these robots could aid in pollination and help the world bee crisis. It did this quite accidentally when it made an interesting glue during a different research project. The company took this glue and applied it to horse hairs that were attached to small drones. It was able to fly the drones from one flower to another, collecting and depositing pollen. The researchers discussed the possibility of using artificial intelligence to enhance the drone’s abilities in the future. You can view their article on sciencedirect.com.

Computer science professor Dr. Joshua Gross discussed the concepts

behind artificial intelligence, drones and cyber security. A drone is a type of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that is remotely controlled by a person. To successfully place these robotic drone bees in the environment, they would need to be able to fly around and maneuver on their own. This is where artificial intelligence becomes involved. The bees would need an external computer to guide them, a technique called swarm intelligence. This would allow them to locate flowers and a recharge place.

When asked about security, Gross said, “You could create incredibly challenging problems that could be a threat to human life.” He stressed the need for security to prevent these problems. “The idea that we can solve every problem with technology... it’s not that simple.” Gross expressed concern for the plight of the bees and the possible unintended consequences of embracing this “solution.”

Micancin is also against this technology. He said, “We already have ‘drone’ honeybees, they’re the males Fixing the causes of declining domesticated and wild bee populations

is critical for maintaining already-degraded ecosystems and biodiversity.” Students too expressed their dislike of the idea. Senior environmental biology major Benjamin Nichols wants to study pollination ecology in graduate school. Nichols said of the robotic drone bees, “If we replace bees with something manmade, we lose the urgency of saving them.”

Blackburn’s own well-known beehive was relocated over the summer of 2016 due to insurance concerns. Nichols said that there are plans to increase the number of hives on campus, but he could not say where they would be. He explained that there are hopes to do projects with the bees because Carlville is actually well known for their pollinators.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BENJAMIN NICHOLS

Senior environmental biology major Benjamin Nichols works with bees at an undisclosed location on campus

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50 Shades Duller



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It will take more than a mask to disguise this garbage

By Christopher Best

The “Fifty Shades” franchise has taken the world by storm. The original film, “Fifty Shades of Grey,” earned over \$560 million internationally, while the recently released sequel, “Fifty Shades Darker,” is currently sitting just

below \$300 million. That’s on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars that the book franchise has earned in sales so far. These numbers seem to indicate that audiences have found something compelling in this franchise that began

as erotic “Twilight” fanfiction. Curious to see what that is, I reluctantly set out to view the latest installment.

In preparation for the “Fifty Shades” sequel, I caught myself up by watching the original. I quickly learned it was little more than a thinly disguised softcore pornographic film. Even so, “Grey” does have one redeeming quality (spoilers ahead): after a short-lived, tempestuous and completely abusive relationship, the film ends with protagonist Anastasia Steele (played by Dakota Johnson) walking out on her domineering lover, millionaire Christian Grey (played by Jamie Dornan). This moment was the shining light in an otherwise surprisingly boring and unenjoyable film. When wide-eyed Steele finally stands up for herself, putting a firm end to the clearly toxic relationship she shared with the entitled, egotistical and clearly insane Grey, she earns a certain amount of respect back from the audience.

About ten minutes into “Darker” the one shred of redemption for the otherwise irredeemably awful first film is completely invalidated. “Darker” could have been about a newly independent and empowered Steele as she fends off advances from a reformed and heartbroken Grey; instead it finds her easily agreeing to take him back at the first opportunity. The break up at the end of the last film and the events which lead up to it are little more than a footnote in the continuing whirlwind

Grey and Steele saga of grossly misinterpreted bondage, discipline, dominance and submission culture.

Dornan would no doubt earn a five star review if graded on his training regimen for this sequel alone; however, his uncharismatic, one-note performance as Grey falls flat. Dakota Johnson, on the other hand, brings a welcome depth to her portrayal of Steele, giving strength to the character that was missing in the first film, despite the character’s mostly one-dimensional characterization throughout the series so far. Veteran actor Kim Basinger joins this sequel as Grey’s one-time abusive lover and current business partner Elena Lincoln, with a completely phoned in performance. Though her character sees very little screen time, every line Basinger delivers is so dull and emotionless that I found myself appreciating the nuances of Dornan’s performance in comparison. Surprisingly, Eric Johnson’s portrayal of the two-faced and perhaps too aptly named Hyde was the most charismatic performance in the film. This could be good news for the franchise as his villainous character is set to return in the next installment, “Fifty Shades Freed.”

