

BC CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS



Students and community members gathered in Jaenke Alumni Center after the Tree of Lights ceremony

PHOTOS BY CANDACE POLLOCK



Candles light a walkway from the tree to Jaenke



Blackburn's Tree of Lights



The Department of Music and Theatre decorated Bothwell

Doolittle Does a Lot



PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

Doolittle (left) spoke at the Veteran's Day convocation

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

In early November Blackburn College hosted a Veteran's Day convocation with keynote speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Debra M. Doolittle. Doolittle is currently on active-duty in the army and has been in the military for 26 years. Blackburn President Dr. John Comerford opened the convocation

saying, "It takes a strong, dedicated military to protect our country, and protect our values."

Doolittle was recommended by Blackburn alumna Barbara Oakes, class of 1969, and subsequently invited to speak at the convocation by Senior Director of Development Nate Rush. Doolittle's speech included details about her experience as a woman in the military. Women were held to

different restrictions than men, and some men just did not believe women should be in the military at all. After the convocation, she revealed that her experience in the military never brought her too many struggles. "I might have had the occasional gruff male that believed that females shouldn't be in the military," she admitted, "but that was just personality and nothing I couldn't handle." Other than that she had great leaders and was treated fairly.

Doolittle rose in rank to lieutenant colonel and led her own command of troops. In her speech at Clegg Chapel in Hudson Hall, she revealed to a large audience that when she was commanding troops while working with the Marines in 2007, they had very strict policies on females in combat. Doolittle managed to help stop that segregation and allowed her female troops to do the same jobs as the men in her command. Doolittle explained, "I did the same things the men did. I was a soldier first, and a female second." In response to Doolittle's empowering story for women, freshman art major Sacha GrayBeal said, "I like that she's going in the right direction for women."

Doolittle emphasized the importance of having a mentor and being a mentor. She later revealed that although she had many mentors in the

military, the one that stood out was her previous battalion commander. He is now a retired colonel, but she still talks to him to this day. She said that she would talk to him about her career in the military and even issues outside of the military, having somebody to look up to was very influential.

Another memory she recalled was volunteering for airborne school. She remembered, "Jumping out of a plane is something I've always wanted to do when I started the military. It was sort of a personal goal that I accomplished."

Her biggest struggle was finding personal connections with people. "I have friends all around the world," she explained, but she didn't actually feel a personal connection with anybody until she met her husband online. After maintaining a long-distance relationship for a year, he proposed to her. "He decided he would follow me," she said.

Doolittle plans to retire in the next three years but that is not slowing her down from starting school next fall to prepare for her second career. She wants to study radiation therapy because she's always been interested in the nursing field. Just as she said in her speech, "I've done everything I wanted to accomplish and I'm not done yet."

HELPING THE CONSERVATIVE VOICE

By Christopher Stahl
Staff Writer

Blackburn College's Republican Club had its first meeting on Monday, Nov. 26, and U. S. Rep. Rodney Davis and Illinois Rep. for the 95th district Avery Bourne attended. Both spoke during the meeting about getting involved in the field, what it's like working in politics and how they got to where they are now.

President and founder of the Republican Club Steven Cowles formed it because of "the lack of a voice of the Republicans on campus." According to Lumpkin Learning Commons Coordinator and sponsor of the club Barbara Clark, Cowles wanted "to inspire a civil discourse on campus where people on both sides can talk to and listen to each other without

judgment and learn from each other."

"It's for everyone. Anyone can join," Cowles said. "We're just a bunch of kids who want to learn more about politics." Even though their main goal is to bring a voice to Republican students, Cowles said that any student can join.

Bourne was excited to see people coming together to become more involved in politics. She said, "I'm really proud of [the Republican Club]. Every opportunity we have for any young person to get involved in government or politics or just to being aware of what's going on is really exciting."



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER STAHL

Students, faculty, staff and guests Avery Bourne and Rodney Davis gather for the first meeting of the Republican Club

President Sticks A Fork in Meatless Mondays

By Gary Lowder
Senior Writer

At the beginning of the fall semester, there were rumors that Blackburn College’s dining hall (Ding) would be observing “Meatless Mondays.” This would mean that every Monday, for all three meals, Ding would only offer vegetarian options. Student opinions on this were polarized. However, Ding continued to serve meat during Monday meals like normal. So, what happened here? Were “Meatless Mondays” ever a thing?

Dining and Hospitality Department Manager Layna Broux said in an email, “Yes, (it was real) and it was great! Until the president of the college complained about it.” Blackburn College President Dr. John Comerford explained his decision. “I was in there for dinner on Monday night, this was a couple weeks back. I stood there as I was surveying the food options with my kids. And I witnessed a quick succession of six or eight students walk up, look at what Ding was serving and groan in disgust and walk away.” He laughed, “I finally asked about it, and I heard one student say, (in a voice conveying extreme disappointment) ‘Ugh, I forgot, it’s meatless Monday,’ in that sort of tone.”

Comerford went to talk to Sodexo

General Manager Joe Piechowski who oversees Dining and Hospitality. “I went to Joe, and I said, ‘Hey, I heard a lot of complaints about this Meatless Mondays thing.’ I had never heard of it before this. Joe explained that it was a student request, but I told him that I had heard a lot of complaints from students,” Comerford explained. “I understand and fully support a vegetarian/vegan option, but not as the only option, and that was my advice to Joe.”

