Bucks bugged out over bugs

The stink bugs have invaded several Bucks buildings and not everyone is happy about it.

BY SARA CROUSE
Centurion Staff

If you have a class in Penn Hall, chances are you may have spent time watching a brown stink bug crawl across the top of a blackboard or inch toward you along the rug under your desk. These harmless pests have taken refuge at Bucks for the winter and have found their niche in Penn Hall, and are especially bothersome in the basement.

The brown marmorated stink bug, (Latin name Halyomorpha halys), an insect indigenous to China and Japan, has been accidentally introduced into eastern Pennsylvania. It was first collected in September 1998 in Allentown, but is believed to have arrived several years earlier.

As of February 2008, stink bugs have been recorded in 24 Pennsylvania counties.

The stink bug has the typical “shield” shape of other stink bugs, almost as wide as they are long. To distinguish them from other stink bugs, look for lighter bands on the antennae and darker bands on the membrane overlapping part at the rear of the front pair of wings. They have patches of coppery or bluish-betric colored depressions on the head.

“My office is room 129 of the basement in Penn, and sometimes I see them crawl around, but they are slow moving and harmless, so I don’t really bother me. I see them slowly make their way down the hallway in the basement. They are sort of a fact of life there,” said Tony Rogers, journalism professor.

Typically, stink bugs emerge from cracks under, or behind baseboards, around windows and doors, and around exhaust fans or lights in ceilings seeking warm sites over winter to nestle in.

Like skunks, the bugs use their sharp bitter aroma to fend off predators. Their pungent odor is their greatest defense mechanism against birds and other insects. They are very slow moving, which helps to keep them incognito while indoors, and keep them steady on a ledge or plant they are exploring.

According to stink bug experts, mechanical exclusion is the best method to keep stink bugs from entering homes and buildings.

The bugs emerge from the dense woods of Tyler Park up to the warm interior of Bucks during winter months. The portable classrooms behind Penn Hall are one of the areas most densely populated by the bugs. Many have lived and died there, and upon seeing the “insect cemetery” that is portable classroom no. 5, a Bucks Security Officer was stunned and “had no idea that we had bugs this bad.”

“I had a psyche in one of the portable classrooms last week, which was covered in stink bugs and the smaller black and red ‘Bucks elder bugs,’ they were crawling all over the floor and walls, it was disgusting. My teacher has to move the lecture to a different classroom because no one could concentrate with the festering of the bugs,” said Hillary Flanigan, an occupational therapy major from Blyland.

Like other stink bugs, the adults have a piercing-sucking mouthpart that is used to pierce the skin of fruit and seeds and suck out the juice. Their mouthpart works as a sort of straw. If you hold one it will not hurt you, but if you squeeze it in your hand it will stab you with its beak, inflicting a sensation similar to that of a pin prick. It cannot bite because it has no jaws.

As for the professors whose offices are in the Penn Hall basement, most aren’t too bothered by the unwanted visitors. Dr. Lois Gilmore, a professor whose office is at the far end of the Penn Hall basement said, “One was sitting on my desk the other day just staring up at me.”

Beloved Bucks dog keeps geese at bay

BY ALISSA ROTH
Centurion Staff

You may have seen the newest member of the Bucks maintenance team around campus. But this worker gets paid in peanuts or biscuits. She is a black and white English Springer Spaniel named Gerty.

This “Bucks dog,” as she has also been called, belongs to Martin Snyder, director of building and grounds services. Gerty has been helping out around campus by controlling the geese.

Gerty came to Bucks last year when Snyder was approached by a gentleman with Border Collies and given a proposal to help control the Canadian Geese on campus for the fee of $7,000 per year.

Before Gerty, the geese were a big problem on campus. “It was a real mess,” said Matt Cipriano, director of student life, who said that he noticed a major change in the number of geese.

Not only would they nest, but their droppings covered the sports fields and walkways.

The Canadian Geese problem has become a bigger problem over the years because many of them are choosing not to migrate. An increasing number of geese decide to stay for the winter and make a home. For the geese that have decided to continue their migrations in the fall and spring, an equal number decide to make the Bucks campus a stop.

