the 'burnian

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Beavers Go to the Finals

PHOTOS BY JORDAN WOOD

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Coach Steve Kollar holds his SLIAC Coach of the year award

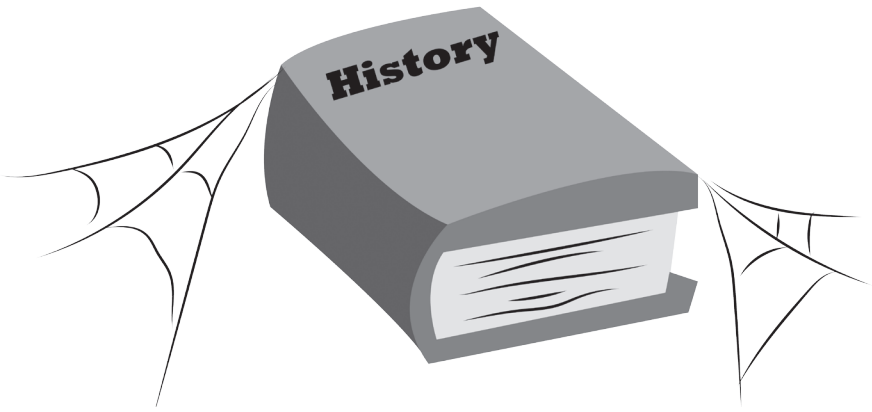
A basket is made

Malcolm Scott was named to the all-conference second team

Blackburn fans during the game

History is HISTORY

By Ashely Thompson
Staff Writer



College is a constant change of students, classes and professors. As professors leave or retire, departments become smaller, just as the history department has at Blackburn College. Now with only one history professor and one adjunct professor, the number of history classes being offered is too much for the department to bear. The only solution is to start cutting classes.

History majors and minors shouldn't fret; the classes they need for their programs will still be available, but instead of multiple choices of which class to take that semester, options will be limited. Instead of there being multiple 300-level classes to choose from, there may be only one or two. This will be dependant on the number of majors coming to the program and currently in the history program. The general education classes will still be offered during the semesters as normal, but the higher level courses will most likely be cut down to a more manageable number. This is due to the small class sizes that have been seen in recent semesters. One class may only have four students for each higher level class, and those numbers will be more manageable if the number of classes was cut down to increase the number of students in each class.

As classes are cut, some of the remaining classes may be combined, depending on the course material, to better fit the requirements of a history major. Instead of having two different classes focusing on the same time period from different areas, they may be combined to ease the number of classes taught. That is just one way the classes may be cut at this point in time. No permanent changes have been made yet.

The number of history majors has increased in the last few years and hopefully will continue to rise, but until then, the new cuts and classes will fix the overwhelming amount of classes. If the number of history majors increases, then maybe more classes could be offered in the future, but until then this is the only solution for the department.

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

After former Dean of Work Rob Weis left, Director of Career Services Suzanne Krupica took his place until Blackburn College could find a new manager. There have been many candidates for the position of Dean of Work, and the college has decided on Angela Morenz.

Morenz was a former Blackburn student who worked as a manager for campus services and was a physical education professor for five years in addition to the athletic director. Provost John McClusky said, "She knows Blackburn, knows the work program and is passionate about the student experience."

Morenz heard about the job opening from a few Blackburn staff members, which prompted her to apply. She sees this position as an "opportunity to work with students again, to teach, to mentor." She said the work program is like a larger version of a classroom where she can work with a variety of students.

As far as changes go, Morenz said she still needs to find her ground. However, she does want to work on the message of the work program, focusing on what it means to students based on their experiences. She wants to unify the campus around the work program because she views it as an integral part of the Blackburn community.

Currently the athletic commissioner for the Saint Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Morenz wants to help wrap up the winter season and begin her work at Blackburn. Her new position will be effective on March 5, but the transition has already begun. She has come to work committee meetings and was present for all of the general manager interviews. As the interim Director of Work, Krupica will continue to help Morenz with her transition, as will McClusky.

March 5 is a good time for Morenz to start, so she can have one week with the students before they leave for spring break. She wants to take the week of spring break to absorb all of her responsibilities as the new Dean of Work. "I want to dig my feet in first," she said, "so when everyone comes back from spring break I can hit the ground running." She acknowledged the problems that the college has been focusing on in terms of diversity in the work program. She revealed that the issue is something that has been talked about from the beginning of this process. This is an issue that she takes as seriously as the school.

During the vacancy, there were minimal problems, according to McClusky. He admitted, "When someone important like Rob leaves, there's always an impact." The adjustments from Weis to Krupica and now to Morenz caused additional time and stress to certain routines, but McClusky said everyone has done a great job in dealing with it. Now that Morenz is filling the position, she has high hopes for her future at Blackburn and is looking forward to getting settled.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELA MORENZ

Angela Morenz will start her possition as Dean of Work on March 5

Shining a Light on the Solar Array

PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

The solar panels will be set up by the practice soccer fields

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

Blackburn College has been looking into renewable energy for the campus for over a year, according to Vice President for Administration and Finance Steve Morris. Currently, they've narrowed it down to a solar array that would cost $3.5 million. To put it in perspective, the Woodward Fitness Center cost the school $1.8 million dollars, and this solar array is almost double that cost. This project was initiated by the Board of Trustees and is now being delegated through many channels of the campus. It all circles back to the Board of Trustees in the end, as they have the final say on what gets approved and what doesn't.

