Welcome Work Colleges!

By Jordyn Smith

Each year, the seven Work Colleges in the United States gather at a host institution for the annual Work Colleges Consortium. This year, on November 6-8, Blackburn has the privilege of hosting the six other Work Colleges in order to promote and learn about the success of the work program. What makes Work Colleges so special? Students learn valuable skills that can be used both professionally and in everyday life. Such skills include time-management, leadership and critical thinking. According to workcolleges.org, “83% of all Work College graduates credit their work experience with making them effective problem solvers.”

The conference is designed to promote professional development as well as cultivate student leadership. It is also intended to inspire other Work Colleges in the United States to promote and learn about the other Work Colleges in order to include time-management, leadership and critical thinking. According to workcolleges.org, “83% of all Work College graduates credit their work experience with making them effective problem solvers.”

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Yik Yak: What the Frick Frack?

By Courtney Egner

Blackburn has had its fair share of social media mishaps in the past year. Blackburn Confession, a Twitter account where students could send in anonymous posts, mysteriously disappeared last year only to reopen this year. Since then it has lagged in activity. With the instability of the confessions Twitter page, our campus is now using a social media app that is taking colleges across the country by storm: Yik Yak.

Launched in 2013 by Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers Tyler Doll and Brooks Buffington from Furman University in South Carolina, Yik Yak is a social media app that was specifically made for college campuses because of its anonymous format. All you have to do is download the app and you can start posting. You do not make an account and it does not ask for any personal information. It pinpoints your exact location and shows your posts or “Yaks” and any others that have been posted within a one and a half mile radius of your location.

The app was made to have fun, random conversations and thoughts with those around you, according to Droll and Buffington. However, Yik Yak has been accused of facilitating cyberbullying, harassment and bomb threats. In September, a disturbing message appeared on the social media app on the University of Southern Mississippi threatening a school shooting. Within hours, the poster was tracked down and arrested. Bomb threats and other violent posts against schools on the app have become such a problem in high schools that Yik Yak has now blocked 85% of high schools in the country from using it.

But just how anonymous is Yik Yak? It pinpoints your exact location, and at a school as small as Blackburn you may not be as anonymous as you think. Dr. Kevin Coogan, professor of Computer Science, weighed in on the topic. “The app is pin pointing where the post is coming from and there is a lot of information in there. If you know a person has a particular class at a particular time in Hudson and the post came from Hudson, you can start to narrow down the people.” Moreover, Blackburn is a small enough campus that if someone says they posted something, word will spread fast. “With the right amount of data someone could deanonymize a post,” Dr. Coogan warns. To read about what has been posted on Yik Yak, go to page 7.

Ebola in the U.S.

By Ben Nichols

Last month, the United States had an unpleasant shock when it was reported that a man with the Ebola virus had been hospitalized in Texas. Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian who was visiting family in the Dallas area, had contracted the virus by working with and helping transport sick individuals in the Ebola stricken area around the Liberian capital of Monrovia. After being hospitalized, it was reported that two healthcare workers who had been in contact with Duncan were infected with the disease. The fear of Ebola was heightened even more when it was discovered that one of the individuals was allowed to board a plane. This was further raised when details emerged on the lack of set protocol for treatment of Ebola at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital where Duncan was treated.

Since then, many in the U.S. have wondered if the Ebola virus will become an epidemic in the country.
Art Ark: Aesthetic Darwinism

response to the situation went really well and really poor. On one hand, they’re not lying to the public and being transparent. But it was a huge mistake to allow the health worker who had contact with Duncan to be allowed to board the plane.” When asked about the possibility of an epidemic or a chance Carlinville could be affected, he responded, “I’m pretty confident this won’t become an epidemic. Our healthcare system is too good for something like that to happen. I do think that the case in Texas will be a wake up call for our system.”

However, would Carlinville be prepared for an individual infected with Ebola? In regards to the local protocol for a potential Ebola victim, Jessica Barkley, the infection preventionist at Carlinville Area Hospital, said, “We are following along with Center of Disease Control guidelines which have recently been changed. We have a series of screening questions we use to identify if the individual has the possibility of being infected with the virus. We have been training our staff on isolating potential patients, and to try and transfer the patient to a major hospital for treatment.”

