

BC Tennis Looks to 'Bounce Back' This Season



PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

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Freshman Erica Bechtold crafts her skills in a practice following the team's opening match conference victory



PHOTO BY NOAH DAUM

Student art show was a success

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BLACKBURN
FILES
LAWSUIT

PAGE 2



PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

Sharing is
CARING



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OUT OF OPTIONS: BLACKBURN FILES LAWSUIT

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

Many students, especially the residents in Jewell Hall, are already aware of the problems with the air conditioning system in that particular dorm. Last year, the students living in Jewell had to move all of their belongings out of their rooms for the duration of winter break so Physical Plant could try and fix the problem. Nevertheless, the mildew and fungal build up in Jewell Hall persists. Because of the complications with the system and the trouble it has caused students and staff, the college has made the decision to sue the company that put the system in place. The lawsuit has been filed, but no court date has been set.

According to President John Comerford's monthly letter, the most economical solution is now to replace the whole system. The company that installed and designed the heating, ventilation and air cooling (HVAC) system is Henson-Robinson out of Springfield. Vice President of Administration and Finance Steve Morris said in an email that "Blackburn has sued Henson Robinson for breach of contract, negligence and related claims arising out of their design and installation of the HVAC system at Jewell Hall that has resulted in the conditions currently being experienced."

Blackburn has tried to fix the problems caused by the HVAC system. The evacuation during the 2016 winter break was hard on some students, but they were compensated for it. The students received \$100 for themselves,



There are no substantial health risks for anyone living in Jewell

PHOTO BY GARY LOWDER

and another \$100 deducted from their tuition. Former Jewell Hall resident Cheyanne Miller said, "It sucked having to move everything back and forth so much. I didn't have a lot of problems with it but I know others had it pretty bad." During winter break, Blackburn had to replace the mattresses and paid a professional cleaning crew to try to get rid of the mildew.

The new system is estimated to

cost \$500,000. Until the lawsuit is resolved, Comerford's letter said that the school will have to take on debt to fix the issue. Blackburn is suing for more than \$600,000, which includes the costs of the mattresses Blackburn has had to replace along with the poor retention rate in the dorm for the 2016-2017 school year.

There are no substantial health risks for anyone currently living in Jewell

Hall. Morris revealed that Blackburn has worked with expert consultants to make sure that the students will be okay, but it could be irritating to students with allergies. Comerford's letter said that the problem will be permanently fixed this summer with a brand new system that will be custom made for Jewell Hall.

STUDENT JURIED ART SHOW

By Bailee McCarthy
Staff Writer

Blackburn art students showcased their work between March 5 and March 20 in the recent Annual Student Exhibition. Among the artists showcased were Noelia Martinez-Voigt, Haley Biere, Michael Troutt and Stefanie Everett. There were a lot of interesting, intricate pieces, such as "Puzzle" by Olivia Mapes. There was also a unique, eye-catching one: "Odette," based on Swan Lake Ballet

by Stefanie Everett.

Professor Bob Huber was very excited for the showcase, as it exhibited the abilities and potential of future artists. He said that the Annual Student Exhibit was open to all students enrolled in art courses during the academic year 2017-2018. Huber added that "it is an opportunity to celebrate their work and to exchange ideas." Some student exhibitors are taking an art class for a general education credit, their minor or their major. Huber explained, "Some students might have prepared for the

exhibition specifically, others will submit work that was made within the context of their art course[s]."

At the conclusion of the Annual Student Exhibition opening night, awards were handed out to the exhibitors. Honorable Mentions included artist Stefanie Everett for "Odette" and artist Noelia Martinez-Voigt for "Untitled Anatomical Study." Second place was awarded to artist Michael Troutt for his piece "Fungal Reaction." First place was awarded to Haley Biere's piece "Untitled."



PHOTO BY BAILEE MCCARTHY
Untitled by Haley Biere took first place

A New Face Leading CKI

By Kennedy Henson
Staff Writer

Freshman environmental studies and organizational studies major Christina Sanderson was recently voted the new president of Blackburn College's Circle K International (CKI) club, replacing former president and founder Austin Ives. CKI is a service organization focused on assisting children and is currently involved in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program, which educates kids in Haiti on proper hygiene and gives them access to clean and safe water.

Sanderson has several changes and improvements planned for her presidency. "My main goal is to improve the involvement of students at Blackburn," she said. She plans to solve the problem of meeting times the group

faced this semester. Finding a time for all members to meet throughout the week proved challenging, with members often missing meetings due to work or class. Sanderson intends to look through schedules for classes and jobs and using a day and time that works for as many members as possible.

Sanderson also wants CKI to be more involved in the Carlinville community. The goal is to join forces with several other service organizations throughout the community. Finding and contacting these organizations would be the job of CKI's service chairperson, who is yet to be decided for next year. The group intends to "visit the local animal shelter to volunteer with any and all work they need," according to Sanderson. She also stated that the group plans to visit and donate to the food pantries in the Carlinville area. Sanderson wants the group "to be more



PHOTO COURTESY OF CKI

Blackburn College's Circle K International club



involved outside of campus, and expand our connections into the surrounding area."

