Can Bucks quit smoking?

BY LAURA IRWIN AND PHIL COLES
Editor-in-Chief, Sports Editor

On April 10, the Bucks Board of Trustees heard and approved a proposal for a campus-wide smoking ban to take effect, if it meets final approval, Jan. 1, 2009.

What does this mean to Bucks?

It’s not clear, because the idea of policing such a policy is overwhelming to campus security.

What was brought to the board was simply a proposal, a drafted policy that still needs a final vote by the board. But some say if approved, the measure could be problematic.

“This is a reckless measure put forward by a previous administration and if it’s put into place, it will alienate a lot of students here at Bucks,” said John Skudris, president-elect of the Student Government Association. “I know from talking to students that the majority do not want a smoking ban. If it does get passed, I wouldn’t be surprised if attendance or enrollment dropped.”

While the American Cancer Society does advocate banning smoking in campus buildings, they believe that smoking should only be restricted to 20 feet away from building doorways.

College students aged 18-24 are the only U.S. population group in which smoking is not decreasing. So is banning smoking on Bucks’ campus feasible? Is it even possible when a national survey conducted in 2005 reported that 36 percent of all college students smoke?

Bucks is far from the only college that has considered a total ban. There has been a national trend by community colleges to curb smoker’s rights. The trend started in Missouri in 2003 and gathered steam as the Surgeon General released a 2006 report that centered on the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

While California has been far and away the leading state concerning non-smoking in businesses, restaurants and college campuses, the trend has moved across the country. Bergen Community College in New Jersey has recently passed a ban on smoking at its campus. NJ counties, such as Morris, Burlington and Somerset have also passed such bans.

So how do colleges enforce their non-smoking policy? It’s complicated.

At Bergen, the policy is not always enforced. “We don’t want to be a police state,” said Bergen President G. Jeremiah Ryan. “We’re not going to go after students in their cars.”

At Morris County College, fines are in place. Morris President Edward Yaw said, “Some fines have been levied out, but most students just abide.”

Under the proposal, Bucks smokers are to be warned upon the first offense, fined $50 on the second offense, $100 on the third offense with Code of Conduct sanctions to be taken against a student if a fourth violation occurs.

The Bucks proposal states that the sale and distribution of tobacco products is prohibited, and there will be no designated smoking areas or ash cans anywhere on college property. All will be alerted to this fact by signs, brochures, web alerts, advertisements and media coverage.

The draft also states that, “Managers and supervisors are responsible for keeping employees informed… all employees are

Continued on page 2

INTG classes

INTG courses aren’t popular with many Bucks students, who complain that the classes are useless and worry that the credits won’t transfer. Transfer officials say they usually do.

BY MARK BENNETT
News Editor

Virtually every student at Bucks must, at one time or another, take an Integration of Knowledge course. But many students aren’t happy about it.

Many students interviewed by the Centurion say the courses are poorly organized and that the multiple-instructor format is confusing. They also complain that the classes have little to do with their majors, and worry that INTG credits won’t transfer.

Almost every major that Bucks offers requires an INTG course in order to graduate, according to Barbara Ford, the director of transfer services. Some of the majors that don’t require an INTG course to graduate, such as nursing, combine the skills that are taught in the INTG classes into other required classes.

Many students believe that INTG classes don’t transfer to four-year schools, but Ford says that is incorrect. “There are more colleges that accept the courses than ones that don’t, typically they transfer over as electives to other schools,” said Ford.

But Phil Coles, a 25-year-old journalism major from Quakertown who took the Culture and Affluence INTG class last semester, said that didn’t happen in his case. “I’ll have

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WEATHER

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

Wednesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81.

Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 79.

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 69.

WEATHER COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.
Is a potential smoking ban feasible?
continued from page 1

60 credits at the end of this semester, 57 of them will transfer to Temple, but my Integration of Knowledge class won’t transfer,” said Coles. “That INTG class was a big waste of time and money.”

According to Dr. Annette Conn, provost and dean of academic affairs, “The beginning of INTG courses at Bucks began in the late 80’s when the academic head at the time put together a committee to look at the core curriculum. That committee evolved the idea of Integration to Knowledge.”

Conn added, “This is a capstone course, a course to take at the end of a student’s [term] to integrate what they have learned throughout their [study],… Topics like science, social science and critical thinking.”

The INTG classes, according to the Bucks website, are a writing-intensive, team-taught course that examines themes from perspectives of multiple scientific, cultural and societal disciplines. This means there are many assignments due over the course of the semester that must be turned in to the multiple professors teaching the class. Also, there is a group project that must be completed by several students working together.

Some students, like Matt Feder, 22 from Levittown, say the group project is the most difficult aspect of INTG classes, because Bucks students typically work outside jobs and live at home, making scheduling meetings outside of the classroom difficult.

Conn said she receives a wide range of student feedback about the course. “Lots of students love it, lots hate it and lots wish they don’t have to take it. Some say it’s the best course they’ve ever had.” When asked if the negative feedback ever resulted in revisiting the core curriculum, Conn said that it was assessed a few years ago and it never came up.”

Kaitlyn Spangenberg, a 21-year-old psychology major from Yardley added that having multiple teachers makes it like having three classes.”

However, some students had good things to say about the classes. Shulman also said that his Art of Science and Art major because “they didn’t seem to know when one teacher’s class was easy for me but the class was pointless, it was a waste of time and money and had nothing to do with my major.”

Lior Shulman, a 22-year-old journalism major from Israel, also said that his Art of Science and Art major because “they didn’t seem to know when one teacher’s job started and another finished.”

Brian Jacobs, a 34-year-old business major from Yardley who recently passed the creativity class, was one of the few students interviewed who knew that the school he planned to transfer to would accept the INTG credits. Even though the course would not transfer to Rider University, he was still unsatisfied with the course. “Unfortunately for the majority of Bucks smokers, the students, they have yet to be included in any statistical analysis.

