

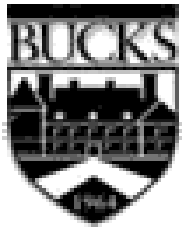


THE CENTURION

The week of December 10, 2007

www.bucks-news.com

Volume: 43 Issue: 8



This is the last issue of the Centurion for the fall 2007 semester. We will be returning in the spring 2008 semester.

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** I love you thi\$\$ much*

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Weather

Monday:

A chance of snow or rain. Cloudy, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tuesday:

A chance of snow or rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday:

A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday:

A chance of snow or rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Weather courtesy of the National Weather Service

The 2008 Presidential Election

KYLE CRAWFORD
Centurion Staff

The 2008 election campaigns have begun and the majority of Bucks students interviewed by the Centurion have not been paying attention.

As the primaries begin, many students don't even know a Republican candidate.

Greg O'Brien, a 19-year-old education major from Southampton said, "I haven't been paying attention because I think it's boring."

O'Brien's response mimicked that of several other students.

Sebastian Dylag, 19, liberal arts major from Richboro said he didn't follow politics because he doesn't care.

Charlie Lyman, 18, liberal arts major from Fairless Hills said, "I haven't been paying attention. I just don't care, it's not important to me."

With all the complaints about government, it was surprising so few were going to do something about it, like make an educated vote. But there is a glimmer of

hope, as some students were interested in the goings-on of current political events.

Communications major from Holland, Michael Adamczyk, 21, said, "Yes, I have been paying attention because I want to see things get better. Half of the country is against war, and the other half is for it."

Dave Mullen, 18, from Philadelphia, majoring in sports management said, "I have been following a little bit because I'm voting next year for my next president."

David Hill, 21-year-old business major from Yardley said, "I've been following a little bit. It matters now, my vote counts."

All students' votes count, and the only way to make a difference is to participate. But it can't be done without knowing who's running.

Democrat Hilary Clinton was recognized by every student interviewed, as was Barack Obama.

The Republican candidates, however, weren't as well-known. The only candidates known by students interviewed were Rudy

Giuliani and Fred Thompson.

Although trivial, the information students have on this subject, or lack thereof, is probably to be expected.

But you don't have to be an expert to make an educated vote.

Now is as good of time as any to begin discussing, debating and paying attention to candidates and their campaigns. After all, the winner will be the leader of this country for the next four years.



Photo courtesy of USAsearch.gov

Want to know more about the presidential candidates? Look for bios on the major candidates and their activities and platforms in the upcoming editions of the Centurion in the spring 2008 semester.

See below for the recent political polls.

Presidential Candidates in a Tight Race

By The Associated Press

THE RACE:

The presidential race for the Democratic, Republican nominations in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

The poll shows Clinton and Obama about tied in the three early voting states.

It also shows that a chunk of the Democrats surveyed remain undecided: 11 percent in Iowa, 19 percent in New Hampshire and 24 percent in South Carolina.

The poll puts Obama ahead of Clinton among blacks in South Carolina, 37 percent to 21 percent, though she leads among women, 34 percent to 21 percent.

The Republican race is less consistent.

Huckabee holds a sizable lead over Giuliani in Iowa, though the two are about even in South Carolina.

In Iowa, the former New York mayor is in single digits, while Romney — former governor of neighboring Massachusetts, has a solid lead.

The telephone survey of 400 likely caucus attendees or primary voters in the three states was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research from Dec. 3-6.

It has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

REPUBLICANS - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mitt Romney, 25 percent

Rudy Giuliani, 17 percent

John McCain, 16 percent

Mike Huckabee, 11 percent

Fred Thompson, 6 percent

REPUBLICANS - IOWA

Mike Huckabee, 32 percent

Mitt Romney, 20 percent

Fred Thompson, 11 percent

John McCain, 7 percent

Rudy Giuliani, 5 percent

REPUBLICANS - SOUTH CAROLINA

Mike Huckabee, 20 percent

Rudy Giuliani, 17 percent

Mitt Romney, 15 percent

Fred Thompson, 14 percent

John McCain, 10 percent

DEMOCRATS - NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hillary Rodham Clinton, 30 percent