Sanderson's final goal for next year is to improve the reputation of CKI around the Blackburn campus. She does not want the group to be known as "always selling things in DCC," she said, "but no one really knows what the money is truly for." She plans on putting a committee together to send out a monthly newsletter for students so they are aware of what happened recently

within the group, as well as what they plan on doing in the near future. She also aims to send out a weekly agenda to members "to keep everyone in the loop, especially if they had to miss the meeting the week before." Sanderson also wants to include more campus-inclusive activities and events around campus. "I want to make the group's social events public to entice more people to look into the club and want to join," said Sanderson.



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SPOTTING AND STOPPING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

What is domestic violence?

The United States Justice Department defines domestic violence as “a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.” Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological. These behaviors can intimidate, manipulate, isolate, threaten, blame, hurt or injure someone.

Who suffers from domestic violence?

The National Domestic Violence hotline reports that “females ages 18 to 24 generally experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence.” This includes physical violence, rape and stalking. Men suffer from domestic violence too, and although more women report domestic violence than men, that doesn't mean the men should be ignored. Men are also victims of physical violence, stalking, rape and psychological abuse. People in the LGBTQ community also suffer from violent and abusive relationships. Anyone can be affected by domestic violence, but it's important to know where to go when it happens and how to encourage others to get help as well.

If domestic violence happens on campus, there are ways to report it. Director of Campus Security Morrie Fraser said, “The first decision the accuser needs to make is if they want to bypass the college and go to the police.” Intimate partner violence, rape and stalking are criminal offenses that can be tried through the courts. If you choose not to do that, the school will handle it. First, there will be an investigation to decide if the person being accused needs to go on temporary leave from the campus to not intimidate or be a danger to the person who reported them. Domestic violence is considered a major offense in the B-Book. Fraser said he would investigate the situation, getting statements from the accuser, the accused and any witnesses. If there was any evidence of misconduct, Fraser and Interim Dean of Students Abbey Hardin would decide if they need to hold an administrative hearing. The hearing would determine disciplinary actions.

There are ways to spot abuse in your relationship or a loved one's relationship. Common methods of abuse are dominance, threats, humiliation, isolation and blame. An abuser will need to feel in control of the relationship and will often make choices for their partner instead of letting them make their own decisions. Signs of

abuse and manipulation include threatening to hurt you or something you love, threatening to make a false report about you, taking something away from you or threatening suicide if you leave. Humiliation is a tactic abusers use to make their partner feel bad about themselves and lose their self-esteem so they think their partner is the only one who will love them, discouraging them from leaving. Isolation is very common, where the abuser will distance their partner from their friends and family, so they have fewer people to reach out to for help. Abusers will often blame their behavior on a bad childhood, on the day or on their partner.

Sometimes people are scared to report their abuser. They might be worried about retaliation or that nobody will believe them. If you're unsure whether or not you want to report somebody, there are confidential resources on campus and off campus you can go to. Director of Counseling Services Tim Morenz is an on-campus resource who will maintain confidentiality. Title IX Coordinator Melissa Jones said there are also off-campus confidants they can set students up with if they feel uncomfortable reporting to anyone on campus. Along with Tim Morenz on campus, there is also Chaplain Pastoral Council Megan

Biddle.

Blackburn College has not had any reports of domestic violence this year and few cases in previous years. This could be because there are genuinely no cases of domestic violence on campus, or it could be because people are scared to report it. Jones said she thinks the low number is because of both of those factors. “I also think there's more awareness now,” she said, “and reporting parties aren't alone.” If people are scared to report, Jones strongly recommends that the victim seek counseling to help them through it. Although people don't have to if they're not comfortable, she strongly encourages that people come forward so that she can make sure they are safe and protected. Domestic violence shouldn't be tolerated, so if you know someone who might be in an abusive relationship, it's important to reach out for them if they don't feel comfortable enough to reach out for themselves. Nobody deserves to be in a relationship they don't feel safe in.

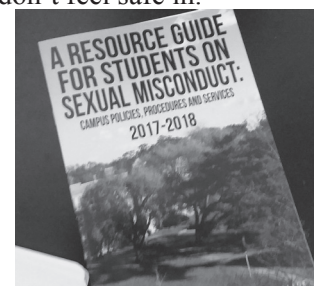
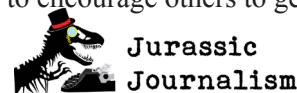


PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

Sexual misconduct can be a form of domestic violence that shouldn't be ignored



Jurassic
Journalism

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

HOW DID WOMEN BECOME INFERIOR

Editor's Note: This article was written by Audrey Adrick in March of 1972. There was a lot of activism going on during this time period with the Vietnam War protests, the civil rights movement and women's rights as well. March is women's history month, and the evolution of where women stood in society is explained in this article. Adrick digs very far back into society to primitive times to establish where women were deemed inferior, how times have evolved and then questions if the theory is still applicable.

If women are men's equals, how did they become inferior to men? This is a question which I have been confronted with and will try to answer. Throughout the history of mankind, women have been considered socially inferior because they were biologically inferior. But are we biologically inferior?

