



PHOTO BY CHRISTIN MILLER

Game Designer speaks at Werner Lecture series

By PATRICK BENEDICT

On Thursday, April 6, in Blackburn College's Olin Lecture Hall, a presentation was given by Seattle, Washington, based game designer Dr. Evie Powell. Powell was invited by computer science professor Dr. Joshua Gross to speak to the campus community for the Werner Lecture series. Powell, the founder and director of The Verge of Brilliance (her own independent video game development company) discussed the direction in which the video game industry is moving as well as how some of the games her team have developed are working to be culturally and socially relevant. Gross and Powell first met while Powell was working on her final year of her Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Gross frequently had Powell speak to his classes while teaching video game topics.

Powell and her team are primarily focused on the development of video games within the virtual reality (VR) genre but have created several works that integrate other forms of

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Bettis Resigns

By MICHAEL TROUTT

Over the past three years there have been a number of changes to the supervisory positions in the physical plant at Blackburn College. The end of February marked the retirement of New Construction (New Con) Supervisor Michael Slightom and on Friday, March 24, Jack Bettis resigned from his position as Groundskeeping, Motor Pool and Event Support supervisor. After four years of service, Bettis has decided to begin a new chapter in his life as he will return to the familiar trade of carpentry, which he did prior to his employment at Blackburn.

In December of 2012, Bettis was hired on part-time in New Con to supervise student workers as they installed the windows and ceilings in Jewell Hall. After two years with New Con he accepted his current full-time position in 2014. Bettis remarked, "Things seem to come full circle. As an independent contractor from 1980 to 1989, my partner and I worked on a lot of projects here at Blackburn." He explained that he enjoyed working on projects with Blackburn students and hoped that one day he would be able to do so again. A little more than a decade later he began working with New Con



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Jack Bettis says goodbye to Blackburn

and reported that "I couldn't be happier with the opportunity that was presented to me."

Bettis reflected on his time at Blackburn and reported, "It's had its challenges but they're greatly overshadowed by the rewards. The outstanding young women and men that I've met during this four years [has] renewed my confidence in the future."

Students have come to know Bettis as an easy-going individual that always has a smile on his face. Junior history

major Thomas Barksdale said, "He was always fun to be around. He would come out and work with us and told jokes ... Jack was cool. He's one of my favorite supervisors."

Bettis shared thoughts on his immediate future and said, "I'm excited about it. I'll have a small business, on my own, doing some carpentry work." He also stated that he will be selective about the projects he chooses to accept and that hopefully it will "free up a little more time for hunting and fishing."

Proposal Cuts and then Restores Student Activities Funding

By CHRISTOPHER BEST AND BLADE WILLIAMS

Student Senate representative to the Budget Committee Bonny Eyer attended Blackburn College's Budget Committee meeting earlier this month to discuss a new budget proposal for the 2018 fiscal year. The proposal would see an increase in the total budget from \$13.4 million to \$14.2 million by making some significant changes to how money is currently spent.

Several departments would receive budgetary cuts according to this proposal, which would decrease the operating deficit from \$474,000 to \$252,000.

"There are some increases in expenditures that are either beyond our control or a huge priority to us," said President John Comerford. "For example, rising costs of health insurance, making sure our faculty and staff compensation keeps pace with inflation or increasing the value of the Work Program tuition credit."

Proposed cuts could impact the Campus Activities Board (CAB), Residence Life (Res. Life), Student Senate and Arts and Issues.

"This recommendation that I made is not solely based on our need for budget cuts," said Budget Committee Chair

and Vice President for Administration and Finance Steve Morris. "I would base this recommendation regardless of what our budget status is."

Some students have voiced their objections to these cuts. "I think it's completely asinine to cut those areas," said Eyer. "I think it'll drive [students] away to where they have stuff to do in their hometowns."

The total budget for student activities would be decreased from approximately \$159,000 to \$102,000 next year. Students are charged \$350 annually for a student activities fee. Through this proposed budget the portion of this fee that is allocated for student activities would be reduced by roughly 46 percent.

Retention rates are one of the major areas of concern for Student Senate in regards to the proposed department cuts. According to Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz, only 65 percent of freshmen were retained this year (the same percentage as last year, but up from 62 percent the previous year).

"We talk about retention rates quite often and how we can keep students here," said Eyer. "The activities we

do are one of them. I mean Platinum Bingo and Casino Night were big hits. We show movies all the time. The movie on the quad last semester was a huge hit." These activities will likely be impacted by the proposed budget cuts.

Student Senate generated a petition in response to these cuts with hopes that Budget Committee will reconsider their proposal.

"We wanted to be more proactive," said Eyer. "So when I brought back this information and presented it all to Senate last Sunday, they did not like what they saw. And neither do Dr. Armstrong or Heidi Heinz who sponsor us or supervise us I guess."

The petition garnered 297 signatures before it was presented at Monday's cabinet meeting. Signatures came from both students and faculty.

"It's important to note that there is nothing that is being cut yet," said Morris. "We are talking about this. We are having an open discussion."

Though the Budget Committee hopes to finalize the budget by the end of the month, it cannot be approved officially until the June 3 board

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Budget Proposal

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meeting.
[Editor's Note: The above was written after the initial announcement of the proposal cut. Below is an update following the students' petition.]

Budget Committee Chair Steve Morris has withdrawn his proposal to allocate funds from the Student Activities budget.

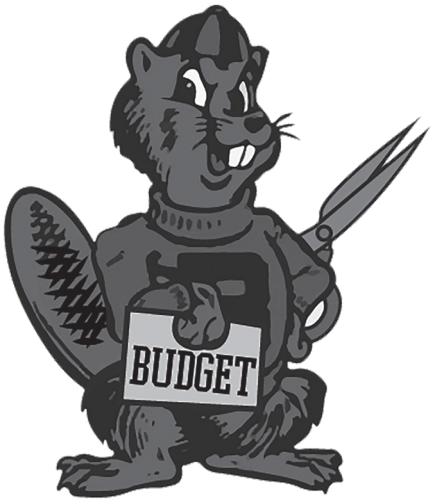
"Based on the work of Student Senate and the Budget Committee's discussion on Tuesday April 11, I am withdrawing my recommendation to apply the discount rate to student funding as a flawed approach for Blackburn," said Morris in a letter to cabinet members last week.

This announcement came just day just days after Student Senate's petition garnering 297 signatures was submitted to the cabinet.

"We could couldn't have done this without the student body support," said Student Senate Chair Ajay Minton. "A big factor was the [nearly] 300 signatures we had on the petition. It showed that student body was with Student Senate. They made a difference."

Though this represents a significant victory for Student Senate, the Budget Committee has yet to determine the Student Activities budget for the next fiscal year.

"I'm still not sure what an adequate budget for Student Activities would



GRAPHIC BY LUIZA MYSLINSKA

be, whether it should be treated as an operational or restricted account, whether the discount rate should be applied to the fee revenue, or how appropriate it is that we spend more on student activities than on academic department budgets," said Blackburn President John Comerford. "All these things are worth discussing and I'm glad the Budget Committee is taking a look."

Student Senate will remain involved in this discussion and plan to meet with the Budget Committee in meetings going forward.

"I'm really impressed with the administration on how caring they are about student input and how these things are going to affect students," said Minton. "It's kind of nice to know that here at Blackburn students can make a difference and have an impact on school policy."

Lecture Series

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“As a computer science major myself it is interesting to have someone actually come and talk about game development.”

