Bucks Events

Dec. 3: 8 p.m. — Men’s Basketball game at Home
Dec. 5: 7:30-8:30 p.m. — Jazz Orchestra performance
Dec. 7: 7 p.m. — Robert Bogen poetry reading

Officers Give Illegal Parkers the Boot

PHIL COLES
Centurion Staff

Bucks’ students who neglect to pay their parking fines face costly consequences by having a heel boot placed on their vehicle by campus security officers.

Many students equate parking boots as a big-city problem, but campus security has the authority to place boots on vehicles whose owners have received three or more parking violations, and have neglected to pay their fines.

Chris Lloyd, director of safety and security, has said this is not a new trend. “We’ve been doing this for years. We don’t usually see it happen until the end of the fall semester because of the new students coming in.”

The most common parking violations are students parking where they’re not supposed to. That includes the student visitor lots, which can sometimes be a tempting place to park if a lot is full and you are running late for class, and employee lots, which are generally closer to buildings than student parking lots.

Also, vehicles not displaying parking permits are fair-game for parking violations. Not displaying a parking permit in the correct place is also punishable.

Trivial, said some, but when safety and security officers see repeat offenders and permits are free to students, they can get annoyed.

Some Bucks students think the college policy of booting vehicles is unfair. “I think it’s ridiculous,” said Tim Reno, a liberal arts major. “My girlfriend got two parking tickets the other day and I ripped them up.”

That seems to be a common college policy students have come to discover—simply ignoring their parking violations. If your vehicle is registered, however, this policy can come back to cost you.

Students may find their outstanding balances a little higher the next time they go to pay their tuition. However, if you do happen to get a boot placed on your vehicle, it is not the end of the world.

Lloyd said getting the boot off is a fairly quick and easy process.

Once students discover the boot, they come and see us at campus security. We then tell them to go to student accounts where they can arrange to pay their fine. Then they come back to us and we take the boot off.

Students who find themselves in the unfortunate position of being booted must pay a $100 fine, in addition to the outstanding violations they owe.

“Students do not have to have the cash right away,” said Lloyd. “They can set up a payment plan with student accounts. Once we see they have set up a way to take care of the fines, we will take the boot off. The whole process usually takes about 15 minutes.”

Campus security does not like to use the boot. “We try to avoid it if possible,” said Lloyd. “We’ve been doing it for years. It doesn’t get noticed at the beginning of the semester because of all the new students coming in.”

It takes students a little bit of time in order to build up enough parking violations in order to receive the boot.

So far this year, not many have received the boot. “We’ve only had to do it a couple of times this year,” said Lloyd.

Other students have not noticed them at all, or have only just recently seen them. “I saw one the other day,” said Reno. “It made me mad. I can’t think of anything worse than sitting in class all day, then coming out to your car and finding a boot on it.”

So where does the money go once you’ve paid your fines? “The money goes back to the campus,” said Lloyd. “Three years ago we used the money to install the emergency phone systems you see all around campus.”

If you do manage to get a boot put on your car look on the bright side—at least you could be helping out your fellow students.

If you haven’t registered your car and received a parking permit, they can be obtained at the safety and security office.

Security Upgrades Cause Controversy

JOHN JONES
Centurion Staff

The installation of security cameras in classrooms at Bucks is getting mixed reactions from the staff and student body.

The cameras are the newest measure taken by Bucks administration to increase campus security.

Some members of the Bucks community have yet to notice the cameras, but among the people who have, there is a growing minority that opposes big brother watching us from above.

“It’s just another loss to our privacy in a post 9/11 America,” said Craig Johnson, a photography professor, as his students inquired about the sudden addition to the ceiling of their classroom.

Johnson said several students in his photography class thought holes in the ceiling were for a new fire alarm.

Other students just don’t feel as though the cameras are necessary.

Kelli Crommiller, 23, from Quakertown, said, “I think the cameras would be better off in the parking lot than in the classrooms.”

According to the online security report, in October alone 18 incidents, ranging from graffiti to assault, were reported to Bucks security.

Another reason for the security increase can be traced to the shootings at Virginia Tech. Since the incident, school administrators are taking no chances when it comes to the safety of students.

Other recent security upgrades include an automated system to send cell phone text messages to students in emergency situations, and the installation of an emergency alarm system.

The campus security office staffs trained officers who patrol the grounds at almost all times, but even they can not be everywhere at once.