So should Ebola be something students should be concerned about? Unless you’re traveling to West Africa for spring break, the experts are confident that we have little to worry about.

The playful nature of the brushstrokes bring a lot to the material objects and discusses what art objects will stand the test of time and remain relevant. Though the work is concept-heavy, his use of a wide color palette and brushstrokes bring a lot to the wide color palette and complex experience when brought together than if I focused only on one,” he said. The playful nature of the colors and form juxtaposed with the philosophical content is not an accident. “I often approach content looking for ideas that will make me laugh—but, profoundly. My laughter gets me into more interesting places than I consciously understand or could hope to get to through theories or formulas,” said Linn.

The artist will give a talk at 4 p.m. in Visual Arts Center on Friday, November 14th, followed immediately by a closing reception until 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the campus and community.

Curious for answers, the media went out to contact experts in the field of viruses and biological hazards. CNN journalist Anderson Cooper had the chance to talk with Dr. Joseph McCormick, who is the Dean at the University of Texas School of Public Health. When asked about the situation Dr. McCormick stated, “I think we rely too much on technology. It overcomplicates things. When I dealt with Ebola, we used bleach to disinfect our gloves and aprons then reused them.” McCormick then went on to say that he does not believe it will become an epidemic.

At Blackburn, Biology and Chemistry Professor Dr. David Reid weighed in on the situation. “I believe the Center for Disease Control’s response to the situation went really well and really poor. On one hand, they’re not lying to the public and being transparent. But it was a huge mistake to allow the health worker who had contact with Duncan to be allowed to board the plane.” When asked about the possibility of an epidemic or a chance Carlinville could be affected, he responded, “I’m pretty confident this won’t become an epidemic. Our healthcare system is too good for something like that to happen. I do think that the case in Texas will be a wake up call for our system.”

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Chris Cole

Between September 9th through October 5th, 22 incidents were handled by the Campus Community and Safety department. Some of the aforementioned offenses are listed below. All issues are handled by Residence Life, Campus Security and Carlinville Police when necessary.

10/06/2014 At 10:15 a.m., there was a hit and run car crash in a student parking lot. Incident handled by Campus Security.

10/08/2014 In the evening, students were playing basketball in Dawes Gym. One student was upset after the game and threw the ball in the hallway. The ball ended up hitting the ceiling causing a couple of tiles to fall to the ground and break. Incident handled by Campus Security.

10/09/2014 At 12:14 p.m., noise complaint against a student in a resident’s hall. Incident handled by Residence Life.

10/10/2014 During the day, an anonymous complaint was filed that there were inappropriate comments posted on a social media application. Incident handled by Campus Security.

10/12/2014 At 1:26 a.m., a complaint was filed about a couple of students having a loud argument in a residence hall. Incident handled by Residence Life.

10/13/2014 At 2:35 a.m., a noise complaint was filed against a student in a resident’s hall. Incident handled by Residence Life.

10/15/2014 At 11:58 p.m., a report of harassment and a threat via social media and cellular devices between two students was filed. Incident handled by Campus Security and Residence Life.

10/17/2014 At 10:00 p.m., a student filed a complaint against other students who started rumors about them that were not true. Incident handled by Campus Security and Residence Life.

10/20/2014 At 12:05 p.m., a third party made a complaint against a friend’s significant other being too aggressive and forceful with them. Incident handled by Campus Security.

Know any crazy characters, high achievers, role models on the rise or quiet campus gems?

Submit their name – or write a profile – and send it to The ‘Burnian at burnian@blackburn.edu!

MISSION STATEMENT
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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVERFISHY

In 1998, Joel and Ethan Cohen wrote and directed a film called “The Big Lebowski.” The film told the story of an aging “dude” by the name of Jeffery “The Dude” Lebowski (played by Jeff Bridges) who wanted nothing more than to soak in his tub, drink his white Russians and listen to whale sounds. His peaceful and carefree life gets disrupted when some men come and “deface” his rug (which incidentally tied the room together) trying to convince him to pay a debt he knew nothing about. It turns out he’d been mistaken for another man with the same name and now he’s got to go deal with the problem.