Barack Obama, 27 percent

John Edwards, 10 percent

Bill Richardson, 7 percent

DEMOCRATS - IOWA

Hillary Rodham Clinton, 27 percent

Barack Obama, 25 percent

John Edwards, 21 percent

Bill Richardson, 9 percent

DEMOCRATS - SOUTH CAROLINA

Hillary Rodham Clinton, 28 percent

Barack Obama, 25 percent

John Edwards, 18 percent

Bill Richardson, 1 percent

Murder/Suicide at a Nebraska Mall

DANA WELDON
Centurion Staff

Bucks students were shocked to hear of the shooting in a mall in Omaha, Nebraska, killing several people Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Debora Maruca-Kovac and her husband, whose sons were friends with Robert A. Hawkins, the assailant, welcomed him into their home and tried to help him.

According to Maruca-Kovac, about an hour before the shooting, Hawkins called her and told her he had written a suicide note. In the note Hawkins wrote, "Sorry for everything" and that he would not be a burden on his family anymore. The note also

said, "Now I'll be famous."

"Mental illness is an issue that we take too lightly, a lot of people need help and are suffering," said Caitlin Walker, 20, an elementary education major from Bensalem.

Mickey Vickory, who worked in the mall's third-floor service department, said she heard shots and went with coworkers and customers into a back closet, emerging about a half-hour later when police shouted to come out with their hands up. As police led them to another part of the mall for safety, they saw the victims.

"I can't believe somebody would actually do something so evil and malicious," said Jenny Boback, 20, a nursing major

from Bensalem.

John Williams, 27, a liberal arts major from Levittown, said, "I just feel bad for the innocent people who lost their lives for no reason."

Hawkins fired several shots from the third floor in a Von Maur department store.

Two customers and six employees were killed.

"The guy obviously had mental problems and needed some help," said Danielle Thompson, 19, an education major from Philadelphia.

After Hawkins fired his gun on the unsuspecting crowd, he turned it on himself.

Hawkins apparently had a

troubled past. He had recently split with his girlfriend and been fired from McDonald's.

He also had a criminal record and had left, or been kicked out of, his parents' home.

He dropped out of Papillion-La Vista High School as a senior in March 2006, principal James Glover said Thursday, Dec. 6.

While he wasn't a loner, he had a very small group of friends and was not involved in extra-curricular activities.

Maruca-Kovac told the Omaha World Herald that the night before the shooting, Hawkins and her sons showed her an SKS semiautomatic Russian military rifle.

She said she thought the gun belonged to a member of Hawkins' family, but didn't think much of it because the gun looked too old to work.

"People need to realize an actual threat when they see one," said 25-year-old journalism major Laura Irwin. "If you see a gun in a troubled person's hands, use your head. If someone makes a threat, that suits their personality as a legit threat, do something. These catastrophes can be avoided if people knew how to get help."

If you are feeling suicidal or know anyone who is, refer them to the Bucks Women's Center for hotlines or information.

Shoppers Flee After Attempted Allentown Armored Car Holdup

(AP) - Shoppers took refuge inside an Allentown mall on the morning of Friday, Dec. 7 after shots were fired in the parking lot, apparently during an attempted armored car holdup.

Television footage showed three bullet casings in the parking lot of the South Mall, where police converged shortly after 10:30 a.m. It wasn't immediately clear if anyone was hurt.

Bank of America spokesman Ernesto Anguilla said the shooting was apparently related to an attempted holdup of an armored

car.

"The incident did occur in the mall parking lot, outside of the banking center," he told The Associated Press. "None of our associates or customers were injured. The lobby of our banking center is currently closed while the police investigate."

Patty Dudley, a shopper from Macungie, said she was at Stein Mart in the mall when employees ushered her and other customers to the back of the store. They told her something had happened outside and customers could not

leave.

"I was just making a return and then I was hiding under a clothing rack," she told The Morning Call, an Allentown newspaper.

Police officials did not immediately return phone messages. A spokeswoman for the South Mall was being briefed on the situation and wasn't immediately available for comment.

The South Mall is owned by the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust, which didn't immediately return a message.