The hope is the cameras will help officials to respond to incidents more quickly, and maybe even prevent some incidents from ever happening at all.
Students Targeted by Credit Companies

JOHN JONES
Centurion Staff

The United College Marketing Services reported that student credit lines have on average increased more than $6,000, and in the past seven years the number of teens using credit cards has tripled.

The U.S. and most other countries allow teens to apply for their first credit card once they’re adults. Most targeted are individuals between ages 18 and 24, who are more vulnerable to fraud and credit card scams.

Tori Brown, sophomore from Fairless Hills said, “I get more than three a week.”

In the film “Maxed Out: Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders,” writer and director James Scurlock shows how credit card agencies purposely target groups that struggle to pay off debt.

“It’s hard not to walk out of that 87-minute film without knowing in your heart that every high school student should be required to watch the all-too-real tale on our debt culture and the horrors of where it can lead,” remarked USA Today.

What this means for students is, an interest in the field of political science, a reasonable GPA and a demonstration of responsibility.

“The last thing I want to do is sadden someone in an intense election campaign with someone who is irresponsible,” said Bunkin. “The political internship course is open to anyone interested in getting experience working for an elected official or for a candidate for elected political office.”

Although no politicians have jumped on board of as yet, Bunkin said this isn’t a problem at all. “Politicians are always willing to accept the help of interested parties.”

A student could be assigned, or name their own elected official or candidate, whether in PA State Assembly, House or a campaign. The internship will then be organized through the social science department with that politician’s office.

Other responsibilities throughout the internship, aside from working with a politician, include keeping a detailed journal and meeting with their sponsored professor once a month to go over it. “The host official or candidate will be asked to rotate the student intern through a variety of tasks,” said Bunkin, “and to furnish an evaluation of the student-intern’s performance.”

As far as work-load responsibilities, it’s up to the politician.

“I’d like to see a student involved in many aspects of what it feels like to be in a political office or campaign,” said Bunkin. “From making phone calls to printing letters or accompanying a politician on speeches, fundraisers or photo ops; what we’re going to make sure is that the participant won’t be doing the same thing every day.”

The benefits of this internship are extensive when it comes to networking skills. Bunkin said, “A lot of well-known people got their start [in politics] this way. Politics is a skill best learned through apprenticeship.”

The behind-the-scenes look at our government will add sophistication to a student’s resume as well as give students more of an understanding of the complicated and challenging job of being a politician. “These are the kinds of people you need to know to get advice and help [in the field],” said Bunkin. “You’ll see just how easy it is to become powerful; plenty of doors you can walk right through with this kind of opportunity.”

Interested students should contact Mitch Bunkin at extension 207 or John Petito, social science department head, at extension 301 or (215) 968-8272.

Spring into Politics with a 2008 Internship

LAURA IRWIN
Managing Editor

Students interested in politics have a new opportunity to gain real-life experience in the field with the institution of an internship program beginning in the spring semester.

The internship is sponsored by the social science department and was created in part by Social Science Professor Mitch Bunkin.

Bunkin says he has been dreaming of creating this opportunity for some time.

“I’ve always wanted my students to be granted another opportunity to get involved with the different aspects of the political world that aren’t available at the college-level classroom,” said Bunkin.

According to Bunkin, the internship will accept as many students as are interested each semester assuming that they are willing to follow the guidelines and put in their fair share of work.
When Classes Swim, Relationships Sink

ROBERT CHASE
Centurion Staff

Somewhere between toddler days and adult years, people are expected to give up frequent outings with their peers for school and work, rather than fun and play. “It seems that every single day of the week I’m rushing right from school to work, and then struggling to finish all my homework before the day is out,” said Michele Lestochi. “At least right now, it doesn’t seem to be getting any easier.”

Students may have a difficult time earning money and getting good grades, but they also have to maintain relationships, which takes up time that doesn’t seem to exist. “Parents and teachers seem to forget that there is more to life than school and a job,” said Liz Marinucci. “There are so many different things pulling you in so many different directions, without a social life, it’s hard to stay on track in your professional or school life.”

Money might make the world go round, but friends help the world go round too. In the big picture, students are forced to fit friends, family, work and school together, which wouldn’t be so bad if there were a few more hours in the day. “Even weekends don’t warrant extra time,” said Maureen Quinnlan. “School for me comes first and foremost, and then I work when I’m not in class. I’m basically forced to fit in my friends in any free time that I have.”

