

APRIL 1, 2017

The Blackburnian

COMERFORD DENIES TIES TO RUSSIA AND CALLS 'BURNIAN

FAKE NEWS: PUTIN HEARTBROKEN

By GARY LOWDER

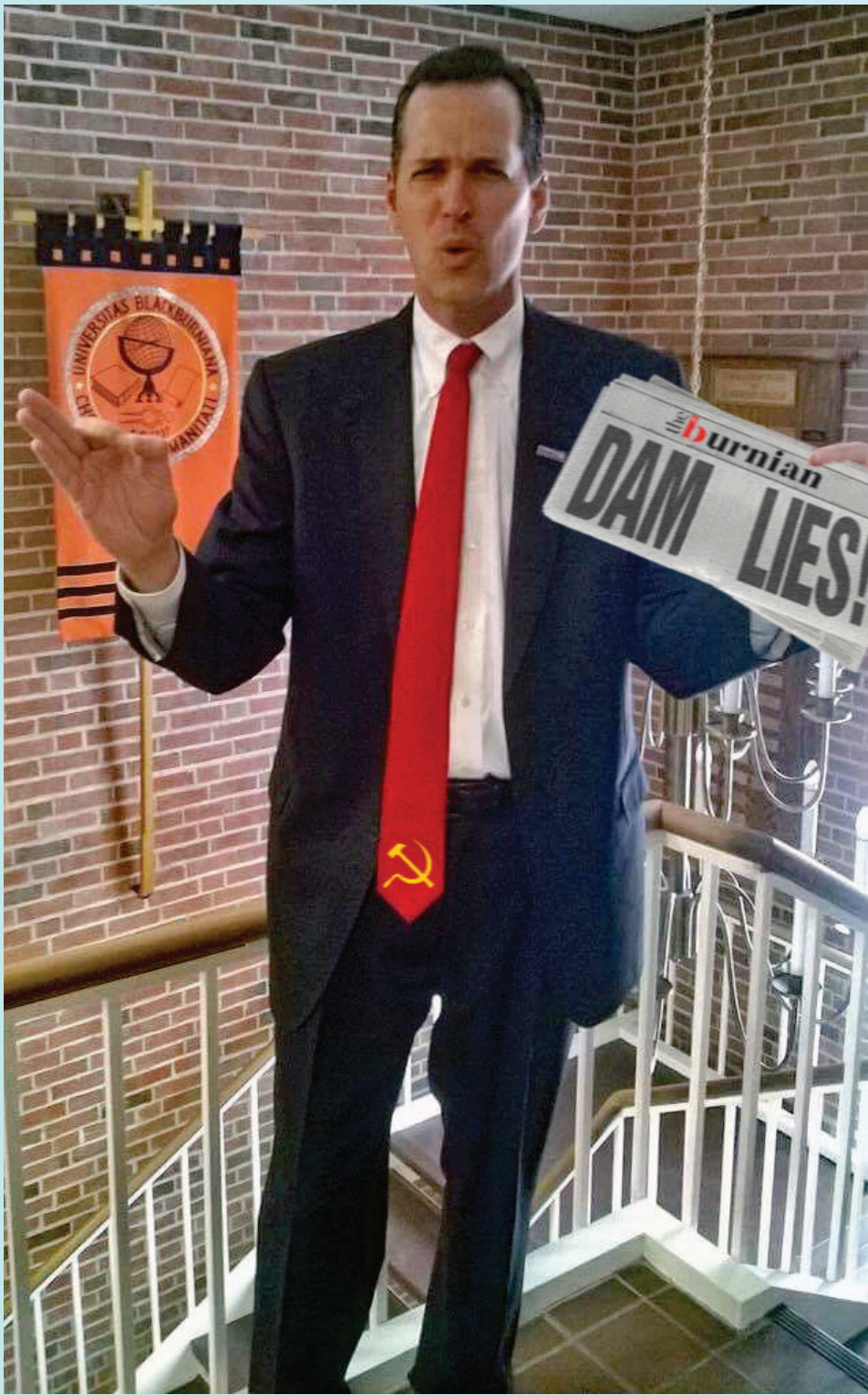


PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER



theburnian.com

Recently Work College Consortium official sources have contacted The 'Burnian and provided us with evidence to confirm that Blackburn College President John Comerford has ties to Russian oligarchs and has been in contact with the Russian government for some time now. This evidence also clearly states that Comerford may have been involved with the Russians since he became Blackburn's president in 2013 and that they may have even helped him get the job in the first place.

"It's ridiculous," said Comerford, "I don't even know Vlady (Russian President Vladimir Putin) that well. I mean, sure he comes over to the house occasionally, but we just have some drinks and hang out. We don't talk about business, and to tell you the truth I don't even like him that much." A shirtless Vladimir Putin was asked about Comerford's ties to Russia at a recent house party hosted by the Comerfords. "I'm very hurt dat he said dat things. I vearly thought ve vere best friends," said Putin. The Russian president went on to say that the conversations he had with Comerford, especially relating to business at Blackburn, were some of the most meaningful conversations he'd ever had. The teary-eyed leader then ran into the bathroom and refused to comment further.

Comerford addressed this new information that the brokenhearted Russian president had provided. "I've

never even met Vladimir Putin, and the decision to implement torture and espionage to the course roster for next semester was my own. They are requirements for the new Soviet studies major that is being added as well. The Russian government had nothing to do with it. You took this whole thing out of context. Both you and The 'Burnian are fake news and not to be trusted!" said an irate Comerford. The Blackburn president then had Executive Assistant to the President Shawna Poe forcibly remove me from his Ludlum office.

The reactions from Blackburn staff were quite unexpected. Chair of Philosophy and Religion Dr. Carter Aikin wasn't surprised at all and said, "Yeah, that seems very natural for President Comerford. I'm not surprised. I think most people already knew." English professor Dr. Karen Dillon shared this view and said, "This doesn't surprise me at all. President Comerford really carries himself like a Russian spymaster." She continued, "I don't even think his kids are really American, I think they are all from Russia."

At this time, it is unclear how these findings have affected Blackburn or will affect Blackburn in the future. However, many students are sure to be excited about the espionage and torture courses that will be available for Soviet studies majors next semester.



"You took this whole thing out of context. Both you and The 'Burnian are fake news and not to be trusted!"

Dr. John Comerford

What in *Urination*?!



GRAPHICS BY J-HUMMERZ

By Grace Allen

I woke up blinking, unsure why I was awake. It was the third week of my first year of college; I was still unused to waking up in a dorm room and still trusting enough to leave my door unlocked at night. My phone read 3:08 a.m. when I reached over and pressed the home button. After a few seconds of bewilderment, I realized someone was hissing my name furtively. So I turned towards my roommate Samantha who was sitting in her lofted bed across the room. As I turned, I saw that light was spilling through the open door from the hallway and a figure was silhouetted in the rectangle of fluorescence, looming

dark and faceless.

Across the room, Sam asked the figure who he – you could tell it was male – was. Instead of answering he wandered over to the desk at the end of my bed, strangely stiff. Lofted at my angle, I could not see him well when I heard the sound of water hitting the tile. When I asked nervously what the sound was, Sam replied with a confused waver in her tired voice. “I... think he’s peeing.”

“No way,” I said. “That can’t be right.”

It was. We continued to try and elicit a response from him but none came.

Instead, he sat down in the chair he had just finished peeing in. Eventually, I climbed down from my bed and flipped on the light but he continued to sit and stare into space.

“Holy crap, it’s Dylan,” Sam said, referring to the person sitting in his own urine in my chair, freshman business major Dylan Newell and resident douchebag. Not knowing what to do, we went to get our resident advisor, Shelby Holybee, who also responded with “No way,” when she was told what had transpired. When we returned he had disappeared. Eventually, he was found passed outside Jewell on a picnic

table and returned to his room.