Man started out as hunters and food gatherers, much like our ancestral predecessors. In these early societies, it is assumed that males did the hunting. Females were confined by the demands

of childbirth and child care. In pre-bottle days, childcare meant nursing an infant, sometimes up to the age of two years, every three or four hours. So childcare demanded a good part of the mothers' time. Presumably, women had many more babies than they have today. Birth control was unheard of, and a majority of the infants died before reaching the age of five. This biological function of women left men free to hunt. By hunting, men increased their knowledge of the environment. He learned how to track, where the prey lived and hid, and the signs of certain weather conditions. Men began improving the tools they used to hunt with. This division of labor led men to a wider range of experience, so they seemed intelligent than the sedentary women.

As human life progressed, Ashley Montague believes that men became jealous of women's power of childbirth. Consciously or unconsciously, they began to view pregnancy and menstruation as a handicap. In this early society, it did confine women to a small home territory. Women, themselves, thought of their role as

an inferior one to men's. Out of this developed the thinking that all women did was to let the child grow within them. Men planted the seed and women were like the passive earth which gave the seed nutrients. Men took away women's creative role in procreation. In some primitive societies today, men conceive the idea of a child, and their wives merely act as a body in which the idea can grow.

Since pregnancy and menstruation were looked upon as a handicap, taboos were formed around them. Women became unclean during menstruation; it was called “the curse.” Social customs rather than biological function dictated the proper role women played in society. As the society grew more complex, so did these taboos. Childbirth was no longer a natural act, but it became a way of life surrounded by myths. For example, in our present society, a pregnant woman is discouraged if not prohibited from taking an active role in the working world. After childbirth, she is confined to a hospital for about five days. If a woman decides to return to her career after giving birth, she is

considered a bad mother. In our society, a bad mother is a failure as a woman.

Another thing worth noting is that men are generally physically larger than women. When physical strength determined leadership, men naturally assumed this role. The leadership role was then defined as a man's role and no longer a matter of physical strength.

Today, women are fighting for their equality because their biological role in reproduction is no longer a handicap. The modern woman does not want a large family if she has one at all. Women have discovered that they are more than baby machines. The leadership roles in our society no longer require any kind of physical strength. We are now struggling to change outdated customs which have no reasonable grounds. Now, many people are turning to animal societies to show that the male is superior. I suppose they do not realize that our brains and dexterity have evolved above the animal level. Our society has moved from physical power to mental, and there is no evidence that women are mentally inferior to men.

Helping Women

PERIOD



PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

Upon request, they will be sent anonymously to your mailbox number

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

When you hear of donations, you usually think donating money, food or even time to people who are in need. Something most people don't think of donating is feminine hygiene products. Tampons and pads are necessities for women, and most people take their access to them for granted. They are relatively expensive, and yet, so underappreciated by people who can afford them.

The reason this is not seen as an important issue is because menstruation is not something people typically want to think about. It's deemed as this unclean, taboo process that everyone should try to hide as much as possible. The truth is, menstruation is natural and something we all need to be educated about because it's important. It is what makes having babies possible and should not be considered a strange, disgusting topic. Even women who can afford tampons and pads try to be as discreet as possible when carrying them to the bathroom or checking them out at the store. Imagine how much harder this has to be for homeless women to try to get jobs or children in poverty to get through a day of school without having the necessities to stay healthy

and comfortable.

Blackburn has a program called "Basic Bins" that offers free hygiene products to students who cannot afford them. This program was initiated by the Board of Trustees, but alumni regularly donate to keep the funds available. Students can request these items from their resident assistant (RA), resident director (RD), any professional working in the student life office or they can request items confidentially using this website: https://blackburncollege.formstack.com/forms/basic_bins_item_request. The items listed on the site include shampoo, conditioner, razors, body wash, lotion, tampons, maxi-pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry pods, dryer sheets and microwavable snacks. There is also an "other" option where students can fill in what else they need.

These packages are put together by a staff member in the Student Life office. Interim Vice President and Dean of Students Abbey Hardin said, "Since August, we have recorded 49 unique users of the program, and since August we have filled 115 requests." She also said that they filled 152 requests in the previous academic year. The website and the student life office do not track the names of the students who request these items, but Hardin said the Board

of Trustees requested that they use a confidential system to track the number of unique users.

If you do not need these things but still want to help, there are many ways you can do so. There are organizations where you can donate your money online, and there are plenty of ways to start your own donation drive for tampons and pads. Something in the community you can do is donate to the Oasis Women's Shelter in Alton, the closest women's shelter to the campus. Oasis Women's Shelter Client Service Coordinator Marcy Jacobs explained that "Most of our clients are poor and can't get diapers or feminine hygiene products with their food stamps." Jacobs said they get some donations of tampons and pads, but not much. If

you'd like to drop off a donation, they always accept them at any time as long as you call in advance. If enough people offer to donate, the school could even start its own collection box on campus and donate mass amounts at a time.

This is not something specific to the United States; it is a problem all over the world. It starts with basic items like tampons and pads, but it needs to extend beyond that to ending the stigma on menstruation and furthering education about basic women's health world wide. However, charity starts at home and there are steps being taken in the school and the community to provide feminine hygiene products for women. While nobody can single-handedly solve this problem, even a single donated box of tampons can help.