Bucks INTEGRATION of KNOWLEDGE courses get no respect
continued from page 1

According to Bucks’ course catalog, 15 INTG courses are scheduled to be offered for the fall 2008 semester, ranging from The Art of Science and Nature to War and Peace.

News, Website Student Life Entertainment Sports Op-Ed
Mark Bennett Kevin Yorke Kristin Caciano Phil Cokes Jay Jones

Edited by: Laura Irwin Managing Editor: Janine Logue Advertising: Tony Rogers

THE CENTURION
Bucks County Community College’s Student Newspaper

To receive The Centurion’s email edition, register at www.Bucks-News.com and a PDF version of the newspaper will be delivered directly to your email box.

Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for spelling and malicious or libelous statements, and may be edited for space. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s full name, address and telephone number, although the address and telephone numbers will not be published.

Send letters to: Centurion 275 Swamp Rd Newtown, PA 18940 centurion@bucks.edu www.bucks-news.com/letters to the editor 215.968.8379

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Monday, May 5, 2008

2 News
Candidates battle over electoral votes

BY JOHN SKUDRIS

All we ever hear in the news is which Democratic presidential candidate does better in the polls against presumptive Republican nomi-

nee Sen. John McCain. But it isn’t the popular vote that elects a president - just ask Al Gore. It’s the Electoral College.

The Electoral College is a term used to describe the 538 presidential electors that meet after each presidential election to cast official votes for a candidate.

Each state has a certain number of Electoral College votes equal to the amount of congressional districts in the state, plus two for the two U.S. senators from each state. For example, Pennsylvania has 19 congressional districts and two U.S. Senators. Add the two numbers together and you get 21, which is how many Electoral College votes Pennsylvania has.

In order to be elected president, a candidate needs to receive 270 or more electoral votes.

In 2004, President George W. Bush received 286 to John Kerry’s 252. In 2008, either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama will need to grab 18 more electoral votes than Kerry did in order to win the election.

ElectoralVote.com is a site designed to analyze the Electoral College statistics. The site, which is updated daily, compiles polls from every major pollster for each state and decides which candidate would win each state if the election were today. Based on the site’s information, and recent polls from around the airwaves, one can analyze which candidates would do better in what states.

In order to analyze what states will be won by which candidate, one must first recognize the states that are “safe.” These states are the ones that will go for a certain party regardless of who the candidate is.

For the Republicans and McCain, the safe states include his home state of Arizona, Alaska, Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.

These states are likely to go Republican no matter what, and their electoral vote tally is 178. The only way one of these states could potentially swing the other way is if one of the Democrats chose an influential person from one of those states as their vice-presidential candidate.

For the Democrats, there are 13 states that are likely to go their way. These states include California, Delaware, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington. The District of Columbia and its three electoral votes are certainly going to go “blue” as well.

The total of these states and DC are 200 electoral votes.

This leaves the count at 200-178 - advantage Democrats - with 15 states up for grabs.

These states are denoted as “swing” or “battleground” states because they could go either way in the election.

However, some states are in play for one of the Democratic candidates and not in play for the other.

If Obama is the nominee, the Democrats can probably count on better numbers from the southern “red” states that were listed in the safe Republican column. However, it is unlikely that he’d be able to poach any of those states from McCain.

If McCain is the nominee, the Democrats can expect wins in Iowa, Virginia, Colorado and Nevada. If Obama is the nominee, the Democrats can expect wins in Iowa, Colorado and Nevada.

However, it is unlikely at this point that Obama could win Virginia against McCain.

Obama does extremely poorly in the key states of Florida and Ohio, where polls show he is losing to McCain. If all the states were projected right now based on recent polls, both McCain and Obama would finish with 269 electoral votes.

Obama can be projected at this point to win Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, New Mexico, and Iowa. McCain would likely win Arkansas, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Florida and New Hampshire.

This would leave both candidates with the same amount of electoral votes.

In the event of an Electoral College tie, the House of Representatives would decide the next president.

Since the house is dominated by the Democrats at this point, it would seem likely that they would choose Obama over McCain.

However, it’s tough to tell what exactly will happen with the polls in many states are so close. It’s possible that Obama could lose Colorado and New Mexico.

It’s also possible that he could win Nevada or New Hampshire.

If Clinton is the nominee, the Democrats are more likely to win the big swing states of Ohio and Florida, since she does better with elderly and white working-class voters.

She also polls better in Western Virginia — working class voters — and Arkansas — Bill Clinton’s home state.

Either way, both Clinton and Obama have a tough road ahead against a strong opponent in McCain. But right now, it appears that Clinton has the slight edge in a general election matchup.

Political News

McCain: No earmarks

By The Associated Press

ALLENTOWN, Pa. _ Sen. John McCain said that the bridge collapse in Minnesota that killed 13 people last year would not have happened if Congress had not wasted so much money on pork-barrel spending.

Federal investigators cite undersize steel plates as the “critical factor” in the collapse of the bridge.

McCain regularly rails against “earmarks,” the pet projects that lawmakers tuck into spending bills, such as the proposed $223 million “bridge to nowhere” in Alaska.

The Arizona senator says he would eliminate earmarks, estimated at $18 billion last year, and would make each project compete in the regular congressional funding process.

McCain also criticized earmarks for projects in New Orleans that didn’t help protect the city from Hurricane Katrina, saying a congressional earmark helped to dig a canal outside New Orleans that helped speed the hurricane into the city.

McCain said such projects “have everything to do with the power and influence of an indi-

vidual congressman or senator and has noth-

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BY ANDREW BROWN
Centurion Staff

It’s 8:43 a.m. on Saturday, April 19 and Patty Fennell should be exhausted. She has just flown into Pennsylvania from San Antonio the night before, and she has not had sufficient time to sit down and recuperate since her arrival.