Comerford had beef with “Meatless Mondays,” and used a presidential veto (if you will) on it. But, as Piechowski explained, “Meatless Mondays” are kind of still around. “I would say at the minimum at least one line (will be vegetarian). But again yesterday both lines were vegetarian...” Piechowski explained that “Meatless Mondays” weren’t completely nixed, but were altered to be please everyone. “... There were a lot of students who were complaining about Meatless Mondays, so we had to change things up a bit. I just went back and looked at the menus for the last four Mondays and we certainly have had meatless options available at lunch and dinner for those days. For example, today at lunch both entrée and expo (the food display as you walk in) were both meatless,” said Piechowski. He also pointed out that



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

Students eating in Ding

Ding always has tofu available as well as veggie crumbles for students who might not be able to find a completely

vegetarian meal for themselves, as well as the vegan and salad bar.

A PATH LESS TRAVELED

By Kennedy Henson
Staff Writer

Guest speaker Tim Morenz presented at last month’s meeting for Life Paths, Blackburn College’s interfaith club. The event was open to the entire campus and Morenz talked about his personal path to Buddhism, as well as his daily practices which include meditation, recitation of vows, cooking, yoga and laughter. Morenz

expressed that his practice is ever evolving and he continues to attempt to find a routine that works for him.

Towards the beginning of the discussion, Morenz was clear that he was not trying to convert anyone. He was only there to share his story and answer questions.

According to Life Paths member Caleb Rieger, the club “dissects different belief systems and finds the

silver linings and comparisons between different scenarios.”

“Morenz is comfortable with telling other people how he got to where he is,” Rieger added. “I truly enjoyed the entire presentation.”

The meeting was relaxed and focused on the questions of the nine people present. Rieger said, “I liked how he was very informal about it. He sat on the floor the entire time which

I thought was really cool. It’s like one of the starting points of Buddhism in a way; you don’t need a chair.”

One question accounted for the majority of the conversation, which was what lead Morenz to Buddhism. He said he wants to believe in the afterlife, but also wants to live in the moment and make a difference now.



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WHEN PROCRASTINATION BACKFIRES

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

With finals approaching, students are realizing that all the time they spent in front of the TV or out with friends clearly should have been spent studying instead. This realization, however, will not help anyone pass their tests. It's time to come to terms with the procrastination and find out how to move forward. There are still ways that students can pass with flying colors on their upcoming finals.

For some, according to "The Costs and Benefits of Dawdling" from the Association for Psychological Science (APS), procrastination can increase quality if the student works better under high-stress situations. This might be why students procrastinate for tests if it works well for them on papers or other assignments. The APS also informed, however, that procrastination has a strong correlation with depression, anxiety and poor studying strategies. Just because procrastinating worked for the paper you wrote last week does not mean you can procrastinate on a test.

Whether you handle stress well or



Chemistry tutor Haley Simmons (left) helps a student with homework

PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

not, and whether you are a naturally good test taker or not, extra studying tips won't hurt anyone. One strategy, outlined by "Seven Steps for Test-Taking Success" in the American Journal of Nursing, is to know the types of questions that will be asked. Sophomore psychology and justice administration major Tina Hall admitted

to only studying the day before the test, but she has a variety of studying mechanisms including reviewing her study guides at least twice. "I try to use goofy ways to remember things on the study guide, for example, if something in the study guide reminds me of a character in a movie or if things rhyme with another word that connects,"

she explained. Mnemonic devices are another good tool for memorizing things last minute.

Professor of marketing and business management Dr. Christina McCurley recommends that students reread the chapters and the chapter review questions to have a good idea of what will be on the test. She added, "If you can read through a chapter and understand it in two hours, you've done something wrong." She explained that the material in a chapter is often so complex it takes longer than two hours to fully understand and be able to apply it. McCurley also emphasized using the tutors for help and asking them to quiz you. Not only do tutors have specific hours every week, but they are also available on-call; you can email the tutor or text them if they give out their phone number. There is a tutor schedule available on the student portal.

Double instruction period begins Dec. 12 and ends Dec. 15. You can avoid the stress next semester, by paying attention and studying continuously all year so that finals are not so overwhelming.

THE TRUTH BEHIND EVALUATIONS

By Kennedy Henson
Staff Writer

In order to receive final grade reports at the end of every semester, Blackburn College students are prompted to fill out evaluations about professors on the student portal. According to English and communications department chair Naomi Crummey, "Student evaluations are done by students and that gets processed by the office of Institutional Research. They pull the information off the portal where students report it and send it to individual professors." The information is also sent to the chair of every department, the division chairs, as well as Provost John McClusky.

The evaluations have two different parts. Part one consists of questions ranking certain traits and characteristics of professors, such as if the professor cares about student engagement during class or if students feel the professor is respectful. Students pick answers that range from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree," but these answers are represented as numbers when sent to professors, department chairs and division chairs.

Part two of the evaluations is where students can leave typed comments about the professor. These comments are only seen by the individual professor and are not shared with the department and division chairs. Professors could possibly receive poor comments on their teaching ability but the professors are not required to report these if they were to be written. "If someone in my department had been getting certain ratings and then they suddenly dipped... I would go to the faculty member and ask some questions about their teaching that semester," said Crummey, who was also previously humanities division chair.