And as many struggle to balance those three aspects of college life together, there are some who never find the balance at all. Thomas Grier, professor of business studies, said, “I do know that there are some who don’t work at all. There are students who find no need to balance the things in their lives, and those are the ones who usually do poorly in class. School is only secondary; going out with friends is always the no. 1 priority.”

Everyone is different; therefore there is no single solution to this balancing act. “It is easy to say that this problem is something college students must learn to live with while they’re still in school, but I think it’s more than that,” said Student Analyst Dr. John Rich. “Every day and every week of every month becomes a unique challenge because as you grow, the responsibilities grow. Students have three major aspects to deal with now…in a matter of years, that could triple.”

At Bucks, students are challenged every day by the choices they make and the activities they participate in. Balancing school and a social life has become difficult for many, something that doesn’t get easier with time.

No Time to Waste When You’re Paying for College

JAMIE MELGOZA
Centurion Staff

There was a time when most college students had only their grades to worry about. Tuition, books and general living expenses were expected to be paid by the student’s parents. In today’s world, things are much different. The cost of living for the average college student could be described as oppressive, while the minimum wage is $7.15 an hour.

This combination causes many students to have to work more hours than they can handle. Ashley Scaccetti, 19, liberal arts major and aspiring fashion designer, goes to school full-time and works at Duck Sauce as a waitress. She also babysits for her aunt whenever possible. Paying for her school, her car and insurance can be overwhelming, but she said that her education, and ultimately opening up her own boutique, are her priorities.

Many students agree that education should be a top priority, but admit that it does take a back seat to other areas of their life from time to time. “It is all about focusing,” said Jill Kiryluk, 20, education major. “It is unbelievably difficult to go to school full time, and then work full time on top of that. I frequently have to cut my social life in order to keep the more important things in order.”

Kiryluk is one of the luckier students at Bucks. Her parents help her out financially. “Even though [my parents] are the stressor in my life sometimes, at the same time they make up for it by pitching in the money. But I still work [and] stay up till like 2:30 a.m. with papers and textbooks just like everyone else.”

Both Scaccetti and Kiryluk’s stories are very common at Bucks, but they, like most of us, are willing to put in the hard work and long nights for a better future tomorrow.

A student guide to wide eyes

According to the Divertext website, there are five easy things a student can do to keep themselves awake throughout the day:

Drink Something
You can drink anything such as juice or water, it doesn’t have to be caffeinated. By drinking something it helps you stay awake and less hungry.

Chew a Mint or Gum
There is a caffeine-infused gum call Jolt that students use for another source of caffeine. Having a mint or chewing gum is stimulating and helps you to focus and stay awake.

Move Around
Try to walk around when you’re feeling tired to get your blood moving. If you are stuck at a desk, try moving something like your legs under the desk.

Make it Engaging
Try to get involved and interested in what’s going on in class. Try to answer questions or participate in a discussion or debate. Sit in the first row if you are brave enough. You’ll be forced to listen to the lecture because of the proximity between you and the professor.

Open a Window
This may be hard to do because some rooms don’t have windows, but if they do, open them! This supplies fresh air and ‘grey noise’ (traffic, pedestrians, etc.) to break silences.
Clinton Campaign Office Held Hostage

A man, with what appeared to be a bomb taped to his chest, held police at bay for nearly four hours.

BEVERLEY WANG
Associated Press Writer

A man wearing what appeared to be a bomb strapped to his chest walked into a Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign office in Rochester, N.H. on Nov. 30, took several hostages and demanded to speak to the candidate during a nearly four-hour standoff, authorities said.

The man released the last of the hostages as the afternoon wore on, but he remained in the office and was not immediately taken into custody.

Clinton was in the Washington area at the time, and extra security precautions were taken to protect the former first lady, who still has a Secret Service detail, to protect the former first lady, who still has a Secret Service detail, or whether anyone in law enforce-
ment or inside the company has change the product’s appearance or whether Hershey has plans to respond to questions about ille said.

Hershey Gets Heat Over Drug-Like Mint Packages

MARC LEVY
Associated Press Writer

The Hershey Co., the century-old maker of chocolate bars recognizable in every corner of America, is selling a mint that police officers say would be recognizable on a drug corner.