But as she enters the Boilermaker’s Union Hall in Newportville on this morning, she is as jubilant as can be. Sporting a smile that would make Tom Cruise stand up and take notice, Fennell greets every single person in her vicinity. Most of these folks display about half the energy she does.

But Fennell did not fly all the way to Philadelphia just to say “hi” to some people in a union hall. She still has to walk to the doors of 80 Levittown ranch homes and convince the people within these homes that Barack Obama is worthy of their vote in the Pennsylvania primary the following Tuesday.

Fennell and several others arrive in Pennsylvania on this particular weekend to lend all they can to Obama’s cause. Here at the Boilermaker’s Union Hall, dozens of Obama supporters convene to make calls and canvass the surrounding area. The targeted areas are Bensalem and Levittown, two municipalities brimming with the blue-collar voters that both Obama and Hillary Clinton covet.

Fennell has traveled such a great distance for the sole son for her community. This is, however, the first time that Fennell has traveled such a long distance for the sole purpose of campaigning.

“After I saw so many people coming to help in San Antonio, I thought that I could surely do the same,” she said. “I think the exchange of support is very important, especially this year.”

As Moore pulled up to the curb of Candle Road, the first street of the day, he handed Fennell a clipboard with a list of homes to hit. The campaign has already zeroed in on potential supporters, so it was slightly easier than going to each door. The two then split up.

Moore, with his caramel complexion and lime-green Burberry polo shirt, looks slightly uncomfortable approaching some of the homeowners on his list, who would only be caught in lime green if the Eagles incorporated the color into their next jersey. The Levittown residents, many of whom boast dark tattoos and Harley t-shirts, knew immediately the Burgdorf realtor was not one of them.

Fennell sticks out in her own way. Clad in a black t-shirt emblazoned with an image of Barack Obama in front of the White House, she has made no attempt to disguise her purpose in this neighborhood.

It came as a bit of a shock to both Moore and Fennell that the people on their lists were so willing to debate. The Cohalt Ridge residents did not shy away from speaking about politics in a very personal way. Moore claims that this is the first time people have been so frank with him since he has been canvassing.

“Most of the people I spoke to in Newtown or Doylestown, the more affluent areas, just agreed with whatever I was saying,” Moore claimed. “These people are willing to debate. It’s a nice surprise.”

Some issues that many of these homeowners find important are gun control, health care and, not surprisingly, the economy.

“I’m no policy genius, but this guy’s promising a whole lot for the economy, and I don’t know if I can believe it all,” one homeowner said. “I’m a construction foreman. I know that I can say all I want to my guys, but if I don’t get it done, I lose their respect. I worry about something like that with Obama.”

Of course, many of the homeowners had heard all about Obama’s notorious “bitter” comment regarding the working class. Many were quick to comment on the statement that seemed to be a shot aimed directly at their beloved community.

One elderly woman takes particular exception to his remarks. “Everyone makes choices with religion and other things for very personal reasons,” she said in an exasperated tone. “I don’t think anyone’s holding on to their beliefs in vain, as he seems to think.”

Moore and Fennell do an admirable job of fielding the questions, and while they are certainly pressed to clarify certain issues, the pair does not experience any real hostility all morning.

As the heat from the sun becomes unbearable, lunch time is a welcome notion. As she chows down on a chicken sandwich, Fennell begins to describe her career. She began as a music teacher, and in 1998, was able to open a charter school, aptly named the Fennell Center for Arts and Education. This was one of the first charter schools in all of Texas, and opening it was no easy task.

“The San Antonio city government makes it tough to open a charter school,” she said in between sips of Dr. Pepper. “With all the taxes, it wasn’t easy. Luckily, since I had worked in politics, I knew people that were able to pull strings for me. So my dream came true eventually.”

Moore listens closely, and the topic then shifts between the current president and the FLDS, the Texas polygamist group garnering all the headlines. After a brief pause, Fennell said, “This is why I like being involved in politics. I love just getting to talk to different people and meeting people I’d never normally get to meet.”

The pair soon climbed into the Accord and headed back to Cohalt Ridge. As it was a beautiful day by this point, few homeowners are present. An on-foot Postal Worker tells Moore, “Oh, they must all be down at the Oxford Valley Mall or something.”

“Wherever they may be,” Moore and Fennell leave literature in many screen doors, and head back to the Boilermaker’s Union.

The seemingly indefatigable Fennell offers to make phone calls for a few hours, but Boris Medzhibovsky, the 23-year-old site leader, laughs. He tells her she’s done enough for today as he takes a drag off his Parliament. After all, she and Moore have been walking for nine hours.

Moore reconvenes with his girlfriend, and for an odd moment, all is surprisingly serene.
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<td>21 Lill Gettinger: Memory Transformed at Michener Art Museum</td>
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<td>22 Commencement (tentative)</td>
<td>23 Go see “Indiana Jones: The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull”</td>
<td>24 Phillies vs. Astors 7:05 (away)</td>
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<td>25 Robert Whitley: Beauty Function and Grace, at Della Penna Gallery</td>
<td>26 Memorial Day: No Classes</td>
<td>27 Classes begin for Summer 1 6-8 week classes</td>
<td>28 Take a Ghost Tour in New Hope, at Main and Ferry Streets.</td>
<td>29 Play miniature Golf</td>
<td>30 Go see “Sex and the City: The Movie”</td>
<td>31 Go tubing on the Delaware River</td>
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**May Calendar of Events**