PHOTO BY RACHEL BURKE

WRITING MILLENNIA

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By Rhett Blankenship
Featured Writer

Students enrolled in WR 112: Analysis and Argument with English professors Karen Dillon and Barbara Clark will focus on millennials and society's view of them for the spring 18 academic semester.

The majority of college students—Blackburn's student body included—claim membership in the millennial generation, an age group born in the years between the early 1980s and the late 1990s that is popularly branded as entitled, industry-destroying, technology-obsessed narcissists who will ruin the world. Others disagree on the apocalyptic potential of the generation.

Dillon, coordinator of first year writing, found inspiration for the new theme of WR 112 while on sabbatical during the fall 2017 academic semester.

"I was sleep-deprived for a week and watching a lot of documentaries and television," Dillon said. "I noticed that the world just seems like a pretty terrible place right now, and I thought we should focus in class on what the world thinks of millennials, because all the world does is complain about how millennials are making the world a worse place."

Clark, coordinator of Lumpkin Learning Commons, agrees that society is hard on millennials.

"I'm not one who likes labels, but you can't deny that millennials live in a different world than previous generations," Clark said. "How does that change a person, how does that make them unique, and where do we go from here?"

Students will interact with and discuss a broad range of texts—recent film, academic essays, journalistic articles—focusing on the millennial generation as they

WR 112'S MILLENNIAL THEME



hone their writing and argumentation skills according to the course syllabi for Dillon's and Clark's sections of WR 112.

Students will spend nearly two months working on a research paper, the final project of WR 112, which asks them to choose a world problem and to propose a solution using their millennial outlook.

"I'm hoping when it comes to the research paper, the students might actually choose something that they're passionate about which has been a problem in the past," Dillon said. "Wouldn't it be lovely if some of them took that to an actual level of praxis and did something active? Maybe they'll be inspired to go out and do something good."

After the completion of WR 112, a mandatory course for graduation and the final class in Blackburn's First Year Writing program, Clark hopes that students will take from

the new millennial theme "a better focus on who they are and what they have to offer" as well as "critical thinking skills that will enable them to not accept things at face value but instead to see what's real."

Clark's writing assistant Connor Doolen, a secondary English education major, believes the students are responding positively to the new theme for WR 112.

"I think they [the students] are really enjoying this new theme, because it focuses on them and how society is representing them," Doolen said. "This millennial focus is already beginning to allow [the students] to look at media in their own unique lens and they seem to be enthusiastic about that."

For more information on WR 112 and its millennial theme, contact Professor Dillon at (217) 854-5646 or karen.dillon@blackburn.edu.

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A MAN EXPLAINING V. MANSPLAINING

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

Where does a mansplainer get their water from? A “Well, actually.”

While it is funny to joke about, mansplaining is something that can be frustrating to women everywhere. The word was inspired by an essay by feminist writer Rebecca Solnit and is on the “Words We’re Watching” list for the Merriam-Webster dictionary. So far, they say that “Mansplaining is, at its core, a very specific thing. It’s what occurs when a man talks condescendingly to someone (especially a woman) about something he has incomplete knowledge of, with the mistaken assumption that he knows more about it than the person he’s talking to does.” Women confront mansplaining whether they’re in their teens or have doctoral degrees. Mansplaining occurs in many ways and many places, and one of those places is right here at Blackburn College.

Criminal justice professor Shelly

Peffer admitted, “I have had experiences on campus where I have had to sit for an inordinate amount of time listening to somebody male explain something to me that I understood in the first five minutes, and yet that explanation went on for ten minutes. And this was not an isolated incident.” Peffer did say that she has many male friends who do not mansplain, so of course, it is not all men. She also said that it is not exclusive to this school, which many women probably already know. There was a man who she went to graduate school with who would mansplain everything to his classmates. Peffer said, “He definitely did not do that to his male colleagues.” When the women in her class told him that they understood, he wouldn’t even hear them. “He’s gonna push on through,” Peffer said, “until he gets every bit of that mansplaining out of him.” She revealed that she runs into him at conferences and he will still mansplain to her even though they both have doctorates, went to the same graduate school and took the same

classes.

English Professor Karen Dillon has similar mansplaining stories that she said portrays a “larger problem of women not being heard.” She told one story: “I was recently in a meeting where I got cut off twice, and I caught eyes with a female student who noticed. I think she said something to someone, but it was just funny that we both understood what this was and had it happen to us before.” On the topic of not being heard, Dillon also revealed that she has noticed a lot of women will try to make excuses for participating in conversations. She said, “It’s almost like they’re apologizing for having opinions.” She explained that this falls under an even bigger problem of women trying not to be too pushy. “Women either have to be really sweet,” Dillon said, “or they’re labeled as a ‘bitch’.” This is often why women don’t call people out for mansplaining and why they tolerate getting interrupted at meetings and make excuses for having opinions.