Dakota Tebbe

what Powell refers to as asymmetric gameplay. These are games that are not necessarily conventional in their control or design. Some of their titles include "Marimba VR," "Firemans" and "Remain Silent: a cop's quest." "Marimba VR" allows players to practice playing the marimba while in a simulated forest environment. "Firemans" is a multiplayer game that supports up to four players. One player (using an Xbox Kinect that captures the motion of physical gestures) takes on the role of a creature that is capable of breathing fire and spreading fire with its hands. The rest of the players are firemen that attempt to keep the city being destroyed safe. "Remain Silent: a cop's quest" puts the player in the shoes of a fictitious cop going about his job in law enforcement. The purpose of the game was to trigger real discussion

about the role that police have in society.

During the talk Powell also touched on how designers should be focused on making games that achieve a level of sociality, immersion/presence and allow for some level of expression. These are particular challenges that Powell and her development team face when developing VR games. According to Powell, VR games tend to put its players into a form of isolation. Her objective is then to create games that have a higher level of sociality without the actual need of having another human being present.

Junior computer science major Dakota Tebbe attended Powell's talk. "As a computer science major myself it is interesting to have someone actually come and talk about game development," said Tebbe.

Transgender Lieutenant Speaks on Campus



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Lieutenant Commander Blake Dremann speaks in Olin Lecture Hall

By MICHAEL TROUTT

On April 3, Lieutenant Commander Blake Dremann spoke to Blackburn College students about his journey as a transgender soldier in the U.S. Navy. Dremann was invited to be this year's guest speaker for the second annual Kathlene Eberle Memorial Speaker Series.

The Olin Lecture Hall was nearly full as Blackburn psychology professor Dr. Pamela Danker introduced Dremann. Danker stated, "Blake was selected because the theme of the Eberle Series is Human Rights." He

began the presentation by quoting various statistics about transgenders in the military, and then offered some personal background information. Dremann was born and raised in St. Louis and graduated from Ozark Christian College in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in biblical literature. In his 11 years in the Navy he has been deployed 12 times and has been to 13 different countries. He is currently working as an intern at the Pentagon.

Dremann also spoke about how he was a part of helping the military repeal

the transgender ban that has been in effect since 1961. According to the Palm Center, an independent research institute, the military enacted the 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' policy in 1993 which allowed gays in the military to serve silently. After its repeal in 2011, Dremann reported that he thought it would take at least 10 years to repeal the military's transgender ban. He elaborated that it took less than four years to work with the military and finally end the ban in 2016.

After a tour in Afghanistan in 2010, and before Dremann began the medical process of changing genders, he was honored to become one of the first four women to be assigned to submarine duty. Upon reflection, Dremann spoke of the fear of inadequacy that he and the other women felt upon their first patrol on a submarine and stressed the power of perseverance.

He described the experience of being on long patrols and said that it felt as though time stopped, while the rest of the world moved forward.

In 2012, Dremann was invited to the White House Memorial Day breakfast where he met President Obama. He told students that "I stuck out like a sore thumb," while pointing out that he was required to wear his female uniform along with the same shaved haircut he currently sports. It was around this time that Dremann struggled with his gender identity and sought out therapy. He also

spoke about the experience of coming out to his family and about his parents' fear that it would negatively affect his military career.

Eventually Dremann would put his parents' fear to rest as he advanced his military career and became the first transgender serviceman to be promoted after the repeal of the transgender ban.

Junior business management major Gabriel Brown was in attendance and stated, "I thought it was a really good speech. It was very informative, for me, because ... I didn't know that there were transgender people in the military." Danker also weighed in on the presentation and said, "I thought Blake's presentation was outstanding because he not only spoke to the students and others in the audience who are non-binary, but to every member of the audience, about the importance of being who you are and doing it with determination and diplomacy."

Dremann reported that he was surprised at the number of individuals who attended the event at Blackburn. After everything he's experienced, he reported, "It feels good. It feels like I am able to take the next step in my career without having to worry about other things. I can be who I need to be and concentrate on the milestones it takes to continue in my career advancement, rather than worrying about whether I still have one."

Carlinville Losing Milk Money?

By Gary Lowder

According to the St. Louis Business Journal, Prairie Farms is one of the top privately owned businesses in the the U.S. They had a 2015 revenue of \$2.76 billion and are a staple of the Carlinville community. Carlinville has been the corporate headquarters of Prairie Farms since 1947. However, next year they are set to move Edwardsville. According to Prairie Farms CEO and Executive Vice President Ed Mullins, this will not affect Carlinville’s milk processing plant and it will continue to operate with no changes. All corporate employees in all Prairie Farms locations have been offered the opportunity to keep their positions at the new corporate headquarters, with no one losing their jobs.

In a recent interview with the Macoupin County Enquirer~Democrat, Mullins said, “Prairie Farms currently has corporate employees in four different metropolitan St. Louis area locations in addition to Carlinville. The new office building would allow us to consolidate Carlinville and our other corporate offices into one location. This will improve the communication and coordination among all of our departments, which will enable us to meet the needs of our customers and position our company for continued long-term growth.” According to their website, Prairie Farms own 24 plants and 13 joint venture plants throughout the Midwest and Mid-South.

“Only the corporate is moving to Edwardsville. Carlinville is still



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Prairie Farms will be moving its corporate headquarters to Edwardsville later this year

their fifth largest production site, so they aren’t planning on leaving,” said Carlinville Mayor Deanna Demuzio. “They use a lot of water daily... so that is one of our main incentives to get Carlinville’s water fixed.”

Local businessman J.R. Levora thinks that corporate leaving will have a larger effect than Demuzio believes. “People are saying, ‘well

they’re still gonna live here,’ some of them will... but when people and jobs leave the community you don’t just lose that job,” said Levora. “You lose them going to lunch at the Refuge or The Wood Duck... I talked to a local business owner who plans to lose at his business, in just the Monday through Friday lunch crowd at least six to \$8000 annually, just from losing

Prairie Farms. Levora continued, “If that owner loses all this money, at what point does he have to lay someone off?”

The move hasn’t happened yet but it is estimated that the Edwardsville facility will be completed this August. It remains to be seen how losing the Prairie Farms’ corporate headquarters will affect Carlinville.

The Fourth Annual Graham Symposium

By Michael Troutt

The fourth annual Graham Symposium was held on Friday, April 7, in the Lumpkin Learning Commons at Blackburn College. The symposium was hosted by the English and Communications department, in honor of former Blackburn English professor Roy Graham. Graham served at Blackburn for 50 years until his retirement in 2014.

The day began at 9:15 a.m., as Blackburn attendees and visiting students from Coal City High School, North Greene, Mount Olive and Morrisonville, Illinois, were greeted with an introduction from Graham himself. Alumnus Lucretia Pitts followed with a testimonial about how her literature degree from Blackburn prepared her for a career in law.

Afterwards visiting students began the first of two break-out sessions. Each session consisted of four short

workshops in which the students participated. The first workshop taught students about the foundational elements of conducting active debates and conversations surrounding sports. The second workshop helped students learn about how to effectively present themselves to potential employers. The third workshop provided students with insight on the positive benefits of using social media for reasons other than just pure entertainment. The final workshop was based on practicing audition techniques, and presented students with different approaches to customizing an audition to best suit their strengths.

After a short break students went through the second break-out session before they were taken on a tour of the Blackburn campus.

Lunch began at 12:30 p.m. and students were provided with a taco buffet, brownies for dessert and



PHOTO BY DEJA BELL

Dr. Ren Draya presents awards at the Graham Symposium

lemonade. During lunch there was an award ceremony to recognize the efforts of current Blackburn students who work for The ‘Burnian and to announce the winner of the Celeste Miyashiro essay contest, the Louise Allen creative writing contest and the Departmental Excellence awards.