Police Confirm Body is Missing Bucks Mother

(AP) - Investigators say they are not ruling out suicide by a Bucks County mother of three who has been found dead in her parked and locked minivan after she went missing the week before.

Police confirmed that the body is that of 32-year-old Gina Bobbing-Mormando and say there are no signs of foul play.

Coroner Joseph Campbell says an autopsy Wednesday, Dec. 5 revealed no signs of trauma.

Campbell says he will not rule

on a cause and manner of death until he receives toxicology test results, which could take four to six weeks.

Bobbing-Mormando's husband, Michael, says he last heard from her in a cell phone call last on Nov. 28.

She was the mother of a 5-year-old daughter and two sons — one 3 and one who will have his first birthday next week.

Bobbing-Mormando is also a former Bucks nursing student.

Corrections to previous Centurion Editions:

From Volume 43 Issue 5, "Textbook Policy Causes Book Bind"

In this article we reported that students may use financial aid vouchers to purchase new books from the book store. This statement was misleading. Student aid vouchers can also be used to purchase any of the used books that the book store has in stock.

Thank you to Shawn P. Lafferty of the Bucks bookstore for bringing this to our attention.

At the Centurion, we strive for accuracy, but sometimes we make mistakes. If you see any factual errors in the Centurion, please contact us at centurion@bucks.edu.

Thank you,
Centurion Editorial Staff

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:

We'll see you in the
Spring 2008 semester,
with a whole new set of
publication dates!

THE CENTURION 

Bucks County Community College's Student Newspaper

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Register at www.Bucks-News.com and a .PDF version of the newspaper will be delivered directly to your email box.

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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Former Bucks Student Crowned 2007 Poet Laureate

CHRISTINE E. SWANSON
Centurion Staff

“Like many poets, I think of poetry as an exercise in trying to say the unsayable,” said Marsha Kroll, Bucks County’s 2007 Poet Laureate.

Kroll is yet another former student of former poet laureate and Bucks Professor Christopher Bursk to earn the title.

“I really have to applaud Chris and his dedication to poetry and poets of this region,” said Kroll. “If it weren’t for Chris, Vermont College and all my writing friends, in addition to poet David Mook, I

don’t know that I’d be the poet that I am today.”

After receiving her Master’s of Fine Arts in creative writing from Vermont College, Kroll has recently returned to the area.

Although a runner-up in the 2003 Poet Laureate, Kroll’s return home was more rewarding; \$500 and the long-sought title.

But, Kroll is no stranger to recognition when it comes to her work. At the Allen Ginsberg Awards, she received a 2005 Editor’s Choice Award and she was a semifinalist in the 2004 Finishing Line Press Open Chapbook Competition for her chapbook Model-

ing with Miss America.

Her poems have and will appear in Hayden’s Ferry Review, Paterson Literary Review, Mad Poets Review, Schuylkill Valley Journal, and the 2003 Frost Place Anthology of Participants.

Kroll developed experience with an array of perspectives and emotions through her work in the mental health field. Much of her work involved interaction with individuals with multiple personalities and post-traumatic stress in its myriad manifestations.

For more information on the program, contact Dr. Allen Hoey at (215) 968-8279.



Marsha Kroll, the 2007 Bucks County Poet Laureate

Sunrise: Lake St. Catherine, Vermont, 2002

It’s still stick season. Yet, even the birches are frosted over, the lake covered with snow, and our mountain gray and misted and streaked with

signs of the next approaching cold front. It would be easy to think life will continually be like this. But the streaks

and lines are racing across our mountain’s face, reaching for edges beyond

the entire cold front’s length, and they’re illuminated, all of it awash, in a brilliant pink. And the rest of the sky? Well,

it’s surrounded by what I thought from all indications would be an impossible color: blue.