The top definition for mansplaining on Urban Dictionary is, “Basically, when a man explains something to a woman and gets chastised for it.” This definition is inaccurate because like Peffer said, there’s a difference between having a conversation with someone and simply talking at them. There’s a level of respect that needs to go into a conversation no matter who you’re talking to, not an assumption that they don’t understand what you’re saying or that they don’t have anything valuable to say themselves. Mansplaining might seem like a small issue, but as Dillon said, it stems into a greater issue of women just not being heard. Ignore the stereotype of being labeled a “bitch” and call people out next time they mansplain or cut you off. Stop saying “I’m sorry” and start saying “Don’t interrupt me.” Women deserve to be heard just as much as men and can offer great ideas and perspectives. Don’t apologize for your opinions or for having ideas. You deserve to be heard.

Love Is Love

By Ashley Thompson
Staff Writer

A story of a new kind of love, one that changes day by day, “Everyday” breaks every boundary previously set in the film romance genre. “Everyday” is the story of “A” (played by multiple actors throughout the movie), someone who wakes up in a different body every single day and Ri (Angouri Rice), a high school girl just trying to live her life as best as she can. That is until “A” turns her world upside down.

The movie breaks the stereotypical idea that a romance movie set in high school must be between a guy and a girl. The movie is all about a person who fell in love with another person; it did not matter if they were a guy, girl, white, Black, Asian or anybody else; the film embodies what truly matters in a relationship. Ri is the perfect counterpart to “A,” someone who does not see skin, gender, sex, body; they only see the person behind each face. Typical boy meets girl movies do not break these boundaries, but “Everyday” shows that love can happen to anyone if the right person is willing to take a



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORION PICTURES

chance on love.

While the movie is amazing on

breaking boundaries and stereotypes, it comes up short in plot value. The entire

film has the two main characters who are trying to understand one another and learn to accept each other as they are. Other than the evolving love story between the two, the only other thing that happens is “A” trying to figure out how to make things work between them.

The ending comes at you suddenly and seems to derail everything that the movie has been leading up to. This leaves you questioning why you watched it in the first place. You think the movie was going to end a certain way and that thought was taken from the viewer. The movie could have been thought out better, but it gives us the sappy love story every typical high school romance movie goes for, just with a few twists and turns along the way.

With its flaws, the movie seems to be doing well enough in theaters. According to Box Office Mojo, “Everyday” came in ninth on its opening weekend of Feb. 23. Rotten Tomatoes gave the movie a 52% on the Tomatometer.

THE SURPRISING AFTERMATH OF THE PARKLAND SHOOTING

By Rachel Burke
Staff Writer

In the wake of the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School in Parkland, Florida, the students are not just grieving. These students are going out of their way to do something about the gun laws in the United States. They've held rallies, organized marches and they are calling out politicians on current gun laws. The gun law aspect is not the most amazing thing about this wave of activism; it's the high schoolers who are spearheading a revolution.

News articles and tweets show these future leaders calling out President Donald Trump and congresspeople, attending important congressional votes and organizing events to raise attention to their cause. They lost friends and teachers, but they won't let them die in vain. As the survivors of the shooting, they have a national stage and are taking every ounce of attention that they can get to make sure these mass shootings don't happen again. It's an ambitious goal that I believe they can achieve.

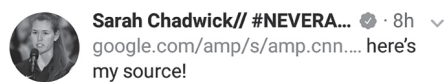
Young people are looked down on as being naive and inexperienced, but these kids were there. They have the most experience you could have with gun violence, and they demand to be heard. Although politicians can bring change, it is only at the will of their constituents. Young adults and teenagers are the fire behind change, and they should keep politicians on their toes. Many of the protests and movements for change were initiated by young people who were underestimated at first, like the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War protests, women's rights and LGBT rights. Political science professor Dr. Laura Wiedlocher said, "It's amazing, but I think the question is: Is it sustainable? Changing and passing new laws is a slow process



70% of Americans want stricter gun laws! THATS HUGE! I promise we won't stop until change has been made.

10:08 AM · 26 Feb 18

1,709 Retweets 11.5K Likes



SCREENSHOT BY RACHEL BURKE

MSD junior Sarah Chadwick promised her persistence in the continuing movement

that takes continued attention." She has a point, but the biggest advantage that young people have over politicians is the amount of time they have. They have the energy and the fire, but they have the time. The civil rights movement didn't happen overnight, and teenagers and young adults fueled the fire behind it.

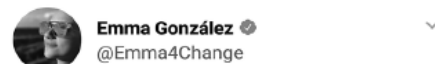
So far, these students have not only organized protests and approached politicians, but they've also attacked the National Rifle Association (NRA). Within 48 hours, their activism has caused several companies to sever their ties with the NRA. One of the main faces of this movement is MSD student Emma Gonzalez, and she now has more Twitter followers than the NRA profile. This movement has largely been on Twitter, but it has extended beyond that. MSD senior Ryan Deitsch said through a Twitter direct message, "I am a busboy from a local restaurant. Now I have meetings with freedom marchers. It just shows you the power of a message fueled by passion and social media."