Though “Darker” is an improvement over its predecessor, all but the most avid “Fifty Shades” fans would be wise to avoid this shallow Hollywood cash grab.

The Lego Batman Movie is THE Batman Movie

By Gary Lowder

“Lego Batman” is an assault on the senses, and I mean that in the best way possible. It seems like every frame is filled with an amazing building, an explosion or a laugh. What makes it even more amazing is its styled loving lego fashion. The film also satirizes all of the recent superhero movie tropes and still manages to tell a heartwarming story about the importance of family and relationships.

Will Arnett’s (“The Lego Movie,” “Arrested Development”) Batman is just as awesome and overpowered as the character should be, beating up his entire rogues gallery within the first 10 minutes of the movie. However, as cool as his life is as a vigilante, Batman always has to return to being Bruce Wayne with no family in a gigantic home. Arnett’s Batman is definitely the loneliest rendition of the caped crusader to ever grace the big screen. We get to see Batman struggle with normal human dilemmas like grief and figuring out the buttons on the microwave. Until he accidentally adopts the orphan Dick Grayson, played by Michael Cera (“Superbad,” “Sausage Party”), and is forced to work with the new Police Commissioner Barbara Gordon, played by Rosario Dawson

(“Seven Pounds,” “Sin City”).

The movie prides itself on poking fun at the many renditions of Batman and his adversaries that have been in other versions. This includes some of the obscure villains like Clock King and Condiment King who have only been seen in the comics. There are even villains, like ‘The Eye of Sauron’, Voldemort and Agent Smith from “The Matrix” trilogy, that can be recognized by casual Batman fans. The easter eggs and nods to Batman mythos are too many to count, but, even without these, the movie holds its own.

In fact “Lego Batman” was such a good film that it made me think about how terrible “Suicide Squad” and “Batman v. Superman” were. The DC Cinematic Universe could learn a few things from this movie and try not to take itself so seriously. This is something Marvel movies figured out a long time ago and I can’t fathom why DC hasn’t yet. “Lego Batman” even makes fun of “Suicide Squad” and “Batman v. Superman” several times during it’s nearly two hour run. Overall if you are a fan of Batman, or just enjoy a good action comedy, this movie is worth your time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Obscure villains including Clock King and Condiment King are featured in the new film

Race Isn't a "Type"

By GRACE ALLEN

It's okay to have a type – it's normal. It's okay to prefer people with a certain personality or to want someone with common interests, or even to prefer blondes over redheads – something harmless enough to dismiss if you did take interest in a redhead. However, a person's race isn't a preference. Choosing to date or not to date someone based on their race is racist.

This is, of course, a sensitive subject and probably an uncomfortable discussion to have. No one wants to think they are racist. Of course, racism exists on different levels and is real whether conscious or unconscious. If you asked someone why they refused to date anyone of a certain race, the answer would almost certainly be rooted in a stereotype, or claimed to be a physical taste. "They're skin is too dark," or "I think they're lazy." Maybe they say they don't have a problem with X race – they are just personally incapable of finding anyone of that race attractive.

University of Washington sociology professor emeritus Pierre Van Den Bergh believes the "natural"

sexual preference is for partners who are broadly similar to oneself, in good physical condition, and in control of good resources," as he says in his book, "The Ethnic Phenomenon." However, he goes on to say that there is no evidence that preferences are biologically determined. Professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of California in Santa Barbara Donald Symons explains further in his book, "The Evolution of Human Sexuality," saying that during the majority of the evolutionary history of the human race, our ancestors didn't travel enough to encounter someone of a different "race" and "it's very unlikely that we evolved any psychological (brain) adaptations, sexual or otherwise, that have to do with race."

In other words, no one is biologically incapable of finding another race attractive, romantically or sexually. There are certain racial features that have been coded as attractive or ugly to us through media our entire lives and the environment we have grown up in – this much is true – but any inability to find someone



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISTOCK

Attraction to different races has no biological basis

of a certain race attractive can only be blamed on our own prejudices we should be ready to admit and overcome.