When asked what exactly led up to that night he responded, “What? Jesus Christ, you’re really writing about that?” After being assured I was, he continued, “Why? Is The ‘Burnian really that desperate for stories?” Once I had confirmed that it was, he began tersely, “Fine. I got really drunk and thought your room was the bathroom. I guess. I actually have no memory of it. Look, I said I was sorry – is this really getting printed?”

Attempts at discovering what sex Sassy is has been a slow process, as it is reluctant to let anyone close. However, Sassy appears to respond well to slapstick humor including pratfalls and other physical comedy. Sassy’s laugh is similar to human laughter.

Although the workers of the vivarium are unsure of how long they will be capable of keeping the animal, they are calling it “Sassy.” Nichols is gathering signatures for a petition that would make Sassy the new school mascot. “We might have to change the

a shine to these fruit roll-ups,” he said. However, there have been reports of other animals in the vivarium disappearing since the sasquatch arrived. “We lost like five snakes,” said Nichols. So far, there is nothing to suggest that the sasquatch has been eating them, but one morning Nichols did find the sasquatch cage had been unlocked seemingly from the inside.

So far, the sasquatch is generally docile in nature and has the intelligence of an average chimp. It is able to grab and hold objects with its hands but does not use its feet like most monkeys do. Nichols is not yet sure what kind of diet the sasquatch is most accustomed to, but so far “he seems to have taken

overseen by senior biology major and vivarium worker Benjamin Nichols, whose beard seems to soothe the creature. Nichols theorizes that the sasquatch may identify the facial hair with familiarity to its own species. Other bearded students are being brought before the sasquatch to test this theory.

So far, the hunters wished to remain anonymous as they were technically breaking the law hunting for deer with firearms out of season. Regardless, the hunters, unsure of what to do with the beast, brought it to the college so that it could be studied.

The Blackburn College vivarium is home to several exotic species of animal, and this past month, got a new resident. Locked away in a seven-foot cage in the Olin science building is the first known sasquatch in captivity.

The simian-like creature, known sometimes as Bigfoot, was discovered by a group of local hunters near Beaver Dam. The hunters wished to remain anonymous as they were technically breaking the law hunting for deer with firearms out of season. Regardless, the hunters, unsure of what to do with the beast, brought it to the college so that it could be studied.

The sasquatch’s care is being

By Patrick Benedict

High quality photo of a wild sasquatch



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKER.COM

Bigfoot Boards at Blackburn

face.

strange, bewildered expression on his table and slowly walking away with a Nix before placing the newspaper on a Commons. "I like the pictures," said 'Burnian at the Lumpkin Learning spotted perusing an issue of The writing major Casey Nix, was recently one student, sophomore creative reception by the majority of campus, Despite the paper's underwhelming writing major Kara Aldridge-Folger.

student, sophomore professional their trash!" commented one annoyed "I wish people would throw away the papers are simply forgotten garbage. students are under the assumption that staffers, eager for someone to see the

Learning Commons by desperate strategically throughout Lumpkin 'Burnian is released, copies are placed Every time a new issue of The paying for packing materials."

are always lying around. It's better than I have to send," said Moorman. "These needed something to cushion a package "Oh, I'm not going to read this. I just seen taking a paper from the same stand. writing major Mikaela Moorman was Later that day, freshman creative and walked away.

most enjoyed, Warner simply laughed easy." When asked which articles she down, it really makes cleaning up my house lately, and when I lay these I've been painting all these signs at

Warner, "The best part is that it's free. said "I love this paper," said grabbing several papers from the DCC Shayne Warner was recently spotted Sophomore biology major outfit located in Melbourne, Australia.

Burnian, a software and engineering by confused web users searching for the remainder appears to be contributed increase their article page hits, while are from 'Burnian staffers eager to Of its sparse views, the majority website, which launched last semester. In fact, The 'Burnian does have a "Maybe if you put it on the internet students would be more likely to read it?" suggested Braun.

indifference.

on a daily basis with overwhelming Hall, students continue to walk past Campus Center (DCC) and Hudson campus, including the Demuzio charge in prominent locations around 'Burnian issues are available free of Even though full racks of new know about that."

Braun. "Are you sure? I feel like I'd communications major Sebastian paper?" asked incredulous sophomore an issue. "Blackburn has a student and exactly zero students have read to The 'Burnian's continued existence, majority of students remain oblivious 10th issue this school year. Yet the of The 'Burnian this semester, and the This issue marks the fourth release

By Christopher Best

'Burnian Still Exists, Please Read

Bothwell Beatdown



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Professors Conover and Zobel come to blows over a disagreement involving obscure European playwrights while Megan Nelson attempts to diffuse the situation

By Gary Lowder

On Friday, Mar. 10, shortly before students left for spring break, there was an altercation in the Bothwell auditorium between theatre professor Carolyn Conover and Chair of Music & Theater Dr. Elizabeth Zobel. This disagreement began earlier in the day when Zobel and Conover were having lunch and discussing their classes. Conover talked about her love for the Swedish expressionist playwright

August "Crazy Eyes" Strindberg and Russian playwright Anton Chekov, who were being studied at the time. Zobel had never been a fan of either and said, "Chekov sucks, and so does Strindberg, you're wasting your time with these playwrights."

Immediately offended, Conover lunged at Zobel over the table, grabbing her shirt collar. "Chekov doesn't suck, I can't believe you would say

that," exclaimed the distraught theatre professor. Several theatre majors were able to drag Conover off Zobel and out of the room, but not before she was able to throw a few punches. As she was being dragged from the room, Conover bucked and screamed, "This isn't over, Zobel. Meet me on stage at 3:30. We're gonna rumble." She then returned to her office to ready herself physically and mentally for the impending challenge.

"She's got the height advantage, so I need to be really careful," said Conover as she wrapped athletic tape around her knuckles. Zobel was preparing similarly in her office. "I think she might be a little stronger than me, which means I've gotta end the fight quickly before she gets too many hits in," said a determined Zobel. By the time 3 p.m. rolled around, theatre students had begun filling the seats in Bothwell, eager to see the two educators go at it. Zobel arrived first, confidently trodding down the aisle and up the stairs onto the stage. "Well, where is she!" Zobel yelled into the crowd of theatre majors, "She's the one who told me to be here and it looks like she's too chicken to show up." Suddenly came a yell from the rafters "I'm right here Zobel," said Conover who had begun

to climb down a rope onto the stage.

The professors began to circle each other, throwing quick kicks and punches to test the other's defenses. When the actual fight began, it was a whirlwind of fists and feet, each one blocking the other's attacks. This went on for another 15 minutes; no one professor being able to best the other. At times, it seemed like Zobel might win, but then Conover would dodge her attacks and turn the tables. The same thing also happened with Zobel. The students looked on in awe of the glorious battle they were observing. The fight was so incredible it seemed as if it might have been choreographed. Then, all at once they stopped fighting and shook each other's hands, turning to face the crowd of theater students. "This is how you keep a crowd's attention," said Zobel. "You mean this was all... some sort of act!" said a student from the crowd. "We'd prefer to think of it as a performance art piece... One that teaches all of you the importance of physical movement and enthralling your audience," responded Conover. The students were angry that they had been tricked into learning and began to file out of the theatre. "Don't forget to do your reading," said the professors in unison.



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

They Can't Fire Me Now

By Patrick Benedict

It would seem that the infamously harsh and difficult nature of professor of communications Dr. Natasha Casey was just a well-crafted ruse. Casey or “Dr. C” or “Natty Phresh Ph.D.,” as she insists on being referred to now, was recently granted tenure. With her promotion, Casey has made a few changes to her policies and procedures. Most notable is Casey’s abandonment of her strict attendance policy in favor of something a bit more “chill.” Students are now reportedly

able to miss as many classes as they wish without penalty. Casey has also extended this policy to herself by only coming into class should she feel like it. She also made a point to cancel class on March 17 to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. When informed that the holiday was taking place during spring break, Casey decided to take an extra random day off.