There have been many mass shootings in United States history, but

this is the first one to incite this much conversation and change. Republican politicians are proposing gun-control legislation, such as gun restraining orders, and even President Donald Trump has suggested a ban on bump stock gadgets that give semi-automatic guns the ability to fire at the same speed as an automatic gun. There has also been talk of changing the age limit to get a gun from 18 to 21. These are suggestions that never would have been made if it weren't for the activism these students have started. Gun control has always been a partisan issue, but the Parkland shooting and these incredible students are making it something that needs to have bipartisan attention.

Some of these student activists are of voting age, and the ones who are not will be soon. They are threatening to vote people out of office, and this threat should be scaring politicians. This has turned into a movement and should be a sign to young people still in high school, but also young adults in college that they can influence change. This movement started on Twitter and will hopefully end in legislation.

Although tragic, these events show that young people don't have to



Words cannot describe how Good I feel after this Town Hall at the BB&T Center down on our home front tonight - we got to Talk to the People who can make a Difference, @marcorubio @RepTedDeutch @SenBillNelson, and though tears were listened to #STONEMANSTRONG

11:05 PM · 21 Feb 18

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SCREENSHOT BY RACHEL BURKE

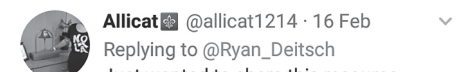
MSD senior Emma González attended a town hall and talked to her representatives and senators about her experience and challenged their stance on gun control directly



If anyone knows of those going to the Florida Legislature in the coming days please spread the word. #StonemanShooting #TallyRally

10:40 AM · 16 Feb 18

4 Retweets 8 Likes



Just wanted to share this resource. @GiffordsCourage website has interactive map with gun law info on every state. We're praying & taking action here in LA!

SCREENSHOT BY RACHEL BURKE

MSD senior Ryan Deitsch showed up and attended the Senate hearing along with his classmates

sit idly by waiting for politicians to make the right decisions, but instead, you have to go out and make change happen yourself. Write letters, show up to rallies and protests, participate in walk-outs, even tweet if that's all you can do, but most importantly, vote. It's the voters who give politicians power. Senators, representatives and presidents, even, only get to be where they are because we put them there. Whether you agree with gun control or not, this movement is remarkable and nowhere near finished. There is no more room for apathy in teenagers and young adults. Students need to take things into their own hands and shape the world they live in.

Midterm elections are coming up, and if you are not registered to vote, you should register as soon as possible. The elections take place on Nov. 6, but in Illinois, you have to register online or through mail at least 28 days before election day. You can register online at vote.org. If you prefer to register in person on election day, you can do that at your local election office.

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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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SHOULD STUDENTS USE LAPTOPS IN THE CLASSROOM?

By Ashley Thompson
Staff Writer

Have you ever had your laptop or tablet out in class, taking notes of course, and the professor walks by to make sure you are doing what is expected? Those moments make me feel like I should not have brought the laptop to class. Do they not have any trust in college students? By this time in our lives, we should be able to be trusted to use technology in the classroom, right? Are we adults or are we not? Sometimes it still feels like I am in high school where no one can be trusted to do anything.

I go to class expecting to take notes like normal, with a laptop, and instead leave the computer in my bag, taking notes with a scrap piece of paper instead. I would rather take notes by hand than be under the glare of a professor who disapproves of technology in the