Race does not and should not determine one's appeal as a romantic or sexual partner. It is understandable to desire a partner from the same cultural

background as you, or someone that understands the unique circumstances associated with being what you are – but to exclude an entire race or entire races from your dating pool is an act of racism, pure and simple.

Diversity Disaster: NAACP Banquet

By DEJA BELL

Last month, myself and some other Blackburn students went to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) banquet in Springfield on a diversity and inclusion trip. I had never been to a diversity event before so I was interested to see what one was like. I believe it is important to talk about these things, so I figured going to this event would be a good way to learn more. Beyond that, I really did not know what to expect when attending this event. It was a mess from beginning to end.

Before we left Blackburn, we were told that there were two tables reserved for students, and when we arrived it was already crowded. There were a total of 11 students from Blackburn and the tables sat 10 people. We looked around but couldn't find our table on our own, so we asked somebody in charge for help. We ended up standing around for 15-20 minutes until they found us a table. When we finally got a table, I figured things would get better once the event actually started. "Overall, the event was unorganized and unprofessional. I like the concept of honoring African American accomplishments but the event could have been better," said diversity and inclusion student worker Deja Lockett.

At the beginning of the event they had a reverend give a prayer, which was interesting to say the least because I didn't expect that. Then the emcee for the night acknowledged that there were a lot of cops in the room, but then went on to say, "We just want you to know that all lives matter." I understand the



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

NAACP President (Springfield chapter) Teresa Hailey delivered several speeches

point he was getting at but I figured at an NAACP event I wouldn't have to deal with the "All lives matter" vs. "Black lives matter" debate. The emcee's statement could have alluded to the generational gap between us; I can only speculate that he might not have seen a problem with his statement as I had, because older generations do not always see the point in this debate. It is possible that those were just his political views, but his statement sparked an interesting debate between myself and the other students that were there. "When the guy said that all lives matter I was shocked because I personally can't see how others can say that when it seems to the rest of the world that black lives actually don't matter. It was concerning to hear but it made me realize that people even close

by have totally different perceptions about the world we all live in," said Melika Sawyer, another Blackburn student attendee.

NAACP President Teresa Hailey gave a speech and she asked for the students from Blackburn Community College to stand up because we had "worked very hard to be there" that day. I think most of the students who attended the event with me stood up, but I continued sitting. At this point I was ready to go but we were going to be at the event until 5 p.m. I continued to talk among my peers until they started giving out awards. The president started talking about who was getting awards and why. I found it funny and slightly annoying that every time she explained one person she would say, "Does your [insert profession here]

look like you? This person was the first black [profession] in Springfield." I felt as though that statement was very divisive because it seemed to connote that if your doctor, lawyer or police officer didn't look like you there was something wrong with that. I understand the point she was trying to make, but diversity is about accepting that there are many different kinds of people in the world and not all of them are going to look like you.

I think if you want to be diverse you should be inclusive of everyone, not just the people that look like you. It is important to know about diversity and be accepting of others. That is how you fight racism, that is how you fight xenophobia, that is how you fight societal constructs on what society should look like versus the reality of what society is. Even at Blackburn we are a diverse community with different people from different backgrounds, so why not be inclusive of others?

I believe that it is important to have events like the NAACP banquet to celebrate black people and their accomplishments because a lot of the time black people get little to no recognition for the things they accomplish. But I also believe that organizations like this should change with the times to be more inclusive of other minorities and even non-minorities. The first step to closing the racial divide is to make plans to build a bridge; if everyone were to work together and make little changes, society might get a little better.

Changes in Conversation

By Reggie Guyton (Class of 2014)

We’re all feeling the hangover of election season and the sudden realization that things are about to drastically change. With our current commander-in-chief becoming more brazen about his plans for the country, others have become more vocal as well. We’ve seen an influx of hate crimes, bended knees, pink hats and signs with clever slogans across the nation. Whether you believe it’s fake news, alternative facts or existential dread becoming a reality, one thing remains clear: If America is to survive its current state of affairs, we have to do more than slap a bandage over old, festering wounds. In order to come together we have to come to understand each other. We need to understand why people are scared and hurting and fix it.

While I may not have all the answers, I’ve had my share of awkward and sometimes awful discussions on differences regarding race, religion,

orientation and the like. Some of those conversations have been so uncomfortable that they have triggered stressed-induced panic attacks that have taken days to fully recover from. On the other hand, many of them have changed mine and others’ perceptions about the way we live and navigate this world. We may not fully agree with each other, but we understand each other and the void between us becomes a little smaller.