Tenure also plays a role in the case of poor teaching being reported. Tenure is a term used in the education field that means giving someone a permanent post or position. Crummey said, "Typically before you get tenure, you have an annual review process. A lot of faculty members include their evaluation responses and numbers in their letters." These letters are annual reflections on how the year went. The evaluations are often part of the reappointment process before receiving

USE THE FOLLOWING SCALE TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THE FIRST SECTION														
1= Strongly Disagree; 2= Disagree; 3= Undecided; 4= Agree; 5= Strongly Agree; 6=Not Applicable														
	SD	D	U	A	SA	NA								
1. The instructor demonstrates interest in and enthusiasm for this subject.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
2. The instructor treats students with respect.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
3. The instructor seems to care about the progress of his/her students.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
4. The instructor tries to engage students actively in class.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
5. The instructor stimulated my interest in this subject.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
6. The instructor is readily available outside of class.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
7. The instructor explains ideas clearly.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
8. I have learned a great deal in this class.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
9. The assignments in this class were useful and meaningful.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
10. The instructor encourages independent thinking and creativity.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
11. The instructor speaks clearly.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
12. The course has been carefully planned.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
13. A student has to work hard in this class to get a good grade.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
14. I believe the instructor used our class time well.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								
15. The instructor welcomes student initiated questions inside or outside of the class.	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥								

SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF NATASHA CASEY

Part one of the professor evaluation

tenure. Provost McClusky agrees that the evaluations can give great insight to how interested students are in a class.

However, these evaluations may not be a complete reflection of one's teaching ability. "It's not a good indication because you never know if a student is mad about their grade so they say a bunch of stuff," said Crummey. Junior Johnathon Shaw fills out his evaluations quickly, but gives accurate ratings. Shaw said, "I only leave negative comments for professors

that I think deserve them. I don't leave good comments because that professor knows he or she is doing well because of their ratings."

Crummey indicated that teaching multiple classes over multiple years can be a much better indication of how a professor is doing. "I take them very seriously and they are very valuable for me. I've learned really important things from student evaluations over the years. They help me be more reflective on how to be a better teacher," said Crummey.

STAYING SUSTAINABLE



PHOTO BY SARA HYNEMAN

Recycling efforts have increased dramatically thanks to Sustainability Club

By Sara Hyneman
Staff Writer

At Blackburn College, the Sustainability Club is doing more than talking about leaving a smaller footprint. It's taking steps to ensure that Blackburn is greener, changing the college for the better and keeping the campus more sustainable.

One change is that Leave It To Beaver left the supervision of the work program and is now in the hands of Sustainability Club, lead by senior biology major Ben Fletcher. Leave It To Beaver is located in Olin 127, where students, faculty and staff can donate gently used, unwanted items for reuse or take something they need (such as a three-ringed binder) for free.

In the past, Leave It To Beaver was not well utilized by the Blackburn community due to its limited hours of operation. However, Sustainability Club is taking steps to change that. Fletcher explained that after a brief meeting to get a sense of what updates Leave It To Beaver needed, the club cleaned up and separated the unusable items from what could be used. What was still usable was largely donated to Catholic Charities in town so that the club could start fresh. Of changes that are coming, secretary of Sustainability Club and a senior biology major Laurel Petri seemed most enthusiastic about creating a rack for "interview-ready" clothes so students, especially low-income students, can present their best selves for professional opportunities like job interviews.

The club is also looking to expand various existing programs, such as the battery recycling program. In the past, the club put out simple boxes around campus for used batteries, which it then recycled. Their last recycling endeavor yielded about 10 lbs for a total of \$0.40, and they expect that they'll get more as the program continues. The club has

since replaced the battery recycling boxes with larger, plastic receptacles painted like batteries, making it easier to identify where to place used batteries for recycling. Another program the club wants to continue is the bike rental initiative. Club leaders are also looking for more information regarding how recycling is handled on campus so that they can quiet rumors that the recycling is not disposed of properly.

Other new projects the group is starting include planting a pumpkin patch on campus and putting up a greenhouse to grow fresh lettuce. Programs like this both serve as educational opportunities but also as ways to lower campus costs. Fletcher said, "Every year CAB buys pumpkins, but if they're here they can save that money. And if once or twice a month Sodexo can use freshly grown lettuce on campus, that's more money they can save, too."

Fletcher and Petri explained that the campus-wide sustainability initiative was a separate but related entity, attempting to bring together such groups as the Physical Plant, Sustainability Club and Pollinator Progress. "Everyone has their cliques," said Fletcher. "If we can combine them into one sustainability effort, it'll be strength in numbers."

Both Fletcher and Petri emphasized a desire to leave something better for future club members and students after they have graduated; programs like the pumpkin patch won't impact their lives but can improve the lives of incoming students. They also want to see the administration at large become more active in sustainability efforts. Fletcher wanted to see students take an active hopes in sustainability. "People should be aware of their impact... There are many ways to be green as a student and as a campus, and people should take advantage of it."



What is your favorite Christmas movie?

"‘The Grinch Who Stole Christmas,’ mostly because I’m like The Grinch."

Samantha Lake
freshman sports management major



"‘The Christmas Shoes,’ because it’s very family-oriented and it’s a movie that will make you think about your family and your love for that."

Amber Rodriguez
sophomore psychology major



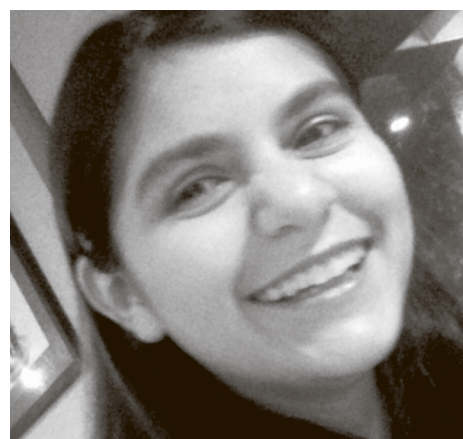
"‘A Christmas Carol,’ because I’ve always loved it all the way from when I was a little kid."