After a significant amount of research, the planning of this project is in its final stages. It is going to be a ground-mounted solar array with multiple panels in sequence and will run on a current electrical system. The solar panels are expected to take up half of the practice soccer field and have a lifespan of about 25 years.

Even though the array will cost millions of dollars, director of physical plant Sam Harding said, "The cost is parallel to the size of the product." Blackburn will have to take out a loan to cover the entirety of the project, including the installation and upkeep, but Morris said the return of interest will be significant and the loan should be paid off in less than five years. Electricity takes up two-thirds of the campus' utility bill, and producing their own solar energy will eliminate that cost. The return of interest will come from more than just saving $278,053 per year on an electric bill because the excess energy that our solar panels produce will be sold back to the electric company. To sweeten the pot, Illinois may pass incentives for using solar energy in April that would help with the cost.

Harding said, "If all goes well we're hoping to have this up and running by the end of this calendar year." There are still many factors outside the control of this administration that could change things. "If this falls through," Harding said, "we will not back down [from the idea]." Before going with the solar array idea, there were discussions on having solar panel roofs on the buildings. If the current plan falls through, Morris said they might go back to that idea but they will not just give up. "We want to reduce our carbon footprint," he said, "but it is also very cost efficient." After a decision is made to begin the project, the timeline will depend on the contractors hired to install the array. Blackburn will also include a yearly maintenance program to the vendor they choose to go with.

In order for this to get to the college board, it has to go through many committees. Morris explained, "We want to go through as many people as we can. It's so important that we get this right." The committees include sustainability, planning, budget, and, of course, the physical plant team. All committees also have students on them; everyone is involved.

Data services administrator and sustainability committee chair Kathy Ruiter revealed that other big universities are also going solar. According to the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA), solar power only generated one percent of the nation's electricity as of 2016. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that using renewable energy sources like solar power will help to "reduce the emissions associated with traditional electricity sources." The EPA also lists wind power, geothermal technologies, landfill gas, biomass power and low-impact small hydropower as renewable energy sources. Conventional electricity methods can produce carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, which are all greenhouse gases. According to the EPA, this means they "trap heat inside the atmosphere." Greenhouse gases directly correlate to climate change. In terms of human health, the EPA states that climate change can cause "more extreme weather events, heat waves, the spread of infectious diseases and detrimental impacts on air and water quality."

Even as a small school of fewer than 500 students, Blackburn uses electricity to keep lights in classrooms, offices, dorm rooms, the fitness center and so much more. It's more than lights when you account for televisions, cell phone chargers, miniature refrigerators, the exercise machines in the fitness center, computers and many other things. Making a change from using conventional electricity to renewable solar energy could decrease Blackburn's carbon footprint dramatically, and in this case, it will save money as well.

PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

If the panels don't work out, the school will look at alternatives like solar panel roofs for Olin and DCC

Do you think guns make society safer or more violent, and why?

"I definitely support the right for able bodied people to own firearms. I don't think that guns necessarily make society more violent. I think that in the right hands they can protect us and in the wrong hands they can harm us."

Sam Becker
sophomore accounting major

"I feel as if there were no guns than there would be no problem with guns to begin with."

Samuel Washington
junior criminal justice major

"I honestly feel very conflicted on guns. Having grown up around guns, I feel comfortable around them and respect that folks want to keep them. However I think that more rigorous programs to keep guns in check are needed. I think there is a fine line between too many guns and restricting people's rights, and right now our country is struggling on that line."

PHOTOS BY KAITLYN MITCHUM

Cheyenne Miller
sophomore undeclaired major

SOUTH KOREA: Perfect For A Girl Like Pierce

PHOTO BY KAITLYN MITCHUM

Gariel Pierce in the learning commons

By Kaitlyn Mitchum
Staff Writer

Junior elementary education major Gariel Pierce is excited to be studying abroad in South Korea June 25 to July 15 of this year. Although Pierce has been given the opportunity to study abroad before, this is the first time the program fit in her four-year plan.

"My sophomore year, I was accepted to study abroad in Ireland for the first semester of my junior year," Pierce said. "My academic advisors and my teachers talked me out of it because my major is education, and education is very competitive in Illinois."

Pierce had always excelled in school; she played and worked hard for her sports as well as her work program position in the Lumpkin Learning Commons. "I told myself that maybe there would be other opportunities to study abroad at a more reasonable and fitting time. My time finally came when I opened the announcements to see the opportunity to study abroad in South Korea over the summer. I thought to myself, this is perfect for a girl like me. I can study abroad and learn a totally new language and culture and not miss a semester of school," said Pierce.

In Pierce's essay to apply, she explained how the opportunity could not get any more perfect for her. Pierce is from Springfield, Illinois and has never really gotten out on her own. For three weeks she will be staying at a University in South Korea learning about the fashion, food and language of the culture.

"It's a three week program, so each day I will be learning something new, but we spend the whole day learning it. It will be very hands on, and I will get a lot of opportunity to visually learn." said Pierce.