Marsha Kroll

Horn & Hardarts: 1956

No one has heard yet of the flaming nebula of dying stars or the incessant race of matter toward absolute density, the black hole, when Horn & Hardarts’ nearly windowless cafeteria-styled doors open into a new world filled with flattened tuna sandwiches or colorless turkey and cheese with mayo or butter. Ike’s in command, and I’ve just overheard that my father has lost most of his money. We’ve been instructed to move to our place by a tall, blond, hair-netted waitress. Some dead bird feathers fly from my mother’s fashionable beige hat as she slips into a seat by the crumb-topped counter beside me. Only a few tables are full. Others are as vacant as my parents’ eyes as they glaze over peering past each other into a great distance. On the green vinyl stool, no true destination in mind, I’ve been consumed with launching myself through the aurora, toward Saturn, until my foot causes me to lurch, until I wobble my own world’s full circumference, that of the stool’s shiny-silver futuristic chrome base, until I’m finally spinning, then hurtling into the blurring emptiness.

Marsha Kroll

Bucks Professor’s New Book Will Help Struggling Students

MARK BENNETT
Student Life and Web Editor

Bucks Professor James Freeman has published a new book titled “Liars, Tales of True Love” that takes place at Bucks and in the Newtown area.

Freeman, 52, of Newtown Borough, has been a professor at Bucks for 26 years and teaches ethics, creative writing and comp 107-111.

So far, Freeman has had 16 of 20 books published; his latest book tells the story of a group of down-and-out people who have

fallen on hard times, some of whom are homeless.

“The characters care about each other and other people as well as literature, and learn how to smell the roses before they die,” said Freeman.

The book and characters are a mix of life experiences, people Freeman has known and encountered, and fiction.

“The characters are a composite of real and fake. You take a joke that came out of uncle Fred’s mouth and place it in one of the character’s mouths,” said Freeman.

His latest book, which is an expansion and rewrite of a previously published book, is being put to good use to help local college students get the education they need.

Freeman, along with friend and colleague Chris Bursk, started the Ray Reilly Memorial Student Scholarship Fund.

The fund pays for the tuition of one student for either one or two semesters at Bucks.

“The scholarship is for kids who are facing obstacles getting to college, whether it’s financial or a physical disabili-

ty,” said Freeman. All the royalties of his previously written book and his new one will go into the fund.

According to Freeman, the scholarship fund is what motivated him. “The scholarship gave me the initiative to finish the book,” he said.

Freeman spent much of his early childhood in Northern California with his parents.

However, he was born in Montreal, Canada, while his parents were stationed at a military base. Freeman has been all over the country because his father was a military doctor.

According to Freeman, roughly every 13 months he would move to a new base along with his father. His relocations included Kansas, Texas, Maryland, Massachusetts and Japan.

Freeman’s experiences in Japan - he was there from 1965-68 - were enlightening.

The island nation left an impression on him, Freeman said. “Japan is a mix of feudal history and the modern world.”

He reminisced about the mechanical video games and amusement parks on top of skyscrapers.

“Going to Japan was a real eye-opener,” he said.

After going to middle school in Japan his father was sent back to

the States and his family went along with him.

According to Freeman, throughout the course of his high school education he attended 13 different schools.

Moving around that much can be difficult for a child, but Freeman didn’t let the frequent relocations affect his life.

“Something like that either makes you or breaks you,” he said.

Freeman attended Shasta Community College in CA, where he received his Associates degree in Journalism and English.

Afterwards he went to Reed College in Oregon and got his Bachelor’s Degree in Philosophy and English, later getting his Master’s degree in English from Humboldt State University in Northern California.

Freeman has had a long career in teaching.

While studying to get his degrees he taught part-time at Humboldt and also spent some time teaching under the Federal Upper Bound Program, which is a program for disadvantaged teens.

The program is aimed toward city kids. Freeman taught creative writing, photography and backpacking.

According to Freeman, once he graduated the job market for teachers was in a slump. After reading a magazine designed to

inform teachers where good jobs were he came to Bucks County and began teaching at Bucks.

His original plan was to work at Bucks for a few years then move back to “the promised land,” however his plans changed after he started a family and became attached to Pennsylvania.

Freeman has been a dedicated writer his entire life.

“I started early in life, in kindergarten I would write animal fables which would have morals in them,” he said.

As Freeman grew, so did his writing.

By middle school Freeman was writing poetry and by the time he was in high school he started writing short stories.

Freeman was also involved in various high school newspapers throughout his education.

According to Freeman, young writers should try to write about life experiences.

