

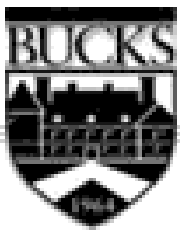


THE CENTURION

The week of November 12, 2007

www.bucks-news.com

Volume: 43 Issue:5



Bucks Events

Nov.13:

9a.m.-1.30p.m.- Trip to the PA Academy of Fine Arts/Thomas Eakins

11a.m.-3.30p.m.- Trip to Italian South Philadelphia

1.30-5.30p.m.- Trip to Philadelphia Society hill/Powell house

Nov.14:

8a.m.-5.30p.m.- Trip to Brooklyn Museum/Ancient Treasures

More upcoming events Inside!

INSIDE

The new Clubs and Organizations Message Board

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A Modern Hypocrisy

** Christmas is coming, but it's already in stores.*

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Flyers are improving

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Weather

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 52.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

Wednesday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.

Weather courtesy of the National Weather Service

Textbook Policy Causes Book Bind

Many financial aid students find it difficult to pay the the book store price, while their friends are buying books at a fraction of the cost.

LAURA IRWIN

Managing Editor

It's a bind many financial aid students increasingly find themselves in – how do you buy evermore expensive textbooks when the aid money hasn't arrived yet?

With financial aid awards typically not arriving until four weeks into the semester, such students receive a textbook voucher at the start of each semester from the Financial Aid office. But the vouchers can only be used at the bookstore, for new, full-price textbooks. Students who don't receive financial aid, meanwhile, can buy used books online for far less.

And when professors demand that students have required textbooks in the first week of the semester, that leaves financial aid students with few choices, most of them bad. They can either fork over top dollar for new texts at the bookstore, or they can wait for their aid and risk falling behind in class.

Janine Logue, 26, from Bensalem, is a financial aid student overwhelmed by the cost of textbooks. "This semester, only taking three classes, I spent \$300 on textbooks alone. If the library offered other options for me it would alleviate a lot of financial stress. One of my most expensive textbooks I

barely had to use. If the library had it, I could have paid my cell phone bill on time."

So what can be done?

Willie Coleman, Bucks' bookstore director, said the bookstore carries all required texts for each semester's classes and the price of those books is set by the publisher.

When asked why the bookstore doesn't accept certain textbooks during the tri-annual textbook buyback, Coleman said the publisher is the one really accepting the books and it's up to them whether or not to take the book back.

Why doesn't Bucks purchase these rejected books if they are going to be used next semester, and put them on the library shelves?

If the bookstore bought otherwise unacceptable textbooks for a reduced cost or accepted donated books and added them to the library shelves for student reference, students who could not afford textbooks until receiving their aid could access required reading rather than going without.

Coleman responded that those options have never been explored before, but it would have to be agreed upon by the library, which would shelve the books.

But officials at Bucks' library say that would go against their policy.



Empty space in the Bucks library shelves.

Photo by Kate McDermott

"Our policy is absolutely no textbooks in the library," said Marzenna Ostrowski, Bucks' collection development librarian,

who is responsible for what books go on the shelves.

Continued on page 2

A Change of Plans for Swamp Road

MAT WAITER

Centurion Staff

If you have ever driven to Bucks' Newtown campus, you know that Swamp Road is an accident-prone roller coaster of hills, dips and turns swarming with hasty student drivers and industrial sized dump trucks.

What you may not have known is that a \$10 million reconstruction plan is in the works which aims to

integrate improved safety features while expanding the road for the anticipated needs of tomorrow.

In a collaborated effort of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Newtown and Wrightstown townships, a redesign and reconstruction plan of a five-mile stretch of the road have been proposed, based on a traffic and engineering study that was carried out in 2002.

Due to the high number of acci-

dents and the increasingly high level of congestion on the road, especially near and around the Bucks Newtown campus, plans have been made to widen the road. With its new 12-foot-wide lanes and 8-foot shoulders, the road should better accommodate the lines of student cars and local quarry dump trucks, while also allowing cyclists to travel safely along side them.

According to the official Swamp Road Improvement Project website, which provides information and descriptions of the proposed plans, "Though the topography of Swamp Road poses a challenge, preliminary design features include softer curves and a flatter horizontal and vertical alignment to increase sight distances and thereby create a safer road."

Other highlights of the redesign plan are improvements in roadside drainage, longer turning lanes around the park and school area and the addition of several pedestrian walkways to allow easier access to Tyler State Park from local neighborhoods.

While these proposed improvements and reconstruction plans may seem beneficial to everyone regularly using the road, the exis-

tence of local wetlands in association with the tributaries of Neshaminy and Mill Creeks, which may be threatened by the plans, have provoked many township residents to oppose the changes.

After receiving a petition signed by 300 individuals who live on or near Swamp Road, who are in opposition to Penn DOT's current design plan, changes have and are being made to prevent the destruction of any segment of the wetlands in danger.

In response to local concerns that their initial plan would destroy several-hundred square feet of significant wetland, Penn DOT has stated that, "This would be totally unnecessary because a slight shift in the alignment and some adjustments to the proposed cut into the hillside at the northeast corner of the 90-degree bend in the existing roadway would eliminate the wetland impact altogether."

While revisions are currently being made to avoid damage to the local wetlands and historic buildings near the road, Penn DOT believes that its estimated year of 2012 as a completion date may still be achievable, while satisfying all interested parties.



Red Bull Gives You Wiiiings and a trip to Sweden

LIOR SHULMAN
Centurion Staff

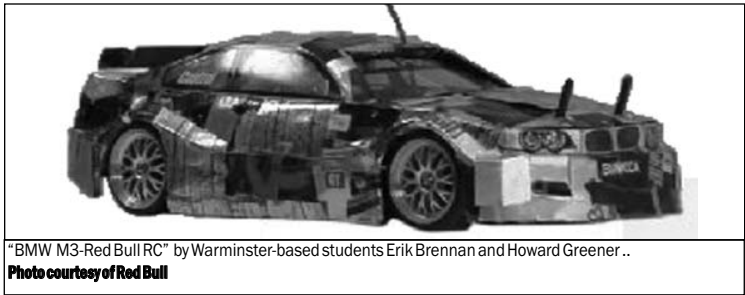
Philadelphia hosted this year’s Red Bull Can of Art exhibit, in which two Bucks entries competed for a grand prize trip to the Art Basel museum of Switzerland. Red Bull’s Art of Can annual exhibit challenges artists to create a piece of original work that is inspired or made from recycled Red Bull cans. No limitation is placed upon the artist, whose only guideline is that each creation reflect the spirit of Red Bull or utilize the can in some way. Bucks student Howard Greener and friend Eric Brennan, both 24, of Warminster, were selected as finalists in creation of the “BMW M3-Red Bull R/C Car.” Made from more than 48 cans, the hasty car can reach speeds of over 30 mph. Despite a strict deadline, the

two determined innovators pulled an all-nighter to arrive minutes before the judging deadline in Old City for The F.U.E.L., Fostering Undergraduate Exposure on Location, Collection. “I have always been good at designing and building things,” Greener said. “Having worked as a cad operator and a welder, I have had the opportunity to see things from start to finish.” Greener is studying architecture at Bucks and plans on graduating in 2011. He grew up with a need for speed. Anything with wheels and a motor has always piqued his interest. Another finalist in the Red Bull Art of Can contest was Victoria Kuchuk, a 23-year-old graphic design major at Temple University’s Tyler School of Art. The Holland native presented “Spark,” a mosaic recreation of Michelange-

lo’s masterpiece “Creation of Adam.” “I wanted to make something that had some sort of meaning,” Kuchuk said of her entry for Art of Can. Growing up, Kuchuk developed and enhanced her natural artistic talent through private art tutors. She continues to embrace growth as an artist. “I was motivated to enter the contest partly because I thought it would be fun and challenging to be chosen for an art exhibition.” Challenging indeed, for Philadelphia’s 2007 contest lured a total of 265 artists of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels. A panel of four distinguished judges selected 56 of the most eye-catching, creative pieces to be exhibited at The F.U.E.L. collection on Oct. 20-Nov 2. The winners were revealed on

the eve of the exhibition on Oct. 19, in a private gala reception in honor of the artists, their families and guests. First place was presented to Alexandra Faith Money for “Fueling the Rat Race.” A rat cage complete with Red Bull refreshments for two aluminum rodents. Finalists showcased for nearly two weeks, yet neither entry from Bucks County was voted a winner. But, the common denominator between the two submissions was

the fun behind the creation. Kuchuk said, “I am very happy to be taking part in such a fun and unique project. I just wanted to see if I could do it!” Participants proved capable of bringing an idea to life; creativity is the seed of creation. Red Bull has created a pedestal for artists to display their talents and enjoy themselves in the process. For more information and pictures visit www.redbullartofcan.com.