Ice Breakers Pacs are nickel-sized dissolvable pouches with a powdered sweeter inside. But they look nearly identical to the tiny heat-sealed bags used to sell illegal powdered drugs like crack, heroin and cocaine, Philadelphia Police Chief Inspector William Blackburn said.

“It glorifies the drug trade,” Blackburn said. “There’s really no reason that a product like this should be on the shelf.”

Theemists, which are sold in blue and orange plastic slide-top cases, first hit store shelves in November. Blackburn said Linda Wagner, a Philadelphia narcotics officer whose teenage daughter died of a heroin overdose, had to hold back tears when she saw the pouches.

He said the likeness could have consequences if, for example, a child familiar with the mints swallowed a heat-sealed bag of cocaine. The Philadelphia Daily News first reported the similarity in its Friday editions.

A spokesman for the company, based in Hershey, Pa., about 80 miles west of Philadelphia, pointed out that each pouch — made by two dissolvable mint strips — bears the Ice Breakers logo.

“It is not intended to simulate anything,” spokesman Kirk Saville said.

Saville would not directly respond to questions about whether Hershey has plans to change the product’s appearance or whether anyone in law enforce-
ment or inside the company has previously raised a concern about it.

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ment or inside the company has previously raised a concern about it.

Class Takes Students Back to the Dark Room

In this digital era, photography using film has dwindled to a rarely used option. But the pros of dark room development are passionate when it comes to photography as a visual art and art is aiding in keeping it alive.

Introduction to Photography, an integration of knowledge course taught by Professor Craig John-
son, teaches students the history and mechanics of how film photographs are created and the equipment used.

A wide range of projects are assigned in class that allow students to learn a full spectrum of photography studies, such as action shots, the use of lighting, emotion and still life. Alisha Corwin, a business major said, “When you finally get to the [final product], it’s, worth it in the end. “

Students are also excited by their work, in imitating the style of famous photographers.

“1st, rewarding to see what you end result is, especially when the perfect print can take 10 or 12 attempts and almost an hour of work,” said Stephen Charles, an art major from Yardley.

Some students ignore film and concentrate on digital photography, but there is satisfaction in manipulating the world around you to form art.

Upcoming Events

Dec 5:
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Faculty lecture, Dr. Skip Jones
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Jazz Orchestra
8:05 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs Manor (away)

Dec 6:
7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Bucks Chat!

Dec 7:
7 p.m. Poetry Reading - Robert Bense

Dec 8:
3 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs Delaware (home)

Dec 11:
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Concert Choir
8 p.m. Men’s Basketball vs Central Penn (home)
‘Atomic Lipstick’ and Other Such Sounds of Cordova

Local Band Builds Local Fans

Mont. Co. Hosts Filming

Top 20 prime-time TV programs in the Nielsen ratings

As of Monday Dec. 3, the Financial Aid Office will no longer be located on the lower level of the Rollins Center. It has moved to its new location, the old bookstore, in Pemberton Hall.
A Piece of My Mind

A weekly column by Centurion Editor Mark Bennett

Several friends and I were driving near Street Road, and the headlight beam illuminated a glassy expanse of water, on either side of which stood a line of tall, leafless trees. There was no breeze, no sound but the crunch of gravel under our tires. The only life was the occasional movement of a leaf or two. As the trees grew taller, the light was absorbed and the darkness enveloped us. It was as if we had entered a different world. The silence was broken only by the occasional sound of a car passing by, its headlights cutting through the darkness. It was a place of mystery and wonder, a place where the ordinary gave way to something else, something more.

A Modern Hypocrisy

A weekly column by Managing Editor Laura Irwin

You are what you eat

November 2005 was one of the worst months of my life. I was diagnosed with a form of cancer called Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. After many months of chemotherapy and dozens of other treatments, the cancer was free, but left physically altered. At the time it didn’t matter what the effects of treatment were in order to live, but now two years after my initial diagnosis and clean bill of health from my doctor, I am still left trying to regain the physical identity I had when all this started.

Re-growing my hair was an obviously long, painstaking process in regards to time. I finshed chemet therapy in 2005 and since then I have been waiting for my normal hair length to be met. It has taken more than a year and a half to once again have shoulder-length hair. Finally, a part of me that had been lost, has returned.

I have two visible scars; one on my neck from surgery across my chest. They will never go away. They are permanent reminders of the place where my cancer was.