Casey also has some major plans to revamp her daily class schedule. “There can’t be anymore 8 a.m.’s since I need

the extra time for some sleep,” said Casey. “Afternoons are probably gonna be shot too because I’ve got to watch the world’s greatest football team, the Tottenham Hotspurs, every chance I get,” she added. Students will be afforded a special opportunity to earn extra credit if they watch the game with her and don’t tell any administrators.

Casey introduced the use of Twitter into her classroom, and it looks like starting next semester, students will have free reign to use their cell phones and other electronic devices. She believes that everyone needs to use their cellphones in class because it’s “wrong to stop the communication process. Students need to consume media in class and that should be good enough to get them literate in the subject,” said Casey. Her hope is to also have the students try out new apps and even share them with her so she can “stay hip like the young people.”

Prior to her tenure, there was a passage on every one of Casey’s syllabi that read, “I do not accept late work”

in bold print. This harsh line has been erased in favor of a far more relaxed due date policy. “So long as you come chat with me by the end of the semester, I’m sure I’ll let you pass,” said Casey.

She will also be making severe cuts to the requirements of the communications senior seminar. “I think putting these students through the wringer is just too much on them. They deserve a break their senior year,” said Casey. Seminar students will now just have to watch a short movie, TV show episode or broadcast of a Hotspurs game and write a couple of sentences on what they liked or even just what they saw in order to pass.

Senior communications major Patrick Benedict feels cheated by this news. “I had to deal with her for all those years just to find out that she doesn’t even care,” said Benedict. He is relieved, however, to discover that snacks will be provided at every class, including ice cream and donuts.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATASHA CASEY

Expect to see Casey wear her Spurs kit every day to class post tenure

Clint Mathis is Lady Bothwell

By Rachael Chong

Forget everything you have ever heard about Blackburn’s ghosts. There are none. No Lady Bothwell, no Ghost of VAC (Visual Arts Center). Senior anthropology major Clint Mathis has come forward to confess he is behind it all.

I interviewed him in the green room of Bothwell auditorium, the room where Mathis currently resides and the building said to be haunted by “Lady Bothwell.” While we talked, he lied sprawled across the green chaise

lounge next to the water fountain. “It’s just the perfect place. Relaxation and hydration,” he said, flipping the switch on the fountain so the water arced into his mouth.

After Mathis and I chatted for an hour, the subject turned back to the alleged hauntings. Mathis said he never meant for people to think he was a ghost, “but it just happened.” People have reported seeing Lady Bothwell in the rarely-used balcony of the auditorium. It turns out that Mathis, “just like[s]

to watch rehearsals. It’s really cool to watch the way the shows progress from first readthrough to performances.”

Other phenomena falsely attributed to Lady Bothwell include a high concentration of toads near the building and occasional foul smells with no clear explanation, and, in a way, that is true. Both are due to Mathis, who loves frogs but often can’t shower due to the limitations of living in an academic building. He raises the frogs from tadpoles in several tanks scattered

around Bothwell then sets them free because he likes to hear them “sing to [him].”

The VAC, which is adjoined to Bothwell, was also believed to be haunted, but that’s also Clint Mathis. The ghost of VAC is said to be much more hostile than Lady Bothwell, who hasn’t done much except be there. People have reported being frightened by the ghost of VAC to which Mathis simply said, “Sometimes I just go there to rage.”

The Blackburn Blotter

By Gary Lowder

[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. But these are totally fake, so like, you probably don’t care about the specifics of how I do my job, right? You’re probably thinking right now, “Just make the jokes Gary, that’s what we’re here for.” Well here you go. Some Jokes.

From Feb. 1 to March 1, the Campus Community and Safety department and

Residence Life handled a total of seven incidents:

Feb. 1: Vladimir Putin reported skulking around shirtless outside of Ludlum Hall. Authorities were alerted.

Feb. 3: Someone stole all of my motivation to finish this semester. If found, please return.

Feb. 10: Possession and use of cannabis in a residence hall. (It was North, btw. We’re all shocked, I know.)

Feb. 12: Somebody in Jewell was being stupid. I’ll spare you the details, but I will say there was an electric razor, mannequin hand and golf club involved. It was probably pretty hard for Campus Services to clean up.

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

reported. Get over it ... crybaby.

Feb. 15: I don’t know what the hell you guys were doing on this day, but there were three separate incidents reported. Must’ve been a full moon.

Feb. 19: Damage to personal property was reported. That was my car a--holes, I promise you I will find the person responsible.

Between March 1 and March 20, the Campus Community and Safety department and Residence Life handled a total of five incidents. That’s two less, good job guys. But I guess it isn’t the whole month, either.

March 9: North back at it again with the use of cannabis. Come on guys, give it a break for like a second.

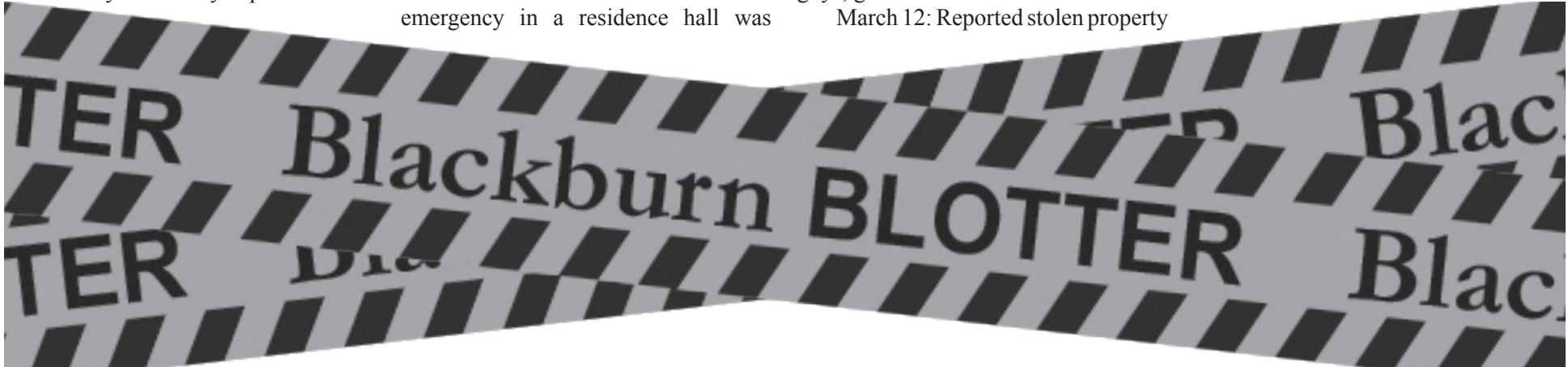
March 12: Reported stolen property

from Butler dorm (This one was totally me, but shh ... that’s our little secret.)

March 14: Underage alcohol consumption. I can’t say which dorm, but what I can say is it rhymes with pewell.

March 17: A medical emergency was reported in a residence hall. Same guy too, having a bad couple of weeks I guess...

March 18: Possession and use of cannabis in a residence hall was reported. North, seriously... chill out. Or I guess you guys are probably pretty chill already. Either way, where are you getting all of it?