To Do 5

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<td>1.43rd Annual Student Exhibition in Hicks Art Center Gallery</td>
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<td>3. Men’s Baseball EPCC Tournament</td>
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Across
1- Duration; 5- Lost a lap; 10- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 14- Tent stick; 15- Long for; 16- At any time; 17- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 18- Loose fiber used for caulking; 19- Quantity of paper; 20- Demolish; 22- Stingy; 24- Agent; 25- Make lace; 26- Middle East rug; 29- High mountain, as found in central Europe; 32- Approaches; 36- Shark’s offering; 37- Spain and Portugal; 39- Black bird; 40- Reticent; 43- Bind; 44- Upward trend; 45- Hollow grass; 46- Croatian coastal city; 48- Wind dir.; 49- Unit of energy; 50- Test area; 52- Doze; 53- Foliage; 56- Confined within limits; 61- Holly; 62- Shovy action; 64- Pigeon coop; 65- Start of something small?; 66- Tee, e.g.; 67- Asian sea; 68- Verdi opera; 69- Woman’s one-piece undergarment; 70- Recite; |

Down
1- Raced; 2- Altitude; 3- Winglike body part; 4- Massless neutral lepton; 5- Ladle; 6- Salver; 7- Cask wood; 8- Egg cell; 9- Reinfuse; 10- Cylindrical; 11- Above, finished; 12- Actual; 13- Military force; 21- “Losing My Religion” band; 23- Capital of Yemen; 26- Awkward person; 27- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 28- Tied; 29- Misuse; 30- Russian revolutionary leader; 31- Self-respect; 33- Farewell; 34- Entangle; 35- Celsius, for one; 37- Mischievous child; 38- Vanilla ___ American rap star; 41- Wall painting; 42- Hot and humid; 47- Word blindness; 49- Cramp; 51- Hallowed; 52- Gritty intro; 53- Capital of Peru; 54- Et (and other men); 55- Set right; 56- Pine; 57- Hog fat; 58- Bull; 59- Catchall abbr.; 60- Big name in PCs; 63- Cover;
Students take a ‘W’ over an ‘F’

BY JAY JONES
OpEd Editor

Bucks students are starting to notice many of their classmates are eerily empty now. The April 8 withdrawal deadline has passed, and course withdrawal forms have apparently inundated the Admissions office.

Many students are apparently deciding to take a ‘W’ on their transcripts instead of an ‘F’.

The withdrawal is considered one of the most critical times for a student as it can make or break an academic career. With numerous students depending on getting good grades to keep their financial aid and many more riding their marks in order to transfer to a four-year school, a withdrawal doesn’t look as nearly as bad as a failure.

“When it comes down to it I can always re-take the class,” said Eric Haugh, 21, of Fairless Hills.

Many students seem to agree. Since a drop has no effect on your GPA it is far more alluring for a student to drop a class instead.

“Just work harder and take a ‘D’,” said Maria Duminski, 18, of Morrisville. “An ‘F’ drops my GPA and a ‘D’ will mean the professor will notify you of your drop from the transcripts and no refund.”

According to a report by the Department of Education, dropout rates among 18-24-year-olds in 2002 to 2003 were a staggering 11.3 percent among males and 8.4 percent among females.

Student-initiated withdrawals are those completed by students before the dead- lines, with a simple ‘W’ on the transcripts and no refund.

Withdrawal becomes official once the day the course becomes a ‘W’ on your transcript.

Instructor-initiated withdrawals however are strict. If a student has poor attendance until the midterm then the Office of Admissions will notify you of your drop from the course. If you want to contest that decision, however, the Committee on Academic Performance can be called in to schedule a review of the instructor’s actions.

For those crafty few who think that not attending class will mean the professor will just drop you from the course, a rude awakening is in store for you. If official withdrawal papers are not filled out then you are not officially withdrawn. Instead of a safe removal of a course from your academic record, you instead will be faced with a failing grade due to lack of attendance.

“I don’t understand why someone thinks dropping their grade will help you,” said Sara Mohn, 20, from New Hope. “Just work harder and take the grade you deserve.”

Bucks summer session gets you caught up

As the spring semester winds to a close, Bucks will once again open its doors to summer sessions available to students wanting to catch up, get ahead, or transfer credits.

It is expected that students from more than 260 other institutions will attend Bucks this summer.

Students can take classes online, or in a hybrid format, which is a mix of on-campus learning and online classes.

If you are interested in attending summer sessions, there are many key dates to be noted. Various methods of registering. Students can register online, mail-in or walk-in.

Walk-in registration is May 14-20 for the first summer session and June 25 to July 1 for the second session. Classes range from six-to-12 weeks long, depending on class format.

There are a variety of courses that are offered to summer students. The summer brochure of classes lists more than 200 courses.

This year the popularity of summer sessions has increased. Summer session enrollment has increased 4 percent from last year, and 63 percent of the students currently enrolled have already been taking classes during the spring session.

If you have questions or concerns regarding summer sessions, contact Admissions at (215) 968-8100.
Print circulation still on fast decline

BY SEAN MCGOVERN
Centurion Staff

Newspapers are waning in sales and general public interest. With all-news networks, the internet, and various radio sources, newspapers are no longer the vital source of information they used to be.

If you read that, then you are one of the few who The Centurion’s readership is down, but so are the subscriptions to the Washington Post, New York Times and Wall Street Journal. According to a Post article in March, the decline in newspaper reading began more than 20 years ago.

Now, the internet might kill the print edition of print news. While most newspapers publish daily, bloggers give instant analysis, and offer easier feedback to readers.

The Centurion keeps up with the new technology, using webcasts and an online archive of stories. But there is still the foundation of the print edition, the core, and the core of the journalism program.

Santucci, a 21-year-old communications major said, “The only time I read [The Centurion] is when someone either hands it to me or I’m in a location and see it sitting there.” When asked about looking at the stories online, Katz said, “I didn’t know there was a journalism home-page.”

But the students who do actively seek out the weekly student newspaper are also having difficulties. Thomas Coates, 22, chemistry major, said he could never get a copy. “When I do look for copies, they’re all gone.”

“We have different perspectives of information they used to be. With all-news networks, they’re all gone.”