Pierce explained that she is most excited for experiencing a new culture. "The distance that will… help me become more independent. And certainly the language. Those are what I am most excited for."

COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

South Korea is 6,711 miles from Carlinville

FEAR of the FLU

PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

Do your best to eliminate your own germs and keep yourself clean from the germs of others

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

The flu season isn't over yet and there have already been 84 flu-related deaths in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In the past four years, the highest number of flu related deaths was in the 2014-2015 flu season with 148 deaths.

Although it is scary that people are dying from the flu, it is avoidable by taking several preventive measures. The CDC highlights getting vaccinated as one of the best preventive measures. However, additional steps to preventing the flu at home include frequently washing your hands and avoiding sick people since the flu is highly contagious and can be spread from as far as six feet away. Now that the weather is getting cold (well, at least most of the time) people are staying inside more and are interacting more closely with each other in warm, hot spaces. This makes it easier to pass germs to one another.

The most important thing to remember during flu season is to stay home if you have the flu. It is inconsiderate and possibly dangerous to go out and spread the flu to the public. Some babies who are too young to be vaccinated could catch the flu and suffer serious health consequences. Some people in general might not have the vaccination and could contract the virus. Sophomore secondary history education major Sam Cranmer revealed that she got very sick over winter break and had the flu. "I missed going out on New Year's," she said, "but I didn't want to get anybody else sick."

The scary part about the flu is that you could start spreading it before you even know you have it. The CDC outlines these specific groups of people that are more susceptible to flu complications: "people with chronic medical conditions, children younger than five years old, patients 65 and older, residents of long-term care facilities, Native Americans and pregnant women." The complications could be bacterial infections, pneumonia and cardiac abnormalities.

There are antibiotics for the flu. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved drugs are Rapivab, Relenza and Tamiflu. These are available by prescription. The FDA states, "Prompt medical evaluation is important for early treatment of influenza as the antiviral drugs may provide the most benefit for patients who initiate therapy within 48 hours of symptom onset." There are also over-the-counter drugs that can alleviate symptoms, but that does not mean it stops being contagious, so it's best to stay in the house until the virus goes away.

PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

In this flu season, make sure cover your mouth when you caugh and sneeze

Vaccination is key to preventing your chances of getting the flu. The CDC only recommends injectable flu shots during the current flu season, not the nasal spray. The options are standard dose flu shots, high dose flu shots, shots with adjuvant, shots made with virus grown in cell culture and the recombinant vaccine which does not require the use of flu virus. High dose shots and shots with adjuvant are CDC-recommended for older people. Stay safe this flu season, and help keep others safe as well.

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, August's log will be published in September. Due to The 'Burnian's publication schedule, this issue's blotter will cover incidents occurring in January of 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 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.

Jan. 8: Suspicion of marijuana usage in a residence hall.

Jan. 11: Suspicion of marijuana usage in a residence hall.

Jan. 12: Suspicion of marijuana usage in a residence hall.

Jan. 16: Suspicion of marijuana usage in a residence hall.

Jan. 18: Reckless driving report filed in a campus parking lot.

Jan. 19: Emotional concern in a residence hall.

Jan. 20: Verbal dispute in a residence hall.

Jan. 24: Simplex alarm call in a residence hall. Emotional concern in a residence hall. Verbal dispute in a residence hall.

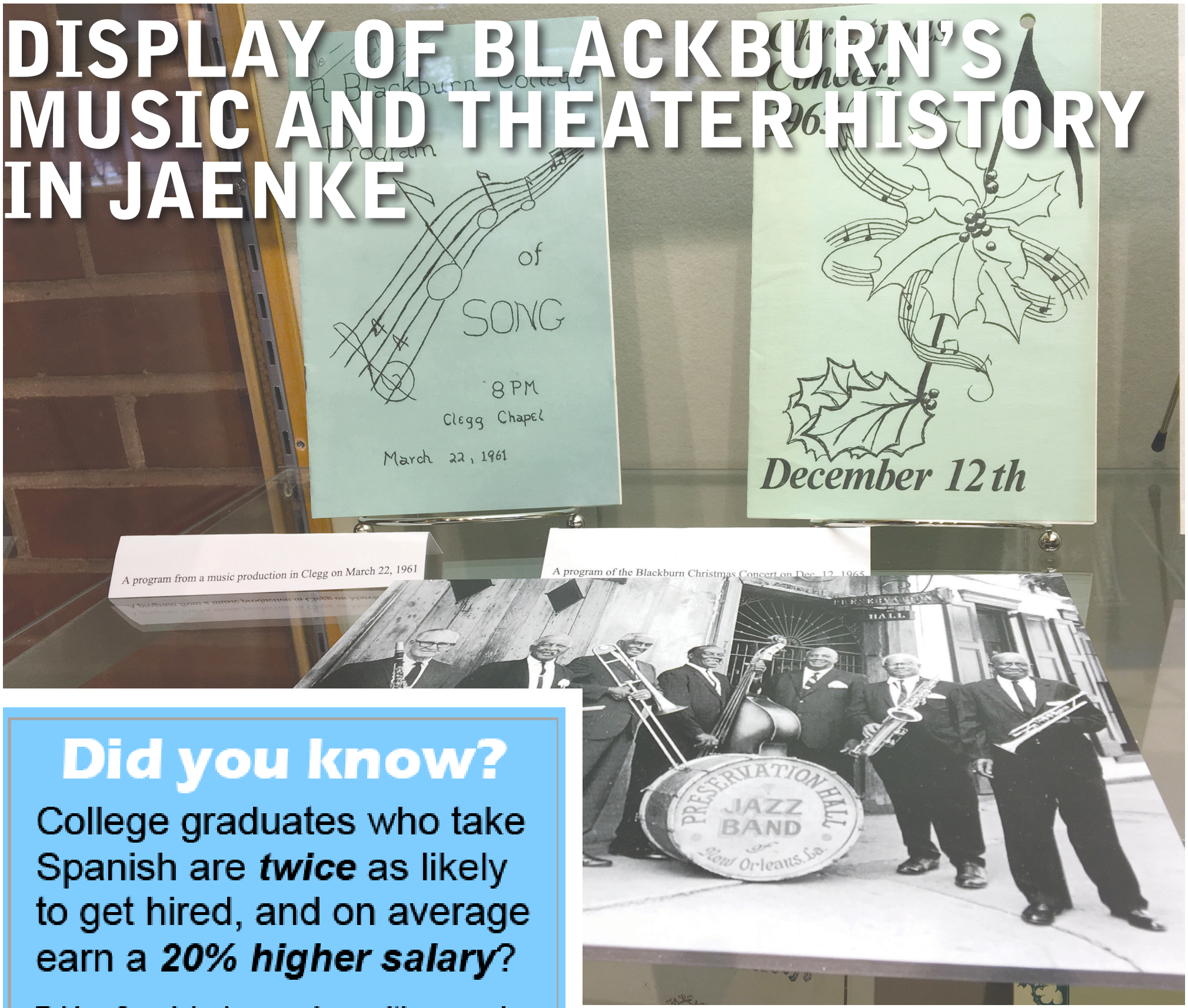
Jan. 25: Maintenance on call report in a residence hall.