Financial Aid Students Want Equal Options for Textbook Buying

Continued from page 1

Linda McCann, director of library services, said, “We develop a collection to support the curriculum.” Shelving space and budget limitations were the main reasons the library said they won’t carry textbooks. However, any patron of the library has seen plenty of unused shelves throughout the library. “I am not totally opposed to talking to the bookstore about options [for shelving textbooks] but the current policy says no textbooks,” McCann said. Although most college libraries don’t carry textbooks, it is not unheard of. Some colleges are offering innovative pilot programs and other solutions to ease the financial burden of textbooks for students. For example, Madison University in Gulfport, Ms, developed a “Free Textbook Program.” This program supplies all required textbooks and course materials free of charge for students. On its website, MU writes: “Many of our students have expressed concerns regarding the

increasing cost of textbooks and materials. In fact, some students were forced to place their enrollment on hold in order to save money to pay for textbooks.” Hofstra University on Long Island shelves textbooks that cost more than \$100 in its library. Closer to home, Delaware County Community College said, “Textbooks are available for approximately 90 percent of the core required courses offered on main campus.” If Bucks isn’t interested in looking into such textbook programs, there are a few other solutions. During textbook buyback, highlighted or minimally damaged books, which are rejected by the publisher, could be purchased for an even more discounted price to be stocked in the library. Or, they could accept donated textbooks. But Ostrowski responded, “I don’t see the purpose. Why would we pay money for sad books?” McCann noted that “Some professors reserve books for their students.” And it’s true: there is one cart behind the library desk that holds about 30 textbooks or other course-required reading on reserve.

How many titles are carried by the bookstore? “We are looking at roughly 800 titles,” said Coleman. Some other college libraries are building their book reserve, rather than only accepting books reserved by professors, which is the process Bucks uses. Miami University undertook such a project. Its website says the following: “Our aim is to assist students who may not be able to afford the textbooks or who may be delayed in purchasing them, and to give all students in the courses an opportunity to make use of their required texts while on campus. Given the rising costs of textbooks, this pilot project is aimed at making these materials for learning as widely available as possible, which is certainly a part of the Library’s mission.” Ohio State University developed a similar program. They put a select number of textbooks for 17 types of courses on open reserve. The University of Illinois is “in the second phase of an innovative pilot project that gives students access to required textbooks for core courses. The Textbook Reserve Project places a broad selection of books on reserve in the

Undergraduate Library, allowing students to share resources and reduce expenses,” according to their website. There are certain limitations to these programs. In order to accommodate students, reserved books are lent on a short-term basis, from a few hours to a day. Also, some lending programs charge students for damages incurred to borrowed books. The Bucks library does not accept donated textbooks from students just looking to get rid of them. “My textbook wasn’t accepted [by the bookstore during buyback] and I thought about donating it to the

library and they turned me down,” said Mark Bennett, 20, journalism major from Levittown. Library officials said budgetary considerations are the main obstacle to implementing such programs. “We don’t have the money. We have limited budgeting resources,” said Ostrowski. “We have to electronically catalog the books and have library faculty shelve the books. That costs money.” For now, financial aid students at Bucks have few options when it comes to buying textbooks.

Centurion Publication Schedule

The Centurion is published weekly on Mondays.
Deadline for advertising is **noon** on the **Wednesday** before publication.

Publication dates are as follows:

November 13	December 11
December 4	

Bucks County Community College’s Student Newspaper

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LETTER POLICY
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.

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Official Member
2006-2007

Concerns Arise Over Flouride in the Water

CHRISTINE E. SWANSON
Centurion Staff

An act currently under review by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives would, if passed, mandate the fluoridation of all public water supplies.

The act could mandate the fluoridation of any water well which serves at least 500 customers. Another version of the act would up that number to 1,000 or more customers.

Either version would include the three Bucks campuses.

With studies, scientists and government organizations in disagreement on the health effects of fluoride, Bucks students also have mixed feelings.

Wilson Kpodi, 20, an engineering major from Bristol, doesn't believe that water fluoridation will get rid of cavities. Kpodi said he felt "not that good" about water fluoridation.

The American Dental Association (ADA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) support community water fluoridation.

But the Sierra Club's Pennsylvania chapter, Fluoride National Research Council report, some EPA professionals, community action groups and many independent studies vehemently oppose water fluoridation.

The CDC claims community water fluoridation as one of the 10 most significant public health achievements of the 20th century.

The CDC and ADA both recommend fluoride be added to water at the EPA-recommended level.

The CDC doesn't recommend that infants be given fluoridated

water.

"Legitimate epidemiological studies have not detected health risks to water fluoridation at 1ppm. The benefits of water fluoridation are great and easy to detect," said The Fluoride Information Network (FIN), a pro-fluoridation group, on their website.

The Sierra Club's Pennsylvania Chapter published a resolution opposing fluoridation in January 1997.

The National Research Council released its comprehensive review of fluoride in March 2006, calling EPA standards unsafe. This statement was in agreement, with a group of EPA professionals who sued the EPA in 1986 because they believed the same.

"Many are shocked, including many dentists, to find that 91 percent of the fluoridation schemes use raw untreated hazardous waste from the pollution scrubber systems of the phosphate mining industry to increase the fluoride levels in drinking water," said David Kennedy, DDS, in an e-mail to a Centurion staff member on Oct. 17.

Kennedy is a fluoride information officer and past president of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology.

Some bottled waters also come from fluoridated sources. Bottled water doesn't assure the absence of fluoride. Only distillation and reverse osmosis filters can remove fluoride from water; carbon filters don't cut it.

"I just don't even know how dangerous it is," said Bucks student David Schuman, 18, of Newtown. He doesn't want it added to his water supply.

According to George A Forsyth, Jr., the general manager of Newtown Artesian Water, Newtown doesn't add fluoride to their water supply, but they do purchase about 50 percent of their water.

"That water is treated with fluoride before it is delivered to us," said Forsyth.

"FLUORIDE: If there's any doubt, get it out!" is the slogan of Fluoride Action Network, a dispenser of fluoride toxicity data and tools for communities looking to remove fluoride from their water supplies, or block attempts to fluoridate.

Jeff Baker, 20, a communications major from Quakertown,

agrees with FAN. "Don't put it in until you know what the hell it does to your body," he said.

According to Forsyth, "A bill such as the one being attempted now is brought before the State House on quite a regular basis with no success to this point."

"Genotoxicity studies which are highly dependent on the methods used, often show contradictory findings... In some studies... fluoride has been reported to induce mutations and chromosome aberrations in cultured rodent and human cells. The genotoxicity of fluoride in humans and animals is unresolved despite numerous studies," said FIN on their web-

site. "Prudent public health practice dictates the reduction of unnecessary and inappropriate fluoride exposure."

Still, the bill sits waiting to be voted on, determining the fate of water supplies throughout Pennsylvania.

"Fluoride, I don't think it's going to hurt us," said Judy Schreiber, 44, of Fairless Hills. "I thought there was already fluoride in our water."

Schreiber said she gives bottled water to her pets and only drinks bottled water herself.

But both sides agree more research is needed.



A Bucks water fountain.
Photo by Kate McDermott

Residents Flee CA Fires

ALEX BLAISE
Centurion Staff

Southern California resident Brad Auerbach has felt the burn of the state's wild fires, but not as bad as most.

The fires forced more than 1,400 people from their homes but Auerbach, 50, who lives outside of Santa Monica with his wife and two daughters, was not one of them.

However, he has been as close as 20 miles away from the fire and he said he has definitely felt the effects.

"I was at a Halloween party at a friend's house last Sunday," he explained. "The winds from the fire were so intense that it blew the tents completely away and knocked over all the booze."

The fires have left 14 dead, more than 100 firefighters and 27 civilians injured, and more than 2,000 homes destroyed. With multiple fires burning, California was in danger.

Former California resident Phil Coles, 25, has grandparents in San Diego County. They had to evacuate and move north to Anaheim, an hour and a half away. In San Diego County, there were nine fires.

"My grandfather owns a carpet cleaning business and he had to call many of his customers to let them know he won't be making it because of the fires," said Coles. "A few

years ago I was there after the fires and [the state] was like a giant ashtray. The freeways were shut down and charred."

The bravest firefighters have helped contain one of the largest wildfires California has ever seen.

Auerbach and his family have lived all over California, first in Los Angeles, then moving to San Diego, then back to Los Angeles. Their first home in Los Angeles was nearly destroyed by the fires.

"I constantly saw the smoke, and my family and I had a lot of cancellations and postponement of events," he said. "I had heard from our old neighbors that they were forced to evacuate and stay in hotels."

Though fires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters occur from time to time, nothing will compromise his views on living in California.

"I don't feel the need to move, these are natural occurrences, besides the fact that some of these fires were arsons," Auerbach said. "These fires happen every 50 to 100 years, it's the documented truth."

A \$250,000 reward was offered for information on the arsonist linked to starting the Santiago wildfire. A small boy playing with matches was found to be responsible for the Buckweed wildfire that destroyed 38,000 acres and 21 homes.

Avoiding MRSA Infection

BRITTANY GORDON
Centurion Staff

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus outbreaks, otherwise known as MRSA, a commonly-known form of staph infection that is resistant to most antibiotics, are occurring in schools around the area and Bucks is taking precautions to prevent students from becoming infected.

Chris Lloyd, director of security and safety, sent Bucks staff e-mails informing them about the outbreaks, symptoms and how to prevent it from occurring.