Santucci said that blogs are a more reputable source. “The problem is that blogs are a misrepresentative source,” said Kimberly Piefaizek, 26, nursing major. “I believe that blogs are less reputable than a newspaper because [blogs] are based on opinion rather than facts, and hard journalism shouldn’t be based on opinion.”

The University of Southern California Online Journalism Review covered the blogger versus journalist question in 2007, when it found that on average, bloggers used more sources than journalists, and those sources were of a wider variety than those found in newspapers.

USC also found that while bloggers use traditional Washington sources in their political stories, and cited newspapers as other sources, the print editions rarely cited blogs as sources. Perhaps people have missed journalism, or what it might hold for the future of journalism and the media. However, the drawbacks of blogs and questions about their legitimacy linger.

In March 2007, presidential hopeful John Edwards found out during a debate that someone was probing out of the political race when the Associated Press reported on what a blogger said he heard from a source—a high school chain of hearsay that was proven to be untrue.

Coates said, “If you really want to understand something, you must get all the facts. You can’t just go with what you’re hearing. You have to get many sources and then make up your own opinion.”

If the print edition is to survive, it needs readers and feedback. The Centurion, as well as a plethora of major and minor publications, has pdf archives and interactive news on their respective sites. Visit The Centurion at www.bucks-news.com and see imbedded weekly webcasts and leave comments on the week’s articles. To become a journalism home-page is www.bucks.edu/journalism.
By Christopher Johnson
Centurion Staff

The biggest videogame release of the year was Grand Theft Auto IV on April 30. The most anticipated title in 2008, GTA IV is one of the most controversial games in the history of console games— with mafia bosses, prostitutes, drug dealers, illegitimate business men and people with very low moral centers. But in the game these people are your friends and whether you help them or not determines how the game will play out for you.

This formula is not new to GTA IV but it is the first game of its kind to be released on this scale. Even after a few hours of play, the game will suck you in and make you want more. Unlike previous games, whether Vice or San Andreas, this version of the game has you cast as Niko Bellic, a man of Eastern-European descent who comes to America with ideas of women, cars and expensive houses. These ideas were planted into his head by his cousin Roman Bellic, who claimed to have many women, four cars and an expensive house.

Unfortunately, “your” cousin actually has a low-rent apartment not far from his cab business. This is the start of the main string of missions that lead you to the five boroughs of Liberty City. It should be noted that the original Liberty City of GTA I is vastly different from GTA IV. The city has been revamped into a more recognizable, parody-city of NYC.

Four of the five boroughs are represented in this game from Bohan, the Bronx, to Algonquin, or Manhattan. A bunch of NYC landmarks can also be found all over the game, from the “Statue of Happiness” to “Rotterdam Tower.”

It almost feels like you are in NYC, but with the ability to get away with murder.

The game’s graphics and interactive gameplay have been stepped up from the previous games. Niko can interact with everything around him, a vast improvement to previous GtAs.

In previous games characters would try to interact with some of the environment and it wouldn’t look realistic, in fact it was almost cartoony. Now, when Niko steps on to a curb, he steps up from the curb. He will actually have one foot up on the curb and his other foot in the street, just like real life.

One of the best elements of the new game is that there will be episodic content available for download for Playstation 3 and Xbox 360.

The other fantastic part of this game is that for the first time, multiplayer play is available online.

Now, players can team up with up to 16 other players and go on killing sprees, complete missions and, of course, steal some cars.

Overall, there is a lot of game to take in and it will take more than 30-hours of straight gameplay just to get through the main story.

The gameplay itself is worth the play time and this game will have huge replay value.

According to Yahoo! News, GTA IV will most likely generate $400 million in revenue in its first week, wiping out Halo 3’s first-week record and breaking the all-time entertainment industry single day sales record.

For anyone who has played these games in the past, this is a must buy, if you haven’t purchased it already.

For newcomers to the dynamic of GTA, go pick it up now.

**Forum focuses on coverage of crime**

By Laura Irwin
Editor-in-Chief

Maybe it was because he escaped from a pointed gun to his head, that has chatted with Moushey or was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for a 60-part series on the Ohio mafia, but Bill Moushey, one of three panelists at the ninth annual Media Day at Bucks, captivated an array of students.

Alongside him was J.D. Mullane, a columnist for the Bucks County Courier Times, and Erin O’Hearn, a reporter for Channel 6 Action News. They all spoke to their experiences for this year’s theme—covering the police beat.

“You know what’s great about journalism,” said Moushey, “is that you get to do what you want—and to me it’s dear to my heart—bad guys. You are covering the worst human beings on the face of the earth, and there certainly are plenty of bad guys to go around.”

Moushey has been an investigative reporter for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette since 1985. His stories have included a series revealing abuses within the federal witness protection program, uncovering corruption on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and revealing dreadful health care conditions in the state prison system.

His Post-Gazette reports have won numerous national and local awards. His 1996 series “Protected Witness” was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He was awarded the National Press Club’s Freedom of Information Award. He also received honorable mention for The Newspaper Guild’s Heywood Broun Award for reporting about society’s underprivileged.

“Journalism doesn’t pay very well, but we certainly give each other a lot of awards,” reflected Moushey of his near-achieved Pulitzer Prize.

Instead, the winner was a reporter who was dying of AIDS and chronicled the final stages of his life. “My editor said to me, ‘Now you know what to do to win,’” said Moushey.

Mullane agreed with Moushey—journalism wasn’t the highest paying job, but its rewards far outweighed any financial downsides.

Moushey was nominated for the Bucks County Courier Times and a blogger for Philadelphiachildren.com, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his crime series that examined the 1962 rape and murder of a 9-year-old girl in a Bristol Borough church.

He is the only reporter to interview bank robber and Alcatraz inmate Tony Rogers, to pursue not just a cubicle but a career.