Lunch was followed by a discussion panel that consisted of Blackburn alumni that went on to achieve successful professional careers

with their education.

During the final stage of the symposium, students were given awards based on the work they produced during workshops.

Chair of English and Communications Dr. Naomi Crummey reflected on the symposium, and stated, “I was delighted that we had more high schools attending this year’s event, and that students enjoyed themselves and found the day fun and informative.”



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

Wham Graham, Thank You Fam

By Rachael Chong

Home to 49 residents and first occupied in 1959, Graham Hall was built by students as part of the Work Program and is named after Carl Graham, who gave the funds for construction. It was built before its “twin” Challacombe (North) Hall, whose design was modeled after Graham’s.

But to many, Graham is far more than a building. To many it’s a home and even more than that, it’s a family. One of the more high-profile dorm dynamics on Blackburn’s campus, they call themselves Graham Fam, and even if you didn’t know it, you’ve seen them. When it’s warm--and sometimes when its not--members of Graham Fam gather outside the long brick building to smoke or to vape. Candy-scented clouds hang perpetually outside the

door even when no one is present at the picnic table.

Obviously, Graham Fam is about more than vaping, and the Fam isn’t just open to Graham residents. Much of the culture of Graham centers on the nerdy. Residents tend to be fans of videogames, sci-fi and/or fantasy, but for senior psychology major Katie Payne who neither lives in Graham nor is a big fan of video games, that doesn’t matter. “I just sit there while [Graham residents] explain [games like “League of Legends” or “World of Warcraft”] to me like, ‘wow, that sure is a thing,’” she said, adding that “at the same time they’ll listen to me blather on about gender and cartoons for 20 minutes.”

Previously coined the “quiet dorm,” Graham is really anything but. Graham house council recently voted to get rid

of perpetual quiet hours every day of the year, but by all accounts, Graham had been loud for much longer. Due to the sense of camaraderie Graham residents feel, doors are usually left open for residents to chat and hang out. And as many Graham residents are musical, guitar music can often be heard. And on Fridays and Saturdays, “People are happy that it’s the end of the week and they’re just running up and down the halls,” said senior major Eric Walsh.

But as with any group of people, there are misconceptions surrounding Graham Fam. “People think Graham Fam is this exclusive thing, but if you’re willing to come out of your shell and come out of your room you’ll be accepted for who you are,” said Walsh. And while that may be true,

Payne said, “Some people don’t jive with that.”

But no matter how you feel about them, you’ve seen Graham Fam, and you’ll keep on seeing them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Where the Graham Fam live

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. However because of our publication schedule, this issue will contain both the months of Feb. 2017 and March 2017

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

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

Between Feb. 1 and Feb. 22, the Campus Community and Safety department and Residence Life handled a total of 19 incidents:

Feb. 1: Fire alarm sounded - no problem.

Feb. 5: Two separate incidents reported. The first was a student-to-student dispute over social media.

The second was an underage alcohol violation.

Feb. 6: Fire alarm sounded - washing machine issue.

Feb. 8: Mental health and wellness check in one of the residence halls.

Feb. 10: Two separate incidents occurred. They were both complaints over no-contact order violations. Both of these incidents occurred in non-academic buildings.

Feb. 13: Two separate reports were filed. One of them was a medical emergency in one of the residence halls. The other incident was marijuana odor in the hallway of one of the residence halls.

Feb. 14: Marijuana odor in the hallway of one of the residence halls.

Feb. 15: Three separate incidents were reported. The first was student-to-student harassment in a residence hall over social media. The other two were fire safety violations that both occurred in a residence hall.

Feb. 20: Hit and run damage to a car on campus property.

Feb. 22: Two separate reports were filed. The first was marijuana odor from a vehicle on campus property. The second was sexual misconduct and harassment reportable to Clery.

Feb. 23: Mental health emergency in one of the residence halls.

Feb. 28: Property was damaged by a student’s guest.

Undetermined date in Feb.: Report of stalking behavior on campus.

Between March 1 and March 22, the Campus Community and Safety

department and Residence Life handled a total of 15 incidents:

March 3: Odor of marijuana reported in residence halls.

March 5: Excessive mess in residence hall bathroom.

March 6: Suspicion of marijuana use in residence halls.

March 7: Odor of marijuana reported in residence halls. This report was attributed to a room and student.

March 9: Theft reported from snack bar.

March 10: Six incidents were reported. The first of these was the odor of marijuana in a residence hall. The remaining five were all attributed to fire safety violations in residence halls.

March 20: Odor of marijuana in residence halls.

March 21: Odor of marijuana in residence halls.

March 23: Student-to-student stalking in various locations.

March 25: Student to former student dispute off campus.

Due to the increase in reports involving underage drinking and marijuana usage Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Heidi Heinz would like to remind students of the controlled substance policy in the student handbook (B-Book).

The controlled substances regulations outlined on page 25 states,

1. If Campus Community & Safety or residence hall staff suspect a student to be in possession or under the influence of controlled substances, that suspicion will be documented.

2. If any one student (or group of students) is suspected of controlled substance use multiple times, the college reserves the right, with proper prior documentation, to employ any of the following to confirm that suspicion:

a. Perform a search of the student’s room and person

b. Employ trained canine search teams to search a residence hall floor or wing or the car(s) of suspected student(s) parked in campus parking lots

c. The Dean of Students (or designee) may require the suspected student(s) to submit to a drug test to verify that the student is drug free

3. Students found guilty of illegal possession, use, or distribution (including sale) of controlled substances will receive at a minimum:

a. A minimum of a \$150 fine,

b. 1 year of social probation,

c. The requirement to submit to and pay for a formal drug abuse assessment,

d. Notification of parent(s)/guardian(s) (dependent students).

e. Be required to submit to and pay for random drug screenings during the period of probation to verify he/she is staying drug free.

f. In addition, in cases where controlled substances and/or drug paraphernalia are found, local law enforcement authorities may be notified.



National Autism Awareness Month

By Michael Troutt

The most recent Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM-V), the definitive guide used by healthcare professionals to diagnose mental disorders, defines autism as “persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts.”

Since the early 1970s April has been designated National Autism Awareness Month, according to the national grassroots organization, the Autism Society. Every April individuals purchase and display the well-known puzzle piece merchandise to help support this cause and spread awareness. While Autism Awareness Month has been in effect for 40 some odd years, the documented history of autism has spanned well over a century.

In 1911, Swiss psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler coined the term ‘autism’ from the Greek word autos--meaning “self.” He used the term to describe symptoms of schizophrenia which would contribute to the misleading association of autism with schizophrenia for decades, according to the American Psychiatric Association (APA). In the early 1940s there were two pediatric professionals that began working with autistic children. American

child psychiatrist Leo Kanner and an Austrian pediatrician named Hans Asperger.

While both described individuals with impairments in eating habits, social interaction, difficulty adjusting to change and oversensitivity to certain stimuli, Kanner’s patients struggled with verbal skills while Asperger reported that his patients were very articulate. Kanner hypothesized that the root cause of autism was due to the frigid treatment that children received from their mothers. This destructive idea was reinforced in 1967 by a self-educated psychoanalyst named Bruno Bettelheim. In his book “The Empty Fortress,” he described this idea that would later be dubbed the ‘Refrigerator Mother Theory.’ Beginning with Kanner’s hypothesis in the 1940s, along with the supposed association between autism and schizophrenia, children suffering from autism were often viewed as a source of shame and were sent away to institutions.