Some members of the Bucks community are worried that an outbreak is highly likely, but Lloyd said, "Anything is possible at anytime, but the custodians have been using the proper cleaners that kill MRSA bacteria."

Staph is a group of bacteria that can cause various diseases, such as food poisoning and toxic shock syndrome.

MRSA spreads by skin-to-skin contact with someone who is infected, coming into contact with an infected person's personal items or touching a surface that has the bacteria on it.

Preventative measures for avoiding infection are simple: maintain good hygiene.

Showering and hand-washing are simple

and effective ways to stay healthy. Also, authorities recommend covering scrapes with a clean, dry bandage and avoiding sharing personal items that come in contact with bare skin such as combs, athletic equipment, make-up, cell phones, razors, towels and clothing.

When going to the gym bring a barrier towel to put in between you and the equipment and frequently clean commonly touched surfaces.

High schools, such as Central Bucks South, are taking special precautions as well. The restrooms and locker rooms are disinfected daily, along with the artificial turf on the football field.

Ryan Ong, a sports management major at Bucks, graduated from Central Bucks South. He said he is glad to hear that his alma mater is taking the proper steps to prevent a MRSA outbreak.

Ong is a frequent patron of the Wellness Center and isn't concerned about a MRSA outbreak at Bucks.

"You never really know what will happen, but I'm not all that worried about getting infected. The equipment is cleaned so I don't think it's something to be freaking out about."

In 2005 nearly 19,000 people died from the infection.

Bucks Prof. Releases New Novel

JOHN SLACK
Centurion Staff

Bucks professor and former Bucks County Poet Laureate Allen Hoey recently released his newest novel entitled “Voices Beyond the Dead.”

“Voices” is Hoey’s second book published in two years, following “Chasing the Dragon: A Novel About Jazz.”

Hoey began novel writing as an undergraduate but abandoned it for poetry before returning to novels in the late 90’s. He enjoyed the rhythm of writing novels and said he found it congenial.

“Chasing the Dragon” was published in May 2006. His inspiration came from burning some of his favorite jazz songs onto CDs.

While choosing songs for the playlist, Hoey noticed that many of the best jazz songs came from 1957. Wondering what happened in 1957 to cause such a spike in great jazz music, he began to write. The result was his first novel.

After finishing his first draft, Hoey began work on an amateur detective novel, but progress came to a halt when he suffered a

heart attack. The novel was put aside. “I couldn’t bring myself to go back to it,” he said.

A month after his heart attack, with the support of his wife, he began work on his latest novel.

“Voices Beyond the Dead” has a largely political feel. It centers around the Sept. 11 attacks and opens with the main character, Earl Mackey, arriving at his office building just in time to see the second plane crash into the World Trade Center.

The novel follows the longtime relationship between Mackey, his wife and former mentor Thomas Del Giudice from their earliest meeting during the antiwar movement in 1973, to their reunion in present-day suburban Philadelphia.

Hoey got a lot of his inspiration from his own experiences during the antiwar movement. The story is based in a town similar to his hometown at a university similar to one which he attended, The State University of New York at Potsdam.

Some of his characters in “Voices” are based on professors he had while in college. According to Hoey, “There are real people

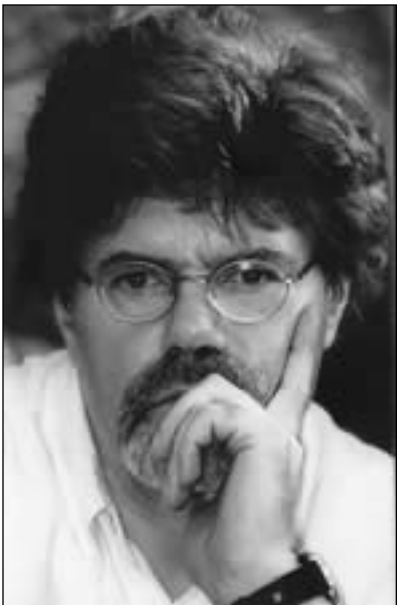
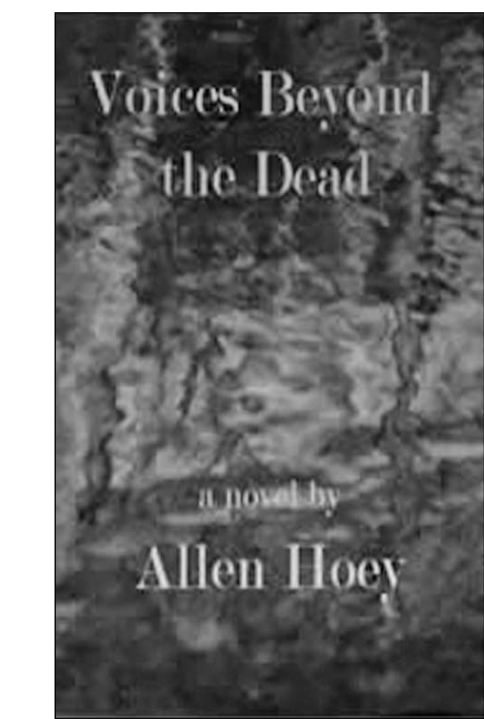


Photo courtesy of Bucks.edu

lingering anywhere in a story’s characters.”

In addition to his two novels, Hoey has released several collections of poems over the years, including his most recent collec-

tions “The Precinct of Paradise” and “Provencal Light & Other Poems.”

These days, Hoey said he is halfway through a second detective novel.

Bucks Clubs Have Message Board

JEN KLIMOWICZ
Centurion Staff

Bucks’ website has added a clubs and organizations message board to increase membership and allow students easy access to meeting times and events.

Information that was posted on hundreds of flyers around campus, and largely ignored by students, is now organized in one online location. “The website serves a few purposes,” said Matt Cipriano, director of student life. “Students at both the Upper Bucks and Lower Bucks Campuses are now able to know what’s going on in a particular organization, even if it’s at another location.”

Cipriano also said he has noticed some increase in club membership, but as

more and more students start to realize the board exists, these numbers are expected to increase.

“Clubs and organizations are open to everyone, and if you haven’t seen the website yet, you’re missing out,” he said.

Because students are unable to attend every meeting, the new message board serves as a resource to those members who need information on what may have been covered on a particular day.

Before the board existed, many students felt discouraged about joining a group they would not be able to attend every week.

Tony Rogers, Bucks’ journalism professor, said the message board benefits journalism students who need information on clubs and events.

“The Centurion staff now has an easier

time interviewing club members because they know when and where to find them,” said Cipriano. “The staff also gets story ideas from the board.”

The message board also allows different organizations to work together on a particular event. “The blood drive may be sponsored by one group, but another club may want to get involved and co-sponsor the event,” said Cipriano. “Groups now have an easy way to contact each other and work together on something.”

To access the board go to www.bucks.edu and click the student life tab. Select the clubs and organizations option, then click the message board link. The board’s web address is: <http://bucksco.proboards105.com/index.cgi>

Transferring to a Four-Year School

JOHN JONES
NICK TAMBURINI
Centurion Staff

When you ask most college students where they see themselves in the future, you hear about their plans to have a job, a place of their own or striking out to follow their dreams. When you ask most Bucks students you hear something different.

A group of girls yell out their future colleges while standing in the Transfer Office in Rollins. “Here is where you come when Bucks is the launch pad to the rest of your life!”

It’s just an example of how Bucks is working to help prospective transfer students have an easier time moving on to the next stage of education.

“Bucks has numerous agreements with over 36 schools, to ensure that transferring your credits from our records to theirs goes perfectly smooth,” explained Mandy O’Reilly, counselor in the Student Advising Office.

It is up to the university a student transfers to whether or not they accept Bucks credits. Most Bucks courses are equivalent to courses offered at four-year colleges. This means that student hours and money at Bucks won’t be wasted.

Transfer Fairs allow students to browse multiple colleges and speak to representatives.

Transfer Office employee Barbara Ford said, “The purpose of transfer fairs is to give the opportunity to talk directly with representatives, and get information from a large number of schools in a relatively short-period of time.”

Dedicated personnel in the Transfer Office are providing as much information as possible, to tell students how to transfer from Bucks.

But they strongly encourage students to visit the school of their choice.

On their website, they said, “Don’t just settle for a picturesque view book, web site, etc. Visit the school. Make sure it’s a right fit for you, and that you’re a right fit for it. Talk with administrators, faculty, students and alumni if you have the opportunity.”

The next Transfer Fair is Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Upper Campus.

Bucks will also hold a fair for nurses on Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the cafeteria.

If you are interested in transferring, contact the transfer office at (215) 968-8182.

Random Photo of the Week



Photo by Janine Logue

A Club with Some Drama to Share

CHASE GRIER
Centurion Staff

Bucks' Drama Club offers an excellent opportunity for any and all students interested in the art of acting, or behind-the-scenes work such as set and stage production.

The club, which meets every Thursday afternoon in the library auditorium from 12:30 –1:15 p.m., plays host to all of the student shows on campus, including the upcoming production of "A Christmas Carol."