There are companies that take care of the geese problem. The downside to this is the cost. A 2.5-gallon jug of “goose repellent” costs nearly $40. Just think of the cost of covering the entire 200-acre campus. “Having a dog is a better approach,” said Cipriano.

Gerty is without question doing a great job. But when the English Springer Spaniel isn’t working hard, she frequents the local lake to swim. She loves the water, which is a characteristic of her breed. “I think Gerty has a good life. She’s not caged anywhere all day,” said Snyder.

Gerty has been working for Bucks for about a year now. Her main job on campus is chasing geese, but you can see her around riding on the tractors or swimming in the lake. The physical plant crew loves having Gerty around and so does everyone else.

“She is quite amiable – a real people person. She makes new friends every day. Gerty has also been called the ‘therapy dog’ as it is hard to feel down in her presence,” said Snyder.

Thanks to Gerty, the geese will just have to find somewhere else to nest. So next time you see her around make sure you thank her for a job well done.
Construction, improvements tear across campus

BY MIKE FRAIOLI
Centurion Staff

Walking through Bucks campus, you see how everything is currently under construction. Parts of The Rollins Center are under construction and on the way to being finished before the summer semester starts. Student Life Director Matt Cipriano could not stress enough how much these sections of Rollins needed improvement. The construction started with the new Student Life Center, which is now located next to the cafeteria, instead of on the dark and gloomy bottom floor. The former Student Life area is now undergoing improvements. The hallway and bathrooms on the bottom floor are scheduled to be gutted in the upcoming week. New and improved bathrooms will be installed and the hallway will be more glamorous. Even with all the improvements underway, there are many more to come. Bucks plans to build a new message system by installing 42-inch monitors throughout the school for displaying important information. “It’s a message system that we need to keep everybody informed on news, weather, school closings and other school emergencies,” said Cipriano. If everything goes according to plan, the new system will be installed sometime next year. However, construction is moving slowly. The delays are due to the focused construction at the Upper and Lower Bucks campuses. The construction for those campuses is scheduled to be finished by next year. Once these campuses are finished, the cafeteria and Gallagher room in Rollins are set for renovation.

Famed jazz guitarist to play Bucks

BY ANDREW BROWN
Centurion Staff

Brace yourselves, Bucks students, this coming Friday Jimmy Bruno is playing at this very institution! And for Bucks students, the concert is free! Oh, so most readers are actually mumbling “Jimmy who?” right now. Unless you’re a jazz aficionado, chances are you’re unfamiliar with Bruno, but for those who are fans of this genre, the upcoming concert is a momentous occasion.

Simply put, Bruno is a jazz legend. The Philadelphia-born guitarist has performed with such superstars as Frank Sinatra, Wayne Newton and Buddy Rich, and in the ‘90s he embarked on what proved to be a very successful music career. His stand-out solo albums include “Burnin’,” “Slight of Hand,” and “Like It or Leave It.”

Bruno is known, like all great musicians, for being a master of improvisation. His solos are mesmerizing and Bruno’s ear for harmony and fleet fingers form a lethal combination. Bruno’s playing is a true joy, a must-listen to for anyone with even a passing interest in jazz.

Performing all over the world, with gigs at celebrated venues such as the Iridium in New York and Blues Alley in Washington, D.C., he also recently started the Jimmy Bruno Guitar Institute, which is a program designed to bestow some of his expertise to less experienced axmen.

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Bruno plays this Friday in the Library Auditorium. General admission tickets are $10, but Bucks students with ID get in free. For more information go to www.bucks.edu/jazz.
Mc Cain likely to seek a young VP

BY JOHN SKUDRIS

There’s still about five months until the Republican convention, but Arizona Sen. John McCain has one huge question to answer: Who will be his vice presidential running mate?
The presumptive Republican nominee for president has a tough decision on his hands. A strong choice for VP can make or break a ticket, especially if the election close as 2008 is expected to be. But what exactly goes into choosing a vice president?