After this false assumption was generally accepted for decades, the 1970s brought forth improved research. Psychologists Lorna Wing and Judith Gould set out to determine the actual prevalence of autism. Before

their groundbreaking research, it was believed that autism occurred very rarely. Wing and Gould’s research revealed that autism was more prevalent than originally thought and that symptoms of autism existed on a spectrum--a wide range of minimal to severe.

In the 1980s and 1990s, with the expansion of the spectrum to accommodate all degrees of symptoms and the release of the movie “Rain Man,” awareness of this disorder grew. As more children were being correctly diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), awareness and funding has grown globally over the last two decades.

Blackburn chemistry professor Jim Pickett reported that he has a family member who is severely affected by autism, and stated, “It affects the whole family [especially] when it’s so profound.” In regard to awareness Pickett said, “I’m glad to see that there are more avenues for help.”

Today, one in 68 children are diagnosed with ASD, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and

many organizations have set out to gain funding to help illuminate the cause of this once greatly misunderstood disorder. To help support research and awareness, visit autismspeaks.org or projectautism.org to donate or get involved.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLICDOMAINVECTORS.COM

Autism awareness has greatly expanded in the last two decades

Bingo or Bingone

By Blade Williams

Bingo has long been a popular student activity on the Blackburn College campus. Platinum bingo is even more popular. At the end of every semester, the special event takes place where instead of winning cheaper prizes like at ordinary bingo the Campus Activities Board (CAB) buys expensive electronic prizes such as playstations, televisions, ipods, etc. Bingo is so popular that the attendance can reach more than 50 students. At platinum bingo attendance can skyrocket to more than 200 students.

Director of Student Engagement and Resident Director of Jewell Hall Alondra Olvera is in charge of organizing bingo and stated, “I enjoy seeing the students enjoy platinum bingo and bingo. I think it’s one of our more popular events on campus and I think it’s one of the events that brings students together.”

Although a popular event, there are only two platinum bingos a year - one at the end of each semester - and regular bingos have dropped from being a monthly event to only being played once or twice a semester. Even though the number of bingo events has decreased, students have varying attitudes about them.

Senior justice administration major Victoria Zimmerman loves bingo on campus and said, “I like it. It is a great way to take a break. And I personally could never afford the prizes I have won. Like a surface tablet and keyboard. That’s like \$500. They should keep platinum at the end of the semester. It’s something to look forward to. The smaller ones are nice to have sprinkled, especially the ones that have gift cards, laundry supplies or food.”

Sophomore professional writing major Kara Aldridge-Folger is not too concerned with the future of bingo on campus. She said, “I’m indifferent by it. If I had to pick one over the other I would say I mostly dislike it. I’ve never won. Neither have my friends. We like the prizes, but we feel like we don’t stand a chance when we see the same people shouting bingo and winning.”

Olvera added, “I think bingo, while a great way to get students together, should be limited to make it feel like a special thing. Like Platinum Bingo is great at the end of each semester because it’s the last hoorah where we’re finishing up the semester. We’re getting together in a large group but I don’t necessarily think it should be more than it already is.”



HANGRY STUDENT: Burgers ‘n More Delivery

By John Hummer

When making the decision of what restaurant to call for delivery, the stereotypical choices that come to most Blackburn students’ minds are either a pizza joint or the Chinese place. What if I told you there was more? There is Burgers ‘n More in fact.

Unlike every burger place I’ve ever been to, Burgers ‘n More is a delivery- only restaurant in Carlinville. This makes it convenient if you want a good meal but don’t want to leave your room. The prices are reasonable too, but keep in mind that there is no pick-up option. Be ready to pay a few extra bucks more to tip the delivery driver.

The meal that I ordered recently was a double decker burger and a side of french fries, and it was far better than any other burger available in Carlinville. The patties were thick, hand made, and not overly greasy, and the fries were crisp and not over seasoned. The service was adequate. Both the person on the phone and the driver were friendly, and the food arrived just under an hour after I ordered. That’s not too long considering the quality



PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER
The double decker burger comes with two hand-made patties, four slices of cheese and four strips of bacon

of the food and the fact that I called at 6 p.m., a busy time for restaurants. The portions were also generous. They filled me up nicely, and I’m not exactly a small person. If I wasn’t as hungry as I was, I might not have been able to finish the whole thing. What I ordered came to \$14, but it is possible to order

a full meal under \$10. Burgers ‘n More is not just the name of the restaurant but it’s also the truth. The menu has a respectable selection of foods like burgers, shoes, hot dogs, soups and a few dessert options. There are also specials posted on their Facebook page almost every

day.

The only criticism I have is not with the food but their web presence. There is no website, only a Facebook page. I personally believe that every modern business should have a website along with social media, and Burgers ‘n More is losing exposure and customers due to this. Another problem is viewing the menu. On their Facebook page, if you click “menu,” only a copy of their catering menu pops up. To view the normal menu, you have to dig into their photos. There is also an older version of the menu in their photos that has different prices, and it is very easy to accidentally skip over the new menu and order off the old one. I made that mistake and got a little surprise when the bill came.

I have already recommended Burgers ‘n More to my friends. It’s good food, and it definitely blows the standard fast food or Snack Bar burger out of the water. You can place an order by calling 217-930-2277, and you can view their menu on the Burgers ‘n More Facebook page.



Jurassic Journalism

By Patrick Benedict

This article was originally published in the Saturday, April 22, 1950, issue of The BlackBurnian. The original author of the story is the entire ‘Burnian editorial staff at the time. The story features plans for expansion to the college including a science building and dormitory for men.

Administration Releases Plans for Expansion
Science Building, library, Dormitory To Receive Construction Priority

What is Blackburn planning for the future?

Through the cooperation of Dr. Robert P. Ludlum, President of the

Administration Releases Plans for Expansion in 1950

College, and the work office, the ‘Burnian is able to announce that large scale expansion plans for the physical plant are now on the drawing boards. They include a new science building, another men’s dormitory, a new library, and a student union building. All plans are tentative and no construction arrangements have been made, but Dr. Ludlum stated that as money becomes available these and other improvements will be made. Blackburn-future, as illustrated on a reproduction of a blue print carried in this issue, would have an enrollment of between 30 and 400 students; an increase of approximately 60 over present figures. Most of the

planned improvements will be made in the area facing University street. In 1946, Dr. R. W. McEwen, former president, presented to the Board of Trustees a long range program for expansion of the physical plant. The first step of that program was completed with the dedication of Jones-Allison hall October, 1949, and Dr. Ludlum said that the objectives of the 1946 program remain much the same. In addition to the new buildings an enlargement of Clegg chapel is planned. The present chapel has a capacity of 300 and has choir space for 36, but with an increased enrollment more seats would be needed. However, the three main buildings needed at this time are a science unit, men’s dormitory, and library. They are considered equally important, and construction will begin as the necessary financial arrangements are made.

A new library is considered a necessity with any increase in enrollment. The exact site of the structure is yet to be determined, but in all likelihood it will become the east wing of Hudson hall in balance with Clegg chapel, or a separate building to the east of Hudson hall. Either site offers room for expansion at the back. The present library space on first floor Hudson could be turned into classrooms or offices. With the enlargement of the chapel the main entrance to Hudson hall may be changed from the College Avenue drive to the west side of the building facing University street.

In the 1946, report, Robertson hall, present home of the chemistry, biology, physics, and art department, were termed “long outmoded and too small for our work in science.” The

proposed science building would be located on the present athletic field. All work in science including adequate classrooms and laboratories for work in natural sciences will be consolidated in the science building, thus making Robertson hall available for courses having little fire risk. Robertson hall was erected in 1880 and is the only material link the college has with its nineteenth century history. A new athletic field would be constructed on lots west of Dawes gymnasium.