The Brave Beaver Backs Down

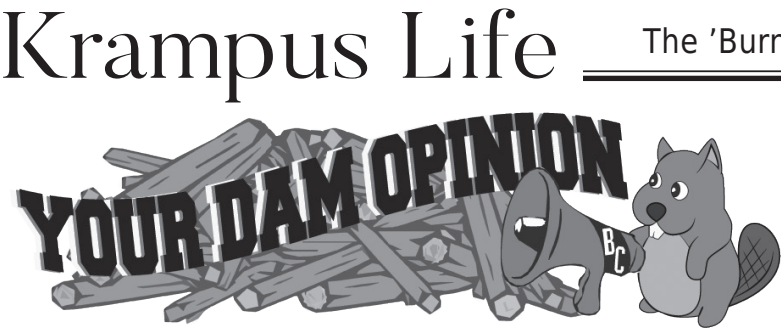
By Patrick Benedict

Blackburn has a defender not that it needs but the one that it deserves. The masked vigilante known as the Brave Beaver has spent the past four years defending the campus from the clutches of evil. Faculty, staff and students hung their heads in sadness yesterday as the Bold Bark-Biting Behemoth of Blackburn hung up his mask, goofy oversized plastic teeth and tail for good. In the middle of lunch, senior computer science major Matthew Pfannenstiel rose from his seat and said, “I am the Beaver.” Many were not shocked at first, as it was easy to identify Pfannenstiel as the Brave Beaver when he made no attempt during his four years as the vigilante to disguise his voice or actually look very different. It was his next statement that would be met with shock and awe. His announcement of retirement from the



PHOTO BY PATRICK BENEDICT

superhero game. Pfannenstiel explained that he is giving up his role as defender of the college because, “I’m about to graduate and so I can’t keep running around fighting the forces of evil all night forever. Plus this is really eating into my video game time.” For years, campus officials had tried to determine how the Brave Beaver was able to respond to crime on campus so quickly. Pfannenstiel keeps a high powered computer he calls the “Beaverputer” in his secret lair known as the “Den” that is capable of detecting any and all crime. When asked how this was possible, Pfannenstiel dodged the question by suggesting a new topic. He declined to disclose the location of the “Den” but upon further surveillance, The ‘Burnian was able to determine that there is a secret entrance located in the small brick structure on the hill behind Stoddard Hall. To gain entry, one only has to knock three times and give the correct password which is always “tacos.” Life on the Blackburn campus will now be a little less than one percent more dangerous without the Brave Beaver on patrol, but students have no reason to fear as Pfannenstiel is seeking a replacement. Any and all who are interested in taking up the Beaver’s buck teeth of justice are encouraged to inquire further at the entrance to the “Den.” All applicants will be required to take a six week course in capoeira and nunchuk based combat before progressing onto a test of wits.



“How do you grade assignments?”

By Michael Troutt



Dr. Chris Morin
Mathematics
“Anyone who writes the number seven with a dash through it, fails.”



Dr. David Reid
Biology
“A’s are \$20 and B’s are \$10.”



Dr. Karen Dillon
English
“I use an association technique. For instance, if I hate someone named Michael and your name is Michael, plan on failing.”



Professor Barbara Clark
English
“In light of the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series, I have decided to give all my writing students A’s.”



Professor Geraldine Albins
Physical Education
“I throw the assignments from the roof of Hudson all at once. The paper that lands first receives an A, the second a B, the third a C, the fourth a D and all the rest receive F’s.”

EnViRoNmEnTaLIY uNfRiEnDIY?!?!

By Michael Troutt

One of the first notions students recognize about Blackburn College is the overt effort to be environmentally friendly. There are recycling bins in nearly every hallway and signs posted throughout the campus that encourage students to use them. What many students don’t realize is that all of this concerted effort is a ruse. A front to cover up one of Blackburn’s deepest and darkest secrets: there are two professors within the biology department that retain a deep hatred for the environment. Blackburn biology professors Dr. James Bray and Dr. Jonathan Micancin are the culprits. Bray, an expert in botany, would seem to be an unlikely source of environmental unfriendliness. He clarified his motives, “In the words of my hero -- and the greatest president ever -- Ronald Reagan once said that trees cause more pollution than automobiles. And that’s why I cut them down.” Bray also added that he was furious when the new recycling bins arrived in February. The bins were supposed to don a “Decycle” logo for his new anti-environment campaign. “Yeah I just collect all that crap and dump it in Carlinville Lake,” he explained. Micancin is an ecologist yet maintains an even darker disposition

and reported that “saving the environment is like opening a birthday card with no money in it -- a complete waste of time.” In regards to wildlife, he commented, “I like taking long drives. Mainly because I swerve to hit animals.” Perhaps even more disturbing is the bitter rivalry between Bray and Micancin. Dubbed the “Carbon Foot Race,” the goal is to determine who can produce the largest carbon footprint by the end of the year. Confident in his early lead, Micancin stated, “Statistically speaking, at the current rate, Dr. Bray doesn’t stand a chance,” to which Bray responded, “His data doesn’t reflect the acres of rainforest I’ve cut down,” to which Micancin rebutted, “Does too,” to which Bray reacted, “Does not!” The only idea the two seem to agree on is how to capitalize on anti-environmentalism. Bray declared, “We’ve carefully taken every measure to invest in the future -- our retirement, that is.” Both professors have actively sought out pristine areas of forest to purchase. “We collect donations through a bogus conservation charity. We then purchase as many acres as possible to sell to logging companies for profit,” Micancin explained. “Then we buy stock in all of the companies that purchase that lumber,” Bray added.

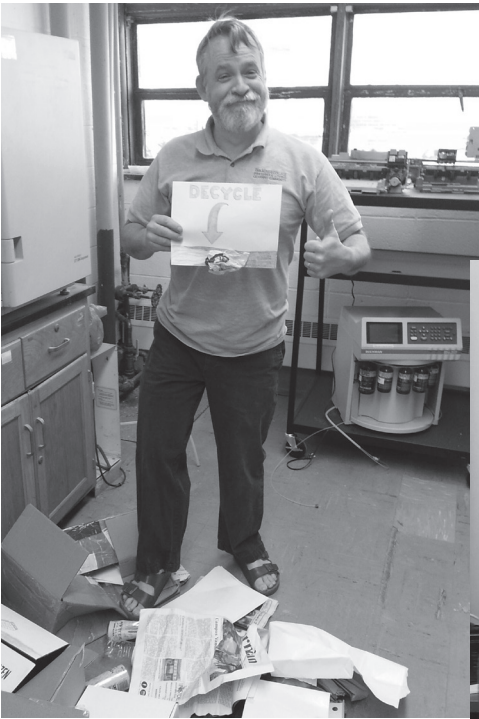


PHOTO BY MICHAEL TROUTT
Dr. James Bray promotes his new anti-environment campaign ‘Decycle’

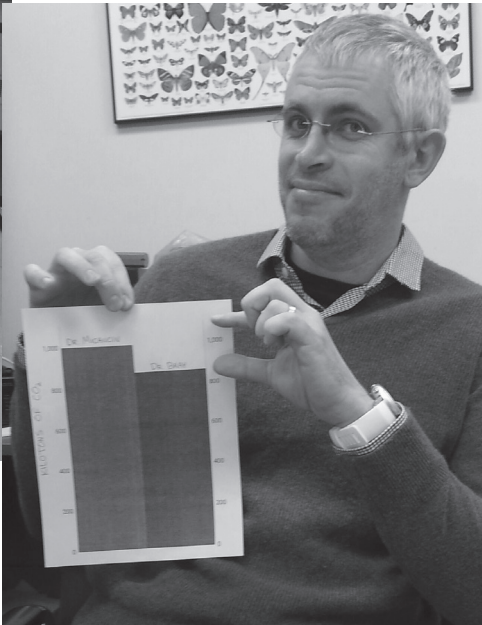


PHOTO BY MICHAEL TROUTT
Dr. Jonathan Micancin is confident that he has the bigger carbon footprint

Gone but Never Forgotten

By Jordan Wood

When the ball dropped and the new year rang in, many had hope for a promising 2017. While for some it has been full of great memories, for others it has been full of great loss, especially on Blackburn College’s campus.

Anytime a family suffers a great loss, they take time to cherish their loved one and celebrate the life they lived. No life is easy to lose or say goodbye to, but it is always important to take that time and remember them. Just as you would cope with a loss within your biological family, the Blackburn family does as well.

Skylar Bugar
Date of Birth: May 22, 1998
Death Date: Feb. 13, 2017
Major: Psychology
Death by: Suffocation from excessive amounts of peanut butter
“Man cannot live by bread alone; he must have peanut butter.”