**The Centurion**
Student returns from year in Tokyo

BY ANNAS MIRZA
Tokyo Correspondent

I spent a good chunk of last year in Tokyo and I’m finally back at Bucks for vacation. Coming back to the States has given me time to think about what I’ve done in my time in Tokyo.

Tokyo was one hell of a trip. I don’t think that could be said enough. I’ve done and grown so much in the past few months that it’s even showing as I meet up with people I haven’t seen in months. To be honest, I really don’t know what to talk about when I think back on Tokyo.

There was so much, and there was a lot I never really did. I feel like I need to do a lot more when I get back in a few weeks.

Then I reflect on the small things that really leave a big impression on me. Things like—how easy it is to grasp the language if you’re just willing to learn a little, or maybe how people walk up and down stairs.

In Japan, the left side is always used for a slow pace while the right side is only used for people who are in a hurry.

This is a bigger issue as I came back to the States. Already I told off a guy for not moving down the escalator in a quick manner from the right side of the stairs.

I quickly said I was sorry to someone, so it’s odd to be able to run around like an idiot.

And that’s not an overstatement. I drove for the first time today in months, and it was like being able to fly over the ground. Being able to go around anything I want, and wherever I want is a gift that people shouldn’t take for granted.

This might be a strange one but I’m no longer used to watching a lot of TV. Since I got back, I’ve been overwhelmed by all the TV channels and started to ask myself just why someone would need so many. So, I’ve cut off watching TV and just stuck with playing Grand Theft Auto IV.

I’ve been down that road as something—everything one does, even if you don’t drink alcohol. These are just some of the things I’m noticing as I’m staying at home. If I look back, Tokyo feels way too far away and it feels like a world I can’t physically connect with anymore, almost as if the only way I could really notice Tokyo was if I was still there.

Being in Tokyo has been one of the greatest experiences of my life, and I’ll be so excited once I get back. I’ve met a lot of friends, been to amazing festivals and have hung out with some of the most amazing women. Yeah, I missed home while I was in Tokyo, but now that I’m back, I’m missing Tokyo more.

Oyasumi!
Op/Ed

Monday, May 5, 2008

A Piece of my Mind
A weekly column by Centurion Editor Mark Bennett

Well, this will be my last editorial for Bucks. That’s right, if all goes well I should graduate and have an associate’s degree in journalism in a couple of months, and then it’s little time off to reflect and then off to a four-year school. As I sit here writing this, I remember back to when I first started this column, my first story was about how bad drivers push me near the breaking point of going on a shooting rampage. All the editors at the paper loved it, and told me that I should just write about things that push my buttons, that when I’m angry about something I should write about it. It makes for an interesting read. Well, that’s how they want it, that’s how they’re going to get it.

How come every single time the cops are about to let me go, one of those drunken idiots have to start arguing with them? Dude, just shut up, Shut up, shut up, shut up! They are about to let us go, screw your opinion on the matter and why do you have to try and get the last word in? Just shut up, take your verbal scolding and be glad they’re not going to arrest us. But that’s asking for too much isn’t it?

How come the people that talk the most in class have absolutely nothing of importance to say? You know, this three-hour class would be over in an hour if you crammed a Twinkie in your pie hole and sat there and listened to what the professor had to say without putting your 2 cents into the conversation.

Why is it that the best looking girls always go with the guys that will treat them the worst?

How come the African-American College Fund isn’t considered racist but if someone were to start a Caucasian College Fund it would be the most racist thing since the Rodney King beating?

How come a girl can quite literally beat the crap out of a guy, but if he so much as pushes her he’s in jail for the night?

Why do people waste more time than ever before concerned about American Idol, MySpace and celebrity worship then things that are actually important?

How come people have so many beliefs? Why not just have ideas? It’s easy to change an idea, people kill and commit murder for things they believe in. Thanks “Dogma.”

Why is everyone I know a bloody moron? Have you ever taken a look around at your friends, co-workers and people you’re forced to be in contact with on a daily basis? Has anyone else ever caught themselves thinking, “Christ, I’m surrounded by idiots!”

How come our lives have good lives whine and complain about how hard they have it? Listen you little worm, at any given time there are millions of people in the world that have it worse then you, and for the love of god stop crying me down and shut up.

How come Comedy Central can say the “N” word but they censor the vulgar term less human feral material? It might just be me but I always have a hard time when the “N” word was worse than the “S” word... it must just be me.

Well, I’m running out of space so that will end my rant for this issue. You know, I’m kind of sad that this will be my last editorial, and I’m going to miss this place when I’m gone. I only hope that like a Ryder “You’re going to miss me when I’m gone.”

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

It is the end of the semester and, as I have done for the last four years, I have spent the time trying to wrap up last minute assignments and prepare for finals. The difference being that, this semester, I am seven months pregnant and I am feeling the effects of my condition.

Finals are always a hard and stressful time for a student, but with so much on my mind lately I have found it doubly hard to concentrate on my studying.

Every time, I sit down to type up a paper or prepare for a test, I find myself having to walk off a cramp or run to the bathroom.

Soon, I find myself in the nursery trying to straighten up and get together some new baby item.

The next thing I know, it is 10 p.m. and I am ready for bed. I had not had a chance to get back to my studies.

Even as I write this column, my final piece of the semester is due in tomorrow and it’s all work that I can barely look at.

I started the semester with a column on my being a Republican. This year’s Democratic primary angered me. Pennsylvanians were stupid for letting Hillary Clinton take our state. Really? Her?

Now as a registered member of the GOP, I couldn’t vote for either candidate, but had I changed my political stance, I’d go for Obama because Colin Powell is running against Obama. I’m ready for a qualified race between two substantial candidates.

Then there is my Heely’s. I still think they are fun and I don’t care what people think of my footwear, or anything pertaining to me. Besides, without the wheels, they make a nice pair of sneakers.

During Halloween I carved some pretty rad pumpkins and I look forward to more purposeless crafts in the future.