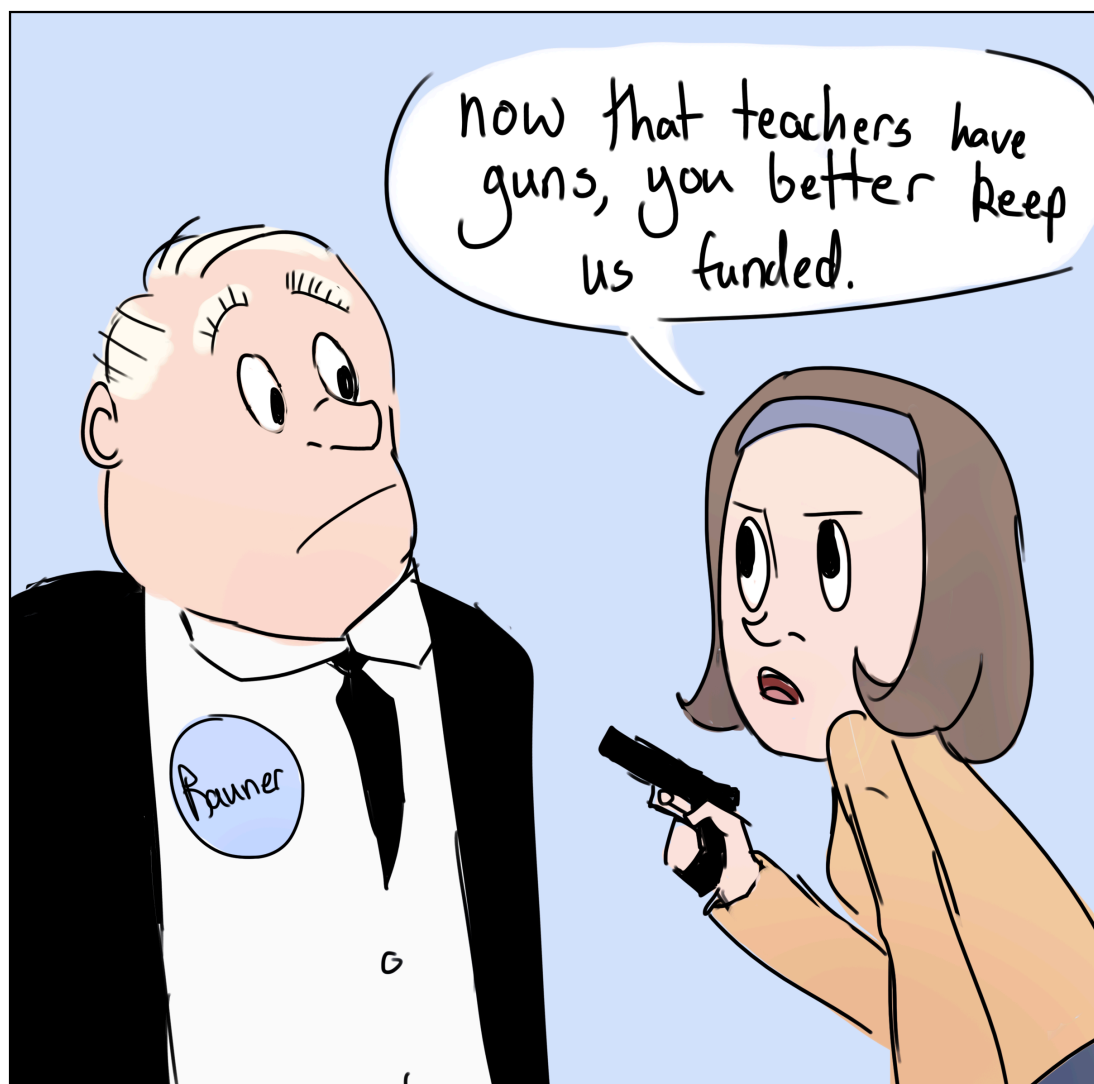
classroom. Not all professors are like this, but I have had many who have made me feel this way like I have to continue to take notes the same way, even though I can use a computer instead of a pen and paper. A computer allows me to take notes faster than I can write them, and in some classes, the teachers talk faster than I can write.

The stigma that technology in the classroom is bad has got to go. The world is changing and so is the way we learn. If I have to hand-write my notes, most of the time I cannot read them to save my life or my grades. Typing my notes, I can understand them and not have to take the time to try and read the chicken scratch to type them into my computer. Although traditionally writing out your notes may be better for remembering them, you can always write them out later after you type them too.

Personally, I would prefer to use a

laptop for taking notes but will probably end up using a paper and pen to write down anything of importance during class. I know that I can type faster than handwriting anything. This is just the way of this day and age of technology. Use your resources they tell us during class and last time I checked, I think laptops classify as a resource to better my schooling, right?

I understand professors know that not everyone will only take notes during class if they have a laptop in front of them, but what about those who do? The way they walk around the room checking, making sure, is intimidating, to say the least. I feel like there is an unspoken rule that the classroom is no place for technology. This needs to change; laptops and tablets should be allowed in the classroom without the students feeling intimidated that they can't and shouldn't use them.



Rauner opposes armed teachers

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

EVENTS:

- 4/6 Clue
- 4/7 Travel Series: Cardinals Game
- 4/13 Scary Movie Night
- 4/14 Big Pink Volleball

4/20-22 Dorm Event
Weekend



Across

- 1 Two together
- 5 Cunning
- 8 Misprint
- 12 Sailor's greeting
- 13 Pastry
- 14 Listen
- 15 Go by bus
- 16 Likely
- 17 Uncommon
- 18 Frontiersman Daniel
- 20 Location
- 22 Insect
- 24 Homeless child
- 27 Carney, for one
- 30 Swimming stroke
- 34 Pasturelands
- 36 Paddle
- 37 Execute
- 38 Orchard plant
- 41 Sheep
- 42 Singe
- 43 Sweet potato
- 45 Seasoning

Down

- 1 Hook
- 2 Buckeye State
- 3 Turmoil
- 4 Afr. canine
- 5 Watering hole
- 6 Mouth parts
- 7 Abominable snowman
- 8 Yarns
- 9 Affirmative vote
- 10 Equality
- 11 Pay dirt
- 19 Conclusion

- 21 Airline co. inits.
- 23 Honk
- 25 Inactive
- 26 Blemish
- 27 So. state (Abbr.)
- 28 Agents, for short
- 29 Record
- 31 Needlefish
- 32 Quarry
- 33 Peeper
- 35 Cut back
- 39 Time period
- 40 Sense organ
- 44 Groans
- 46 Fat
- 47 Musical group
- 49 Jog
- 50 Fiend
- 51 Cavort
- 52 Father
- 53 Frosty
- 54 Her
- 56 Camp bed