A second men’s dormitory is needed to as the necessary men to maintain the work program. The administration feels that a dormitory for 60 men would answer the demands of the work program. It would be located to the north of Butler hall, present men’s dormitory, or on the College property bordered by East Nicholas street and College avenue next to the Wilson house faculty apartments. The present tennis court area will be made into a large parking lot. An area east of Dawes gymnasium is being leveled for tennis courts in order to consolidate athletic activities near the gymnasium.

A student union building is one of the last phases of present expansion plans. The Beaver Den is considered as an interim step between the “old milk house” and the proposed unit. The Stoddard hall center is satisfactory, but with additional students its facilities would be highly taxed.

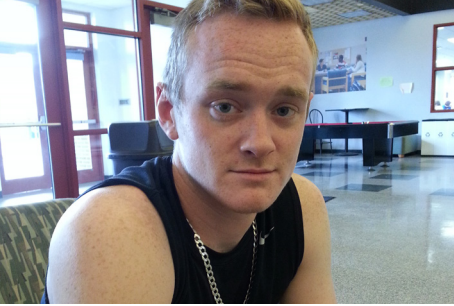
The proposed center would be attached to the south side of Butler hall forming a right angle. It is proposed that the present parlor in Butler hall might be incorporated into the recreation area.



By Michael Troutt

Chicago mayor, Rahm Emanuel, wants to introduce an additional requirement for all high school seniors in the city’s public school system; in order to receive a high school diploma, students must provide written proof that they have been accepted to a college, trade school or the military.

“What do you think about Emanuel’s idea?”



Richard Sherman

Freshman Business Major

“It should be the decision of the student whether or not they go to college or to a trade school or if they want to go directly into the workforce.”



Asia Coleman

Sophomore Biology Major

“I’m kind of for it, but I’m kind of not. I feel like it [the proposal] needs more work.”



Jaide Trevino

Junior Environmental Biology Major

“I think it could be beneficial even if a student decided that they don’t want to go on to higher education ... they can learn about more opportunities.”



Jenin Kimber

Senior Psychology Major

“I think that there’s some value to that ... but I also think that it’s almost overkill.”



Justin Norwood

Associate Director of Admissions

“If you look at the dropout rates ... they’re already astronomical. They need to focus on those first three years.”



By Caleb Long

Here’s my top musical picks for the week:

Cameron Avery - “Watch Me Take It Away” The Tame Impala sideman just released a new album recently and it is definitely worth a listen or two. Pulling influences from artists like Elvis Presley and Father John Misty, Avery’s music has a classic coolness to it. This track is for when you are in a rocking mood or just looking to take it easy.

Frank Ocean - “Nights” Frank Ocean has been on heavy rotation recently. There aren’t many artists out there that are as visionary or as honest as Ocean. This cut from his latest album, “Blonde,” tells a story about Ocean struggling with drug addiction and poverty in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. You can certainly feel the emotion here.

Alex Turner - “Hiding Tonight” Alex Turner of the band Arctic Monkeys goes solo on this number equipped only with an acoustic guitar and a set of really well crafted lyrics. Turner is easily one of the best songwriters of his generation and this track is proof of that.

Earl Sweatshirt - “Chum” Earl Sweatshirt may be one of the most underrated artists in hip hop right now. His beats are solid and his flow is tight. This song sets a serious and contemplative mood. However, the outro instrumental is upbeat and a bit haunting. Perfect for those solo night walks around campus.

Daniel Caesar - “Get You (feat. Kali Uchis)” I don’t need to say much about this track. This song is sexy. The bass line is driving and funky. It reminds me of “Prototype” by OutKast. It’s beyond cool. And it doesn’t hurt that both Daniel Caesar and Kali Uchis have stellar soothing voices.

ArcticMonkeys-“PiledriverWaltz”

This is one of my favorite Arctic Monkeys tracks. The guitar work sounds like something Johnny Marr would have played on a Smiths albums. However, I’d pass on this track if you just got out of a breakup. This song is all about heartbreak and you can hear it in Turner’s voice.

Miguel - “Sure Thing (Live)” While there is a full band version, it is my belief that the acoustic version hits harder. It’s a love song about being what the other person needs and putting someone else first. It is not just the lyrics that make this song pop though. Miguel’s voice is smoother than silk.

Electric Eye - “Heavy Steps on Desert Floor” My friend Megan introduced me to this band, describing them as “great music to drive to.” She’s not lying either. Electric Eye are easily one of my new favorite bands. Everything they do is dope.

Childish Gambino - “What Kind of Love” This is the track that got me into Gambino in the first place. Originally a song that was never meant to be released, this intimate acoustic track shows off Gambino’s beautiful voice. Consisting of beautiful but simple lyrics about love and its complications, this song is sure to firmly tug at your heartstrings.

Gary Clark Jr. - “Travis County (Live)” Here is a rocking track to round off the list. Gary Clark Jr. is the new guitar master. Originally from Austin, Texas, Clark plays everything from rhythm and blues to alternative rock. This track is somewhere in the middle, giving off some major Chuck Berry vibes.

CAMDENSEAT DRINK SHOP

Boutique Hours

Tue-Wed 10am-5pm

Thur-Sat 10am-Close

Restaurant Hours

Thur-Sat 4pm-Close

*open for lunch, 11am on Saturdays during Carlinville Market Days (first Saturday of every month, April-November)

15%

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*ON SELECT MERCHANDISE

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Did you know?

College graduates who speak Spanish are twice as likely to get hired, and earn 20% more?

You don’t need a minor at Blackburn if you take 4 basic Spanish classes (fewer if you had Spanish in High school).

Spanish

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Something To Talk About



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE JACKSON & PR

Artist Derek Patterson makes art with a message

By MICHAEL TROUTT

On Thursday, Mar. 23, in the Lumpkin Learning Commons, artist Derek Patterson presented an exhibit of his latest works, collectively entitled “Identity.” A native of Dayton, Ohio, Patterson utilizes his artistic abilities to initiate conversation on racial issues. He graduated from Kentucky State University in 2016 with a bachelor’s

degree in studio art and is currently enrolled in the graduate program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Patterson began the exhibition by explaining that the collective purpose of his artwork represents “how I feel as a black student from the inner city.” He then spoke briefly about personal

experiences that inspired him to create his recent collection. He elaborated on the back stories of an image entitled “Color Blind” and another titled “I Don’t See Color” that were portraits of his seven-year-old son. Patterson added that the intention of his works was to “present them in a way where it creates conversation.” Afterwards he encouraged the audience to interact and ask questions about his artwork. While most questions surrounded the meanings of particular pieces and his approach to art, Patterson noticed a peculiarity among the students in the audience. They were segregated. He bluntly pointed out the division of the room and asked white students why they weren’t asking any questions. A moment of dead silence fell over the audience. Sophomore psychology major Tyla Ross described it as “a beautiful eye-opener. I mean, this is something that happens every day. And it’s amazing how an outsider who observed it, brought it out.” After the silence cleared and he finished the conversation with the audience, Patterson reflected on that moment. “It was kind of disheartening that it was segregated,” he stated. “I think it just reinforced my idea (that) nothing will ever change if we constantly have this fear.” Tyla Ross related to Patterson’s message and said, “It really shows a good message about how us as black people feel about certain things.” In consideration of current racial

issues in the U.S., Patterson stated, “You know, my dad’s dad’s dad has been fighting this [issue]. Do I hope there will be a change?” he questioned before an apprehensive reply, “Yeah. But I think it will be a forced change.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIELLE JACKSON & PR