Bucks Social Science Professor Ray O’Brien believes that it’s all about electability. “When choosing a vice president, a candidate always has to look into the electability factors. Whenever you choose has to improve your chances of getting elected or it’s a useless pick because vice presidents usually have limited power once they achieve office. So what are these ‘ electability factors?’” Larry Sabato, director for the University of Virginia Center for Politics, has created a distinct list of what factors are important.

First, the nominee should do well in his/her home state. Candidates don’t want to pick a VP who has scandals swarming around his every move. Second, the candidate should be able to carry his/her home state. It’s even better if the presidential nominee is unlikely to win the state without choosing that person as VP.

Third, the VP should help unify the party by being from another faction than the president’s candidate. By this method, since McCain has portrayed himself as a moderate, he should choose a conservative candidate that could appeal. Finally, McCain likely needs to choose a younger candidate to offset his own age of 72 against the likes of Sen. Barack Obama, who is 46.

When Sen. John Kerry chose Sen. John Edwards as his running mate in 2004, it was because of Edwards’ social conservatives, but his appeal ends there. Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour is a strong conservative who could potentially warm the south to McCain. However, he may be too conservative for the rest of the country, ruining McCain’s chances of grabbing key Democratic states.

Finally, Sen. Lindsay Graham of South Carolina is a McCain backer and friend with plenty of experience and well-liked moderate who could potentially warm the south to McCain. However, he has no experience and has irritated many conservatives with a position similar to McCain’s on immigration.

The online poll will be open from 9 a.m. April 7 to 9 a.m. April 14.

The political news

The latest statistics on the political campaign trail

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Rodham Clinton is running about even nationally with Barack Obama in the Democratic presidential race, 46 percent to his 49 percent, in the latest Gallup Poll. The survey had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The poll was conducted March 31-April 2 and involved interviews with 1,218 Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters. The survey used a tracking poll, in which Gallup interviews voters every night and uses the results from the three most recent evenings.

BY JAY JONES

The race for the Student Government Association office has begun and the incumbent President of the Executive Orders Dave Mullken and Executive Secretary Kelly Baumn, were unopposed as of the March 25 edition of the Centurion.

But now it seems that two new and upcoming students have entered the race.

Candidates John Skudris for president and Ravi Patel for vice president, are the upstart hopefuls for the SGA leadership and they are working hard to get their message out.

Running on the platform of ‘student voice,’ Skudris and Patel say that student concerns will be the first they will address in all situations, including the hottest debate on this campus, the smoking ban.

In their campaign letters circulating among the student body they say, “While we acknowledge the health risks of cigarettes and the inconvenience they provide to non-smokers here at Bucks, we do not believe that a universal ban is the best way to solve the problem.”

The current regulations at Bucks state that all campus buildings, halls and environments and a possible ban on the entire campus could come as early as the next A&M meeting, however, smokers are left out in the cold in order to get a cigarette.

Patel suggests providing tents away from the buildings or designated areas so that smokers and non-smokers are not interfere with non-smokers.

“Well the ban is aboliing people’s rights,” Skudris said in a recent interview. “We want to compromise with designated smoker areas so that non-smokers will not have to deal clouds outside of the doors created by smokers.”

But putting the brakes on a full smoking ban is not the only issue these two wish to solve the problem.

“We also want to install suggestion boxes on all three campuses and designated smoker areas,” he said “in order to get a feel for what the students want. Through a top 10 list presented to the faculty council, we determine what the largest concerns are on campus are and find ways to relieve them.”

Both candidates want to place suggestion boxes at each of Bucks’ campuses, and they note concerns of their problems.

Upon their collection and review, Skudris wants to outline these issues into a report which he will present to the Board of Trustees, hoping to start the process of solving the problems.

“We don’t want to govern the students,” Patel clarified, “we work as your voice to the big dogs.”

But when asked if they lost this race what they would do, Skudris emphasized, “Even if we’re not elected we want our dream to live on. Some of our ideas may be used by the new administration and just by being here that the student voices are heard.”