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Movies in the Ring

- What is the name of the gym in *Million Dollar Baby*?
(a) The Hit Pit (b) Ringleader (c) Left Hook
- Whose picture is hanging in Rubin Carter's cell in *The Hurricane*?
(a) Stokely Carmichael (b) Malcolm X (c) Martin Luther King, Jr
- In *Cinderella Man*, what is on the back of Jimmy Braddock's robe?
(a) Lightning bolt (b) Star (c) Bulldog
- Somebody Up There Likes Me* is a movie about what boxer?
(a) Rocky Graziano (b) Floyd Patterson (c) Sonny Liston
- Who appeared in the movie *Requiem for a Heavyweight* with Jack Dempsey?
(a) Sugar Ray Robinson (b) Rocky Marciano (c) Muhammad Ali
- Who plays Jake LaMotta's brother in *Raging Bull*?
(a) Al Pacino (b) Joe Pesci (c) Bruce Dern
- Who turned down the directing job for the Mark Wahlberg film *The Fighter*?
(a) Stephen Spielberg (b) Ron Howard (c) Martin Scorsese
- In *Rocky*, Apollo Creed enters the ring as what character?
(a) George Washington (b) Uncle Sam (c) Abraham Lincoln
- In *The Main Event*, what is the name of the gym?
(a) Spike's Gym (b) Third St Gym (c) Franklin Street Gym
- In what movie does musician Joe Bonaparte pursue becoming a boxer?
(a) Golden Boy (b) The Harder They Fall (c) The Great White Hope

Totally Tennis

- What is the world's oldest tennis tournament?
(a) French Open (b) Wimbledon (c) U.S. Open
- In what months are the Wimbledon Championships?
(a) August & September (b) April & May (c) June & July
- Which of the following players was the youngest person to be ranked #1 in men's singles?
(a) Lleyton Hewitt (b) John McEnroe (c) Boris Becker
- Which of the following is not included in the Grand Slam of tennis?
(a) Australian Open (b) Davis Cup (c) French Open
- What player won the Silver Medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney?
(a) Martina Hingis (b) Justine Henin (c) Elena Dementieva
- Who is credited with bringing lawn tennis to the U.S.?
(a) Mary Outerbridge (b) Billie Jean King (c) Margaret Court
- What player won 3 Grand Slam tournaments in 2002?
(a) Jennifer Capriati (b) Monica Seles (c) Serena Williams
- Which of the following played left handed?
(a) Arthur Ashe (b) Jimmy Connors (c) Chris Evert
- Who was the first player to win all four Grand Slams in one year and do it twice?
(a) Rod Laver (b) Roger Federer (c) Bjorn Borg
- Which of the following have won the most Grand Slam tournaments?
(a) Andre Agassi (b) Venus Williams (c) Pete Sampras

Quotes

It takes your enemy and your friend, working together, to hurt you: the one to slander you, and the other to get the news to you. ~Mark Twain

Accept good advice gracefully - as long as it doesn't interfere with what you intended to do in the first place. ~ Gene Brown

The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it. ~ Terry Pratchett

I do not have a psychiatrist and I do not want one, for the simple reason that if he listened to me long enough, he might become disturbed. ~ James Thurber

Sponges grow in the ocean. That just kills me. I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be if that didn't happen. ~ Steven Wright

BOUNCE BACK SEASON

By Kennedy Henson
Staff Writer

Kami Vallero is the new women's tennis coach for the 2018 season. She graduated from Blackburn College and was hired as a traveling admissions counselor. During her time as a Blackburn student, she played tennis under the current assistant coach Daniel Hussey. "When I came to Blackburn, I told myself I wasn't going to play any sports and focus on my studies and really excel at the college level," said Vallero. She had also played tennis at her high school, but had determined for herself that she was only an average student, and wanted to change that in college.

Even though she told herself she would stay away from athletics, she felt she wasn't truly getting the most out of her Blackburn experience. "I would be walking back from class and could see them practicing. I slowly realized

that I really wanted to be out there with them instead of sitting in my dorm," said Vallero. Coincidentally, Hussey reached out to her as the season came closer and asked if she would like to play, and Vallero quickly decided that this was what she wanted. She played for the remainder of her eligible years. "Playing under coach Hussey really helped to form me into the person I am today. I found a family in my teammates, and I want that for all my players now," said Vallero.

Vallero commented on her decision to coach by saying, "I still love the

game and play with my husband recreationally, but still felt like something was missing: competition." While coaching may not be the same as competing, it still helps to fill the void Vallero felt within herself. With coaching now being her full-time job, she no longer has to travel as an admissions counselor. "I'm still trying to get used to being on campus every day, but I am really enjoying it. I felt as if I missed out on the culture on campus always being gone, and I can now make so many more connections with students being here all the time,"

said Vallero.

Vallero sated her excitement for the upcoming season by stating "I've made some changes to the way the team practices and can really see the payoff as we get closer to the season opener. Blackburn tennis hasn't had a winning season in several years, and I want that reputation to change." She has the team meditate for 2-3 minutes before every practice in an attempt to help the women relax and focus for the next few hours. "College is a stressful time for anyone, but athletics adds even more, especially here at Blackburn, since they also have to work. It's a struggle for them to juggle all of their responsibilities, so I really try to get them to relax and focus through meditation, and it has benefited the girls tremendously," said Vallero.



Blackburn Women's Tennis Team



Gariel Pierce has her eyes on the ball



Fatima Noor with a serve

PHOTOS BY GARY LOWDER