Blade Williams
senior communications major



"‘The Polar Express,’ because they have songs in there and it’s super amazing and the animations are nice quality."

Isabelle Powell
freshman psychology major



PHOTOS BY KAITLYN MITCHUM

RUMORS VS. REALITIES: VIOL



Josh Green is currently incarcerated in connection with a stabbing at the Carlinville Casey's



Brittany Stewart is also currently incarcerated in connection with the stabbing



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARLINVILLE POLICE

Takoda Harbaugh is charged with aggravated sexual assault and armed robbery in connection with an assault committed on Oct. 19

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All are welcome! ¡Vamos a hablar!

By Jordan Wood & Gary Lowder
Staff Writer & Senior Writer

The last several weeks have been filled with stories of sexual assaults and violent attacks at Blackburn College and the surrounding community of Carlinville, Illinois. But rumors spread fast at a small school, so let's break down everything that has been confirmed by the Carlinville police and campus security.

First, let's start with what we know to be true based on information that was gathered directly from the Carlinville police. In the past two months, two relevant crimes have been reported. On Oct. 19, at approximately 9:45 p.m., 22-year-old Carlinville native Takoda M. Harbaugh allegedly approached a woman walking to work. Harbaugh demanded money at knifepoint, and when the woman said she didn't have much, he sexually assaulted her. He then forced her to go to an ATM and withdraw cash. Harbaugh is being charged with aggravated criminal sexual assault and armed robbery. Both counts carry sentences of six to 30 years in prison if convicted. Harbaugh is currently being held in Macoupin County Jail with a bond of \$1 million.

Another incident occurred on Nov. 6 at the Casey's General Store in Carlinville. At 1:08 a.m. a white male subject entered Casey's, bleeding from

multiple stab wounds. Responding officers gave the victim first aid until an ambulance arrived. The subject was suffering from over 20 stab wounds and was transferred to a hospital in Springfield. Later that night, the officers responded to an address on South Locust Street, where they found Josh Green and Britney Stewart with blood on their clothing and about their home. After further investigation, a search warrant was obtained for the property. Both suspects are currently incarcerated in the Macoupin County Jail, and the investigation is ongoing.

Since the beginning of October, the incidents recorded above have been the only violent crimes reported, and neither of them occurred on Blackburn's campus. Blackburn Director of Campus Safety Morrie Frasier said that no sexual assaults had been reported on campus in the month of October, and any had yet to be reported to date. The campus crime logs (published monthly, so we only looked at October) confirmed Frasier's statement. With our combined experience doing the campus crime logs for over a year, no reports of sexual assault in a month are actually lower than normal. This isn't to say that no sexual assaults occurred, just that none were reported.

However, this doesn't mean that there haven't been disturbing events

RECENT CRIMES AT BLACKBURN

reported on campus. Student testimony to The 'Burnian reported the following events. On Oct. 30, sophomore criminal justice major and softball team member Abby Frerichs went to The Bullpen on Rice Street with multiple teammates to practice. At around 10:30 p.m. Frerichs decided to leave as the others stayed behind. As she began to walk back to campus, she noticed a car parked alongside it. Thinking nothing of it at first, she continued towards campus. "I heard whistling and men shouting things. Next thing I knew, they were

back in the car and I was running to make it back to campus," Frerichs said. The men continued shouting and following her. She eventually made it back to the school, hiding in the trees near the tennis courts as she watched the vehicle circle the Demuzio Campus Center parking lot before giving up their pursuit. Frerichs did not report the incident to campus safety and security or local police.

There has also been a sighting of a man wearing a clown mask on campus. This was confirmed in a Nov. 6 email sent from the Blackburn

Announcements. The statement said, "... a student reported an individual in a clown mask walking toward them. The Carlinville Police Department, in conjunction with Campus Safety and Security and Residence Life, conducted a search of the area the individual was sighted in, but no individual in a mask was found. Please report any strange incidents such as this directly to Campus Safety and Security by calling 217-825-3042." Although this reported event hasn't resulted in any injuries or incidents, it is still disturbing.

Students are encouraged to make

use of the Campus Safety and Security campus escorting service by calling 217-825-3042 at any time. Students should exercise caution, particularly at nighttime. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Interim Vice President and Dean of Students Abbey Hardin or Director of Campus Safety Morrie Fraser. Students are highly encouraged to report any suspicious or threatening behavior on campus.



By Gary Lowder
Senior Writer

[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, October's log will be published in November.

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 occurs on the basis of sex or gender, sexual harassment or sexual violence.

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.

From Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, the Campus Community and Safety Department and Residence Life handled a total of 19 incidents:

Oct. 1: Three separate incidents occurred on this day. There was vandalism to a golf cart reported in the Ludlum parking lot. A domestic dispute was reported in one of the residence halls. Marijuana odor was reported in a residence hall parking lot.

Oct. 4: Two separate incidents occurred on this day. There was a medical emergency in one of the residence halls and a dog "running at large" on campus.

Oct. 7: Excessive mess reported in a residence hall.

Oct. 10: Damage to college vehicle reported in a campus parking lot.