Jan. 27: Suspicion of marijuana usage in a campus parking lot.

Jan. 30: Emotional concern in a residence hall.

Jan. 31: Emotional concern in a residence hall. Clery reportable underage alcohol policy violation in a residence hall.

DISPLAY OF BLACKBURN'S MUSIC AND THEATER HISTORY IN JAENKE



By Ashley Thompson
Staff Writer

The rotating display in the Claire Jaenke Alumni Center is now home to Blackburn's history of music and theater. The display holds many artifacts from Blackburn's theatrical past, everything from music programs to band photos. Some of the featured artifacts include a picture of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band of 1968, a program from a Christmas concert in 1965, a program of Bothwell Auditorium dedication from Oct. 11, 1970 and musical and stage production programs from over the years. All of the artifacts are from the Blackburn College archives.

The display was put together by alumnus Tom Emery, a professional historian, historical researcher and freelance writer. To create the display, Emery worked closely with Director of the Lumpkin Learning Commons Brian Hickam.

Emery has put together several other displays in Jaenke, including displays featuring Blackburn athletics, commencement, academics, back to class and others. In an email, Emery

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY THOMPSON

xplained why he chose music and eater to be displayed: "Blackburn has rich history of music and theater, and ountless students have been involved music and stage productions since e College's earliest days."

Blackburn has hosted a number top touring acts through the years, mery pointed out. Some of the more emorable ones include comic Jim affigan (2004), the Tommy Dorsey rchestra (1995), Michael Johnson 990) and the Serendipity Singers 988).

Along with the display case in Jaenke, Emery also put together the permanent historical exhibit that can be viewed on the walls of the Alumni hall. Again Emery worked with Hickam and others of the Blackburn Development Office to create the permanent display. The historical display won an award from the Illinois State Historical Society in 2017. Though the wall display is permanent, the case display changes throughout the year to feature different Blackburn historical themes.

Black Panther

Redefines Who Gets to be a Hero

By Sara Hyneman
Staff Writer

"Black Panther" is a unique film. Most superhero movies are almost entirely populated by white people, but "Black Panther's" cast is very Black. Most superhero movies have one or two women on a team of mostly men, but the majority of fighters in "Black Panther" are women. "Black Panther" is the first Marvel movie to feature a Black main character and a primarily Black cast, and was appropriately released in Black History Month. But it's more than its historical significance that makes it such an incredible film.

"Black Panther" takes place shortly after the events of "Captain America: Civil War" (2016). The main character T'Challa, played by Chadwick Bosemen ("42," "Get on Up"), is made King of Wakanda, a hidden country within Africa. Wakanda is the most technologically advanced country in the world because of a metal called vibranium that powers their city and technology. T'Challa is a good man, which makes it difficult for him to justify the continued isolation of his country when the world suffers in ways that could be helped by Wakanda's technology.

He's not the only one who feels this way. Erik "Killmonger" Stevens, played by Michael B. Jordan ("The Wire," "Friday Night Lights") sees the oppression of people across the world, especially Black people and hates Wakanda for failing to help them. But where other characters want to use technology to help those in need with minimal bloodshed, Erik is a sympathetic bad guy who wants to arm the oppressed people and violently conquer the world for himself.