“You have to write about what you know, you have to write your life, and you can’t do it transparently,” Freeman said.

He added that writing is a good way to escape and vent your frustrations.

Meet Jim Freeman at his book launch Dec. 16 from 2-4 p.m. at Robin’s bookstore in Philadelphia. For more information call (215) 735-9600.



December 2007: What to Do

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Poetry Reading at Bucks	Jazz Combo 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Bucks Last day of Chanukah	Jazz Combo 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Bucks	Go see Shady Brook Farm's Light Show	See a new band. The Leane plays at Sweeney's Saloon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Jim Freeman's Book Launch at Robin's Bookstore at 2-4 p.m.	Classes End	Festival of Trees at Morven Museum and Garden	A Christmas Carol at McCarter Theater	Festival of Trees at Morven Museum and Garden	Peddler's Village ginger bread house display	Festival of Trees at Morven Museum and Garden
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
A Christmas Carol at McCarter Theater	Santa is coming	Merry Christmas	Intersession classes begin	How about a trip to South Street?	New Hope shopping	Time to return those unwanted presents
30	31					
Watch the Eagles game	New Years Eve					

January 2008: What to Do

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		New Years Day	Great sleep in day	The light show at Shadybrook farm	Take a tour of Philly	See The Leane play at the Khyber
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SportsPlex always has hockey games going on	Men's Basketball away at Delaware 8 p.m.	Time to start taking down your decorations	Men's Basketball home at 8 p.m.	Go ice skating	Intersession classes end	Men's Basketball home at 3 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
The Leane welcomes all ages at the Trocodero Balcony	Men's Basketball away at Luzerne 8 p.m.	Play some videogames	Men's Basketball home at 7 p.m.	Men's Basketball away at Mercer at 5 p.m.	Go sledding?	Men's Basketball away at Stevens at 3:05 p.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Roast chestnuts over an open fire	Men's Basketball away at Reading at 8 p.m.	Watch the Flyers game	Spring semester begins Men's Basketball home at 8 p.m.	Watch the Flyers game	Study	Men's Basketball home at 3 p.m.
27	28	29	30	31		
Learn to play a musical instrument	Men's Basketball home at 8 p.m.	Watch the Flyers game	Men's Basketball away at Central Penn at 8:05 p.m.	Study		

Wu Tang Clan Set to Release New Album

ALEX BLAISE
Centurion Staff

The Wu-Tang Clan, an influential rap group, has its fans anticipating their newest album, "8 diagrams," due out on Dec. 11.

The Wu-Tang Clan's lineup has over the years been comprised of The Rza, The Gza, Method Man, Inspectah Deck, U-God, Masta Killa, Raekwon, Ghostface Killah and the late Old Dirty Bastard.

The Clan got their start in 1992 in Staten Island. Some of their best known songs include "C.R.E.A.M.," "Protect Ya Neck" and "Gravel Pit." Along with chart-topping albums, the members of the Wu-Tang Clan have gone on to produce solo albums that sold millions of copies worldwide.

And the name?

"Wu Tang" comes from old kung-fu films that the artists grew up watching. The actual Wu Tang Clan was a group of renegade monks with unparalleled skills in martial arts that made them so dangerous to society that they had to swear never to teach their styles. The latter-day Wu Tang Clan would battle not with num chucks

or swords, but with razor-sharp wit and densely packed lyrical metaphors.

The present-day Clan worked to imitate this style, and they did so with precision and ease. Superhero comic books and New York street lore also had direct influences on the forming of the rap group.

Since their last album "Iron Flag" was released in 2001, diehard fans were left begging for more. The Clan has still been busy touring despite the fact that they have not produced an album in six years.

Rhett Tierney, 18, said, "The new album is definitely going to be off the charts. A lot of people thought that they were out of the rap game and I believe they feel as if they have something to prove."

"The Wu-Tang Clan has eight of the best emcees to ever touch the microphone. Ever since Old Dirty died the group has become stronger than ever and I know the new album will be one of the best the group has ever or will ever put out."