Throughout the film he gets sidetracked and often shrugs off the problem and moves on by just taking it easy. The way “The Dude” lived his life in the film inspired journalist Oliver Benjamin to form “The Church of the Latter-Day Dude.” The church practices an adapted form of ancient Chinese Taoism and other Religions/Belief Systems, which they call “Dudeism.” With no actual physical place of worship, let alone any form of strict rules or even difficult guidelines, Dudeism is more of an ideology on how one should live their life.

In an interview with CNN in 2013, Benjamin, the church’s founder (often referred to as The Dudely Lama), claims that “Following Dudeism helps you to keep in mind what’s important in life, what actually makes people happy instead of what makes them insane.”

Throughout history there have been numerous religions practiced all around the world. Most of the religions practiced today are rooted in thousands of years of tradition and are based on deities established long ago. But what about a religion based on a movie?

One of the most fascinating aspects of Dudeism is that it is actually recognized as a religion by the United States and actually has the capability of ordaining ministers. Ministers of the Church of The Latter-Day Dude even have the capability of officiating marriages and funerals or just kicking back and relaxing. The tag line of the site is “Just take easy, man,” which embodies the fundamental principles of Dudeism. Issues with the term “Dude” implying men spurred the founder to add a section clarifying that “Dude” (or Dudely if preferred) can be used to refer to any gender.

All in all, Dudeism is viewed, at least on its surface, as a fan’s tribute to the film but it does actually hold stock in other well-established religions and ideologies. It may be something to consider if one is looking for validation for taking it easy.
Winter Formal, Will It Happen or Do We Let It Go?

By Jordyn Smith

The Winter Formal at Blackburn will not be in December this year. According to Student Senate President Jacob Maug, “the change in the dance schedule is important because the Winter Formal had been waning in attendance and was very close to Double Instruction Periods.”

The dance, which will now be held in February, will be organized by Student Senate with the help of the Blackburn community. The name of the dance is currently up in the air. When asked if this means that there would be no Valentine’s dance, Maug said, “Not necessarily. We are open to the idea of keeping it a ‘Valentine’s dance.’ The option is there, though, for not labeling it that at all.”

Students seem to have differing opinions. Junior communications major Alix Matt said, “I do think that Student Senate made a wise choice in cutting a dance out. Honestly I think dances are overrated in college. If you really want to dance most people go to a club/party. In high school you didn’t have that option.”

On the other hand, senior biology major Nikki LaMore added, “It’s kind of disappointing because two dances and them being so separated. I like beginning the year with homecoming and ending with Winter Formal and then having the Valentine’s dance. Homecoming and Winter Formal and then the Valentine’s dance is really fancy one.”

The winter formal may have more to offer than students know. Students can always check the schedule to get song requests to the DJ. “We could make the music sucked isn’t a sad excuse. Most students can enjoy dances, especially those who are urban. How could attendance be improved? Matt says she enjoys dances that have upbeat music, games and a place to sit and have drinks and snacks.”

LaMore adds, “Advertise more and don’t scare the students away by saying that there will be breathalyzers. That’s why a lot of students don’t go.”

If you are interested in helping out with the dance, Student Senate will be seeking help with a subcommittee in the next few months.

Lauren Wiedlocher: Political Science Junkie

By Deej Bell

Dr. Laura Wiedlocher, Blackburn’s new political science professor, didn’t expect to find herself at a college. “I actually wanted to go to law school in the beginning and I was wait-listed for the schools of my choice,” said Wiedlocher. “So when I was deciding if I would want to go into those schools, if I got in, I did some free reading just for my own pleasure, and I found myself gravitating towards political figures.”

The suggestion had been made to her by political science professor, didn’t accept. “I realized this blaze of genuine kindness and compassion from my students. I have found them to be interested in the world around them and also to have real heart and passion for things. There are things going on in this world that they care deeply about, and so to provide them opportunity to learn more about those things and give them room to discuss it and ideas for what they can do about it to affect change in the world somewhere, that’s really cool.”

One random fact about Wiedlocher is her favorite game is Settlers of Catan and college students are her most favorite people ever. “You’re in a very special time in life where you work very hard, you go to class, you study, and papers are due. It’s intense, but college is more than that, you’re also surrounded by lots of people doing the same thing so there’s natural camaraderie,” said Wiedlocher. “It’s not really the same, once you’re out in the real world once you get into the workforce. You’re still in that place where your future is ahead of you. The process of college is learning how to shut doors, making decisions every year, what do you want to do when you get out? What are your goals? What are you trying to achieve? How are you making these big decisions all along the way? What is the future of political science? How are you going to get people interested in doing research and interested in political science because the field is diverse.”