The story follows T'Challa as he serves as King, protects Wakanda and wrestles with the sins committed by his father and those before him. The CGI is gorgeous and the fight choreography breathtaking. The soundtrack, a mix between traditional African music and modern rap and hip-hop, communicates about the characters even as it hypes viewer up. And the humor, unlike in many Marvel movies, never feels forced. But what makes "Black Panther" so compelling is the characters. The entire cast is strong, but special credit goes to Michael B. Jordan for making Killmonger an intensely sympathetic and compelling villain. Letitia Wright ("Urban Hymn") is equally as impressive as Shuri, the young princess of Wakanda and technical genius who designs and builds most of Wakanda's tech.

The film asserts that to hoard resources when they could be used to help others is a moral failing that must be corrected. Sins committed by one's ancestors may not be the current generation's fault, but the current generation must nevertheless attempt to make amends. In a climate marked by the U.S. government's attempts to curtail refugees and excise "outsiders" in great need, and in a time where movements like Black Lives Matter have brought racism and privilege into the spotlight, these messages are topical in a way that they would not otherwise be. Even the antagonist Killmonger is not really the villain; the villain is isolationist policies, oppression and generational trauma. Erik is merely the result.

SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF SARA HYNEMAN

"Black Panther" takes the best parts of superhero films and subverts the often white and male dominated nature of the genre, and the film is wrapped together with strong music, fights and characters. It will always be a fantastic film. But only now, in 2018, could it be the cultural landmark that it is.

USEFUL APPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

By Ashley Thompson
Staff Writer

There is no hiding from it: we live in a high tech world with information at our fingertips. Today's college students have grown up in this new world, and with the advances in technology come advantages in the realm of academia.

With the touch of a finger, college students have many tools available for school. Apps designed for college students are numerous in the app store today. There are apps that help with homework, research, schedules, studying and even note taking. The smart world is full of advantages that college students have access to and all are found on the phone in your hand.

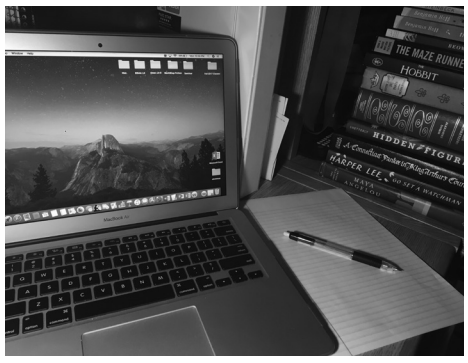


PHOTO BY ASHLEY THOMPSON
College students should take advantage of the free apps for their schooling

Homework apps:

Ebscohost: This is an online database, free for mobile users who need to research for that last-minute paper you procrastinated writing.

Simple Mind+ Mind Mapping: Map out your thoughts while doing homework. Use it for every class to help keep thoughts straight.

Online learning apps:

Easybib: Use this citation generator for those works cited and reference pages that nobody knows how to do by hand. Form a bibliography for free in any of the styles listed, some include: MLA, APA, Chicago, Harvard and more.

Instapaper: Save and store articles you find while researching to read later. Read them anywhere; no Wi-Fi is needed for this app.

Khan Academy: Learn about a multitude of topics such as math, science, economics, history and more. Use the free videos to learn more about topics that don't make sense in the classroom.

Organization apps:

Myhomework: This student planner will keep your classes and homework straight without the use of a bulky paper planner. Track your classes and assignments with notifications of when things are due.

iStudiez: Track your schedule, teacher information, update your grades and so much more with this app. Keep everything concerning your school life organized with this easy to use app.

Flashcards:

Quizlet: Create your own flashcards for those classes that require memorization or use premade cards by other students that cover the same topics to pass that next test or quiz.

Flashcards+: Create and study from your own cards without the need of index cards taking up space in your bag. Keep every study card organized by topic/class in this free app.

There are many apps available for students, free at the app stores. Students should learn to use these apps in their everyday lives, if they are available why not use them to better yourself?

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.

OUT WITH THE OLD

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

We live in a world where the internet is becoming the main medium for work, entertainment, learning and pretty much anything else you can think of. It would be beneficial for college students to become familiar with technology commonly used in higher education. Few assignments and homework at Blackburn College are done online; it's mostly paper and book work. However, this lack of multimedia work in the classroom is harmful for almost all students entering the workforce.

Blackburn uses the CAMS enterprise as a student information system. This system manages admissions, billing, financial aid, housing and many other aspects of the students' administrative needs. This interface then breaks off into the student and faculty portals. There are alternatives to this program like Canvas and Blackboard. They provide both a student information system (SIS) and a learning management system (LMS) just like CAMS. Along with admissions aspects of the program, Canvas and Blackboard can create assignments online instead of the typical worksheets and paper assignments found on CAMS. Canvas and Blackboard are both far more user friendly and interactive, and both systems also include clubs and organizations as well as courses for the individual student. For Blackburn, this means that each work department and sub-department could have a page on the site as well.

Blackburn's student portal has good features, but nothing that these other systems don't offer. Like Canvas and Blackboard, the portal allows professors to send emails through the system. The portal also has a spot where professors can upload documents, make tests and quizzes and upload grades as they go. Additionally, the portal shows the course selections for the semester and the book requirements for each course. However, the student and faculty portals do not have apps that make their site easier to use on smartphones. Canvas and Blackboard both have apps. The portal does have a mobile URL that students can use on their phones to make it operate similar to an app; it's just not as readily available as an app would be. The link is portals.blackburn.edu/mobility_student.