I’m only saying this because we are all in a precarious situation. We absolutely need each other to survive and right now, people our age are the best ones to do it. We have the will, need and capability of solving the world’s problems. Don’t let the foolery of the current times force you to believe all is lost. It is not. Have conversations, challenge your perspective and keep your intellectual borders open. I have faith in you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REGGIE GUYTON

Response to “Dropping the ‘F’ Bomb”

By Dr. Karen Dillon

There were some obvious problems for me in the recent opinion article on feminism, which rhetorically relied on a few pretty big assumptions and generalizations. I am not convinced that feminism expressed via social media and celebrity rant are the most accurate barometers for contemporary feminism as a whole; however, the merits of contemporary feminism and the imperfect nature of the women’s march are not what have me rattled. The author chides supposed abortion-loving feminists for thinking women who are “adamantly against abortion” are “ignorant,” saying sarcastically, “I mean, how dare you oppose snuffing a life out at will.”

This is the issue that angers me—the continued reductive conversation about abortion, in which judgment supersedes understanding. When life begins is a complicated scientific, philosophical,

religious and/or moral issue; whose life comes first is a complicated medical, philosophical and/or moral issue; why someone chooses to have an abortion is a complicated medical, philosophical and/or moral issue. What I want to ask in the face of a seemingly black and white, either/or view of abortion is: Have you spoken to a woman or a couple who have made the painful decision to have an abortion? Have you asked what circumstances contributed to making that decision? Have you asked how they felt about it then and how they feel about it now? Have you asked a woman what it feels like, physically, to have an abortion? Have you asked a woman what she felt, thought or feared on that day? Have you asked a woman what it feels like emotionally to consider the option, make the decision, go through with it and then live with it? Have you asked

for, heard and attempted to understand those stories? If you haven’t, then you should, and hopefully, it will give you cause for consideration. If you have, and you are still using inflammatory and judgmental language, then I’m not sure where the conversation goes from there.

Being pro-life is not synonymous with being anti-choice, and being pro-choice does not mean you are anti-life, but the rhetoric therein will see it no other way. I have close friends who have spoken eloquently, more eloquently than I’m doing here to be sure, about being religious, conservative women who attempt to understand the circumstances in which people make the difficult choice to end a pregnancy. And they might not choose that option for themselves, but they are thankful for the right to make that decision for themselves, would

not make it for anyone else and refrain from judging from afar.

Standing by one’s beliefs shouldn’t mean tearing down the other side by asserting one’s moral superiority as someone who would never “[snuff] a life out at will.” If you think the decision to have an abortion is easy, or a mere matter of will or something done with no consideration for the enormity and gravity of the situation, then you are not someone who has heard enough stories from people who have been through it. But that’s the problem. We haven’t asked for their stories, and often they are afraid to tell them. We have the right to stand by our beliefs, and we certainly don’t have to agree, but the perpetuation of reductive and judgmental rhetoric only threatens our ability to ever understand where someone else is coming from.

The ‘burnian

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No Cape, Just Love From Blackburn's "Super Fan"

By JORDAN WOOD

One of the greatest things about sports is its ability to draw people in and bring them together. It is one of the few things that many people have in common. That can be as an athlete or a family member or friend that used to play or is even just watching. Almost everyone has come in contact with sports in some way and any avid sports fan has their own individual reason and story as unique as them. Rachel Carroll is no different.

Carroll attended Blackburn during the 1990s, where she witnessed numerous banners find their way to their now permanent spot in Dawes Gymnasium. For the work program, she spent her time in the athletic department writing stories and compiling stats - you name it, and she did it.

She recalled a time when Blackburn won a championship and the Springfield paper refused to come down and cover the ceremony, so naturally, Carroll picked up the phone and asked, "So what time should I expect you here?" Needless to say, she's a very persuasive person, especially when it comes to something she is so passionate about. Blackburn women's basketball is on the top of that list.