The upcoming production, which plays on Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, held auditions last month, but interested students can still play a major role in the show's set and stage design as well as production.

"Along with putting on student productions here at Bucks, the club also aims to bring back two classes that have been absent here on campus: Play Production and Theater Production," said Drama Club President Justin Derry. "The Drama Club is not only just about acting on the stage, but also everything that goes on behind the scenes."

Unfortunately for the club and its members, their most recent show was not as well attended as



The Drama Club
Photo provided by Linda Bontempi

some may have wanted.

Aside from looking to recruit members, the club also seeks to raise awareness of their stage productions.

Club Adviser Pat Engle was dis-

appointed by the audience turnout for the club's most recent production of a murder-mystery, but is not discouraged.

"I heard several audience members express surprise that a

cast so good was not drawing bigger crowds," she said. "It will take time for us to build our reputation, but we can do it."

Students interested in finding more information on the Drama

Club are encouraged to inquire in the Student Life Office.

The club motto is "Life has enough drama. We're just in the club."

Suicide Forum Reaches Out

CHASE GRIER
Centurion Staff

Suicide among teens and young adults is a taboo subject for many, but at Bucks the opportunity to openly discuss the terrible frequency of suicide may be the hope some are looking for.

On Tuesday Nov. 20, The Woman's Center and Bucks counseling services will be hosting a suicide awareness forum for students who want to become more knowledgeable about suicide statistics and causes as well as learning about preventative measures.

Natalie Kaye, Woman's Center

coordinator, hopes to bring awareness to a problem that plagues many high schools and colleges, and has become a cultural issue.

"Suicide is such a large problem in today's youth," Kaye said, "but it's a problem that needs to be both talked about and addressed on a serious level."

During the forum, a 30-minute video will be shown entitled "Eternal High," billed as "a teenager's experience...that will change your life," which depicts teenage depression and suicide. Along with the video, performance artist and professional mime Janet Berkowitz will present a piece

called "Living on the See-Saw."

Following the video and performance piece, attendees will have the option to join small-group discussions with Bucks counselors on the forum and its topics.

Berkowitz, who both dealt with and attempted suicide in her life, will also be available for questions and comments.

"For some people, talking in front of others may be difficult, let alone when it's on such a difficult subject," Kaye said of the group discussions.

The free forum will be held 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and again at 6 – 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

The 'Balloon Freak'

KYLE GARGAN
Centurion Staff

For John Cassidy, it's going to take a lot more than the average person to suck the air out of his dreams.

The magician, and self-proclaimed "balloon freak" will be traveling to Bucks to attempt to break a Guinness World Record that will be sure to take the breath out of you.

Cassidy will attempt to sculpt 700 balloon animals in an hour to demonstrate "The Power of Lungs" and to help kick-off the Great American Smokeout, taking place the following day.

Cassidy, who already holds multiple records, including making 654 sculptures in an hour and 13 in one minute, is focused on breaking his own record on Nov. 14 in the Gallagher Room at 2 p.m.

Official judges from the Guinness Book of World Records will be present with cameras to verify if the record is broken.

"The Power of Lungs" is an event sponsored by the Bucks Chapter of Pennsylvania Stu-

dents Working Against Tobacco (PaSWAT).

The annual Great American Smokeout, organized by the American Cancer Society, encourages Americans to stop smoking for the day with hopes that it leads to quitting for good.

Cassidy has performed all over the country as a comedy magician or Guinness World Record celebrity. For more information on the Great American Smokeout or Cassidy's attempt to break the world, record contact Jean Dolan, the assistant director of public relations at 215-968-8094.



John Cassidy
Photo Courtesy of JohnCassidy.com

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The Hicks Art Center Gallery presents:
 Through; Here
 Recent works by Gwendolyn Kerber
 November 1 - December 17, 2007
Reception: Thursday November 1, 5 - 7 p.m.

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If you have any questions or run into any problems, email webadvisor@bucks.edu or call 215-968-8472.

Online Registration for Intercession 2007

Returning students may register online for Intercession courses until December 14.

Web Access Request:

New students may request web access for online registration.

Walk-In/Mail-In Registration:

Students may register for Intercession courses by mail or in person WITH PAYMENT until Dec. 21 in the Admissions Office Mon-Fri 7:45am-4pm or in the Evening Office Mon-Thurs 5-8pm.

Course Prerequisites:

To register for a course, each student must satisfy its prerequisites.

Proof of Residence:

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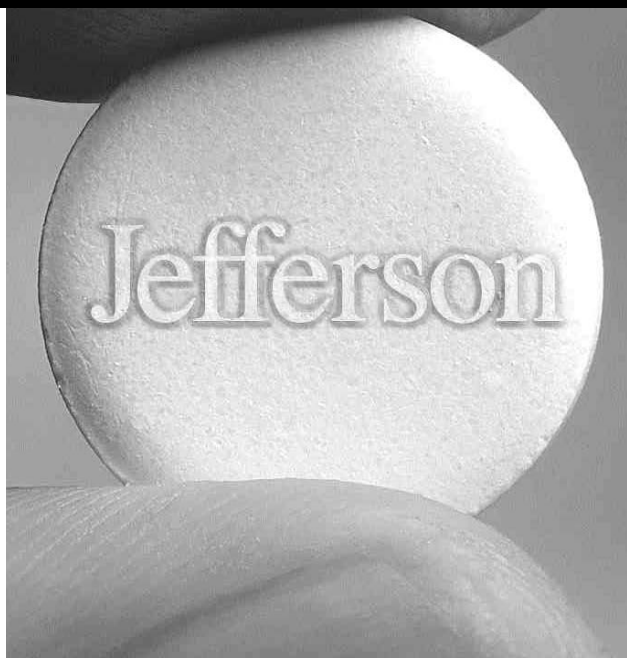
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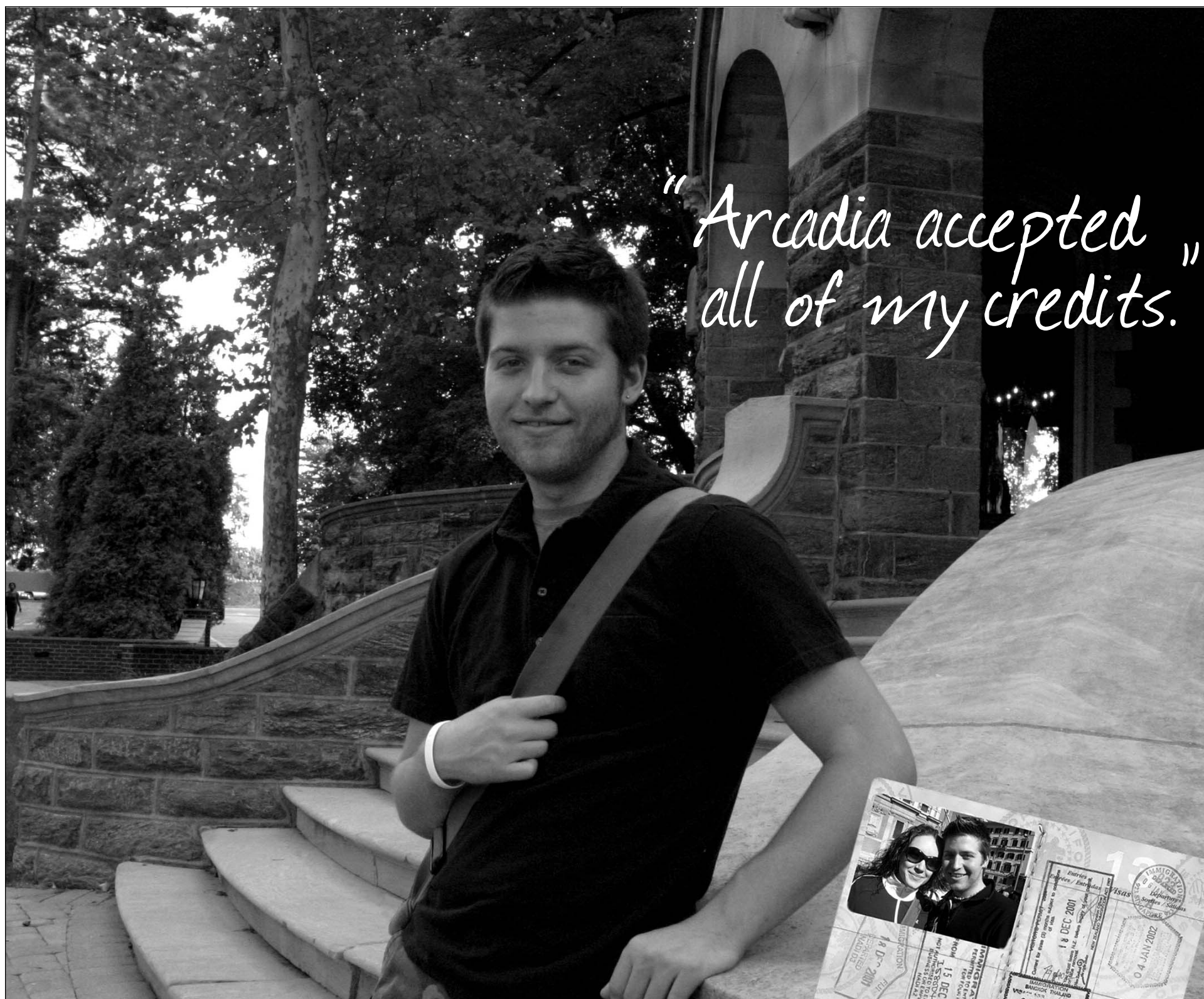
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When Snow Falls, Hope Your Car Runs Well