“Allie Matt, my students,” she said. “I have seen this blaze of genuine kindness and compassion from my students. I have found them to be interested in the world around them and also to have real heart and passion for things. There are things going on in this world that they care deeply about, and so to provide them opportunity to learn more about those things and give them room to discuss it and ideas for what they can do about it to affect change in the world somewhere, that’s really cool.”

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“Verdigris” I wanted to like it
By Michelle Flood

The much-anticipated “Verdigris” opened on Thursday, Oct. 23, to a relatively warm audience reception. The playwright, “Supernatural!” major Patrick Benedict said, “I worried about during the Cold War just these super powered things that people relate to today.” A lot of people started to talk about during the Cold War action and comedy can pull minor sidekick-type heroes. Also featured during World War II, but Spider-Man came about during the Cold War and represented adolescents in that time. As time went on, the heroes evolved more and more into what they are today. Sophomore history and communications double major Patrick Benedict said, “They’ve become a lot more since then. They’ve become things that people relate to. They’re a lot more than just these super powered beings - they have faults and weaknesses just like humans and they’re relatable because of that.”

A lot of people started to get more interested in these heroes once they became more like real people. It gave them a way to connect to the character. Senior business management major Michael Buck said, “Spiderman is where it started. You realize he’s like a normal person. He has problems he has to deal with like managing his superhero life, doing homework and getting a girlfriend - all that stuff. It’s something that not a lot of people saw before that.”

Today blockbuster movies featuring superheroes are popular, increasing the fan base for the heroes. This fanbase includes the original comic book lovers along with people who weren’t really into the comic book scene. The fun action and comedy can pull in anyone who wants to see a good movie. Movies are also starting to do a better job of including the minor sidekick-type heroes. Rather than just making them disappear after they’ve served their purpose, they get more of a backstory. Characters like Catwoman and the agents of S.H.I.E.L.D who started out in other heroes’ movies have now gotten their own TV shows or movies. Junior graphic design major Bryan Bethel said, “[the backstory of sidekicks] gives a bit of insight into another universe that I wouldn’t have gotten otherwise.”
Having tattoos and piercings doesn’t make you any more or less competent than people without them

By Deja Bell

There seems to be a social stigma that people with tattoos and piercings are beneath those without. Although tattoos have become more popular they are far from being socially accepted. Many jobs require tattoos and piercings to be covered. Although there may be a line that needs to be drawn, a person’s worth shouldn’t be disregarded because of the way they choose to express themselves. “I have never understood why piercings and tattoos are seen as a sign of lesser quality. In this day and age we are still fighting for this right of expression and I find that ridiculous,” said senior music major Vinny Watson.

According to a poll done on HarrysInteractive.com, a market research website, in 2012 one in five adults, or 21% of adults, have at least one tattoo. It also reported that 49% of U.S. adults have pierced ears, only 7% say they have a piercing elsewhere on their body and 4% report having a facial piercing not on the ear. Tattoos are clearly more popular than piercings, but neither one of them is even close to being accepted. Unless you’re a tattoo artist, being covered head to toe in tattoos and piercings can be seen as unsavory, but that doesn’t mean that everyone who has tattoos or piercings should be written off. “I won’t get tattoos because I don’t like that in any more or less competent than people without them. I do care if other people have them, it’s just if you’re going on an interview you don’t want to show sleeves or facial piercings,” said junior computer science major Matthew Pfannenstiel.

I understand the professionalism that is necessary in a work place, but times are also changing. Maybe the traditional work place shouldn’t be so traditional any more. You can’t judge someone’s work ethic or ability off of the fact that they made the decision to get a tattoo, and maybe covering them up is more professional, but not hiring someone because they have a tattoo or piercing is discriminatory and wrong.

“The generation that are the business owners still have the bias that was created when they were children and teenagers, so a more understanding group of adults are coming accepted before piercings will ever be, but that shouldn’t stop you from getting them if you want. I feel getting a tattoo or piercing is the same as dyeing your hair an unnatural color; people will look at you weird but that’s how you choose to express yourself. “If we were more accepting of people with tattoos and piercings the world would be a much better place,” said sophomore biology major Farida Soulama.