Patterson’s work generates conversation about race

Suess is Loose with Summer Rep

By PATRICK BENEDICT

The Blackburn Summer Repertory Theatre will put on a production of “Suessical: The Musical” this summer. The show will feature a cast of over 60 actors, singers and dancers from around the area all under the direction of Blackburn alumnus Reggie Guyton, Class of 2014. The show is a rock-opera style production that features a fused set of storylines from the popular series of children’s books written by Dr. Suess. Familiar characters such as The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, The Grinch, The Whos and many more make an appearance in this family-friendly homage to the work of Suess. As to be expected with any story from the Dr. Suess universe, the musical features rhymes, crazy creatures and the silly antics of the various characters. As with some of Suess’ stories, the show also includes some political and social commentary. Guyton points out that among them is “a distinct criticism of how we treat those who are dreamers, who don’t fit in.” He also adds, “I cannot stress how relevant, timely, and important this show is.” Suessical was not the first choice



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Suessical is coming to Blackburn Summer Rep

of Summer Rep this year. Originally they announced the staged version of the popular Disney musical, “The Little Mermaid” as their selected show. According to Guyton, due to some licensing rights issues with the show’s national tour, Summer Rep. was not able to acquire the rights to put it on. They then opted for another classic Disney musical, “Aladdin” as their

replacement but soon those plans fell short as well. Finally, the organization decided on “Suessical.” “I’m really glad we chose such a beautiful and relevant show,” said Guyton. At this point, rehearsals have yet to fully begin but Guyton is confident in the casting choices that have been made. “So far we have had two read-throughs so I’ve had a peek at some of

the character choices that have been made and I’ve already been brought to tears through laughter and emotion,” he said. Suessical will hit the Bothwell stage this summer on two separate weekends, June 29 to July 2, and July 7 to 9. Tickets can be acquired through Summer Rep’s website, blackburnsummerrep.org

My (Somewhat) Hypocritical Advice

By Sarah Collman (Class of 2016)

Dear Soon-to-be Graduates,

This is it. What you’ve been looking forward to for four whole years (give or take). You’ve taken the classes, worked tirelessly both day and night, drank A LOT (energy drinks before tests and alcohol after... depending on your priorities) and now it’s finally coming to a close. You’ve ordered the cap and gown, and you’ve been counting down the days one-by-one with gleeful anticipation.

Don’t worry. Your day will come and it will be as fabulous as everything you’ve dreamt. I mean, mimosas at the President’s house -- what more could you really ask for? The thing about special occasions, though, is that inevitably, they end. And after all the bubbly novelty of your freshly-graduated self has worn off, you’re left saying, “Now what?”

Seriously, now what?

Many people might answer this question with, “Now you get a job... get your own place... go to grad school...” You catch the drift. While these are all practical answers, these are all incredibly irrelevant if you don’t do one thing first.

Now, more than ever before, you take care of yourself.

Okay, well, what does that mean? First, I’ll tell you what it doesn’t mean. Courtesy of yours truly, here’s the top



GRAPHIC BY JOHN HUMMER

- five things NOT to do after graduation.
1. Don’t start smoking cigarettes. If you’ve made it this far without using tobacco, keep it that way.
 2. Don’t become a pseudo-alcoholic. Drinking alone on a Tuesday night while watching reruns of “Friends” has never been cool, and it never will be cool.
 3. Don’t let your weight get out of hand. You might have more money once you get a job, but more money should not mean more McDonald’s. That shit is going to haunt you. Trust me.
 4. Don’t spend all of your free time alone. It’s not healthy for you to all of a sudden become a recluse if that’s not your preferred way of living.

5. Don’t sleep on a twin mattress on the floor of a building that may or may not have poisonous spiders lurking around. Just don’t.
- Alright, thanks for the advice, Sarah, but that still doesn’t tell me what I SHOULD do. Well, self-care can vary greatly from person to person, but there are some shared themes. Take care of yourself by cutting through all the relentless noise in life and get back to the basics: Mind, body and soul.
- Just because you don’t have any more classes doesn’t mean you should stop learning. Find out what it is that you enjoy doing that keeps your brain active. If you don’t enjoy reading or writing, find other hobbies that keep you engaged. Learning a new skill is

still learning -- learn to knit if that’s what you’re into.

Feed and exercise your body. Do it often and do it well. Learn about nutrition. I’ll say it again for the people in the back: LEARN ABOUT NUTRITION. Pizza is not a food group, contrary to what you might believe when there are half a dozen or so different places to order pizza in Carlinville alone. Find an exercise that you enjoy. Weight lift, run, do yoga, dance around your apartment in your underwear or be active some other way. A happy body is more likely to house a happy mind. Human bodies were made for moving.

Nourish your soul. Ask yourself what makes you want to wake up in the morning. Spend your time and energy on people, events and things that truly make you happy. Keep a journal. Read self-help books. Surround yourself with positive energy and return positive energy back into the world. Meditate. Thank God, the universe, Allah or whoever/whatever higher power you believe in that you had the grand opportunity of waking up today. Lather, rinse, repeat.

Oh, one more don’t for the list:

6. Don’t feel sorry for yourself. You’re f**king graduating college. You got this.

Puff, Puff, Pass the Amendment

By Christopher Best

Public opinion on marijuana is at an all-time high. So much so that Illinois State Representative Kelly Cassidy recently proposed an amendment to the Cannabis Control Act that would legalize recreational cannabis consumption for adults 21 and older in the state, essentially treating marijuana the same as alcohol. This proposed amendment is part of an ongoing trend across the United States normalizing the recreational use of cannabis, and if passed, would function similarly to policies enacted in Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Obviously, the benefits of passing this amendment are enormous for our broke and budgetless state. It would increase tax revenue (according to the Colorado Department of Revenue, cannabis earned the state over \$135 million in 2015 and it is estimated that nearly \$200 million more was earned last year), fewer tax dollars would be pointlessly wasted housing non-violent criminals (despite recent relaxations on cannabis regulation in Illinois, as of June 2015 over 500 inmates were imprisoned for violations of the Cannabis Control Act and an additional 655 were on parole according to the Illinois Department of Corrections 2015 Fiscal Year Report), and state tourism would likely see a significant increase (one study commissioned by Colorado’s tourism committee suggests that 49 percent of the state’s tourism is attracted by their legal weed laws). Not

to mention that according to a survey done by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, nearly 70 percent of Illinoisans support legalization. Clearly, the case for passing the amendment is strong. Unfortunately, it is up to our state’s incompetent lawmakers from here.

But despite the possible lift on the prohibition of devil’s lettuce, you should think twice before you light up that broccoli.

Any ganja guru will be quick to point out the many reported benefits of smoking the greenery: it kills cancer cells, has the potential to treat a variety of physical and mental ailments, is not physically addictive and unlike most other recreational drugs, including alcohol, it is impossible to overdose on tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient in marijuana commonly referred to as THC. Yet despite the increasing popularity of the pro-pot movement, there are actually a number of potential pitfalls to smoking herb that no one seems to want to talk about.

Though marijuana is not physically addictive, studies and testimonies of numerous long-term habitual grass smokers have indicated that a mental dependence to reefer can occur. Anyone can name at least one person they know that seemingly cannot go a day without smoking bud, and according to The National Institute of Drug Abuse, this behavior may not be without long term side effects: anxiety,



GRAPHIC BY LUIZA MYSLINSKA

depression, short-term memory loss, and attention deficiencies are all symptoms associated with habitual cannabis use, especially among those who began smoking as teenagers. Worsening symptoms of preexisting mental disorders like schizophrenia have also been linked.