And finally, the heartbeat of it all for me is that I gained a lot of weight while I was on steroids for nausea, among other medicines. In total, I increased 10 dress sizes. After discontinuing use of the medications I was on, I went down four sizes. But it isn’t good enough for me, I have six to go.

Which brings me to my main point—how to diet. I have always been a picky eater and an athlete, and my normal diet and exercise wasn’t enough. I had to do something more drastic. Then I read about veganism.

I work part-time as a bookstore and picked up the book “Skinny Bitch.”

After reading the first chapter, I realized it could just be the thing I could do to assist in losing the extra pounds. I was a diet-fad per- son, but I could relate to the diet book suggesting vegan. I already love soy milk, and I never eat fast food or drank soda. I rarely ate meat, because I just didn’t have the time to marinade and cook a steak. So, eliminating all meat and other animal-byproduct foods would make my diet run smoothly. I’ve been doing it for a month now and it’s going well so far. I’m not the water, wheat and citrus acid kind of ingre- dient. Not the water, wheat and citrus acid kind of ingre- dient. Instead, I eat my vegetables raw—no cooking necessary. I eat my vegetables raw—no cooking necessary. I eat my vegetables raw—no cooking necessary.

I can’t lie, I feel like an idiot for all this. I know that these common ingredients have been linked to cancer and diabetes and other health problems, but I never paid attention to what was in my supposedly good for me oatmeal to notice. Maybe my digestion of these ingredients is what made me sick in the first place.

This is why I became a vegan, and it’s going well so far. I’m not starving or eating rabbit food. And yes, a part of me does feel better for not promoting the abuse of ani- mals, I’ll admit it.

It’s true that I turn this bright smile on my face on my way back home from Whole Foods that I was no longer going to harm animals.

Then, I transmute and...
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Tuesday, Dec. 11
Noon to 6:30 p.m.
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The Centurions defeated the Thaddeus Stevens Tech Institute Ducks 71-61 on Tuesday, Nov. 27, thanks to good defense and great hustle.

“The whole team deserves credit,” said Centurions’ Coach Gaeton Curione, “we played very well.”

The game started off well for the Centurions, but they fell behind midway through the first half.

A few timeouts, Curione put in a quick, undersized lineup with 10 minutes to play. The Ducks countered with an 8-0 run. Point guard Chris Schaffer stepped up and stopped the bleeding and knocked down two three-pointers on the right wing in an effort to keep up. The Centurions fought back, taking the lead with under five minutes left. Their relentless hustle and hustle led to a Claude Chalk three-pointer. Then, with seconds left in the first half, Schaffer stole the ball for an easy two.

In the second half with the Ducks down by six, the team switched to full court man-to-man coverage. Guard Matt Lacovara beat the press, eased into the lane and scored two. The defense continued to be consistent, with Chalk blocking shots left and right.

Guard Brandon Davis had an outstanding game for the Centurions, scoring 12 in the first half, and finishing with 27 points.

The Centurions players can finally breathe after getting their first win of the season. But, some kinks still need to be worked out. They gave up 23 points off of the Ducks’ defensive rebounding, and were lucky they got away with that much.

“I’m not surprised with that number, size is tough, we have a small team, but our plan is to go out and run,” said Curione after the win.

The game is an improvement from the two previous games, when turnovers and lack of rebounding plagued them.

Upcoming games against Reading and Philadelphia Community College will be big ones for the team.

The team does sound confident, especially Chalk who said, “We’ll most definitely improve. By mid-season, we’ll have chemistry and will be ready to make a push for the playoffs.”

KEVIN YORKE
Centurion Staff

Bucks sports teams have received very little fan attendance, partly because students don’t have time and because they don’t know about the teams.

Students give many reasons why they can’t seem to make time to cheer on their own.

While there is a natural enthusiasm among students for the teams, the consensus among students is that they are too busy to make it to games.

Scott Bradshaw, assistant director of athletics, reiterated the problems that face Bucks’ sports teams.

“I think everyone’s busy. Everyone works or goes to school, full-time. They go to class and then they go home, so it is rather difficult to have consistent attendance.”

According to Bradshaw, attendance is still not great, but it is improving.

“This year we’ve seen a big increase. There have been a lot of people encouraging others to come out and watch their friends.”

For a schedule of sporting events check the Bucks website at www.bucks.edu.