Director of Technology Services Jason Cloninger acknowledged that there are things missing from the portal, but that is why the college has Moodle. After using a Moodle, Canvas and Blackboard demos, both under the student functions and the professor functions, I found that Moodle was the hardest to use. As a student at Blackburn, I have never had to use a Moodle account for my classes, which means professors probably don't find it user friendly either. Out of all my classes, only one of them operates online, and that is not through Moodle, but Google Classroom instead. Cloninger admitted that he has heard problems with the portal. He said, "Every year people use the portal and don't configure it well." According to Cloninger, the problems with the portal are never about the software itself, but more so about upgrades the school missed or configuration changes.

Cloninger also mentioned cost as a factor in the choice of sticking with portal and Moodle instead of getting one program that can include all the functions offered by Canvas and Blackboard. He said, "It could be a matter of $10,000 to $100,000." Changing the software would affect every area of campus from admissions, to billings, to records, to all of the academic departments and to the work program. Vice President for Administration and Finance Steve Morris said he has not heard a need for a new software expressed by any faculty or board members. In terms of budget, Morris said, "The budget committee usually responds to requests. It's just a matter of department heads taking initiative and speaking up." He also mentioned that if the college were to get a new system, it would take at least a year to implement and, it would have to be done in stages. If the portal is something that needs to be replaced, however, it would be worth the money to integrate technology into the courses at Blackburn.

Many problems with the portal, however, exist because professors either don't know how to use it or refuse to try. Data Services Administrator Kathy Ruiter is familiar with the CAMS portal system forwards and backwards. She said, "Some of the senior staff are very resistant to use technology." The portal offers a very basic version of a learning management system, and while it isn't as pretty to look at as other software, it serves its purpose. If the professors now aren't willing to learn how to use it, then they probably won't be willing to learn new software either. The only standards professors are required to follow with the portal are uploading a syllabus, updating their contact information and providing a book list for their classes. They are not required to use the grade book, the attendance sheet or the documents aspect of their portal.

Ruiter expressed concern with the lack of standardization with the portal. She explained that the consistent use of the portal would increase retention rate, or at least help the administration to understand the trends of the retention rate. For example, the retention rate would probably be higher if professors used the grade book consistently so students know where they stand with their grades in class before it's too late.

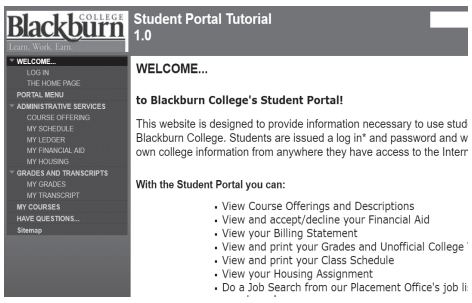


PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

The portal has a student tutorial on how to access all its features, but it might be more useful if the faculty had that instead

Also, updating attendance through the portal would help gather data on how attendance correlates with the retention rate. Ruiter said, "This fall we are going to start a big push for consistency with using the portal."

There have been training sessions with the faculty on how to use the portal. When the system was first implemented nearly nine years ago, the faculty received one-on-one training on the tools in the portal. Since then, whenever new professors come to the school, they also receive one-on-one training. Ruiter said a few years ago she held a review session on the portal and there was poor attendance.

After I learned more about the portal and what it can do, the problem seems to fall on the faculty for not using it properly. Although the other systems out there could be better than the portal, it's hard to know if it will work better here at Blackburn if the professors don't at least attempt to use it at its full capacity.

Ruiter observed, "Many, if not all high schools are starting to utilize technology, then they come here and it's inconsistent at best." The best way to increase technology involvement in the classroom is to have more mandates on professors to implement it. Although the portal may not be the best system out there, it's at least a very basic introduction to the integration of technology in higher education. Many other colleges have already caught on. Not utilizing technology to its full capacity is harming any student who plans to go into the workforce. The world is evolving and we need to be evolving with it.

the burnian

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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.

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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Hillsboro, IL 62049

WHO MANAGES YOUR MANAGERS?

No Comment

The First Amendment allows not only journalists but anyone to record and write about anything that is said in a public setting. This means that if you hold a forum or meeting that is open to the public, then photos can be taken, recordings can be made and articles can be written about that event. These public forums can provide good information, but The 'Burnian workers seek out more in-depth interviews to write strong and objective articles; however, issues arise when we have a hard time getting Blackburn leadership to agree to interview requests.

The lack of communication between Blackburn leaders and The 'Burnian is problematic because, as a campus, we need to be informed about the daily decisions being made by the institutional staff. Staff members in leadership positions have a certain responsibility to respond to The 'Burnian because the newspaper is the only objective source of news about the Work Office that our campus community can rely on. And when Blackburn leadership won't communicate with our reporters, the ultimate victim is you, the reader.