During her time as a student, she loved her job and the atmosphere of



PHOTO BY CHRIS O'CONNOR

Over winter break Rachel Carroll's favorite team made a trip to the City Museum in St. Louis

athletics, so once she graduated she refused to turn her back on the program. In the years since her graduation, Carroll attends games every chance she gets and seems to hardly ever miss one, making the trip from her home in St. Louis, Missouri, regularly.

To say Carroll is an ordinary fan wouldn't just be an understatement, it would be a flat out lie. She doesn't just attend the games, she is part of the game and part of the team. She doesn't just watch the game, she lives it. It's one thing to go to a game and cheer; it's

another thing to show even a fraction of the support that Carroll does.

For a team that has struggled to be successful, there is a clear difference in attendance and support for the women's basketball team compared to the men's - that's no secret. But to Carroll, it makes no difference. She's still there, cheering louder than anyone in the whole gym, heckling the referees after a bad call, loving every moment.

Carroll has formed a close relationship with both Coach Fonseca and the members of the team, striking

up conversations after every game and giving them the love and support she believes everyone should give them. "I just love watching [the team] play. I'm just doing what I think that everyone should do."

For "Super Fan Rachel," the game is more than a game, and the team is more than a team. It's a family - a family that Rachel Carroll will always be a proud part of. Thank you, to Blackburn's biggest fan.

***The author is a member of the women's basketball team.

Seniors' 11th Hour



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ATHLETICS

Senior DeAndre Manuel in the senior night game against Spalding

By GARY LOWDER

Blackburn College's annual men's senior night game was held on Feb. 14 in Dawes gymnasium. The Beavers played against Spalding College and despite an early 11-0 lead they were defeated with a very close score of

61-59, losing only by a couple of free throws. This game marked the last time in the Beaverdome for five seniors: Chris Davis, Damon Goodloe, Willie Orange, DeAndre Manuel and Jake Maestranzi.

Despite the loss, players were glad to have the opportunity to play for Blackburn. Graphic arts major and forward DeAndre Manuel said, "Playing for Blackburn has been a different experience I won't forget. I've learned so many new things and I will miss playing with my teammates...." Manuel had an excellent game against Spalding and scored 22 points for the Beavers with eight rebounds.

"I just want to thank Coach Kollar for giving me an opportunity to play basketball for another two years. Celebrating two years here at Blackburn gave me a special feeling. Also I want to thank my teammates for turning into my brothers and being there for me through such a tough season," said Manuel. Forward/center Willie Orange felt similarly. "It was a bittersweet moment for me. I was very excited about the game but I was also sad that it was going to be my last time playing at

Blackburn forever," said Orange, "Of course I'll miss Blackburn. They gave me a chance to play the game I love. Blackburn will always have a place in my heart." Orange also wished to thanks his fellow players and coaches.

Even though they may be done with basketball at Blackburn, both Manuel and Orange plan to continue playing the game and pursuing careers. Manuel said, "I do plan on trying to go on and play professional basketball for an overseas team...." Manuel is a graphic arts major and plans to later establish himself as a graphic artist. Orange had similar plans and said, "I plan on joining a semi-pro team after I graduate. I'm also going to try to go overseas and play professional ball...." Orange plans to become an athletic director and go on to coach high school basketball.

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Sports After-Life

By JORDAN WOOD

Being an athlete comes with only one guarantee: there are no guarantees. You are not guaranteed to win or lose. You’re not guaranteed to make a shot or get a hit. You’re not even guaranteed tomorrow. One day you could wake up, head to your game or practice and BOOM! It’s over. Or you could have a long, successful career that ends with your own decision. Whichever the case, time is not guaranteed and sports don’t last forever.

Senior baseball player Robert Fagg experienced the unfortunate risk of sports as he blew out his knee in the beginning of his senior baseball season, tearing his anterior cruciate ligament and medial meniscus, putting an abrupt halt to his Blackburn baseball career.

Even if an athlete is fortunate enough to avoid serious injury, it’s still inevitable. Their career will end. No matter how successful of a career they

“

Everything that is going on in my life just goes away for that moment.”

Daniele Burnell

have, eventually time will run out and suddenly their world is flipped upside down when they realize that the biggest part of their life is over.

When the game ends, many struggle with a sense of identity and become lost and overwhelmed by all of the extra time on their hands with no practices or games. Others realize that just because they can no longer

play doesn’t mean that it has to be gone from their lives and begin coaching.