For a full list of candidates and to vote, visit www.bucks.edu/sga.

The online poll will open from 9 a.m. April 7 to 9 a.m. April 14.
Penland Prize
STUDENT LITERARY CONTEST

GENE PENLAND
1935-1985
Department Chair,
Professor of English

Three Categories:
• Poetry: Three Poems
• Short Story: 5000 word limit
• Essay: 1500 word limit

$50 Prize in each category

• Entry deadline: Friday, April 11, 2008, 4:00 p.m.
• Entry form must accompany all entries
• Obtain entry forms from Language and Literature Office, Penn 105
• Entries must be typed/word processed
• Reception to honor winners

Bucks County Community College
Newtown • Bristol • Perkasie • www.bucks.edu
Where to learn. Where to return.
### April Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Bucks Baseball Home Game vs. Delaware</td>
<td>2 Read the Centurion Newspaper!</td>
<td>3 Men’s Baseball vs. Camden 3:30 p.m. (away)</td>
<td>4 Aquatics Fitness Instructor Classes from 5-9 p.m.</td>
<td>5 Bucks Tennis vs. Central Penn 1pm (home)</td>
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<td>6 Bucks County High School Art Exhibition, thru April 12</td>
<td>7 Art Exhibition</td>
<td>8 Social Science club trip: Ben Franklin Bridge: Up and Over</td>
<td>9 Men’s Baseball vs. Northampton 2pm (away)</td>
<td>10 Bucks’ book group discusses Finn: A novel by John Clinch</td>
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<td>13 See the movie “Street Kings” starring Forest Whitaker and Keanu Reeves</td>
<td>14 Jobs: Getting Your Foot in the Door Workshop 11a.m.-12p.m.</td>
<td>15 Social Science club trip: Isaiah Zagar and the Magic Garden</td>
<td>16 Lower Bucks campus evening transfer fair 5-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>17 Counseling Workshops: How to be successful at Bucks 11a.m.-12p.m.</td>
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<td>20 Random sobriety checkpoints scheduled all over Bucks County</td>
<td>21 Team Tennis Bucks vs. Central Penn 3 p.m. (away)</td>
<td>22 Foreign Film Cache” 7p.m. Library Auditorium</td>
<td>23 MLB: Phillies vs. Milwaukee Brewers 8:05 p.m. (away)</td>
<td>24 Men’s Baseball vs. Lackawanna 1:30 p.m. (home)</td>
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<td>27 See the movie Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay</td>
<td>28 Watch 2 hours of Family Guy on TBS 8-10 p.m.</td>
<td>29 Men’s Baseball Bucks vs. Lehigh-Carbon 2 p.m. (home)</td>
<td>30 MLB Phillies vs. San Diego Padres 7:05 p.m. (home)</td>
<td>25 American Red Cross Lifeguard Training from 6-9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 The NFL holds its annual collegiate draft E-A-G-L-E-S!</td>
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**Across**

1- Gone by; 5- Hairlike structure; 10- Eldest son of Noah; 14- Human bone, located in the arm; 15- Not appropriate; 16- Defeat decisively; 18- Pass into disuse; 19- Rime; 20- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 22- Free from strife; 24- Niger neighbor; 27- Revenuers, for short; 28- Mountain climber; 32- Performance; 36- Also; 37- Bay; 39-鸟 that gets you down; 40- Spanish stew: ____ podrida; 42- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 44- Hindu mother goddess; 45- South American ruminant; 47- Chop into small pieces; 49- Goal, intention; 50- Song part; 51- Agitate; 53- Converse; 56- Control; 57- Removal of organs by surgery; 61- Bloodsucking worm; 65- Paint unskillfully; 66- Rise to one’s feet; 69- Brazilian state; 70- Old phone buttons?; 71- Tennis great Rod; 72- Foot covering; 73- Swing around; 74- Mournful poem; 75- Loud yell;