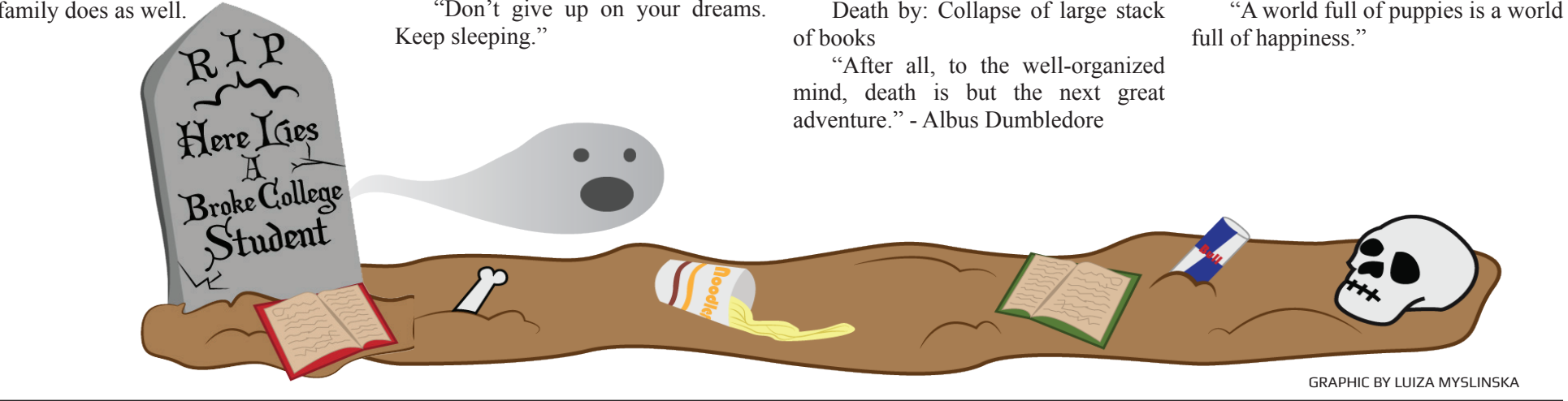
Daniele Burnell
Date of Birth: May 29, 1995
Death Date: March 3, 2017
Major: Psychology
Death by: Wall Twerking
“Don’t give up on your dreams. Keep sleeping.”

Abby Frerichs
Date of Birth: Jan. 7, 1998
Death Date: March 18, 2017
Major: Criminal Justice
Death by: Fire hydrant
“My favorite exercise is a cross between a lunge and a crunch... I call it lunch.”

Rebecca O’Connell
Date of Birth: Feb. 1, 1997
Death Date: Jan. 22, 2017
Major: Secondary Education
Death by: Collapse of large stack of books
“After all, to the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.” - Albus Dumbledore

Chris O’Connor
Date of Birth: Apr. 12, 1995
Death Date: Jan. 1, 2017
Major: Criminal Justice
Death by: Moonshine
“I ain’t here for a long time. I’m here for a good time.” - George Strait

Candace Pollock
Date of Birth: July 23, 1996
Death Date: Feb. 25, 2017
Major: Biology
Death by: Choked on fur balls from swarm of puppies.
“A world full of puppies is a world full of happiness.”



Jurassic Journalism

By Gary Lowder

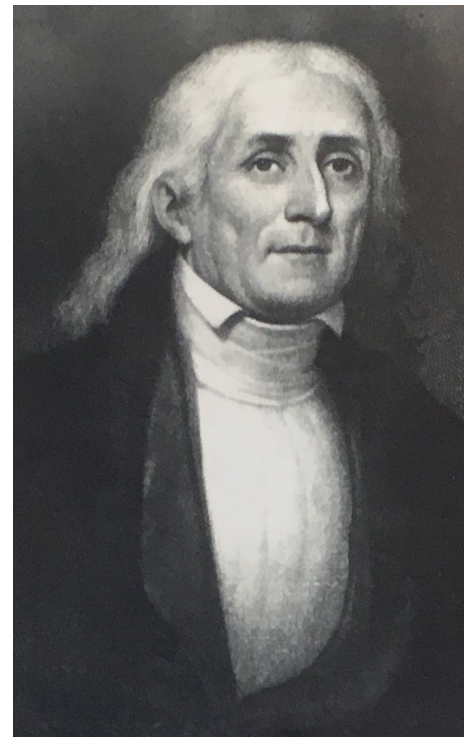
[Author’s Note:] “Jurassic Journalism” is usually a recurring column featuring previously published articles from The ‘Burnian. However, in this issue, we went a different route. This journal entry was written by Blackburn alumni Jebidiah Longtree who graduated from Blackburn in 1841 with a degree in carpentry. Longtree was one of the brave men and women who went with Gideon Blackburn to help build Blackburn College. Longtree’s recently discovered primary source

document has completely changed the way local historians thought Blackburn was founded. Without further ado, here is an entry from Jebediah’s journal.
Oct. 28, 1837
Well ya’ll, we found it. A new college that we can attend and better ourselves. When I say “found” I literally mean found. We rolled up in our covered wagons in search of a place to build a school and we discovered something even better. We found a school that had already been

built. We didn’t have to build the halls, buy materials or nothin’. The Indians, who I’m guessing built the school, welcomed us with open arms. They taught us how to catch food in the dining hall that their primitive language called ‘Ding.’ They also taught us about the work program that had been passed down to them from the mighty and hard-working beaver spirits.

Our fearless leader, Rev. Gideon Blackburn has started calling himself the ‘founder’ of the college. I thought this was mighty interesting because I understood the word founder meant somebody who establishes an institution. The reverend didn’t establish nothin’ we just found this college. When I brought this up to the Rev. Blackburn he looked all nervous and said, “No no no Jebidiah my boy... Founder means that I found it the way that it is now. That’s why the word found is in it.” Then he looked around and whispered, “Jeb. Can I call you Jeb? I would prefer if we kept this conversation between us and didn’t have any more ‘founder’ talk.” Then he walked briskly away. I sure was glad that he was able to clear that up for me.

Oct. 29, 1837
We were awoken rather suddenly this morning by the sounds of cavalry bugles. My roommate Kakawangwa [Author’s Note: Longtree probably didn’t know but this name means bitter in Hopi] immediately jumped out the window of our dorm and ran off. I went outside and saw a whole lot of men riding horses and chasin’ off Kakawangwa and the other Indians. I didn’t understand. They were Indians



A startling new discovery may change everything we think we know about how Blackburn’s founder

but they seemed to be pretty nice fellers to me. Then I saw the Rev. Blackburn shaking hands with the captain of the cavalry. I ran up to ask him what had happened and he said ...
[Author’s Note:] This where Longtree’s note cuts off. Researchers weren’t able to find any other writings by Longtree, and no other references to Blackburn being built by Native Americans. We probably won’t ever know what really happened back then and this journal entry really poses more questions than answers. The ‘Burnian will report any new details as they surface.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLACKBURN ARCHIVES

CAMDEN'S

FAT DRINK SHOP

Boutique Hours

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April Horoscope


By Gary Lowder and Luiza Myslinska


Aries. March 21 to April 19
Aries, because of your aggression and fast-paced lifestyle, your poops this week will be hurried and uncomfortable. You are the one pushing through the line to the toilet. Your aggression can also cause rifts in your relationship. Try and be more patient with people and poop.

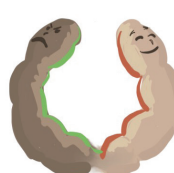
Leo. July 23 to Aug. 22.
Loud and proud, stinkin’ up the toilet crowd. You’re the first in line for the bathroom. Your poops are always picture worthy, not that anyone wants to see though. Purchasing a bidet will strengthen your poop aura and confidence.


Sagittarius. Nov. 22 to Dec 21.
Challenge yourself and poop in a new rare location, like a pool or a friends backseat to elevate your poop aura. You never turn down an adventure, but remember to always keep an open mind or else you will falter.


Taurus. April 20 to May 20
You end up sitting on the toilet for 20 minutes when you were really done in two. Get off your phone. Slimy, lazy, and beer poops with hours of wiping are in your future if you don’t get it together. Have you had corn lately?