KYLE CRAWFORD
Centurion Staff

With the upcoming winter season, will your car perform the same as it did under the bright blue skies of summer? If you're in the market for a new car, look to models that boast a more versatile vehicle for all seasons. A sturdy ride means a sedan. They not only get good gas mileage, but they have enough room for people and packages. The recent growth in powerful

four-door cars has increased the popularity of sedans. Especially for the factories of Mitsubishi and Subaru, with their production of four-door power monsters, the Lancer Evolution and the Impreza WRX, respectively. They are not only some of the fastest on the market in their price range, but they have all-wheel drive. All-wheel drive is great in winter weather, because the power is distributed to all wheels

instead of just the front two or back two. This means no more slipping on the snow and no more getting stuck in ice. As for the summer, it has great handling on rainy roads and has the torque to pull you out of the mud. Shannon Ladden, a 19-year-old nursing major from Richboro said, "I have a Saturn, and I like it because I can put a lot of stuff in it, but it doesn't drive well when it's wet. I have to slow down

more to turn, otherwise I go into the other lane." The all-wheel drive has power coming from a turbocharged four-cylinder engine. Although it is a smaller engine, it puts out more power from the turbo, which also has the ability to produce better gas mileage when driven conservatively. The cars Subaru produce have been equipped with all-wheel drive for at least the last decade, thus leading the market with experience but followed closely by

the company of Mitsubishi. The Subaru Impreza and the Mitsubishi Evolution are a great buy for any student who is in the market for a cure to weather-conscious drivers. This winter is bound to be crossed with snow, when traction is key. These cars will shine. And come summer, there's no need to worry if your cars power is obsolete. These versatile rides will keep you safe on the road year-round.

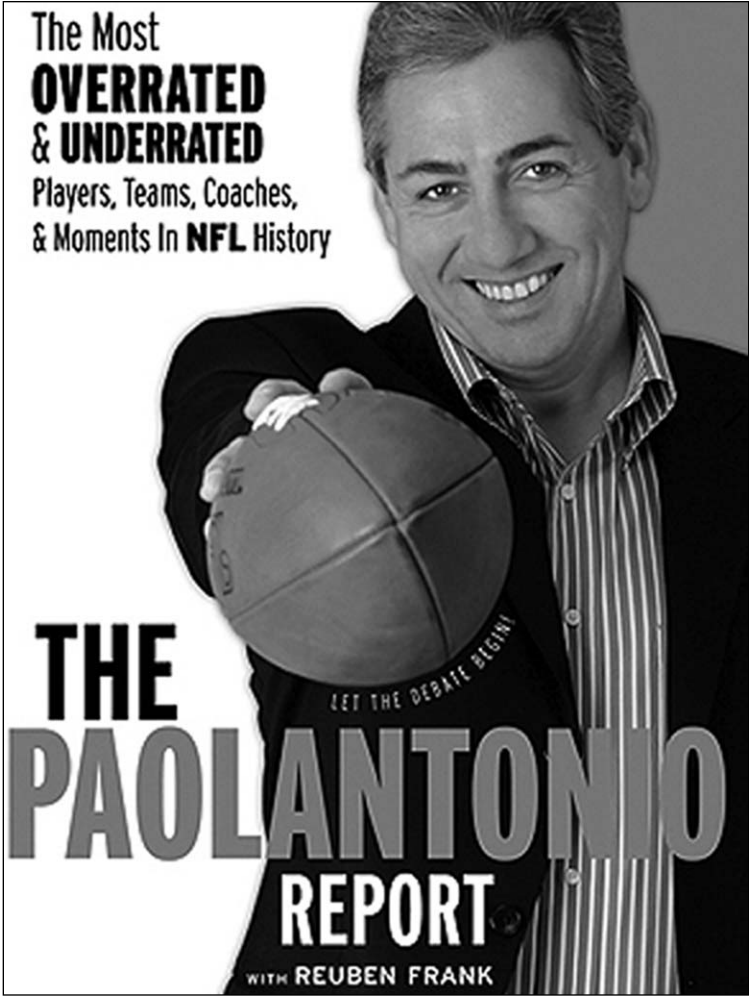
Not Just Another Overrated Book Review

WILL HEDUS
Centurion Staff

Overrated. This is a word thrown out in sports all the time. Fans love to argue about how this player and that player are praised way too much. If fans want to argue, "The Paolantonio Report: The Most Overrated and Underrated Players, Teams, Coaches, and Moments in NFL History" by Sal Paolantonio is the book for them. Paolantonio, an award-winning sports writer who now works for ESPN, has thrown down the gauntlet on some revered players. Once you read the first chapter, which is "The Most Underrated Moment in NFL History," arguments must break out. Adam Vinatieri's field goal in the infamous "Tuck Rule" game is the most underrated moment ever. Seriously. A kicker gets the nod for this moment? It was an extremely difficult kick in blizzard-like conditions but come on, kickers aren't really football players, just oversized soccer players. This moment was underrated so it really isn't worth too much rage, but the next one probably has people in New York fuming. The most overrated quarterback of all time is none other than Hall of Famer Joe Namath.

"I think we'll win it. I'll guarantee it." According to Paolantonio that famous quote is the only reason "Broadway Joe" ever even got close to the hallowed halls. He argues that Namath's play on the field and his overall stats make him an average quarterback at best. "Namath lost 31 more games than he won and threw 47 more interceptions than touchdowns." Good point, but Paolantonio better watch his back when he's in New York City. The second most overrated quarterback will have the same effect on cheese-heads. Brett Favre. Favre is an all-time great, but he is one of the biggest gunslingers of all time too. This year he passed George Blanda for the most interceptions ever. This is significant because Blanda played for 26 years, and Favre hasn't. Also, Favre is one of the few players to ever be applauded for being clumsy with the football; usually someone who throws that many interceptions won't get the opportunity to throw more. Favre has won many games for the Packers, but he has lost many too, by throwing up some wounded ducks. Opposing defensive coordinators routinely tell their players, when game-planning for Favre,

that he will throw at least two to three dumb passes a game. Now for the Eagles. The former Eagles beat writer has gone after a beloved coach and a legendary play in this city. First, the one and only Buddy Ryan. Philly fans love Ryan because he was ornery and had a defense with such stars as Reggie White, Clyde Simmons, Seth Joyner and Andre Waters. Paolantonio, though, has a good point: Ryan never won a playoff game as the Eagles' coach. Well, most fans would say it was because of the offense that was Randall Cunningham and a bunch of misfits, but who built that terrible offense? Buddy Ryan. This man could've drafted a decent offensive lineman and some good skill players, but instead he neglected that side of the ball. Oh, and his great defense never was great while he was here, never ranking higher than 10th. They only became great in 1991, leading the league in most categories, after he was fired. Now the great moment that was overrated, Chuck Bednarik knocking out Frank Gifford. The image of "Concrete Charlie" standing over a lifeless Gifford is burned into the minds of all Eagles' fans. Paolantonio says that since the hit took place in New York and was



on the cover of Sports Illustrated, it is Bednarik's legacy. He says Bednarik should be remembered as the great player he was and if he is remembered for any single moment it should be "his last significant play in an Eagles uniform." That moment is Bednarik

tackling Packers running back Jim Taylor on the 9-yard line as time expired to win the 1960 NFL Championship. Paolantonio's views and opinions may draw the ire of football fans but that's the point. He backs up his opinions fairly well, and he makes you think.



Digital Photogs Dig the Hi-Tech Pics

KYLE CRAWFORD
Centurion Staff

Through the years, photography has been a hobby of most, a career to some and a passion for many. The world of digital photography is now upon us, and it is only getting better. Digital photography has become more popular over the past couple years. With technology increasing constantly, the production of different cameras is on the rise. There are numerous choices now for anyone interested in the art of photography. There is a camera for everything now, no matter what the interest is, there's a camera to suit the need. Along with the rise of digital photography in general, the rise of Digital SLR cameras has

become more popular as well. SLR stands for single-lens-reflex. These are large cameras, usually only offered in black color, have interchangeable lenses, and cost more. The digital era we live in is slowly eradicating film. Companies who produce both film and digital cameras like Nikon, Canon and Fuji have pushed for new cameras with the most recent digital technology. Perhaps the future holds nowhere for film to be developed. Film photography will be a unique addition to the common digital portfolio. Just as digital is shoving film to the back burner, cell phones are becoming so technologically advanced that they threaten sales to smaller point-and-shoot type cameras. Geoff Dubinsky, a 19-year-old art major

from Yardley said, "I do still love my film camera. But with my digital Nikon, I can see the shot I took right after I take it." Many other photographers still do, and they use them. Bucks, and many other schools, offer darkroom classes for film development. However, for the average person just trying to take pictures of their friends, film is out. Digital cameras have made it cheaper and easier to develop pictures. Most camera shops or drug stores charge a few cents to develop a digital print. And because digital photography allows you to see the photos before you print them, there is limited wasted cost from printing photos that aren't up to par. With digital increasing in popularity, film may retire with VHS and cassettes.