**Down**

1- Cat sound; 2- Moisturizer ingredient; 3- Rebuff; 4- Thick woven straw mat; 5- Monetary unit of Afghanistan; 6- One-million link; 7- Scandinavian; 8- Overturn; 9- Water vapor; 10- Wedge-shaped; 11- Foot of a horse; 12- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 13- Blackbird; 21- Title bestowed upon the wife of a raja; 23- Surrender; 25- Kind of cod; 26- Religion of the Muslims; 28- Ring-shaped island; 29- Hard candy; 30- Like some bears and icecaps; 31- Tending to a definite end; 33- Standard of perfection; 34- One of the Leeward Islands; 35- Dirt; 38- Male voice; 41- Friendly; 43- Skin disorder; 46- Zwei cubed; 48- Wicked; 52- Insecure; 54- Passageway; 55- Sum; 57- Increases; 58- Remove water from a boat; 59- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 60- Church center; 62- Reverberate; 63- Black bird; 64- Back part of the foot; 67- Bit of film, to a photog; 68- Boring; 69- Brazilian state; 70- Old phone buttons?; 71- Tennis great Rod; 72- Foot covering; 73- Swing around; 74- Mournful poem; 75- Loud yell;

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*Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com (http://www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.*
The Leane: Like a ‘ticking time bomb’

BY LAURA IRWIN
Editor-in-Chief

Nothing fast about ‘Run Fat Boy, Run’

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Columnist Staff

No altars boy sing in “The Leane,” the area’s latest and greatest Brit punk revival band.

Their shows are for punk-rock fans yearning for a unique style that is rare to find in this day and age of copycat tunes.


This sort of garage-band goes-pro story begins during a bachelor party in the summer of 2003 when 6-degrees of separation united LoStracco with Jessie S., on lead guitar, a long-time friend of Miguel Arizmendi, drums and percussion, LoStracco’s friend from youth. Then, LoStracco brought in Brett Thompson, friend from Arcadia University, on bass guitar, thus “effectively starting ‘The Leane’ in August 2006, playing our first show at John and Peter’s that September.”

“It started really slow,” said LoStracco, “but in June of 2007 we made it a point to get out there and get shows. After that, it was a domino effect with booking gigs.”

LoStracco is able to fine-tune his words to fit with the music the band creates. Jessie starts with a guitar riff, Thompson lays down some bass and Arizmendi starts the beat—an idea is born.

Whether it’s about relationships, politics or social graces, the Leane’s songs cover a well-rounded appeal to rock fans yearning for a band.

Their shows are for punk-brit-punk roots. No altar boys sing in “The Leane,” like their lyric “...tickin’ time bomb...” is— a ticking time bomb for bigger and badder stages.

When asked if it’s all sex, drugs and rock and roll, LoStracco said, “Well, yeah, actually. It sounds cliché and superficial but it’s our main motivation [in creating music.] We’re not really about baring our souls. I like to keep our lives a mystery and work toward pure entertainment.”

Even their name, “The Leane” is a tribute to British slang meaning drunk. “It’s like ‘I’m so leane I couldn’t stand up straight,” explained LoStracco, who took a couple semesters abroad in England.

And adding the extra ‘E’ is “The Leane’s” tribute to their Brit-punk roots.

Kurt Osenlund, 23, from Holland, took a drag from his cigarette and said “Michael [LoStracco] is musically talented. He’s dynamic on stage and you can tell he takes a pride in his performance. As a whole, the band is incredibly talented.”

The band has its separate and professional lives, but when the time comes to meet in Jessie’s basement, they become a unique group with a common goal in entertaining.

“We knew each other when we were younger. We are able to eliminate band drama and we compromise and sacrifice for each other. It feels great not having to worry about anything,” said LoStracco. “They are my brothers in arms.”

Sure, “The Leane” expresses themselves through their music, but their main goal is to wow crowds and leave them wanting more.

“We were doing a cover of Snow Patrol’s ‘Signs of Life’ and people were like ‘oh my god that’s amazing!’”