Oct. 12: Unauthorized guest in residence hall.

Oct. 16: Four separate incidents were reported on this day. An unauthorized visitor was reported in a campus parking lot. A welfare check-in was performed on a student in one of the residence halls. Theft was reported from a vending machine in one of the residence halls. Damage to a vehicle was reported in a campus parking lot.

Oct. 18: A welfare check-in was

performed on a student in one of the residence halls.

Oct. 19: A verbal altercation was reported in one of the residence halls.

Oct. 23: Marijuana odor was reported in a residence hall.

Oct. 28: Two separate incidents occurred on this day. A Clery reportable underage alcohol violation occurred in a residence hall. A domestic dispute was also reported in a residence hall.

Oct. 29: Two separate incidents were reported on this day. A welfare check-in was performed on a student in one of the residence halls and a medical emergency was reported in a residence hall as well.

Oct. 31: A foul odor was reported coming from a room in a residence hall.



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SNAPCHAT TAKES ON NEW LOOK



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUCY NICHOLSON
Snapchat recently released a redesign for the popular messaging app

By Ashley Thompson
Staff Writer

Snapchat CEO Evan Spiegel announced that a redesign was in the works for the popular picture and

video messaging app, and it is set to be released this month. Although details were sparse, Spiegel did confirm that the app will be easier to navigate than the current design. The goal of the new design is to expand the number of

Snapchat users. Junior creative writing major Jazilyn Colon said, “I don’t really use the app as much as I used to, but with the redesign, I may use it more in the future. If the goal of the new design is to get more users, then I think it could be good.” At this point, Snapchat is geared towards 13 to 34-year-olds in developed world markets like the U.S., U.K., France and Australia, according to Omnicore (a full-service marketing agency that provides information in analytics, reputation and social media). By redesigning the app, Spiegel hopes that the app will expand to those older than 34, Android users and those outside of the U.S. and parts of Europe. Since Snapchat came onto the scene in 2011, there have been many complaints about it. Snapchat can be a confusing app if one does not know the ins and outs of its system. After five years, the team behind Snapchat released a manual in 2017 to help users. Those who have learned to navigate the app may not be so appreciative of the new changes. Just like what happened back in 2013 when Snapchat released the stories feature. At first, users did not take to the development of stories as the team had hoped. Within the first six months of the story feature being released, few users took to it. However, the team held out until it finally became one of the most popular features of the app. As it stands, 18 percent of social media users use Snapchat, which has reached 41 percent of 13 to 34-year-olds daily, and there are over 300 million users monthly on the app. Whereas Facebook has an average of 1.66 billion monthly users and Twitter has 328 million users per month worldwide, according to Omnicore statistics. Freshman creative writing major Mikaela Moorman said, “The new design could possibly be a good thing. That is, as long as it is done in a way that keeps the current users and brings in new users.”

A MERRY ECONOMIC CHRISTMAS

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

Everyone is on a budget, especially students paying their way through college. However, that doesn’t mean we don’t want to get great gifts for our friends and family for the upcoming holidays. There are some cool gifts that can be bought or made for your loved ones this holiday season without a big budget. Homemade gifts are often the best gifts. Sophomore psychology major Amber Rodriguez remembered, “When I was little I made my mom a guitar and a drum with an empty coffee container and cardboard with hair ties for the strings. I painted and decorated it with small tiles. My mom loves music, and I felt proud about being creative.” If you’re on a tight budget and have some time to make your own gifts, I’ve compiled some lists with inexpensive gift ideas. In past years, I’ve given out the spa kit and mix CDs for friends, a picture frame and the hot chocolate package for family; they’ve all been a huge success. Everything on these lists are under \$10. **Packages:** Spa Package: basic nail kit (Dollar Tree \$1), hair ties (Dollar Tree \$1) and

fuzzy socks (Dollar Tree \$1) in a mason jar (Dollar Tree \$1) Hot Chocolate Package: hot chocolate powder (Walmart \$3, 10 packets) and a candy cane (Walmart \$2, 12 count) in a coffee mug (Dollar Tree \$1) Kids Package: crayons (Dollar Tree \$1), coloring book (Dollar Tree \$1) and a stuffed animal (Dollar Tree \$1) in a basket (Dollar Tree \$1) **DIY:** Decorate a plain picture frame (Dollar Tree \$1) Decorate your own ornament (Walmart \$7, 10 clear glass ornaments) Make a mix CD (Walmart \$5, 10 blank CDs) **Gifts:** Small poster (Walmart \$5) Used books from Amazon (Prices vary) Everyone loves socks (Dollar Tree \$1) Candy goodie bags: a bag of mixed fun size candy (Walmart \$5) distributed into bags (Dollar Tree \$1) There are more homemade gifts you can make for less than \$10. All you have to do is be creative as you explore some dollar and thrift stores to find the perfect gifts for the special people on your list.



PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE
Everyone loves hot chocolate



ILLUSTRATION BY SARA HYNEMAN

DING STEREOTYPES

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

There is a stereotype around campus that jobs in dining and hospitality (Ding) are not “real jobs” or are among the worst jobs on campus. These general worker positions in Ding are often looked down upon by the same students who utilize the dining services every day, and even some of the students that actually work there. The truth is, without those general worker jobs, we wouldn’t even have a dining service and these workers make up a lot of the campus population. Ding has 70 workers, 55 of them are general workers.