Virgo. Aug. 23 to Sep. 22.
You’re too uptight, Virgo... and so are your poops. Expect small rabbit like turds this week. Try and relax, Virgo. Your poops and life will thank you. You are meticulous in your pooping habits. Take some time out of your busy schedule and really enjoy your trips to the bathroom.


Capricorn. Dec 22. to Jan 19.
You always poop at home not because you have an aversion to public bathrooms, but because you need your hard earned “me” time. Light some candles and play some soothing music to elevate that poop aura.


Gemini. May 21 to June 20
Your poop comes out one way and ends another. Work on your fiber intake and your personality. Your dual personality and poops drive people crazy, just pick a side!

Libra. Sept. 23 - Oct 22.
Assert yourself, Libra. Don’t give up your stall to someone else just because they ask for it. You have to learn to say no. If you master this, I see peaceful poops in your future. Romantic poops with your lover are also in store.

Aquarius. Jan 20. to Feb 18.
That endless supply of redbull and coffee is causing some waterfalls! Treat yourself with some water once in a while and solidify those poops with fiber. Consider purchasing a squatty potty, a must have pooping tool for an Einstein like you.

Cancer. June 21 to July 22.
Your poop may be stained red or have tinges of blood in it. If this is the case you probably have colon cancer. Seek out professional medical help. It’ll be rough, but we’ll get through this Cancer... together.

Scorpio. Oct. 23 - Nov. 21.
Manipulate your diet for better poops just as you manipulate the people around you. Adding that much needed fiber can alleviate those pinching symptoms causing you to sit on the toilet for hours. Download a fun new app for a brighter poop aura.

Pisces. Feb 19. to March 20.
It’s ok that you clogged the bathroom on third floor Hudson, no one goes there anyway. Be easy on yourself, life is not all about having the most elevated poop aura. Start focusing on the more important things in life, like fiber.

‘BURN-ian Up: Blackburn’s Hottest Faculty and Staff

By Jordan Wood

In a recent article, it was suggested that what makes Blackburn College special is its sense of community and family, but, upon closer observations, the real reason has been discovered: its hot faculty/staff. See, Blackburn is a very special place. It’s no ordinary college. Yes, it has the classes and books and studying that every other college has, but it also has one thing the others don’t: faculty/staff so hot, they put the ‘burn’ in Blackburn.



GRAPHIC BY LUIZA MYSLINSKA

The final votes have been counted and the results are in:

- 10. Jim Pickett
- 9. Aaron Pflug
- 8. Thomas Philbrick
- 7. Chelsea Day
- 6. Katie Fonseca
- 5. John Comerford
- 4. Kyle Harrington
- 3. Brooke Schmidt
- 1. Steve Kollar/Alisha Kapp

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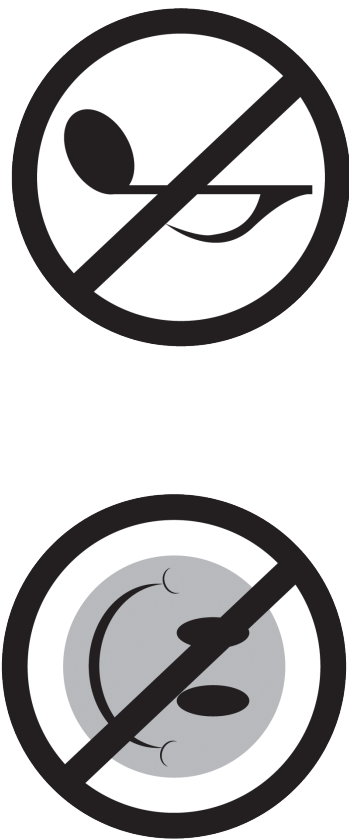
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Jump Back! Blackburn Bans Song and Dance



By RACHAEL CHONG

Blackburn College announced last Tuesday that students may listen to only pre-approved music both on and off campus. Though only some of the policy has been written as of April 1, the ban will take effect immediately. Students will be expected to sign contracts in their own blood to prove that they are committed to the ban.

Music “promoting drug use, sexual activity, fun of any kind or alcohol consumption” falls under a zero tolerance rule. Simply put, listen to any of this music and you will be expelled, no questions asked. Artists like Rihanna, Katy Perry, Lil Wayne, Maroon 5, Bruno Mars and even “good girl” Taylor Swift are strictly off limits.

Luckily, not all music falls under zero tolerance. Some music, like show tunes or Disney music, will merely place you on social probation. There are also musical indiscretions that fall under a “three strikes” rule such as “over-stimulating” classical music

like Rachmaninoff or snapping one’s fingers on a beat.

The new ban was proposed by junior music major Kevin Bomont who said he wants the ban to stop the promotion of “obscene hip-hop music, with its gospel of easy sexuality and relaxed morality.” Bomont does not want all music banned completely. He supports music that is “uplifting” and that “doesn’t confuse people’s minds and bodies.” As such, Gregorian chants and Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” will be allowed.

The ban has faced opposition from students, staff, faculty and alumni. Theater professor Carolyn Conover was one of the most vocal, saying, “Jump back! I can’t work under these conditions. How do they expect me to make art? I can’t make art like this!” Chair of music and theater Dr. Elizabeth Zobel was less distressed, saying only “I like Gregorian chants.”

The Dark Side Of Children’s Literature



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF MICHAEL TROUTT

Written by a plastic surgeon and targeted at children ages four and up

By MICHAEL TROUTT

Perhaps the best children’s book for reinforcing the idea of poor body image to little girls is “My Beautiful Mommy.” This children’s book was written by Dr. Michael Salzhauer, a plastic surgeon who wanted to offer his patients a way to explain the good news of plastic surgery to their daughters.

The story is told from the point of view of a young girl that experiences her mother undergoing plastic surgery.

Beginning with a simple trip to the doctor’s office, the girl’s mother chats with her plastic surgeon about a nose job and tummy tuck. In 2016 alone there were 223,018 nose jobs and 127,633 tummy tucks performed in the U.S., according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. Apparently there are plenty of Americans who would rather pay to be physically changed than accept their natural beauty -- because it’s what’s on the outside that counts. This is a point the book makes as the little girl’s mother explains that her plastic surgery will change her looks and therefore change her perception of herself in a positive way.

Junior biology major Christopher Miller shared his impression of the

book and said, “I will definitely be purchasing this book to read to my kids. Because nothing is as important in this life as conforming to social norms.” He also stated that “compared to other children’s books I’ve read, it’s a cut above the rest!”

Despite the seemingly harmless nature of the book, the message that is conveyed maintains that a woman’s self-worth and self-esteem should be directly tied to the dominant magazine cover standard of physical beauty. The same standard that has efficiently paved the way for young girls to develop eating disorders, experience depression and, you guessed it, seek out plastic surgery. Because emotional well-being is only meant for those who can afford it, and this message is paramount for the future generations of young girls seeking true happiness. But who needs all that “love yourself for who you are” rubbish when the modern world of plastic surgery can alter physical appearance as a remedy for distorted self-perception, right?

Every college or university has something they are known for, good or bad. Eastern Illinois University is known for being on the verge of shutdown, Harvard is known for its law school and Blackburn College is known for its work program. However, Blackburn will also be known as the school to assign majors to its students. Last month Blackburn sent out in its daily emails to the student body that it will be adding new majors next semester, ag business, game design and cyber security. With the addition of these majors the college was worried of the strain it could place on their students trying to decide on a major. Therefore, the college decided to drop three other majors which had low student enrollment and transfer the students from those majors into the new majors. The official list of majors which have been dropped includes: elementary education, biology (including pre-med) and organizational leadership. All the credits the students from the three majors being dropped will be transferred to a new major, so a senior biology student will be a senior ag business student set to graduate at the

By JACOB DUNSKIS

Major Changes

“Well, I understand basic anatomy so I think I may try to hop on board with the new Surgeon Simulator game, or an anatomically correct Operation.”