Bucks is ‘Among Criminals’

CHRISTINE SWANSON
LIOR SHULMAN
Centurion Staff

Among Criminals, a local band with a part Reggae, part Latin-Rock sound, brought their politically charged music to Bucks student in a cafeteria concert on Thursday, Nov. 1

Lead singer, writer and guitarist Ryan Gaughan, 23, said the band’s name came from his appreciation of how lucky we all are to be in America.

Gaughan talked about the country’s history of violent conquest, such as the Pilgrims over the Native Americans. He said that, because of this history, living with Americans is living amongst criminals.

Harbingers of peace, Among Criminals spreads the message of taking responsibility for your actions and coming together as a

people through their music.

Gaughan grew up with Bean, 21, the band’s bass player, in Washington Crossing. Gaughan later met drummer Jarrod Pedone, 23, at Berkley.

The band’s promoter, Dan Schwartz, said Among Criminals is currently without a label. Being unsigned has not kept the band from promoting. The band uses both MySpace.com and their own website, AmongCriminals.com, to promote their music and their cause.

How hard is it to get a record contract?

“We’ll tell you when we get there” Jarrod said, feeling the strain of self-promotion in the music industry.

Gaughan said the band has been “jamming” on and off for the past three years.”

The band has been more serious

about pushing their album since Pedone returned from Las Vegas 13 months ago.

In just over a year, the band has played over 250 shows, Pedone said. They have also written over 30 songs.

Cold Soldier, a song off their current album, Kill the Myth, tells the story of a military soldier not supportive of the war, and imprisoned for refusing to participate.

As for their performance at Bucks, a crowd of students clapped their hands and bobbed their heads to the band’s beat, seemingly enjoying the show. Several of the students could be heard proclaiming that the performance was good.

“They had good bass riff,” said Mike Nussbaum, 22 of Wrightstown.

“I’ll definitely be coming back” said Kevin Grotz, 18, from Fairness Hills.



The band Among Criminals poses for the camera.
Photo by Kate McDermott

ERIC MINTEL
QUARTET
Library Auditorium
7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 23, 2007



A "Jazz Holiday" family concert featuring the "Charlie Brown Christmas" music of Vince Guaraldi, traditional holiday favorites and original compositions from Eric's CD "Silent Night."
Council Rock High School's South Vocal Ensemble will join the group on several numbers.

Drinking without Driving

PHIL COLES
Centurion Staff

It's Friday night and you're bored. What to do?

If you're over 21, there's always the bar.

Whether it's going out with friends to have a few drinks, or trying to pick up some single people, the bar-scene is the place to be for young adults.

The problem, however, is how to make it safely home from the bar?

There are the obvious choices: designate a driver, call a cab, walk, or pick the least inebriated one among your party to chance a ride home.

More often than not, the latter is the preferred choice.

Some people are more responsible than others when it comes to finding safe transportation home from a night out.

Asa Carr, 23, from Bensalem

said, "When I go out with my friends, we always designate a driver."

What happens when the person you selected to be the designated-driver decides to forgo his responsibilities as your safety-provider for the evening?

Finding public-transportation is not exactly easy in rural Bucks County.

Some people want the county to provide a safe alternative for getting home.

Carr would like to see something get done. "I definitely think a public-transportation system would help, even if you had to pay for it. The county won't do it though, because DUI's are too big of a money-maker. Instead of coming up with legislation to promote safer driving, they keep making laws so it's easier to get DUI's."

Many Bucks students drink

because they claim there is nothing else to do in Bucks County.

Laura Irwin, 25, from Newtown said, "I drink for the social aspect of it. There's not much else to do around here."

And she's right.

Other than malls and movie theaters, what else is there besides gatherings at homes and bars?

"I just know if I want to do something at night, I am going to a bar," Irwin said.

That seems to be the sentiment of most Bucks students.

The fact remains there are few alternatives for young adults to socialize.

Coffee shops, book stores and restaurants offer some different choices for students, but they all close around 10 or 11 p.m.

Not to mention they do not offer the social lubricant that is alcohol.

Campus Events

Nov.13:

9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.- Trip to the PA Academy of Fine Arts/Thomas Eakins

11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.- Trip to Italian South Philadelphia

1:30-5:30 p.m.- Trip to Philadelphia Society hill/ Powell house

Nov.14:

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.- Trip to Brooklyn Museum/Ancient Treasures

Nov. 28:

7:30 p.m.- Swing Singers

Nov.30:

8 p.m.- The Drama Club presents “A Christmas Carol” in the Library Auditorium

Colbert Drops his Bid for Presidency

NEW YORK (AP) _ Stephen Colbert has dropped his bid for the White House.

His announcement came after the South Carolina Democratic Executive Council voted last week to keep the host of "The Colbert Report" off the state's primary ballot. The vote was 13-3.

Colbert poses as a conservative talk-show host on the Comedy Central show.

"Although I lost by the slimmest margin in presidential election history — only 10 votes — I have chosen not to put the country through another agonizing Supreme Court battle," Colbert said Monday in a statement. "It is time for this nation to heal."

Colbert had said he would run only in his native South Carolina, a

key primary state. He said he planned to run as a Democrat and a Republican — so he could lose twice. Colbert, 43, later declined to file with the GOP, which has a much higher filing fee [\$35,000] than the Democrats [\$2,500].

"I want to say to my supporters, this is not over," Colbert said. "While I may accept the decision of the Council, the fight goes on! The dream endures! ... And I am going off the air until I can talk about this without weeping."

In reality, "The Colbert Report" was going off the air because of a strike by Hollywood writers that began Monday. Many talk shows were expected to be shown in repeats during the strike.

Afghans Bury Those Killed in Suicide Attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) _ Hundreds of weeping relatives rushed toward the grave of Afghanistan's leading opposition spokesman, who was buried Nov. 8 along with four other legislators killed in the country's deadliest suicide attack since the Taliban's oust.

Thousands gathered to bury Sayed Mustafa Kazimi, the other lawmakers and their bodyguards, who were among the 73 people, most of them children, slain in the Nov. 6 bombing.

Clerics recited prayers and local and international dignitaries stood by in silence as the flag-draped coffins of the legislators and their bodyguards were lowered into the ground near Darulaman Palace.

A sixth was to be buried in the southern province of Helmand.

Some of Kazimi's supporters held banners calling for an international investigation into the bombing. Witnesses have said some victims may have been killed or wounded by guards who opened fire after the blast, which occurred as lawmakers were about to visit a sugar factory in the northern province of Baghlan.

Scores of the victims were schoolchildren who, along with tribal elders and government officials, had lined the streets to greet them.

Violence in Afghanistan this year has been the deadliest since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban from power. More than 5,700 people, mostly militants, have died so far this year in insurgency-related violence, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and Western officials.

The Norwegian military said one of its troops was killed and a second was seriously wounded by a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan on Nov. 8.

A news release said the soldiers, whose names were not immediately released, were in a Norwegian vehicle near their base in the northern Afghan city of Maymana when the bomb went off.

The Norwegian Joint Headquarters said two other Norwegian soldiers following in an accompanying vehicle evacuated the wounded soldier to their base, where he was in stable condition.

In southern Zabul province, Taliban militants fired rocket-propelled grenades on a police convoy, killing seven officers, said police officer Gul Mohammad Khan.

The U.N. Security Council, meanwhile, condemned the suicide attack "in the strongest terms" and urged Afghan authorities "to make every effort to bring the perpetrators and organizers to justice."

Baghlan provincial Police Chief Gen. Abdul Rahman Sayed Khail said that 106 people also were wounded in the blast some 95 miles north of Kabul, and that authorities were investigating whether gunfire caused some of the casualties.

Most of those killed were students, said Dr. Khalil Narmgui of the Baghlani-jadid hospital, though he did not have an exact figure.

The Ministry of Education confirmed only that at least 18 schoolchildren and five teachers died.

Gunfire erupted from security personnel for a short time after the explosion, said Narmgui and other officials who were at the blast site.

On Nov. 7, U.S.-led coalition and Afghan troops killed two insurgents and detained 10 others during an operation to disrupt the movement of Taliban weapons and explosive materials in Qalat district, also in Zabul province, the coalition said.

Shelter in Place

In 2003 the college implemented a new safety protocol designed to give students, faculty and staff another option when responding to emergency situations. This protocol, Shelter-in-Place or S.I.P., is primarily designed to give campus personnel the ability to seek safe shelter; in the event the county or local area experiences a significant Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear disaster or emergency.