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Whether LoStracco whips out maracas or a tambourine and bounces on stage with Thompson to the music, or Arizmendi hits a killer beat, the floor is vibrating and the crowd is leaning in for more of “The Leane.”

For more on “The Leane” visit myspace.com/thetheleane and see the next show at The Trocadero Theater’s Main Stage on Friday April 18.
OpEd
A Piece of My Mind
A weekly column by Centurion Editor Mark Bennett

I don’t want to put anyone to sleep with my actual vacation, but one thing on the way back really irked me. When I got into Ohio, I got pulled over again and got another speeding ticket for doing 83 in a 65 mph zone and got an $80 ticket. Now, if this cop really had nothing better to do and wanted to give me a ticket for doing 8 mph over the speed limit, fine, I’m not going to argue with him simply because I want to get on my way. But more than 20 minutes after I got back on the road I must have passed at least four cars broken down on the side of the road. They weren’t abandoned, the hazard lights were still flashing, people were still inside the cars and there wasn’t a single emergency vehicle helping any of them. Whatever happened to “Serve and Protect”? It was probably 30 degrees outside and instead of offering these stranded people, who might actually be in trouble, any assistance, this cop would rather sit 10 miles up the road and terrorize people for barley speeding. “Protect and Serve” is supposed to be a police officer’s job description and these are just empty, some might say, empty words. From my personal experiences it should be something along the lines of “Hand In Hand” but if you are under the age of 25, every cop that encounters you is going to have the same thing on his mind, “This kid is up to no good.” My friends and I have been pulled over many a time, on the way to the beach, the concert, our own home, etc, and though these encounters are a most of the time we haven’t done anything wrong… but we’re treated like convicts. So when the cop steps out of his vehicle, patted down on a traffic-rich road, placed in the back of squad cars when they tear through the car just waiting, hoping to find something that they can grab us by the “crotch” with, dangle in front of us and watch us squirm like the insignificant bugs they automatically assume we are. They’ll talk down to us, as if we don’t matter and are simply there, their own amusement. It’s a subtle combination of embarrassed, humiliation and enraged. They may think they’re doing a public service for arresting the kid that had an empty dime bag in his back seat minus a few seeds, or hauling away the guy that turns 21 in one month who just blew a 0.08 on the breathalyzer. But let’s examine what happens afterwards. They go to court; both lose their licenses for a period of time, and then the trouble starts. Without a car, they have problems getting to work, show up late a few times—get fired. Same problem with school—can’t get to the campus on time, start to be late for their classes, their grades start to slip, and they might have to drop out. Most people that drop out don’t go off on a completely screw his life up. Why? I guess those cops were making the community safer. Because it was the morally right thing to do? Because they were horrible crooks and they deserved to be punished? Or because they were used as an excuse for finding someone that might actually be in distress they would rather hassle some kid and completely screw his life up. I’m not saying we don’t need cops; they make sure that chaos doesn’t erupt on the streets and keep a sense of order. However, understand if my particular age group doesn’t like them very much. And it’s not just me, ask any one under the age of 25 if they like cops and don’t be too surprised if they give you a negative answer. To sum it up for you, in my 20 years on this planet, I’ve only ever seen one cop happy to see a cop once, my friend’s car wouldn’t start at the Tweetwer Center and he gave us a jump.

Oh Baby! A weekly column by Centurion Managing Editor Janine Logue

At six and a half months pregnant, I am heading off to my local 3D ultrasound office.

Steven and I never planned on having children and so this is a really big deal for our families. They had all but written us off when it came to having children and so this is a really big deal for our families. This ultrasound is a great way for the expecting family. They will also supply us with a DVD of the ultrasound. They will also provide us with a few printed photos of our baby, distinguishing easier for diagnostic proposes. For right now, the ultrasound is a great way for him to start a real bonding with his son. It is harder for men because they can only feel the baby from the outside in. Women get to experience the feeling of our baby growing and moving and becoming a new life. Men can only empathize with it.