Emma Cash

The excitement is not limited to the new cyber security majors; Emma Cash, previously a biology major is just as excited for her new major of game design. When asked what her plans were with her degree, she said, “Well, I understand basic anatomy so I think I may try to hop on board with the new Surgeon Simulator game, or an anatomically correct Operation.” The excitement of the school is outstanding and Cash along with other students are eager to see what majors Blackburn adds next.

Fifty Shades of Feminism

By Rachael Chong

“Fifty Shades of Grey” is literally the best piece of literature to ever exist. Period. There is no way anything can improve on its quality in any possible way. When Christian Grey says to protagonist Anastasia Steele (Ana), “You. Are. Mine,” I feel so ridiculously empowered. E.L. James awakens my inner goddess at the same time as Ana’s. And it’s not just the way Christian possesses Anastasia, it is the way he says it to her: “He snarls, emphasising each word.” I just love it when a man acts like an animal towards me.

“Fifty Shades” showcases one of the most healthy relationships in bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism (BDSM) to ever exist. It’s a good start to BDSM and letting go of your feminist inhibitions. You don’t always need to be in control. In fact, you should never be. It is not the job of the submissive partner to say when the scene stops. That is obviously the role of the dominant. They should not stop unless they want to. Even if their



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Leather toys and a boy scout’s knot-tying knowledge is all part of a healthy relationship

partner is crying.

The relationship between Ana and Christian is the absolute epitome of “safe, sane and consensual.” I mean, how could it not be? Christian introduces Ana to BDSM by way of his “red room of pain.” His personal

dungeon with no one around is totally the safest place to explore being tied up with no way of escape. And Christian is so sane. His motives for entering the BDSM scene are so healthy it is unbelievable. He was abused as a child, so obviously he gets off on thinking

about that. He even says to Ana, “I like to whip little brown-haired girls like you because you all look like...my birth mother.” What’s more sane than thinking about your mother during sex? Nothing, that’s what. Ana totally gives her consent, too. Violence is sexy, and the way Anastasia doesn’t always want to give consent or feels coerced into giving consent, makes it all the hotter.

It’s because of 50 Shades that I know the real meaning of feminism. It’s nothing like what these whiny feminazis are saying about “social equality” and “reproductive rights” and “intersectionality.” The reason these chicks think these stupid, silly things is because they just need to shut up, embrace their inner goddess, and let a man hit them.

The way he talks of “subduing her smart mouth,” reminds me of the real goal of feminism: to make women talk less. Actually, I don’t even think I should be writing th ...

The Snooze Button: Killing America A Few Minutes At A Time

By Michael Troutt

The end of the ‘American Dream’ begins with the most annoying sound to pierce the human eardrum - the alarm clock. While most of us would never make it to class or work without it, our dependency upon a waking alarm has altered our society as a whole. Until 1955, the use of an alarm clock was pretty straightforward; the alarm clock rang with enough force to induce a mild heart attack, and an individual was forced into an unwanted state of consciousness. For the most part, this was the positive side of using an alarm clock as it enforced the idea of punctuality. Beginning in 1956, however, General Electric released its model 7H241; the first alarm clock equipped with a ‘drowse’ button, allowing individuals the option of grasping a few more minutes of rest before starting their day. And this is where things took a turn for the worse.

By waking to an alarm and then falling back to sleep, the body restarts a new sleep cycle. While most would claim that those extra moments of shut eye help us to prepare for waking up, science says otherwise. According to the National Sleep Foundation, by interrupting your sleep cycle only to start a new one that will be interrupted, individuals begin to suffer from sleep inertia. Sleep inertia is that groggy disorienting feeling most of us experience every morning.

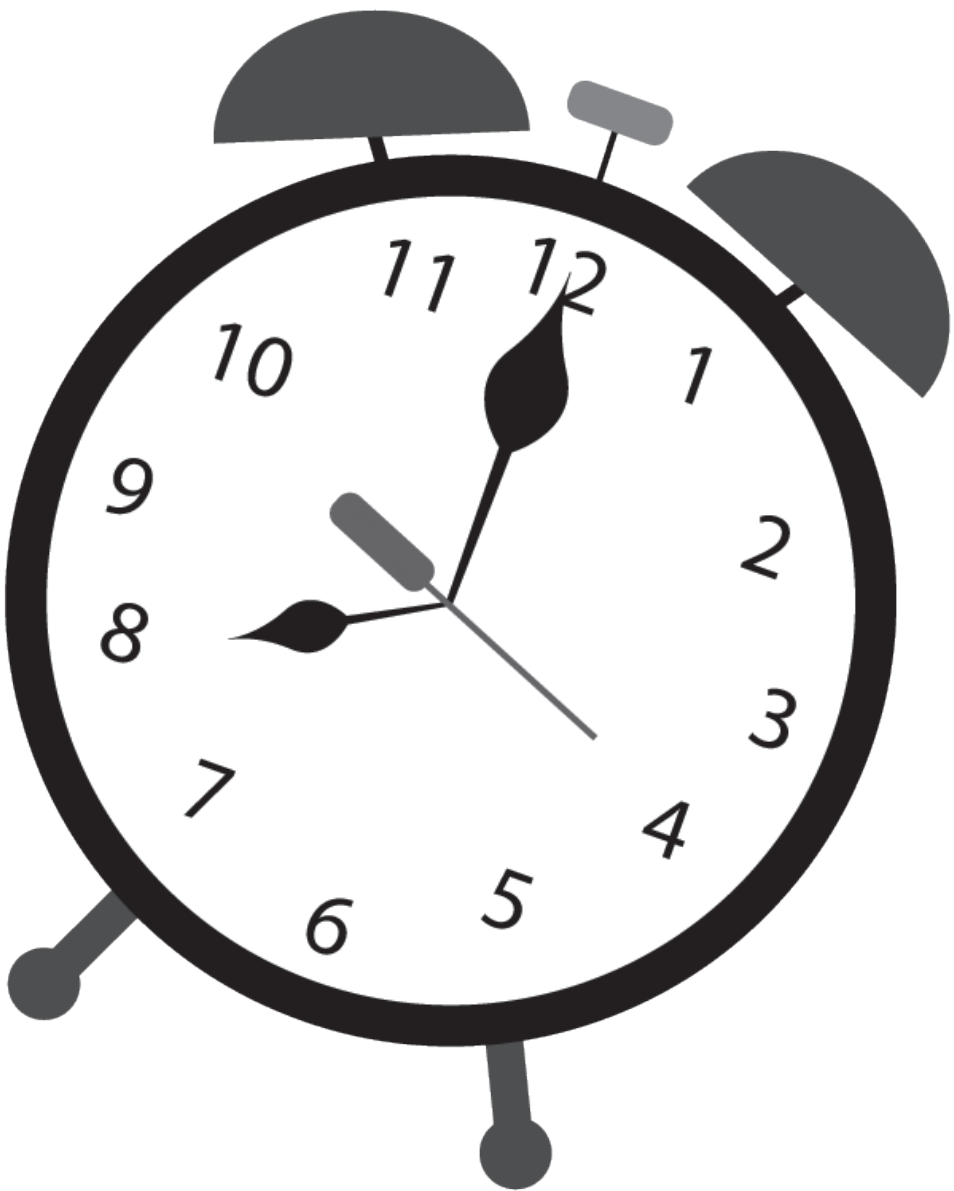
Beginning with the ‘drowse’ button in 1956, every successive generation since has become more fraught with substance abuse problems. The ‘60s witnessed the hippie generation, a

movement dedicated to peace, love and marijuana-induced oversleeping. This movement was counteracted in the ‘70s with the disco era, a time when individuals frequented nightclubs to “get down with their bad selves” into the early morning hours.

Lack of sleep in the ‘70s led to widespread cocaine use that wreaked havoc on Americans well into the ‘80s. By the start of the ‘90s, Americans had accepted that sleep was no longer a priority and so they pursued a drug that would produce a numbing, groggy-like euphoria: heroin. As time passed, the heroin epidemic slowed, and Americans wanted to wake up again. In fact, they wanted to stay awake as long as humanly possible. Thus the dawn of the 21st century exploded with methamphetamine use.