The College has designated a number of areas on campus as S.I.P. locations. These locations include: Tyler Hall 1st floor hallway outside Rm. 133A; the Library Auditorium and Library 3rd floor; Rollins Quiet Study and café vending area; Gymnasium; Hicks Art Gallery and Photo Lab; Founders Hall rooms 140, 141, and 239; Penn Hall rooms 232, 253, 255, 257, and 259; Physical Plant Barn 2nd floor break room; LBC/Bristol rooms 104/105 and 204/205; and UCC/Perkasie computer classrooms.

Each location is demarcated by a "Shelter-in-Place Location" sign, and each location will be staffed by 1-2 trained S.I.P. team leaders with a S.I.P. kit. S.I.P. leaders will signal a S.I.P. event via the use of air horns, whistles and/or loud speakers in and around campus buildings. Leaders will then begin directing students, faculty and staff to the nearest S.I.P. location. Once on location, leaders will provide occupants with directions, information and updates as available. S.I.P. is voluntary, and campus members cannot be forced to shelter in place; however, should you choose not to shelter in place, the only other option available to you is to evacuate campus. No other options are available to you.

The S.I.P. kits include various items which may be needed by the leader(s), to include: first aid kit, water, paper towels, absorbent "socks", duct tape, plastic bags, radios (two-way and AM/FM), glucose, pencils/paper, etc. The kits are designed to provide elementary supplies to S.I.P. leader(s), until the emergency event is cleared. All community members are required to follow the directions of the S.I.P. leader(s); remembering that a quick, calm response will provide maximum safety for all.

Should you have any questions regarding Shelter-in-Place, you can call the Director of Security and Safety, Mr. Chris Lloyd at (215)968-8394, or Ext. 8394.

Newspaper Circulation is on the Decline, but Some Larger Papers Show Gains

NEW YORK (AP) _ Circulation fell 2.6 percent at major U.S. daily newspapers in the six months ending in September, according to figures released Monday, the latest decline as readers continue to migrate to the Internet for news, information and entertainment.

Newspaper circulation has been eroding steadily over the past 20 years, as reading habits change and as people turn to other media such as cable TV for news. In recent years the declines have been accelerating, especially at large metro papers, where there tends to be greater competition from Internet usage.

There were some exceptions to the rule, including Tribune Co.'s Los Angeles Times, which saw circulation edge up 0.5 percent in the latest period to 779,682. In New York, the New York Daily News edged past its longtime rival New York Post, but both papers still saw declines — 1.7 percent for the Daily News, owned by the real estate developer Mortimer Zuckerman, and 5.2 percent at

the Post, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch.

Among larger papers, the only other major daily reporting gains was The Philadelphia Inquirer, which clocked a 2.3 percent gain to 338,260, making it the 16th largest paper by circulation. The Inquirer and the Philadelphia Daily News were bought last year by a group of local business people led by Brian Tierney, a former advertising executive.

According to an analysis of the 538 daily U.S. newspapers that reported average weekday paid circulation to the Audit Bureau, Monday-through-Friday circulation fell 2.6 percent in the six month period. For the 609 newspapers reporting Sunday figures, Sunday circulation fell 3.5 percent.

With print circulation on the decline and more of their readers going online, many newspaper publishers have been seeking to emphasize their online reach. Revenues from online advertising have also been growing at many

publishers, but not enough to make up for the declines in print advertising.

In the data released from the Audit Bureau Monday, 112 major papers began reporting for the first time sets of print and online audience measurements based on surveys done by Scarborough Research. Another 94 smaller papers participated partially in the supplemental reporting method.

Online readership in the market was 1 million, and combined print and online readership number was 2.3 million, which takes into account the overlap of some people who read both print and online versions of the newspapers.

Newspaper publishers argue that they should be measured by the size of their audience, as other media such as television are, rather than the number of units they sell. "We're trying to supply a richer look at the newspaper audience, and not focus on one single element," said John Kimball, chief marketing officer of the Newspaper Association of America.

A Piece of My Mind

A Centurion editor vents his frustrations.

As I'm making my morning commute to the Newtown campus, I find myself wondering how half these idiots on the road got their licenses in the first place.

Maybe it's me, but I swear that they give a license to anyone that walks through the doors of the DMV. And that tends to be a problem, because it seems that two or three times every month everyone in the tri-state area gets together to plan ways to try and kill me while I'm on the road.

Now, I'm far from being a perfect driver, believe me when I say that I've driven the wrong way down a one-way road more times than I care to mention; but come on folks, some of the crap I see people doing is downright mind boggling.

Let's take into account a week or so ago, when driving behind a certain bright blue S-10 that was all tricked-out, the driver flipped his right turn signal and pulled over to the right shoulder.

I slowed down, and then went to pass him, which is when he decided to park on the left side of the street.

So let's review that.

He pulled all the way over to the right shoulder—to turn and park on the left side of the shoulder. I believe the exact words out of my mouth were “Are you F#\$%@*% kidding me!”

I missed this guy by a foot, and that's probably giving him more than he deserves.

And honestly, that wouldn't have bothered me so much except that three other people tried to kill me that day; one soccer mom, a very old couple in a beater car and some blonde girl in a red mustang. I just want to know why it all happens at once. That's not asking for a lot, is it?

Then again, maybe it's better that everyone tries to kill you on the same day, because after the first couple of attempts people make to destroy my truck I find myself saying, “Okay, it's going to be one of those days, great.”

But then I'm ready for them, the seatbelt goes on, I start looking at every vehicle as a potential assassin; I'll drive slower and turn my lights on regardless of what time of day it is.

Probably most importantly I find myself guessing how everyone is going to kill me, and I almost instinctively know when someone is going to merge without a turn signal, look to see if anyone is there, or stop in the middle of the road for no reason whatsoever.

It only causes me to slam on my breaks and horn.

Not to mention those people who appear to be drunk on a Thursday

morning, swerving all over the road. I know that these people aren't actually drunk, I hope not anyway, and that they're just tired or distracted, but come on.

There's a time and place to put your makeup on sweetie, and it's not while you're in front of me and I'm late for class because I got stuck behind a bus and a train. Or those construction workers that make their coffee while driving, that's what that big table in the middle of Wawa is for, I know it can be a little crowded, but not any more crowded than the road. And if I see one more businessman reading the paper while on the road I swear a textbook is going through his windshield.

So people, please, be mindful when you're on the road, nobody wants to get in an accident.

It's a headache weather it's your fault or not. If you happen to be one of those attending the bi-monthly meetings to figure out ways to put me into the median, for the love of God stop being such idiots on the road. You're not going to think it's too funny when everyone on the road is out to get you.

So everyone, please, drive safely, if not for my own sanity, than for everyone else's safety.

Promote with the Newspaper, Not Flyers

ASA JAMES CARR
Centurion Staff

Bucks' recent failure to convince students to sign up for Gmail is just another indication that the college's way of communicating with students is in dire need of a change.

Although college officials would argue that it is the students who lack interest, the reality is when it comes to informing students about campus activities, Bucks does a pitiful job.

The result is a dramatic decline in student and community support for both clubs and events at Bucks.

This can clearly be attributed to the relaxed approach the college takes toward its promotional efforts.

Not to knock the traditional flyer technique, but students are more likely to find them soaked in a puddle on a bathroom floor, rather than on a wall where they are supposed to be.

“Nobody reads the flyers,” said Mark Leman, 21, liberal arts major from Levittown. “In fact I just walked over a pile of them that fell on the floor in the Gateway corridor.”

Along with the flyers, Bucks' other ineffective approach is its heavy reliance on students to use the college's website.

Unfortunately, for a first-time user, surfing the site is enough to make the most patient person develop a case of ADD.

So then, what is the solution?

Simple: if clubs truly want to

drum up support, they should wake up and realize that the best way is to utilize Bucks' student newspaper, The Centurion.

What other way is a better direct connection to students around campus?

A single story in the paper about a club or organization's cause or activity could be the perfect remedy to counter the growing non-interest.

It would give these groups the perfect chance to reach out to potentially interested students, who are lacking information regarding programs at Bucks.

But all-too often, clubs fail to let the Centurion editors know about events they are planning.

Besides The Centurion, another means of communication could be

a larger concentrated effort to promote campus activities during evening classes.

This would not only allow Bucks the opportunity to reach another large group of students, but it would be tapping into an older demographic whose interest might be better suited for certain events held on campus.

Whatever means of change Bucks chooses to counter the lack of interest, one thing is clear— if nothing is done you can be assured that the boring dynamic that has come to define campus life at Bucks will continue.

Any clubs or organizations that wish to promote meetings or events can e-mail The Centurion at centurion@bucks.edu, or visit the newsroom in Rollins 127.



A bulletin board
Photo by Greg Hall



A Modern Hypocrisy



A weekly column by managing editor Laura Irwin

Xmas is Coming, but it's Been in Stores for Weeks

It was right before Halloween when glimpses of tinsel and wreaths, trees and ornaments, and Santa and stockings peeked out from behind jack-o-lanterns and cornucopias in stores.

Are you kidding me?

On Nov. 1, as far as retailers are concerned, it's Christmas.

One of my part-time jobs is at a bookstore and we began prepping for the December holidays a few weeks ago.

I am not ready to hear “Jingle Bells” for hours at a time until after Thanksgiving.