Wu member The Gza said in an interview that now is a perfect time to put out a new album. "Hip



Cover art for the newest Wu Tang album, due to hit stores on Dec. 11

Photo courtesy of wutang-corp.com

hop is missing something important; it's missing a main element," said Gza. "Wu Tang is the ones to bring back that element."

The new album is said to have many guest appearances from other well-known rappers to add

to the lyrical madness that the group brings. Guest producers will work along side Wu Tang's producer and artist, The Rza, to bring different elements to the tracks on the album.

Many crazed fans will be lined

up early to purchase the new album, so if you want a taste of lyrical genius and a sample of one of the most influential and dominant groups in rap history, pick up or download the new album.

The Top 10 Movies You Should See On Break AND THE TOP 10 MOVIES YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON

MARK BENNETT

Student Life and Web Editor

You should've seen these movies by now.

- 1) **300**- "FOR SPARTA!" This is one of the greatest action movies ever to be made, and pretty historically accurate.
- 2) **Bad Santa**- Who doesn't like seeing Saint Nick acting naughty?
- 3) **Super Troopers**- "You are freaking out... man." If you don't think this movie is funny there is something seriously wrong with you.
- 4) **Shaun of the Dead**- Action, comedy, horror, romance and of course zombies, what else do you need in a movie.
- 5) **Scarface**- "Say hello to my little friend!" A timeless classic with class, style and lots of coke.
- 6) **Shawshank Redemption**- A great movie about a man wrongly imprisoned for murder and his struggles being an innocent man in jail.
- 7) **Boondock Saints**- "I can think of something the bloody rope was good for." A great action movie where wrong doers get what they have coming to them.
- 8) **Saving Private Ryan**- A story about brotherhood, war and sacrifice. If you have a romantic view about war this will give you a much needed reality check.
- 9) **Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas**- "We can't stop here... this is bat country!" This movie will take you on a wild trip... quite literally.
- 10) **Dumb and Dumber**- "Mock... Yeah... Ing... Yeah... Bird... Yeah." This movie is so stupidly funny you will have to laugh.

MARK BENNETT

Student Life and Web Editor

Don't bother watching these movies.

- 1) **No Reservations**- It's about two chefs who hate each other and then fall in love, that says it all right there.
- 2) **Snakes on a Plane**- The producers were really short on ideas that week. Way to be original guys.
- 3) **Daredevil**- I wish I could tell you why this movie is bad, but I can't sit through it, sorry.. It must be Ben Affleck as a blind super hero.
- 4) **Terminator 3 Rise of the Machines**- Acting or politics, pick one and stick with it Arnold.
- 5) **Water World**- There's nothing good about that movie, at least that's what my editor says.
- 6) **Daddy Day Camp**- Nobody wants to listen to a bunch of screaming brats for an hour and a half.
- 7) **From Justin to Kelly**- Enough said.
- 8) **Glitter**- Mariah Cary is in it, that's reason enough.
- 9) **You Got Served**- No good sir, you just got served.
- 10) **Lady Killers**- Slow, stupid and pointless.

A Piece of My Mind

A weekly column by Centurion Editor Mark Bennett

Is it me, or are parents way too protective of their children?

Unfortunately, this type of parental behavior is more and more common in this day and age.

Why is it that parents feel the need to protect their kids from all the evils this world has to offer? If anything, they should be throwing their children headfirst into these potentially painful, and in the end, enlightening situations.

It's a dog-eat-dog world. If you're not willing to take every advantage given to you, you won't get far. It can be cruel out there.

Life will punch you in the head when you're not looking. If you fall, it will mercilessly kick you while you're down. If you're not strong enough to get back on your feet, you're as good as dead.

So I really don't see how sheltering your kid from the shocking realities of life will prepare them for the real world.

In America we are living in a world where doing your best is good enough... guess what, it's not. When your landlord comes to collect rent and you don't have it for him, but you tell him, "I did my best," he's going to reply, "Where's my money?"

What lessons of life do kids learn from parents who shelter them so much?

Children now aren't being

taught in the in terms of winning and losing, but winning and "not winning." How is that helpful? They have a word for not winning, it's called losing. Why do we feel the need to not refer to our children as losers? Is it because we're afraid that it will hurt their feelings? Or that their fragile little minds might become warped from this negative feedback?