My fourth column was about dating past the age of 25. I’ll be 26 in September and hopefully by then I’ll be closer to a relationship than I am now. I’m not really desperately looking for a partner in crime however “the scene” is different once one of many of your friends have husbands. It’s a kick to the gut at times because you’re reminded of other people’s happiness, regardless of their utter joy and marital status, it gets so annoying to watch and who doesn’t like tax breaks?

Christmas was around the corner when I wrote about the never-ending Yuletide tunes blaring from the stereo systems in stores. Seriously, what is the connection between buyer impulse and bad music and why is popular music “inappropriate” for many stores? I hear plenty of good tunes that avoid profanity and could easily have hidden Mickey’s etched on their tracks, “Buy me. Buy me.”

Then, the day after Thanksgiving, I went vegan. I pledged 30 days to a completely vegan diet. I went 44 days before the embarrassment of restaurant dining was too much for me. I went 67 days until I bought my favorite food, yogurt, at the grocery store. I lasted way longer, it felt long anyway, than my usual timeframes. I lost a few pounds and most of the dietary stipulations have stayed with me. But, as mentioned in the earlier article, I cannot resist the smoky heaven that is BBQ sauce.

My favorite article this semester was the one I wrote on slacker Bucks students. Not only have I heard the jeers from my targeted audience loud and clear, and thank you for reading, but I have made significant leaps from a dismal environmental perspective. I do not want to marry a psychopath nor do I go for balls could be sexy. Don’t deny it. I am talking about a hotness thing. During Halloween I carved some pretty rad pumpkins and I look forward to more purposeless crafts in the future. I do not want to marry a psychopath nor do I go for balls could be sexy. Don’t deny it. I am talking about a hotness thing. As has been the ebb and flow of my life, as soon as one thing ends, another begins.

I will be moving on to big things, new adventures, just like the rest of the students in my graduating class.

For most of them, it will be transferring to a four-year college or entering the work force. For me, it will be small student, some new little baby item.

A Modern Hypocrisy
A weekly column by Centurion Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin

The year’s columns in review

Another year at Bucks draws to a close and here’s the last issue until fall semester. In other words: end of the year wrap-up!

Why do people waste more time than ever before concerned about American Idol, MySpace and celebrity worship then things that are actually important? How come people have so many beliefs? Why not just have ideas? It’s easy to change an idea, people kill and commit murder for things they believe in. Thanks “Dogma.”

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**Manchester U, Chelsea going for title**

**BY ANDREW BROWN**
Centurion Staff

Moscow hoteliers, restaurateurs and bar owners beware: the English are coming.

In a thrilling week of Champions League soccer action, British clubs Manchester United and Chelsea FC secured passage to the final of the competition, set for May 21 in the Russian capital.

This will be only the third time in the history of the competition that two clubs from the same nation will face each other for the cup. It’s also the first time that two clubs from the Barclay’s Premier League have clashed in the final, which is essentially the European equivalent of the Super Bowl.

In the first semi-final of the week, United met FC Barcelona at Old Trafford, their legendary home ground.

Barcelona came out and played their trademark brand of pass-and-move soccer for the first 10 minutes of the match. The Manchester outfit, playing without key men Wayne Rooney and Nemanja Vidic, seemed to have to answers for the questions the Spanish side were asking of them.

However, in minute 14 of play, Barca defender Gianluca Zambrotta made a careless pass on the edge of his own penalty area. United midfielder Paul Scholes interrupted the Italian’s pass and punished him for his mistake, thrashing the ball past keeper Victor Valdes from 25 yards. A truly breathtaking strike and United were up 1-0.

The goal seemed to give United a much needed boost of confidence, and for the remainder of the game, they looked the side more likely to score again.

Barca played some attractive passing soccer in the middle of the field, but never really seriously threatened United. At the end of 90 minutes, United prevailed, and waited anxiously to see which of the two European rivals they’d be facing for the cup.

In Wednesday’s all-English semi-final, Chelsea met Liverpool FC at Stamford Bridge, where the London side has not lost to English opposition in any competition for over four years. The first half had ended 1-1 after Liverpool’s John Arne Riise had scored a shocking own goal in minute 95, keeping Chelsea in the tie.

The game promised attacking soccer, which is a departure from the historically dull, defensive nature of this fixture. Chelsea’s Didier Drogba opened the scoring in minute 72 on a trademark rebound.

After the half time interval, Liverpool’s Spanish goal machine Fernando Torres lev- eled the score. At the end of regulation, the match remained deadlocked.

In minute 98, Michael Ballack, Chelsea’s German international, was brought down in the area, and Frank Lampard stepped up to take the penalty. Lampard had been grieving the death of his mother all week, and it was a surprise that he had even started this match. So when he coolly buried the ball past Liverpool keeper Pepe Reina, he was understandably over- come with emotion. It was a touching moment for even the most ardent Chelsea hater. The Blues now had a 2-1 lead.

Didier Drogba doubled his tally in the 105th, and put Chelsea up 3-1. Although Ryan Babel pulled one back for Liverpool, it was not enough. The match ended 3-2, and Chelsea advanced to their first ever Champions League final.

As United and Chelsea are also both vying for the league title, this game carries a great deal of importance for both teams.

The match will have concluded by this time, so one of these sides will have been crowned Premiership champions. The title race gives the cup final much more weight.

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**Chase Utley is the Phillies big hitter**

**BY TOM ROWAN**
Centurion Staff

The season is in full swing, and the Philadelphia Phillies are among the nations elite big league ball clubs. For the fourth consecutive year, Chase Utley has been the man who has carried the team.

This season the team has a content hand in right field. Utley is leading the majors in doubles with 16 and in total bases, is tied for the most runs, and has the 2nd most hit by pitch. Utley is second in slugging percentage and batting average is also second in MLB.