Dining hall assistant manager of time Jordan Mueller explained that his general workers are responsible for serving, cleaning and overall taking care of the facility. He said, “They do a lot of the same work [the managers] do, just not to the same extent.” The work ethic of the general workers varies depending on who actually wants to be there. “It’s not the most exciting work,” he admitted, “but you do have your workers that care about the restaurant that show up and enjoy what they do.” He noted that there are workers who don’t want to be there and play on their phones instead of work. Mueller has worked in food service since he was 13 and said, “There are people I’ve met that do it to put food on the table, so it’s



General worker Kyleigh Presley serving food during dinner

PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

a real job.”

Crew heads freshman Rommel Royster, freshman Allison Schardan and sophomore Jacob Dunskeis all agree that there are some employees who just don’t put the effort in that they should. Schardan said, “The employees that actually want to be there and understand that this is their job and they have to do it work their asses off.” She explained that the people who don’t work very hard don’t care about their jobs or their classes either.

All three crew heads have had

previous food industry experience, but that is not the reason they were promoted. Freshman crew heads Royster and Schardan were promoted three weeks after starting their jobs in Ding. “We had to show good work ethic and positive attitudes,” Royster said about how he became crew head so quickly. In order to get a leadership position, one must be able to do the general worker tasks, show up on time and do what is expected of you. Royster said, “I don’t ask the workers on my shift to do anything that I wouldn’t do

myself.” Ding, just like any job, will give back what you put into it. If you don’t feel like your job is worth putting in the effort for, that’s not a testament to the job, it’s a testament to your character.

Almost anyone can physically do the work food service jobs require, but not everyone has the personal discipline it takes. As someone who has worked in food service for two years, I’ve seen people fail at it. Sometimes they can’t handle talking to customers, but proper communication skills are required in any job. Sometimes it’s because people don’t like to do routine work every day, but that’s also needed in any job. The list goes on and on, but every “boring” skill that Ding workers practice, is a skill that is needed in every occupation, so what makes people look down on Ding workers so much? Dunskeis said, “The workers in Ding actually get a sense of realism by working there.” If anything, they acquire more skills and discipline than people sitting in cushy offices, but only as long as they apply themselves and do the job efficiently. Next time you bash Ding workers or bash your own job as a Ding worker, think about the skills you could acquire working there and how much better off you will be in future jobs.

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MISSION

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.

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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'BURNIAN DESERVES LESS HEAT, MORE LOVE

By Dr. Natasha Casey
Faculty Advisor

After six and a half years of advising The ‘Burnian, it is time for a new chapter. Dr. Mark Benedetti will take over advisor duties in January 2018. I would like to thank Blackburn College students, staff and faculty, as well as the many Carlinville community members, who’ve supported the student newspaper. I hope that you will continue to do so. Contrary to some misconceptions, faculty advisors don’t choose the stories and never deter the students from pursuing a worthwhile story (worthwhile is defined by the student journalists). For obvious reasons, faculty advisors should also never be the subject of, or author, stories in the campus newspaper (I’m breaking that last rule for the first time here). And as a new chapter in the campus newspaper’s history begins, I urge readers to remember:

1. The campus newspaper serves the students of Blackburn first, and what is of interest to them is not always the advisor’s (administrators, faculty or staffs’) cup of tea. Nor should it be.
2. The College Media Association’s

Code of Ethical Behavior for Advisors notes, “Freedom of expression and debate by means of a free and vigorous student media are essential to the effectiveness of an educational community in a democratic society. This implies the obligation of the student media to provide a forum for the expression of opinion – not only those opinions differing from established university or administrative policy, but those at odds with the media staff beliefs or opinions as well.” I acknowledge that this is sometimes uncomfortable but in the words of one ex-‘Burnian editor, it is equally important to remember that “we are not PR.”

3. Blackburn’s student newspaper is very different from most other student publications in large part because there is no journalism program at Blackburn, and the department of English and communications only offers one journalism class a year. Very few members of The ‘Burnian team actually take these classes.

4. Like every other student worker on the campus, ‘Burnian editors, designers, writers, photographers, web and social media managers are learning

their jobs on the fly and mistakes are inevitable. However, unlike most Blackburn student workers, ‘Burnian mistakes are public for the campus and wider community to note, scrutinize, complain and sometimes retaliate about.

5. ‘Burnian workers are under constant pressure to make relentless, weekly deadlines. Please answer their emails, return calls or speak to them for a few minutes in person so that they may write the best article possible.

In the past three years, ‘Burnian staffers have won 12 statewide awards at the Illinois College Press Association conference against students enrolled in journalism programs who plan to make journalism their career. In this competition, our students compete against students in colleges and universities SEVEN times the student population of Blackburn.

In closing, I am beyond proud of the remarkably hard working, talented and resilient members of The ‘Burnian and their ability to bring 12 pages of campus news to you 12 times a year. They are state champs! And as my colleague takes over the helm, please support and celebrate them as such.

FOLLOW-UP TO #METOO AT BLACKBURN

It was brought to our attention that in the last issue our editorial contained some outdated information regarding Blackburn’s sexual misconduct policies. The ‘Burnian regrets these errors. It is never our intention to publish outdated or inaccurate information.

In the interest of student welfare and to clarify the correct practices to take on campus, this editorial will discuss the discrepancies between the last issue’s article and the most recent sexual misconduct policy, giving more complete information on campus policies and procedures.