Though some handle the effects of cannabis better than others, very few recreational smokers truly benefit from smoking. As a friend once pointed out to me, bud’s appeal is also its biggest flaw: it makes you okay with doing nothing. We all want to be our best

selves and make the world a better place for future generations, but if you coast through life in a haze of smoke it may be difficult achieve these goals. As with all things, moderation is key, and marijuana is not for everyone.

If Illinois has the sense to finally end cannabis prohibition, nothing will stop you from smoking all the sticky icky your heart desires. Just keep in mind that, like any other substance, if you let marijuana become an essential part of your routine, you may be letting it become a problem.

Please Help: Overworked

By RACHAEL CHONG

I am tired. I am worn out. Overworked. Exhausted. I am at the end of my rope. And it does not have to be this way, but Blackburn College and its Work Program did not consider what would be best for its student workers when it, without warning, created a new policy mid-semester regarding make-up hours. Now, rather than be allowed to make up hours in our own departments, students like myself, who are 10 or more hours under, are being forced to make up those hours in “departments of need” like Campus Services (CS) and Dining and Hospitality (Ding).

But our own departments need us. These departments have hired us

for our skills, talents and knowledge. When we miss hours, it is our own department that suffers. My failure to work a full 10 hours some weeks at The ‘Burnian doesn’t affect CS or Ding. What has affected CS and Ding are poor management which led to a mass exodus from the departments at the end of last semester.

But more than being unnecessary, this policy is potentially harmful to students, and in my case it is. I have had severe anxiety and depression for most of my life. But with a lot of hard work and the right mix of therapy, medication, coping skills and generally taking care of myself, for most of the past academic year, I have been all

but symptom-free. In fact, this fall semester I didn’t cry once except for during movies. Suddenly, this isn’t true anymore. Suddenly, I am panicked and crying at the drop of the hat over things that do not matter because I feel like I cannot cry at the things that do.

One of the most important things I can do to take care of myself is to stay on a consistent schedule and get enough sleep. I had established this for myself, but all of a sudden, I feel like I have been physically knocked off of my course. I have been placed in CS to make up my hours even though I already had an under time contract. Now I need to work every morning at 6 a.m. or 8 a.m., and this is far from

the schedule I made for my classes that start at 10 a.m. or 11 a.m.

So to change everything now puts a tremendous amount of stress on me that affects my productivity in my classes and at work. I’m still working my 10 hours at The ‘Burnian (which requires mental energy I barely have right now), taking 14 credit hours and being a part of the Spring musical, which is now in long-running technical rehearsals. And I still need to find time to eat, sleep, try to make it to the gym and at least attempt to take a few deep breaths over the course of the day. This policy has robbed me of my sense of peace, but nobody who made that decision seems to care.

Child’s Play or Expression?

By JORDAN WOOD

It’s no secret that most of us have probably already forgotten most of what we learned in high school. For me, there is one thing I will always remember; it is a line from my script as part of the speech team, a quote from Pablo Picasso: “Every child is an artist. The problem, is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”

Prior to hearing that quote, I had always had an immense passion for art, but that particular line got me thinking - why exactly do we grow out of art and should we? The short answer is actually pretty simple, we grow out of it because we let ourselves grow out of it. The long answer is a little deeper than that.

One concept I can’t seem to ignore or get used to is the average reaction I get when I say that I am an art major or that I love art. Generally people respond with something along the lines of a contorted face and a “why would you put yourself through that?” No

matter how many times this happens to me, I just can’t bring myself to understand why that is such a common reaction. It’s not like I said I enjoyed stealing candy from a child. I simply said that I enjoy doing something that I love. Something almost everyone has done at some point in their life, at least according to Picasso. Given the fact that is no less than one of the greatest artists the world will ever know, who am I to argue with him?

One of the most beautiful things about art is that it’s universal. There is no language barrier. Even if someone from the other side of the world speaking Japanese looks at the same piece I do, it doesn’t matter that we can have a conversation with each other because the art does the talking.

Art can bring people together in ways that words can’t. If you think back into the days of the cavemen, their language was strictly grunting and drawings on a cave wall. Those

images were not only significant to them but us today as well. Because of those pieces of art historians have been able to put together information and dissect stories written on the walls. Many times throughout history art has played a major role in bringing people together with things like propaganda, and often times this artwork became power enough to win entire wars as it brought nations together. So if art can have such a powerful influence, why do so many write it off as “child’s play”?

To me, the sour taste many have towards art began with the misconception of what art is truly about. My belief coincides with the Oxford Dictionary definition that art is “the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination,” the key word being “expression.” Today, the term “art” has seemed to transform into this idea that a piece or product is either good or bad, and that is just utter crap. Since when has art ever been about

conforming to someone else’s opinion or approval? Since when has art been about anything but expressing? Yes, I understand “the beauty is in the eye of the beholder” but maybe the intention of the word beholder in this case has become skewed as well. What if “the beholder” is actually referring to the creator? I mean they are the beholder of everything that went into making that piece. And if I am the beholder, I say that the true beauty is in the feeling I get when I finish a piece. The true beauty is not in whether someone who has had nothing to do in the creating of that piece or with the reason or story behind it, approves of it or likes it or thinks that it is “good.” The true beauty lies with me. The artist. The creator. The expression. That’s the true beauty. So before you just assume that you can’t be an artist based solely on the fact that it may or may not be “good,” ask yourself: as a child, would you have cared?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters under 500 words may be sent to burnian@blackburn.edu, or mailed to The ‘Burnian, 700 College Ave., Carlinville, IL 62626.

GUEST COMMENTARIES

Editorials featured on the opinion/commentary page of The ‘Burnian contain staff members’ opinions. We welcome guest editorials between 400-500 words. The ‘Burnian does not endorse featured opinions. All submissions to The ‘Burnian may be edited for length and grammatical clarity at the discretion of the editors; however, authors will be contacted if content revisions are necessary.

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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.



Chessboxing

By **PATRICK BENEDICT**

What is evident from the combination of peanut butter and chocolate is that humans have a natural curiosity to form unions between two unlikely components. Perhaps this is what Dutch born artist Iepe Rubingh had in mind with his creation of the hybrid sport known as chessboxing.

As the name of the sport implies, participants pit both their minds and bodies against one another in a challenge of brains and brawn. The sport was first

invented in 2003 by Rubingh. That same year Rubingh founded the World Chess Boxing Organization (WCBO) and held the world’s first chessboxing world championship in Amsterdam. The final fight came down between Rubingh and fellow fighter Jean Louis Veenstra. Rubingh won the bout due to Veenstra exceeding the chess time limit, effectively making Rubingh the world’s first chessboxing champion.

The rules of the sport are not for the

novice in either discipline. According to the official rule book of chessboxing on the WCBO’s website, a bout lasts a total of 11 rounds with alternating rounds of chess and boxing. The fight begins with a round of strictly regulated speed chess. Fighters are required to make their moves under an allotted time or they risk disqualification. The complexity of the rules can be difficult to understand of just the chess rounds alone. Chess clocks are used to keep the bout moving and also keep track of a fighter’s total amount of time used. Both fighters are allotted nine minutes through the entire bout to complete the game of chess but that time is only used while it is their turn. If they exceed that total at any point during the chess game then they become disqualified. After three minutes of boxing the chess clock is stopped and the board is removed from the ring for the beginning of the boxing round.

Before the boxing round begins, fighters are given a one-minute break during which they are allowed to receive boxing advice from their designated coaches. The coaches are not allowed to advise on the game of chess. The boxing part of the bout begins and lasts a total of three minutes, applying all

of the same rules of standard boxing. After the three minutes are up both fighters are given another break and the chess game resumes. This process goes on for a maximum of six chess rounds and five boxing rounds.