Blackburn is a small school run by a variety of people. Everyone at Blackburn, including leadership staff, is still learning. Not everyone is an expert in every position. Just like at larger schools, sometimes decisions are made that negatively affect some people. But everyone makes mistakes and The 'Burnian has certainly made its fair share. However, we assess and amend these mistakes when they are brought to our attention and defend our writers when necessary. Although the entire campus community makes up our readership, we aren't beholden to the school's management or administration and are fundamentally committed to informing the students. We do this because we are committed to delivering accurate, interesting and timely news to the Blackburn campus in an ethical and professional manner.

Our mandate is to hold the college and its managerial constituents accountable for their actions, and we are not able to do that if they will not speak to us. This is where we need the help of our readers. You should demand honesty, transparency and respect from your representatives on the Work Committee. If managers don't want to talk to The 'Burnian, we can't force them to. But if they give us no information, then we can't keep them accountable for their decisions that affect you and your peers.

New Year, New Snapchat

By Kennedy Henson
Staff Writer

By now, most Snapchat users' apps have updated to the new format, and based on reviews written after the release of the update, users do not like it. For starters, the print size is much smaller when browsing through the chat section, making it much more difficult to see when you have an unopened Snapchat or message than in the previous format. Instead of the large box or arrow appearing next to the name of the recipient or sender, the Bitmoji of said person appears, with the box or arrow showing up under the name much smaller than before. Streak and friend emojis are also much smaller and appear next to the rest of the information instead of on the very right side of the screen.

There is no longer a story section, which is very confusing and annoying for regular users, since that has been a part of the format since Snapchat was originally released. Stories are now located in the chat section of the app, mixed in with all of the users' personal chats. This part of the update also rearranges the order in which the most recent chats appear. Some users were worried they would miss a friend's story if they haven't chatted with them recently. This is not true: the stories appear near the top of the chat section even if there is no recent conversation between the two users. However. there is a problem with this feature as well. Not all stories appear directly at the top of the chat section. There is a "View More Stories" button, which will drop down to the story within the chat list. This reason for this is unknown, though. It also puts the most recent chats at the bottom of all the stories, which is inconvenient if the user is only trying to open new chats and messages.

The discover section serves almost no purpose if you don't care about those specific stories. It shows public and popular stories and websites including Buzzfeed, People, Food Network, and "official stories from Manny Mua, Trevor Moran, Kehlani and Patrick Starr." For users like me, this is a pointless feature. I only want to see the stories of people I know personally and are on my friends list. This feature is different from other social media platforms, where users "like" or "follow" celebrities and informational posts.

Freshman Elementary Education major Caitlyn McCarthy said she does not like the update "because of the way they have the stories now. It's hard to see when your friends have a story and the story page itself is just weird."

Junior Biology major Ethan Childers dislikes the update because "there are a lot of unnecessary features added and several taken away that I liked. I really dislike that after I view someone's story, their name stays within my recent chats instead of disappearing."

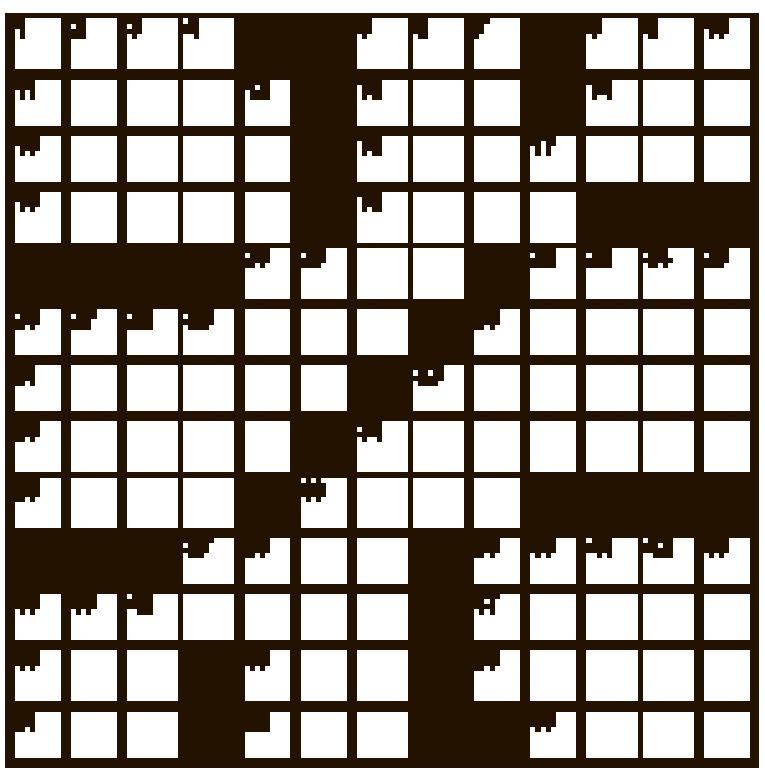
There are a couple aspects of the new format that are not completely terrible. One is the addition of new text formats on photos. When users take a photo on the photo screen, tapping the "T" icon should bring up the keyboard as well as a box with a multitude of new text formatting options. These options include "Glow," "Rainbow," "Gradient" and "Old English." The other is the new options for Bitmoji, an animated version of the user, which include new hairstyles, outfits, and facial features.

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

EVENTS:

This week:
Joseph Reohm, a Magician Illusionist will be in Bothwell on Friday, March 2 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 3 at 8:00 p.m. in DCC come show off your skills at Bad Art Night!
Next Week: Enjoy your well deserved Spring Break!