As of right now people are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to getting a job because they have piercings and tattoos.

THE APPALLING TRUTH OF YIK YAK

By Courtney Egner

Because Blackburn Confessions, a Twitter page where students could send in anonymous posts, was gone for a period of time, students needed a new way to gossip anonymously on campus. In the past few weeks Yik Yak became popular on campus once the confessions Twitter page disappeared for the second time. I downloaded the app just to see what it was and what I found was disgusting and disturbing.

The very first “Yaks” I saw on the app that had been posted by people on this campus were racist, rude and crude. There have been rape jokes, targeted harassment and racial threats. It was shocking to see and it is appalling to think that people who say such disgusting things walk among us.

When I sat down with Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jarrod Gray, he had the same reaction I did to the posts on our campus, utter shock. “I am shocked and I am disgusted. I’m finding that for people who do hold a lot of hatred these sorts of things, whether it is this app or confessions, gives them an outlet for hate speech. It’s appalling.”

Just like Blackburn Confessions this app has created an outlet for harassment and nasty comments. There have been racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic and other offensive posts on our campus. This reflects negatively on us.

The major problem that I have seen on this app is that there are the ones who have to stop it. If you want a drama-free Blackburn stop posting negative things about fellow students on anonymous pages and websites. It really is a simple solution.

The posts on Yik Yak users are so quick to defend it if someone gets upset or angry about a post. One post said, “I judge everyone who gets offended or mad at posts. It’s just a joke.” Well it’s not a joke. These things are hurtful and absolutely unnecessary.

What I find interesting is that on the Blackburn Confessions twitter page, a lot of people complained that it summed up the school perfectly. This suggests that the page and its attached drama reflected what the school is like. If you want campus to be a better place, ending the misguided use of social media like the Confessions Twitter page and deleting Yik Yak is how to do it. The things that are posted are reflective of the school and if the complaints are real then we are all gossip eating fools then

I have a dream that one day this college will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “Learn. Work. Earn.” And people will truly want better themselves, and not just be internet thugs.

At least at big schools you don’t have to see the people you don’t like. At Blackburn, you get to know everyone so you can truly hate them on a personal level and take time out of your day to show it.

Brandon Martin shows off his abdominal tattoo of the Nightmare Before Christmas

For more information about Yik Yak, visit its website.

And we are the ones who have to stop it. If you want a drama-free Blackburn stop posting negative things about fellow students on anonymous pages and websites. It really is a simple solution.

The posts on Yik Yak
Broomsticks and Blacknubrn

By Ben Nichols

Imagine being in a theater around 2001. You are watching the first Harry Potter movie and the scene of the Quidditch match comes up. Your eyes expand in amazement as the young wizards and witches fly around on their brooms in an intense competition. The little kid in you yearns for an intense competition. The fly around on their brooms in young wizards and witches the world have been forming

intramural Quidditch teams. While not the high-flying magical version seen in the films, it is however a sport that incorporates elements from the film onto the playing field. Players must have a broom between their legs at all times and score points by throwing the main ball called a quaffle through hoops defended by goalkeepers. Players called beaters try to defend the goal by throwing balls called bludgers. If an individual is hit by a bludger, then he or she has to return to her goal post or wait until a point is scored. A group of players called seekers are on the constant lookout for the golden snitch. This is usually a neutral player or ref with a golden ball who uses any means necessary to negate capture. The game ends once the snitch is caught, and the team with the most points wins.

So would Blackburn be up for a Quidditch team? Student opinions to the matter have been mostly positive towards the idea. Senior Wesley Phelps said, “I wouldn’t necessarily play it, but I sure am not against the idea of it.” Sophomore Christian Bailey added, “I would support this.” Junior cross country team member Nathan Wagner stated, “I would totally support it.” Hopping also added, “I do without their support and understanding.”

Hey Harry Potter fans, listen up!

Many colleges across the country (and even worldwide!) have formed Quidditch teams out of student demand. However, support a Quidditch club on campus if the safety factors were addressed. It looks like an interesting sport that anyone can play.