While never having participated in chessboxing, Director of Counseling Services and avid mixed martial arts fighter and chess enthusiast Tim Morenz can attest to the challenge of both sports separately. “It would probably take some individuals that [three minutes] to recover after a round of boxing,” said Morenz, let alone using that time to play chess. He added, “If someone could do it they would be one bad ‘mama jamma.’”

Fighters can win a bout in multiple ways, including by knockout in boxing and checkmate in chess. The rules as officially stated and regulated by the WCBO also include procedures and policies for every conceivable outcome or dispute of a chessboxing match. These include how to deal with infractions, draws in the game of chess, the rules of boxing and how to declare the winner. A full PDF version of the official rulebook of chessboxing can be found on the WCBO’s website at wcbo.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

A chessboxing match in Berlin in 2008



COACH’S CORNER

By **HEAD WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH KATIE FONSECA**

The new fitness facility in Dawes will be a great addition to all of our athletic programs, athletes and general student population. It will be extremely beneficial to our student athletes due to the space that it is in, the amount of equipment and the type of new updated equipment that is available. The facility is able to accommodate more athletes at the same time. This allows more than one sports team to workout and not be crammed in on top of each other. We have upgraded the cardio equipment, adding five treadmills, three ellipticals, a stair stepper, two rowing machines and bikes. The addition of cable machines allow for more variety in areas of maintaining strength during in-season sports training and for our athletic training staff to evaluate and rehab athletes more efficiently if they become injured. We have spaced out the weight racks/bays and have provided an abundance of plate and free weight dumbbells that will accommodate multiple lifters to workout in that area

without having to wait in line to lift.

The new fitness facility will allow sports teams to recruit in a more efficient manner and be proud to show off the weight/cardio equipment and new locker rooms in selling their experience as a student-athlete during the recruiting process. The facility is not geared to one sport in particular but it was designed with all athletes in mind. The new locker room facilities are spacious and will accommodate up to 30 or more at a time. This is beneficial due to having multiple sports in session during the fall and winter that must share space. Athletes will not have to cart their equipment back and forth from their rooms but will be able to securely lock up their valuables and equipment before, during and after their practices and games.

The facility with new equipment, entertainment and new locker room facilities will be an added benefit for all student-athletes, programs and coaches.



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Coach Katie Fonseca believes the new facility will help athletes train better

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Brimberry Aces Her Last Season

By JORDAN WOOD

For almost as long as she can remember, Karlee Brimberry had a tennis racket in her hand. She attended her very first tennis camp in third grade and she has not looked back since. Where she was born and raised and how she was brought up played a major role in shaping the person and athlete that she is today.

Brimberry was born in Vandalia, Illinois, a town of around 7,000 people. The town lacked organizational tennis teams outside of the high school. However, it was her family that helped her develop as a tennis player from a young age.

Growing up in a large family with three older siblings, Brimberry was given a glimpse into the sports world at an early age. The journey of her tennis career actually started as a way for her to have fun with her sisters, Kami and Kourtney, as she “basically did anything they did because [she] looked up to them.” Over time, her passion grew stronger and so did her game, thanks in large part to her sisters. “Everyday after school in junior high I would walk to the high school and watch my sisters practice with their team. Then, on the weekends, Kami and Kourtney would get out and hit with me and really coach me on things I needed to work on.”

This preparation and practice with her sisters put her on a fast-track to



PHOTO COURTESY OF CANDACE POLLOCK

Brimberry gears up to serve in a home match

success as she was able to earn a spot on the varsity team as a freshman in high school and the top slot for singles and doubles competition as a sophomore. Her abilities were soon recognized, and she looked at several schools, but ultimately decided on Blackburn. Her older sister Kami and her brother Kody both attended Blackburn.

While it would be simple for Brimberry to act like the journey had been easy, she admits that at times it hasn't. “Tennis is exhausting for many reasons, not just physical... I've always been someone who likes a challenge. Sometimes it is frustrating being the

number one for singles because I play women that are nationally ranked and have personal trainers. Even though it's frustrating, and at times, I want to quit, I always come back for more. In a way, tennis is a part of my identity and I can't imagine not playing it. I also think I keep playing because even though I lose, I am still getting better because I am playing women that are better than I am; therefore, I am learning.”

Brimberry has held the top singles and doubles spot for the past two seasons, sharing the court with sophomore Gariel Pierce who “look[s] up to her abilities on and off the courts.

I love playing by her side, even through the ups and downs.”

Brimberry's coach for the past three seasons, Dan Hussey, spoke highly of Brimberry's ability, work ethic and personality. “Karlee might get frustrated on occasion, but once she's on the court, she always represents Blackburn well. For this we thank her. Success is not always measured by wins and losses, but how you go about handling your battles and business. We'll miss her determination to succeed, but mostly her friendly and fun personality.”

Brimberry's family has also made the journey much easier as it is clear how much they have influenced and supported her. “They come to all my matches. They are my fan club and always there to cheer me on,” she said. Brimberry also discussed how the influence of her parents and Coach Krause - her Fellowship of Christian Athletes faculty advisor - has continued to remind her of the one reason she continues tennis over everything else: to glorify God.

As Brimberry wraps up her final season before graduating with a communications major and a double minor in leadership and psychology in December, she looks forward to the challenge and rush that the game brings her, all while playing for God.

Can New Coach Lead Beavers To Infinity and Beyond?

By JORDAN WOOD

We are taught from a young age that first impressions are everything. They can be the difference in whether you get the job or not. They can set the tempo for an entire relationship. Some struggle with them, while others excel so well that within a matter of seconds they can leave you feeling like you've known each other for years. Sohaila Akhavein falls in the latter category. From the moment you meet her, you can tell that she is exactly what the women's soccer team needs, and exactly what will get them to the next level.

Born in Lansing, Michigan, but hailing from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Akhavein's soccer career began at the age of three when she saw her two older brothers playing and by seven, she was hooked. Throughout her early career she crafted her skills and earned her spot as a four-year varsity starter for her Oshkosh North High School team.

“High school is one of those funny age groups. Our team was not good... We played in a very tough conference and we finished [in the bottom two] all four years. It can kind of [alter] what

you really think of the game and what you want out of it. It was hard, but going into college I was hoping that was going to change and it did.”

Akhavein took her opportunity at Marian College in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and ran with it, earning first team all-conference honors and breaking Marian's record for goals in a single season by a freshman.

It was her junior year of high school when Akhavein first thought about becoming a soccer coach and since then it has been her dream to coach at the collegiate level. She was given that chance as an assistant coach at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. While she was there, the team reached a program best 10-7-1 record, but she found herself wanting more and found that in Blackburn.

“It's always been a dream of mine to coach college soccer. When I first started... it was at a very small school in Wisconsin, Ripon, which has the exact kind of feel of Blackburn. The students know all of the students. The professors know you... Even though it's a small campus it's fun to bring them together, in a closer knit community.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF PR

Akhavein also mentioned her interest in the work program because of the opportunity and experience it brings, understanding that “it's a great feeling to be a college athlete, but it's what you get out of your college experience academically that's even more important.”

Along with academics, Akhavein also sees the importance of a good team chemistry and overall positive,

enthusiastic atmosphere. A self-proclaimed movie buff, her favorite movie, “Toy Story,” might provide some clues to her coaching strategy. She loves the message of the movie as there are many correlations between it and her own coaching philosophy as it emphasizes the importance of teamwork and no man (or toy) left behind.