After Spring Break:
Friday, March 23 will be Bingo in DCC at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday March 24th, come join us at Bowlero Bowling Lanes for a night of bowling! Bowling is from 7-10 p.m. Your Student ID gets you two free games and a shoe rental! Rides provided at 7, 8 and 9p.m.



Rock Minutes

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Sports Minutes

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9. [illegible]
10. [illegible]

Quotes

A designer knows he has achieved perfection not when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away. ~ Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A fine reservoir. Problem up for bailout. ~ Cartoon

A great leader's ability to see and develop talent comes with a sense of humor. ~ H. R. Haldeman

A person's reaction to adversity is more important than adversity itself. ~ H. S. Kushner

We have always been a nation of values. Always the impossible is needed to inspire your work. ~ Bella Abzug

ANSWERS ONLINE AT THEBURNIAN.COM

PARTY LIKE ITS 2005:

"WE'RE GOING TO THE 'SHIP!"

By Jordan Wood
Sports Writer and Layout Assistant

When the 2017-2018 basketball season kicked off and the Saint Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) released their annual preseason rankings, the Blackburn men found themselves on the outside looking in as they were placed ninth with only Fontbonne University below them. Even though preseason rankings don't hold much value once conference play starts, the Beavers took their ranking as evidence of doubt (let's be honest, being the underdog is nothing new to Blackburn) and quickly set out to prove those doubters wrong.

As October practices turned into November games, the Beavers got out to a hot start, opening conference play with three straight wins (the men also went 5-1 overall during that stretch). Although they had their low points just like any other team does, the men showed time and time again what they were all about. Getting stronger from every challenge, with just a handful of games left in the regular season they were all but ready to shock the same conference who picked them ninth.

And shock they did.

In their final two games, Blackburn found themselves in must-win situations. It would have been rather easy for the fairly young group to crack under the pressure, but they didn't. Instead, they played some of their best team basketball all year, pulling off two overtime victories against Webster University and Westminster College in order to lock up a top four finish along with a bid to the SLIAC conference tournament.

Entering this year's tournament, the third-seeded Beavers would have to go through the second-seeded Eureka Red Devils in the first of two semifinals Thursday night. The two teams split their matchups during the regular season, each team finding victory on their home court — Blackburn by a score of 78-61 and Eureka, 103-76. However, in Eureka's loss to the Beavers, they were without their top scorer Shea Feehan who was named SLIAC Player of the Year and finished the season second in the nation in scoring with 31.5 points per game in conference play. Needless to say the Beavers knew they would have their hands full with Feehan, who dropped 49 points on them in their loss just a few weeks before.

PHOTO BY JORDAN WOOD
Junior Jamaya Wyatt comes up with a block in the first half of the championship game against Greenville

PHOTO BY JORDAN WOOD
Kollar acknowledges and thanks his players and the fans as he accepts his Coach of the Year award

But as the teams tipped off, everything from the regular season was erased and the slates were blank. It was just two teams that were about to lay everything out on the line in pursuit of one goal. The only problem for the Red Devils? Only one would succeed in that goal.

The Beavers arrived with a game plan but left with something more. Right from the tip it was clear that neither team would back down as the largest lead either could build was just seven points across 21 lead changes and 16 ties. Down the final stretch, both teams were given a huge chance to put their team up, but missed free throws by both teams as the final minute wound down kept it close. Then, a last second three-pointer by Eureka's Ryan McElmurry as time expired sent the game into overtime where Blackburn was able to shine in a place that they had become all too familiar with in their final three games, pulling off an 86-80 upset and advancing to the school's first conference championship since 2005 (Blackburn defeated Webster 65-52 to take home its third conference tournament title). Junior Duncan King finished the game with 20 points while senior Malcolm Scott (17), freshman Bryson Kirby (14), sophomore Karson Hayes (12) and senior Reed Rusten (10) all contributed significantly.

Unfortunately for the Beavers, their offense fell just short in the championship game against one of the fastest paced and highest scoring teams in college basketball (slightly over 126 points per game), Greenville University. Blackburn jumped out to an early 17-8 lead, but an 18-2 run by the Panthers that eventually worked into a 24-point lead erase it. Despite their deficit, nothing seemed impossible and the Beavers showed they were far from out of it (especially the day after Drexel University made history by overcoming a 34-point lead by the University of Delaware). The team was able to fight their way back into the game by cutting the Panther lead to four points with just four minutes left of the game but their comeback came up just short as they fell by a score of 126-119.

Despite not taking home the championship trophy, the Beavers were able to collect some hardware for their tremendous efforts this season. Winners of the conference's top awards included:

Steve Kollar: Coach of the Year (shared with Greenville's George Barber)

Nigel Ferrell: All-Defensive Team

Malcolm Scott: Second Team All-Conference

Karson Hayes: Third Team All-Conference

Reed Rusten: All-Sportsmanship Team

While Blackburn fell shy of their ultimate goal, their season was proof of several things. They showed that what others think or expect does not and should not stand in your way. That true champions come from within. That if you want something bad enough, nothing should stand in your way. Congratulations men!

PHOTO BY JORDAN WOOD
Nigel Ferrell brings the ball down the floor as he's tightly guarded by Eureka's Hank Thomas