Today while methamphetamine lingers and heroin is back on the rise, Americans are now in a state of the scientific drug culture, synthetic substances. To parallel the overwhelming technological boom, it seems that every week or so there’s a new synthesized drug hitting the streets. From K-2 to bath salts, and a plethora of other drugs being created in labs across the nation, it seems that the American imbalance of sleep has created an apex of a drug saturated existence.

Slowly but surely the built-in natural mechanism that once held our society to a sober standard, has been usurped by that pernicious function we call the snooze button.



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

To snooze is to lose

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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.

Fans Howl (Not Cheer) for New Women's Soccer Coach

By RACHAEL CHONG

Blackburn's women's soccer team may soon don wolf shirts. Professor of political science and philosophy Dr. Michael Bradley has been hired as the new coach.

The selection process was long and arduous, with potential coaches ranging from David Beckham to Danny Devito. Beckham was ultimately turned down over salary disputes and creative differences, whereas Devito's approach to soccer was too radical. Bradley was chosen because he had a balance of traditional soccer values and forward-thinkingness. Specifically, he wants the entire team to play forward.

Bradley said he has always had a passion for soccer and teaching philosophy was "really just a day job." However, that isn't to say that he hasn't learned from his experiences in the classroom. As a teacher, Bradley has been able to observe the strengths and weaknesses of Blackburn's students. He believes these qualities will also apply to student athletes. "Students work too much and rest too little. As a coach, I plan to institute mandatory meditation during practices and games," he said.

Players will be required to sit on the field for a minimum of 90 seconds if he feels their focus had wavered or that they have put too much focus on



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

New mandatory wolf shirts will be worn to awaken the dormant animal in each player

winning the game. Soccer, Bradley said, "is more about reflection than sport. My players need to take time to think about why they are playing and what it means in the big picture. Are they improving the world by playing soccer? Well, I don't know."

Bradley also has plans to change the team's uniforms within the next few years. He wants to eschew traditional jerseys completely in order to replace them with "wolf shirts." According to Bradley, the shirts will "promote a pack mentality and awaken [the players']

inner animal." It is philosophy that Bradley feels will help Blackburn to "change the way soccer is played and maybe, just maybe, even change the world. If the world is even a real thing."

Beerfest Comes to Blackburn



PHOTO COURTESY OF THINKGEEK.COM

Das Boot is the most anticipated part of every drinking tournament

By ROBERT FAGG

Blackburn College is introducing a new intercollegiate sport for the school. The college confirmed that there will be a team, and it will be one of the most competitive teams on Blackburn's campus.

Yes Blackburn community, instead of adding football like many people expected, the athletic department has chosen to sanction a Beer Fest team, the Beaver Chuggers.

Beer Fest is usually an annual competition among teams of five in various drinking games, including beer pong, a volume chug, trick quarters, distance quarters, a monkey chug (where you hang upside down and chug) and ending with "Das Boot."

No longer will it be annual though, as the NCAA will sanction weekly events amongst competing schools. Next year, students from Blackburn, MacMurray, Iowa Wesleyan, Spalding

and Eureka will all be competing. They will not only vie for the conference championship but also for the NCAA national tournament that will be held in Las Vegas. The national champion isn't done there though. They then will travel to Germany to represent the U.S. in the Beginners Bracket of the World Championship.

Many students are excited about the new and interesting opportunity to represent Blackburn. Assistant coach of chugging and senior communications major Parker Ramaker stated that this will give the residents a more open space to conduct their drinking games. "Now that the school is sanctioning this, it's not that they are necessarily condoning it, but they can't tell us it's as bad anymore." Ramaker also thought that Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Residence Life Abbey Hardin is going to have to address their rules on drinking in the dorm.

"If they are going to have this team, then we are going to have to be able to practice outside of our designated practice times. It's just like basketball and baseball. If I can go into the gym and hit off a tee, why can't I practice my volume chug in my room?"

Junior math major Brandon Skibinski thinks that this team may cause trouble but "I'm not too worried about them. I know some of the guys trying out for the team and I think they will understand how to control themselves."

If you are interested in trying out, contact assistant coach Parker Ramaker at parker.ramaker@blackburn.edu. You must be pre-approved to tryout, be 21 years old and have a clean report from Residence Life. Tryouts will be held during the week between the end of double instruction periods and graduation.

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from the single spot they get to advance to first base. The next player shoots from a different place and if they make it then both players advance as many bases as the shot allows for. Points are scored when runners advance to home plate.

Just like baseball, it's three outs before an inning is over. Outs happen if a player fails to make a shot. A player can shoot from a bunt spot in order to advance the players on base forward one base but the team will also get an out. The team on defense tries to make shots. Three players will try to psyche out the shooting player. This is where players need to get creative. Absolutely no physical contact is allowed but players are able to do just about anything else to psyche out another player. This can be anything from making funny faces to trying to gross out the other player. Kollar is confident that the Blackburn team will have no problem with psyche-outs. "I have some really creative psyche-out strategies that will really put our team ahead," said Kollar. Neal will help the players to focus themselves when they are up to bat. "You won't catch our boys off guard," said Neal.

the following player is then forbidden from shooting from the same spot. This is marked by the referee throwing a pot holder down on the spot the shot was taken. If a player successfully makes a basket with their shot then they get to advance as many bases as that shot allows. For instance if the player shoots

Baseketball is the most popular hybrid sport since the invention of rugby-curling and at last it has come to Blackburn College. Starting next fall, head baseball coach Mike Neal and head basketball coach Steve Kollar will join forces to coach Blackburn's first basketball team. As the name suggests, basketball takes rules from both sports to form one singular contest of athleticism and mental grit. As is tradition with this sport born on a suburban driveway, Blackburn will modify part of the basketball court to fit a two-car garage facade with a basketball hoop above it. Around the garage will be three bases that are mostly ceremonious as there is no need to run in the game of baseketball.

The rules of the game are actually quite simple. The three players on each team take a basketball which is a slightly larger version of a basketball designed to look like a baseball and attempt to shoot from one of twelve places. These are two bunt pads very close to the hoop, three single spots close to the hoop, doubles further back, triples even further back and a homerun spot from home plate. Any player "at bat" can shoot from any of the 12 spots with a few exceptions. If a player shoots the ball from any of the spots other than the bunt and home run spots,



Joe Cooper and Doug Remer have their balls ready

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Baseketball Bounces to Blackburn

Blackburn's Newest Major

By Robert Fagg

Blackburn College, in its fury of news about the new majors being introduced, omitted from recent press releases that along with Game Design, Arts Administration, Cyber Security and Ag Business, they are adding Wrestling Entertainment to the theater department.

The new major will combine aspects of Sports Management along with Theater to have Blackburn be the first school to allow to you to major in Wrestletainment.

Blackburn began this innovation with hopes of having more successful alumni and by providing a niche for jobs that may not have been there with other majors.

Administrators have even recognized that students enjoy watching World Wrestling Entertainment and are considering including elements of broadcasting and sports writing into the curriculum for this new program. This will be the first truly interdisciplinary major that Blackburn has introduced.

Currently, there aren't any students enrolled in the program as this is so new and the departments are still trying to nail down curriculum specifics.

One of them is going to be WRES 108, where students will learn the history of sports entertainment and how it became the billion dollar industry it is today. Another class is WRES 200.

BWWE

Blackburn Wrestling Federation

GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

The Blackburn Wrestling Federation will be the new standard in college professional wrestling entertainment

In this class students will learn how to do basic maneuvers in the ring such as the Irish Whip, punching, kicking and body slams. The other class where information is available is WRES 402 which is a more advanced class. WRES 402 will examine taking bumps with weapons including how to go through a table and how to jump off of a ladder safely.

Other students will be able to take these classes as part of their Physical

Education requirements, as everyone needs two credit hours. General requirements for the major are the same as all other majors.