1. In the first article, we said, “...If they wish to involve law enforcement, then the victim will be referred to local police

and the issue is no longer handled by the college.” This statement is not completely accurate. The college will continue to work through campus processes even if the police are involved. The police may ask the college to delay its processes in criminal cases but this is often temporary and only for the sake of the investigation.

2. In the article we also stated, “... If it is handled internally, Blackburn security investigates and the case goes before a Conduct Hearing Board.” This is an oversimplification. Director of Security, Morrie Fraser, is the lead investigator should a case even get to the investigation process. However, he is in this investigative role under the Title IX preview, not because of his role as Security

Director as is referenced in the article.

3. The policy that our article referred to is the “Blackburn Sexual Conduct Policy.” This is an outdated name. The current policy is called the “Sexual Misconduct Policy.”

4. In the article we used terms such as “victim” and “perpetrator,” rather than the “reporting” and “responding” parties as written in the resource guide.

To understand the many options that are available for both the reporting and responding parties, please refer to the policies, procedures and services outlined in the student handbook. All of the information can also be found in the resource guide distributed by student life.

Beaver Break is sponsored by the Blackburn College Office of Student Engagement & CAB

EVENTS:

Friday, Dec. 8 - "Elf" showing and treats in Olin Lecture Hall at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9 - Bowling at Bowlero Lanes from 7-10 p.m. Rides available at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. from DCC Patio.

Blackburn Student ID required for 2 games and shoe rental



Crossword

Across

- 1 Mustache site
- 4 Stout relatives
- 8 Tennis units
- 12 Retirement plan inits.
- 13 Reactor part
- 14 Expanse
- 15 Dampness
- 17 Musical group
- 18 Tomorrow musical
- 19 Coloring material
- 21 Brink
- 24 Delete
- 28 Banner
- 31 Killer whale
- 33 Old salt
- 34 Roof part
- 35 Actress Arthur of Maude
- 36 Hair care tool
- 37 Joanne Woodward Oscar-winning role
- 38 Candle part
- 39 Matures

- 40 Jessica Parker
- 42 Exam
- 44 Alamos or Lunas, New Mexico
- 46 Land measurements
- 50 Grain tower
- 53 Ship’s window
- 56 English river
- 57 Downwind
- 58 Unit of elec. current
- 59 Version
- 60 Golf items
- 61 Time zone

Down

- 1 Capital of Peru
- 2 Home appliance
- 3 Anguish
- 4 Played a role
- 5 Gehrig, for one
- 6 Blunder
- 7 Germ
- 8 Cavalry sword
- 9 Geological period
- 10 Half a score

- 11 Heavy-hearted
- 16 Military blockade
- 20 Affirmative vote
- 22 Mongolian desert
- 23 Upright
- 25 Highly excited
- 26 Several
- 27 Wanes
- 28 Fixed charges
- 29 Volcanic rock
- 30 Swear
- 32 Sweet dessert
- 36 Snare
- 38 “ is it?”
- 41 Lacking companions
- 43 Repletes
- 45 Squabble
- 47 Stray
- 48 Shade trees
- 49 Month (Abbr.)
- 50 Took a chair
- 51 Old World vine
- 52 Cut off
- 54 Bullfight cheer
- 55 Sandpiper

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56					57				58		
59					60				61		

Tom Hanks Movies

- 1. In the film *Big*, Josh stays in what hotel in New York City?
(a) Sheraton (b) Hyatt (c) St James
- 2. How many Dr. Peppers did Forrest drink when he met JFK in *Forrest Gump*?
(a) 15 (b) 9 (c) 11
- 3. In *The Green Mile*, what illness does Paul suffer from?
(a) Prostate cancer (b) Urinary infection (c) Appendicitis
- 4. What was Tom Hanks’ character’s name in *A League of Their Own*?
(a) Walter Harvey (b) Charlie Collins (c) Jimmy Dugan
- 5. On D-Day, what beach did Captain Miller’s men land on in *Saving Private Ryan*?
(a) Gold (b) Omaha (c) Juno
- 6. In *Sleepless in Seattle*, where is Sam when he first sees Annie?
(a) Coffee shop (b) Airport (c) Grocery store
- 7. How much did Walter and Anna pay for their house in *The Money Pit*?
(a) \$200,000 (b) \$350,000 (c) \$500,000
- 8. How did Andrew’s law firm find out he had AIDS in *Philadelphia*?
(a) Lost weight (b) Lesion on forehead (c) Heard his call to doctor
- 9. How many roles does Tom Hanks play in *The Polar Express*?
(a) 9 (b) 4 (c) 7
- 10. Who was first choice to play Robert Langdon in *The Da Vinci Code*?
(a) Bill Paxton (b) George Clooney (c) Hugh Jackman

Sports Variety

- 1. Pele joined what North American soccer league team in 1975?
(a) Boston Minutemen (b) New York Cosmos (c) Philadelphia Atoms
- 2. In what year were the first Wimbledon Championships held?
(a) 1877 (b) 1892 (c) 1906
- 3. What was Mohammad Ali’s career record?
(a) 51 wins 7 defeats (b) 55 wins 5 defeats (c) 59 wins 2 defeats
- 4. The first World Cup for soccer was held in 1930 where?
(a) Brazil (b) Spain (c) Uruguay
- 5. Babe Ruth began his career playing what position for what team?
(a) Pitcher Boston Red Sox (b) 1st base Boston Red Sox (c) Catcher NY Yankees
- 6. When did Tiger Woods begin his professional career?
(a) 1998 (b) 1994 (c) 1996
- 7. How old was Martina Hingis when she won the Ladies Singles title in 1997?
(a) 18 (b) 16 (c) 20
- 8. How much does a hockey puck weigh?
(a) 6.5 to 7 ounces (b) 3 to 4.5 ounces (c) 5.5 to 6 ounces
- 9. How many home runs did Ty Cobb hit in his 3 World Series games?
(a) 0 (b) 5 (c) 1
- 10. In 1963 how much was paid to Willie Mays when he signed with the San Francisco Giants?
(a) \$250,000 (b) \$100,000 (c) \$350,000