I bought my Halloween costume on Oct. 31 for 90 percent off. Imagine how much I can save when I shop for Christmas in December!

And where were the Halloween costumes shelved on Halloween in stores? In a tiny little corner behind the aisles of Christmas displays, freshly stocked for consumers to ravage weeks before they need them.

There are great sales in December and I, for one, am looking to pinch pennies whenever possible.

I was taught that household Christmas decorations come out after Thanksgiving.

It was that Thanksgiving Day Parade with Santa waving from the last float cruising down Broadway in New York City that meant the holiday season had officially arrived.

Now, in my travels to stores, I am overcome by all the red and green that screams at me, “Christmas is coming!”

To think I actually used to look forward to this holiday.

I walk about the mall knowing that I will be bombarded by holiday cheer until I can barely stand it anymore.

But it's old news.

Seasonal merchandise is never on sale when you need it.

In February you can buy shorts and bikinis and in July, winter coats are up for grabs.

I don't suppose being seasonally acceptable means I wear tank tops in February and hang up Christmas lights in October, does it?

Then how can stores get away with the Christmas-craze?

I am deterred from buying presents because of the over-zealous marketing ploys designed to suck me into remembering a gift for my Great-Great Aunt twice removed.

I have too busy a life to worry about next week, let alone a holiday a few months in advance.

I applaud very few things in regards to forethought. Ask me out a few days before the date, let me know when a paper is due a few weeks in advance and send me my bills more than a few days before they are due.

I know when Christmas is and I can plan accordingly for it. I'm not even a last-minute shopper. However, being reminded of hanging decorations, writing cards and wrapping presents well before I have to is annoying and superficial.

Besides, I haven't even switched to my winter clothes yet.



Monday, November 12, 2007

Eagles Need Improvement at Defense & Offense

PHIL COLES
Centurion Staff

Watching the Philadelphia Eagles this season, it's easy to see that this is not the same team that has won the NFC East five of the last six years. Although some of the blame should belong to Andy Reid and the rest of his coaches, as well as quarterback Donovan McNabb, football games are won and lost at the line of scrimmage, and in the turnover battle.

The Eagles' offensive line has played well at times this year, but injuries and a lack of pressure on the quarterback from the defensive ends have cost the Eagles on numerous occasions.

Center Jamal Jackson has been a disappointment this season, following last season's solid effort. He has been routinely beaten by opposing defensive tackles this season, and does not possess the quickness to get to the second level in order to block linebackers.

The offensive tackles this season have struggled. Jon Runyan, the Eagles' stalwart right tackle, has been playing through an injured tailbone, and has shown it at times in recent contests. He should be praised for gutting it out; Runyan has not missed a game in the past 11 seasons. However, he is getting beat this season by quicker defensive ends.

William Thomas, the Eagles' left tackle, has also been hampered by injury this season, and his replacement, second-year tackle Winston Justice, is not ready to be an every-week starter, as evidenced by how he gave up four sacks against the New York Giants in week four.

On the other side of the ball, the Eagles have actually performed worse. Aside from defensive end Trent Cole, who leads the NFL with nine sacks, they have not been able to get consistent pressure on the quarterback. Defensive ends Jevon Kearse and Darren Howard, both of whom the Eagles paid enormous salaries, have greatly underperformed. Howard has just one solo tackle,

and one assisted tackle on the season, with no sacks. Even the once vaunted Eagles' blitz package has been reduced to just a handful of blitzes per game. That could be because of the youth and inexperience in the Eagles secondary. Injuries to starters Brian Dawkins and Lito Sheppard have forced players such as Quintin Mikell and William James into starting roles for the team.

Another area of disappointment for the Eagles has been its newly formed linebacker corps. While they have played solidly against the run, they are not making the game-changing plays that were expected of them. The unit has just one sack between them,

and has forced zero turnovers, not what they expected halfway through the season after signing play-making linebacker Takeo Spikes, and moving Chris Gocong to the middle linebacker position, who recorded 22 sacks in his senior year of college. The Eagles' defense has forced just nine turnovers this season. Compare that to the 6-2 Detroit Lions who have forced 30, and it's easy to see why the Eagles have not played up to expectations. This was always a bend-but-don't-break Eagle defense that relied on making big plays to win ball games. This year they have just not gotten it done.

Sixers Need a New Manager

ASA JAMES CARR
Centurion Staff

You can call me paranoid, maybe even delusional, but I often feel like a lone soul in this die-hard fan base that is Philadelphia.

For all the shortcomings that have come to plague the reputation of Philly fans over the years, the one I have continually argued against was that many Philly-faithful were incapable of thinking logically and intelligently when it came to their teams.

But I couldn't make this argument anymore when I realized that for the eighth straight season the Philadelphia 76ers would fool-

ishly allow Billy King to remain as general manager, and the fans were not upset.

Now call me crazy, but how many blown drafts, trades for aging veterans with bloated contracts, or huge deals for poorly evaluated young talent does it take for the Sixers' ownership to man up and cut ties with King.

Granted, King's first two years as GM started out on a positive note, as he improved the win total by 10 games, then assembled all the proper pieces in year two around Allen Iverson. For the first time since 1984, the Sixers were again a relevant team in Philly.

Unfortunately, since that

magical run of 2000-01, King's inability to duplicate the success of his first two years has the Sixers looking up at other teams from the bottom of the Eastern Conference.

Now eight years later, and with the Sixers in disarray, the time has come to make a switch and regain the winning culture that once defined this historic franchise.

So why then, am I the only one who seems to realize what the only logical choice is?

Billy King has to go!

Keep Off Winter Weight With Yoga Class

MARK BENNETT
Student Life and Web Editor

As the winter months approach and it starts to get colder, most people become less active and sleep and eat more, which can be a bit of a problem for anyone wanting to maintain their figure.

There are several options available for someone who wants to stay in shape. Working out in your free time is a good option, but most college students don't have enough time to get a good night's sleep let alone hit the gym.

Dieting is another good option. However, natural instinct drives us to eat more in winter in order to store body fat in case food becomes scarce in the colder months. The human body also goes into a less active state and doesn't burn as many calories in the winter.

So what is someone supposed to do to stay in shape when the air gets cold and crisp? Well, they could try taking a gym class at Bucks.

Stay in shape and earn credits at the same time, not a bad deal.

In particular, the yoga classes offered at Bucks are a great way to stay in shape, remain flexible and

learn a lot about nutrition all at the same time. Not to mention it'll help you learn about yourself.

"My students develop skills they can use throughout the course of their life and Yoga helps to keep them centered and balanced," said Lisa Manheim, professor of health and fitness who teaches several yoga classes at the Newtown campus.

Bucks Yoga classes teach the basics of the more than 3,000-year-old practice and students feel it is a great way to stay in shape and relax a little.

Some students don't find it as tough as others. "I'm an athlete so it's not that challenging," said Jill Schiern, 21, liberal arts major from Yardley. "But it is mentally challenging."

When some people think of Yoga they picture a monk sitting on a towel and meditating, not really moving or doing anything. That is far from the case.

Spiritual and Zen stuff aside, Yoga is basically a series of postures that make the pupil hold his body in a position that isolates certain muscles and gives them a nice, long stretch.

"It actually relates to real-life situations and is very physically demanding," said Brad Transue, 20, environmental studies major.

Yoga is a great way to make sure all the muscles in the body stay loose. Making sure that all the muscles in the body are well-stretched is a great way to prevent injury and is very important to anyone who is physically active.

Bucks has a variety of gym classes, which offer fun and challenging activities that will help keep your interest. Some of the classes are not as physically demanding as others, such as bowling and golf, fencing and archery. But others will definitely make the average student break a sweat, such as tennis, yoga, modern dance, volleyball and badminton.

Whatever your preference, if you want to stay in shape, Bucks offers you the means to get fit and earn credits at the same time.

The Top Ten Reasons Billy King Should Be Fired

1. The Webber trade: three years \$65 million + bad knees = enough said.
2. 2007 Draft: Armed with three first-round draft picks acquired in the Iverson trade, King failed to improve the squad or land a big name collegiate player in a very deep draft.
3. Hefty contracts for undeserving players: King invested close to \$80 million in the trio of Willie Green, Kyle Korver and Samuel Dalembert—and none so far have lived up to their paychecks.
4. Failure to extend Andre Iguodala's contract: Thus, letting the Sixers' only legitimate franchise player escape into free agency.
5. Letting Raja Bell get away: And five years later, Bell is a double-digit scorer and one of the top two
6. Trading for stars past their primes: Toni Kukoc, Glenn Robinson, Dikembe Mutumbo, Chris Webber. The list goes on and on.
7. Coaching carousel: Four coaches in seven years. Apparently, this is King's way of putting the blame on someone else. After Brown was Ayers, then Ford, to O'Brien, and finally Cheeks. Who's next?
8. Matt Geiger's contract: \$52 million? Really?
9. Not properly utilizing Iverson: In his second year as GM, King found a formula that worked around Iverson. So why did he only do that during one season?
10. Alienating the fan base: OK maybe not intentionally, but fans expect a winner and so far, King has failed to produce one.



Students in a yoga class.

Photo by Laura Irwin