It’s easy for people to look at sports and think “it’s just a game” and they have trouble seeing just how important that “game” can be. It’s not uncommon to hear comments about sports not being “real life” but to many it is. It’s impossible for someone who has never felt the seams under their fingers or

heard the swish of the net and felt their heart skip a beat, to truly understand the feeling an athlete gets. To an athlete, it is just as much real life as any other job would be. To an athlete, their sport can be as much a part of them as breathing.

Junior softball player Daniele Burnell described the game she loves as a “stress reliever. Everything that is going on in my life just goes away for that moment.” It’s not just some “silly little game.” It can teach a person more life lessons than they could ever imagine: responsibility, accountability, hard work, the importance of a good attitude and teamwork. The list goes on and on. And while there are many athletes who refuse to learn those skills, the ones who do are set up to succeed later on in life. They learn that you can’t always win, that you will fail and the most important thing is getting back up.



Beer Olympics

By PATRICK BENEDICT

Sports have a long legacy of being a grand show of physical prowess. However, not all sports are the same. Some beckon forth humankind’s other skills beyond physical will. Some sports require the players to chug a beer from a boot shaped glass as quickly as they possibly can without spilling a drop.

Much like some of the more widely accepted sports in the world, drinking games have their roots in ancient Greece. The Greeks played a drinking game known as Kottabos, which would be highly unconventional compared to modern drinking games. According to Live Science, Kottabos required players to fling wine lees (residual chunks of yeast left over from the fermentation process) from their cups at a small disk or bowl sitting precariously atop a stand. Players that

knocked the disk off gained a point. An interesting aspect of the game was that players were required to fling the lees from a lounged position on a piece of furniture resembling a couch.

Drinking games have since evolved to be tests of speed, accuracy and endurance, all while players are under the influence of alcohol. Entire organizations and tournaments have been formed around playing these drinking games for very large prizes. One such tournament is the annual World Series of Beer Pong hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada, with a \$5,000 prize to the winner. Beer pong has a simple objective but can become highly competitive. Players organize 10 plastic cups of beer in a triangular formation on each side of a ping pong table. The players then attempt to either

bounce or toss a ping pong ball into one of their opponent’s cups. Should the ping pong ball land in one of the cups the player who didn’t throw must drink that beer (for sanitary reasons many players opt to have their cups full of water and have an empty cup on the side that they fill and drink from as needed) and remove it from their formation of cups. The first player to run out of cups loses. There are several variations on the game including the ability for a player to rearrange their cups after losing a certain amount.

Some drinking games are less about any particular skill and more about speed. A “das boot” is a boot-shaped drinking glass that has a unique contest centered around it. The boot-shaped glasses started appearing in the 1800s and became popular in Germany. The

objective of the drinking game is quite simply to drink beer from the boot in a continuous stream faster than your opponent without spilling anything. The boot can be particularly tricky however. The shape of the boot creates an air pocket at the “toe.” While a player is drinking, the air pocket can suddenly cause the beer to come rushing out and splash him or her in the face. To avoid this, the player must turn the boot mid chug to even out the air pocket.

Because alcohol can be dangerous at high levels of consumption, drinking games can be hazardous. Should you attempt any drinking game you should only do so in moderation to avoid long term health issues.



COACH’S CORNER

By COACH KOLLAR

As we finished up the 2016-2017 season and achieved the best record since 2005, we ultimately felt like we hadn’t achieved the expectations and goals that we set forth.

While this is true, we have done some tremendous things along the way. The records the last two years have been great because it has shown consistent improvement. The most important thing to me is that these young men

have helped facilitate a winning culture on and off the floor. We have guys that are achieving great things in the classroom, in the community and on the court.

The seniors that just finished up have left their mark on this program and we are forever grateful to them for their time, effort, blood, sweat and tears that they have invested in this program. We have had some of the best

people and players to have ever played here in the program this past year. We are very fortunate to have such high character, hard-working young men. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to develop relationships with those seniors and everybody that is in our program.

Thank you to my players for giving everything they had. That is all anybody can ever ask for. The

Blackburn community should also feel very fortunate to have been able to see these guys do the things they have done on and off the floor. They are true difference makers and they will be missed. The great thing about this program is that those guys have set such a great example for the ones coming behind them and we are extremely excited about the future.

Go Beavers!