If the Phillies are lucky, they may see back-to-back straight MVPs. The Phillies have already had their first winning record (15-13) in April since 2003.

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**Centurion baseball champs**

They came in as underdogs, they emerged as champions.

Rookie Coach Mark Bohling led Bucks baseball in double wins over the weekend to claim the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference Baseball Championship.

The Centurions were seed- ed 3rd for the tournament, however they beat second-seed Delaware County Community College 13-5 on Saturday, then dispatched top seed Luzerne County Community College 9-5 at the tournament that wrapped up on May 4 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Bohling said the team was confident going into the tour- nament, despite having a reg- ular season conference record of 3-5 and an 0-2 record against Luzerne.

"Surprisingly we had a pretty good attitude going in," said Bohling in a Bucks press release. "The last two games of the season, everyone started hitting. Good pitching is vital, but really hot bats will carry you through. We gave the team a run for its money."

Bohling credited the pitching of Pat Boyle, 19, of Yardley and 18-year-old Craig Kieffer of Perkasie with pulling the team through the tournament.

Boyle pitched all nine innings Saturday, then stepped in to relieve Kieffer in the ninth inning Sunday to earn the save.

"Both pitched incredibly," according to Bohling, "better than they had all season. It was a great finish." According to Bohling, other standout players included pitcher-only Ryan Herrmann, 19, of Silverdale, and utility player David Mullens, 18, of Philadelphia, who played left field during the tournament.

Contact Mark Bohling at (215) 664-43 or at his e-mail, bohlingm@bucks.edu.

Baseball is one of seven collegiate sports offered at Bucks. To learn more, visit www.bucks.edu/athletics.
I have this sick feeling. I was born on Oct. 5, 1982, and if you recall, that was the last year a Philadelphia team won a championship; sorry, the Philadelphia Wings or Phantoms don’t count. That year the 76ers won the NBA title. My feeling, however, is that there won’t be another championship in Philly until the year I die.

So unless I meet a tragic death sports fans prepare for 60-some years of painfully close-but-no-cigar, short-end-of-the-stick finishes.

Let’s examine our four major sports teams’ chances. The Flyers. They are surprising everyone with their run in this year’s playoffs. If any team has a chance to win a title, it’s these guys, because Ed Snider considers them his favorite, as he always owns the Sixers. The Sixers to make their teams better. They have a fan base that is one of the most loyal in the league, prompting Sports Illustrated to call Philadelphia the NHL’s new “hockeytown” replacing Detroit.

So what’s the problem? This year’s club is too slow defensive-ly, and while they will probably get past Montreal, they won’t past the Penguins. And as for their future title hopes, they need to change their image as the tough guys of the NHL. League officials want to see a crisp, clean, fast brand of hockey. The Flyers will continue to cater to theiroughneck fans by playing their beat-em-up style. Unless they change their mentality, it will be tough for the officials to “let” the Flyers win a Stanley Cup. Conspiracy…maybe, I wouldn’t rule it out.

The Sixers. Not this year, forget about it. The future does look bright though. New Sixers GM Ed Stefanski is a Philadelphia native and will do everything he can to make the Sixers champs. The team has some talented young players, and the experience they are gaining this year’s playoffs is invaluable.

They also are a team filled with huge holes. Good teams usually have two low-post scoring threats, the Sixers have none. Championship teams also usually have a superstar player, and the Sixers don’t have one. And perhaps most importantly, the Sixers, owned by Ed Snider, are not his favorite team. Therefore it is only natural to assume most of his energy - and more importantly money - will go toward the Flyers.

The Phillies. Well, for starters their pitching stinks. And well…that’s pretty much it. They have one of the most potent lineups in all of baseball and yet for the third consecutive year, they have failed to get enough quality pitching to be taken seriously in October. Can you imagine if this lineup was in Boston or New York? They would be, borrow and steal to get some arms to match. If Chase Utley wins the MVP this year, and he has to be the early favorite leading the NL in home runs, the Phils could have three different MVP’s in three seasons. To waste this kind of talent should be a crime punishable under the law. This is an easy one: until they get a new owner to replace the clueless David Montgomery, they won’t win a championship.

The Eagles. This one hurts the most, since Philly at its core is a football town. We appreciate seeing men throwing themselves into one another with the force of an Ivan Drago right-hand. Let me resurrect some bad memories for you. I’ll fast forward to the early 90’s since most of us weren’t around to see the first Eagles Super Bowl team fold to the Raiders in 1980. The “Mean Green Machine” defense had climbed into the pantheon of great defenses, earning itself a nickname that is only given out to legendary units like Pittsburgh’s “Steel Curtain” and Minnesota’s “Purple People Eaters.” Randall Cunningham is revolutionizing the quarterback position. Then tragedy strikes as star defensive tackle Jerome Brown is killed in an auto accident. Cunningham goes down with a severe leg injury and title hopes go up in smoke.

As for this year’s Eagles’ team, there are just too many holes to look past. The quarterback is coming off a major injury, and has played inconsistently throughout his entire career. The offensive line is aging and the receiving corps lacks a top-flight receiver. Defensively, their line is underminded and wears down as the season progresses, their line-backers are young and untested and the safety position is a question mark. But that is not the biggest hurdle stopping the Eagles from winning the Super Bowl.

Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie is a lucky man. He owns one of the most successful franchises in all of sports. The Eagles are a cash cow with a die-hard fan base; just try getting a ticket under $100. All Lurie cares about is keeping the franchise successful. He wants those extra playoff dollars, but could care less about seeing the team win it all. How else would you explain the absence of a top flight receiver? It just doesn’t seem fair. I believe Philadelphia has the most knowledgeable fans in sports. Why do we deserve such scorn? Whatever the reason, I am feeling a good vibe out like Mark Twain did; in and out with Haley’s Comet, 82 years in between. Only in my case, the comet is a Philadelphia championship.