Spring Reflection A weekly column by Centurion Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin

I have no idea why January is supposed to be the time of year for inner-reflection and resolutions. Who wants to evaluate their life under gray and dreary clouds blowing bitter wintry gusts of seasonal depression? Not me, that’s for sure. I buy those pink-hued light bulbs that mimic UV rays to get my spirits going mid-cabin fever psychosis. But, now that it’s officially spring not only do my flip-flops emerge from hibernation, so does my mind.

Spring is a much better time for goals, personal reflection and change.

Everyone talks about spring cleaning, and as a quasi-compliance cleaner, the alarm sounds from within my brain to open my windows for a little air exchange and Lysol the Hell out of anything that may still have winter on its surfaces. My cat Kerri seeks out dust bunnies to pounce to no avail.

I go over to my parent’s house, otherwise known as free basement storage, and get all the clothes I have thought about wearing for the long months of “Ligh, cold” and for once, my drawers are closing without a fight, everything is folded nicely, at least for the time being.

Now that my apartment is conquered, I can move on to cleaning out the cobwebs in my brain. People are just like plants. We need water, sunlight and a little TLC to not brown at our edges, whatever that may articulate to. So when the days are short and bleak, I run on auto-pilot.

Finally my feet are free from binding footwear and my head is able to vent too.

Spring, if taken as an awakening, gets my gears going on doing what I want to do, not what I actually did over the winter months and what do I want to do with myself now, now that I’m awake. I contemplate my current employment, friends, family, and finances and find stuff I can look forward to. As of now, I’ve decided I want a vacation, and a really hot boyfriend. Where that leaves me with my state of mind is currently undecided, but I think that once I spend some time outside wasting a day or two reading under the shade of the tree in my yard, I’ll feel a lot better about my place in life.

I think this is a straight-across-the-board kind of thing—spring makes you happier. You’re life could suck just as much as it did in February, but now it’s April and despite the fact that taxes are due, your dog ran away, your boyfriend left you, a leg was amputated or the dish ran away with the spoon, you are in a fabulous mood.

I’m old enough to move to another more perpetually spring-like state or country, but that’s not the point. The hardship and suffering one goes through, the complaining and nagging and whining and hemming and having makes nice weather worth it.

You never really know what you had till it’s gone. And the anticipation of spring and summer is like; well, fill in the blanks. Help me?
He traded away shooting guard for the recently fired Billy King. Stefanski did when he took over Sixers General Manager Ed lemonade. That's what new a perimeter threat, and they're low-post scorer, they don't have Newtown. “They don't have a 21, a journalism major from Conference,” said Kevin Yorke, doing so in an entertaining fash- ion. “I thought they would finish more salary cap room and to give the Sixers young players a chance to play. He instructed Coach Maurice Cheeks to imple- ment a fast-break attack that emphasizes the Sixers' talented youthful core of players. And he relied heavily on the leadership and playmaking ability of point- guard Andre Miller, who if the All-Star game was to be played today, would be a shoe-in. The Sixers have been on a tear lately that nearly no one saw coming. Since Feb. 5, only three teams, the Celtics, Rockets and Spurs, have a better record than the Sixers, who have won 20 of 27 games in that span. The play of the Sixers bench has been a primary reason for the turn- around. Lou Williams, Rodney Carney and two rookies, Jason Smith and Thaddeus Young, have added a burst of energy that has allowed the Sixers to run opposing teams out of the gym. Young in particular has been instrumental to the Sixers attack. “I didn’t think they drafted well,” said Andrew Brown, 20, a journalism major from Newtown, “but as soon as Thaddeus started playing, they started winning.” Young, a 6’8” forward, is the NBA’s youngest player at 19. He is a relentless offensive rebounder and has an innate ability to finish around the basket, often times making difficult shots look easy with his cleverness around the rim. The future looks bright for the Sixers, who are one of the youngest teams in the league. This year’s playoff experience will only help in lending experi- ence to the young team. And who knows what will happen during the playoffs? Could there be more surprises on the way? They’ve exceeded our expecta- tions so far, who’s to say they will stop now?