Quotes

Unless you have some goals, I don’t think there’s any way to get above the pack. My vision was always well beyond what I had any reason to expect. ~ John Fuqua

The person with the best job in the country is the vice president. All he has to do is get up every morning and say, “How is the president?” ~ Will Rogers

Notice that the stiffest tree is most easily cracked, while the bamboo or willow survives by bending with the wind. ~ Bruce Lee

Disappointment is a sort of bankruptcy -- the bankruptcy of a soul that expends too much in hope and expectation. ~ Eric Hoffer

It is a scientific fact that your body will not absorb cholesterol if you take it from another person’s plate. ~ Dave Barry

A Not So Fresh 'Fresh Face': No Easy Layup



Jackson (left) looks for a pass

PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK

By Jordan Wood

Sports Writer and Layout Assistant

A layup: it's a fairly simple action that every basketball player has shot a thousand times. It's every young hooper's first shot to master. During an individual or team warm up, it almost always comes first. It's meant to be easy, a "gimmie" shot. But it's more than that. While it's "supposed" to be an easy shot, players often find themselves on the other end of a physical—and even mental—barrier that stands in the way of their goal. In many ways, sophomore Lauryn Jackson's basketball career has been just that, a simple, yet complicated layup.

In the seventh grade, Jackson discovered a layup for the first time. She was at a basketball tryout when the coach told the players to do something "simple," a layup. At the time, Jackson, not recognizing the term, watched the others and followed their lead. She eventually found herself on a talented squad with other seventh and eighth graders.

Despite success in the first two years of her young career, Jackson decided to drop the sport prior to her freshman year at Tonopah Valley High School in Tonopah, Arizona. However, her hiatus did not last long as she was quickly tracked down by girl's basketball head coach Katie Fonseca and earned a spot on the varsity team, just one of two freshmen to do so.

Jackson's freshman season—

which led to a trip to the Arizona state tournament—was essential in her growth, as she was constantly challenged by older teammates and a tough coach who saw her potential. "It was one of the most terrifying experiences of my life. I was only 13 and [Fonseca] screamed at me one time and I thought I was going to pee my pants," she said. "But I think from there it just escalated."

After high school, Jackson went on to play at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix, Arizona. It was there that her career, and life, took an unexpected turn, one that eventually led her straight to Blackburn. Shortly before the end of her first semester, she suffered a concussion while going up for a layup in a game against school rival, Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Jackson was told she would be out for three to four weeks. Between the injury and a near hour commute from her hometown of Tonopah, Arizona to Phoenix every day, she was worn out and decided to take time off from school.

After being out of school for three semesters, Jackson's urge to play again led to an impromptu decision. "I quit my job and left everything and came up here by myself," she said. She heard of Blackburn through Fonseca, her old high school coach who had recently been hired as Blackburn women's head basketball coach.

Unfortunately for Jackson, she was unaware that her time at her junior

college would force her to sit out a season. Because she played part of her freshman season at South Mountain, she was no longer allowed to compete athletically as a freshman. Since she left after the first semester, she was not able to complete her freshman credits, leaving her ineligible by the NCAA to compete until she reached sophomore academic standing.

Spending an entire season on the sidelines, unable to physically help her team, Jackson learned how to appreciate the little things. "I'm not taking it for granted because [sitting out] last season sucked. I think it also fueled me because now I'm constantly pushing. I push myself harder just because I know that at any moment it could be taken away. It makes me appreciate it more. And not being able to go home makes me focus harder because I don't want my mom wasting money on me," Jackson said, struggling to find the right words to explain how much making her mother proud means to her. Her mother, a cancer survivor, has always been her number one fan and continues to do so despite the near 1,600 miles between them. "Making her proud... she's the first person I think about. I know that she's a million times stronger than me because of what she's gone through."

It's that determined fighting attitude that has pushed Jackson to be the athlete, daughter and person that she is today. She also has had her own adversities to overcome. She possesses

all of the tools required to be a great basketball player—speed, agility, a solid vertical and an instinct on the court that can't be taught—yet once again basketball reminds us that there's no such thing as an easy layup. Around the age of seven, Jackson was diagnosed with Osgood-Schlatter Disease, which causes an inflammation of the patellar ligament, resulting in a large and tender bump below her kneecap that forces her to take extra precautions and care for her body. But still, Jackson pushes, giving her all to a game that has given her everything.

Throughout the years, Jackson has continued to push and grow both on and off the court, and while her journey may have started as the result of one simple shot, her path has taken her much further than the game. "Going out and playing that first day in seventh grade—that day has led me to where I am now, as a person and as a basketball player," she said.

It's stories like Jackson's that show how basketball isn't just a game, it's a way of life. It's the lessons and the challenges she has encountered that have molded her, made her stronger and allowed her to grow into the person she is today.

Jackson has come a long way since that first layup.



Jackson defends the court at home

PHOTO BY CANDACE POLLOCK