That is a possibility, but a more realistic possibility is that the negative feedback will inspire them to do better. Think about it, if people keep telling you that you're doing your best and that doing your best is good enough, why would you try and do better?

In America 14-year-old kids aren't allowed to see R-rated movies because of violence, language and brief nudity. In Africa, 14-year-old kids are members of the militias and are expected to kill or be killed. Just because we live in a nice part of the world doesn't mean that in four years it will be. If we shelter the youth of the nation now, we very well could be killing them tomorrow. Parents: don't sugar-coat the world for your kids unless you plan on wiping their noses for them for the rest of their lives, because you're probably doing more harm than good.

Recently, an underage drinking party was busted in Upper Make-

field, resulting in the arrests of dozens of kids. These kids are now trying to sue the police department that raided the house because the officers at the scene intimidated the kids and made them feel threatened. Disgusting, I know, but what's really disturbing is that many of their parents are backing them up on this issue.

Sixteen to 18-year-old minors were drinking illegally at someone's house—how can a responsible parent possibly agree that what they did wasn't wrong? Not only that, but that the police were wrong for breaking up the party. Intimidation is part of a police officer's job in order to deter future crimes from happening. So long as what the police did was short of beating the kids with their nightsticks, there is no crime there.

When I was 15, I stumbled through my house door to find my father waiting for me. I was clearly drunk, he could tell, and I couldn't hide it. He didn't get me a glass of water to help with the hangover I would have the next morning, or hold my head while I was hugging the toilet later that night. But guess what, I learned my lesson, and the message was very clear. If you're underage, don't drink, and if you do drink and get caught, there are consequences.

A Modern Hypocrisy

A weekly column by Managing Editor Laura Irwin



I Love You Thi\$\$\$\$ Much

How much do you spend on your friends, family and other loved ones during the holidays?

I can't afford to have friends anymore.

Really.

What says "I love you" better than a \$20 sweater or gift card? Where's the thought in that anyway? But of course you have to go to many stores and fork over your paychecks so your buddies can go out and get something they like.

A gift card for every person you know, or heaven forbid someone gets offended.

I was once told it's the thought that counts, but apparently how much cash I spend is what really matters to some.

I love you thi\$\$ much.

And don't you love the friend where what you get them isn't enough? Or that you don't know them at all and how could you ever get them something like that?

Well, my \$20 is enough to supply my gas for a week, so it better work for you. If you receive a gift card, it's not that I dislike you, I did purge my budget on the thought of seasonal giving, but the holidays have me bitter.

Each year it's the same hectic running around, meanwhile cheery music blasts over poor sound systems with the occasional interruption from employees announcing more things I can spend my lack of money on.

I love you thi\$\$ much.

Does it really matter? You're probably going to give me something you are re-gifting anyway. I don't need any more things.

And the things I do look forward to during the Christmas season are the low-key traditions.

My roommate and I host a tree-trimming party. It's nice to get together and decorate your tree and sip on spiked eggnog, or in my current case spiked soy-nog.

I love sending out my Christmas cards, and each year I struggle to find cards more satirist and cynical than previous years.

For those of you that like funky cards I suggest Urban Outfitters, in Philadelphia or King of Prussia Mall, or Allegheny Art Store, located on State Street, Newtown.

I love Christmas lights and driving around neighborhoods and seeing each house's glimmering decorations.

I used to like the local light shows, until the price blew my mind. "For the two people in my car you want how much?"

I love you thi\$\$ much.

Thank God I get a discount at the bookstore I work at. I hope you like to read because guess what my friends got this year?

And my family.

And other loved ones.

One year I made hand-painted ceramics for those who I knew would appreciate them. The total cost of each gift was under \$10, but those that received them, loved them. Or at least said they did.

One year I sewed stockings from pre-packaged felt and bead stocking kits. Total cost per person, again, under \$10.

What's the difference?

Hours compared to cash.

Instead of splurging big bucks on my friends and family, I stitched and kilned and hemmed and brushed away hours for each gift, for each person.

I like to think the thought counts, but if I spend 20 hours on you, instead of \$20, you'll know I do care about you.

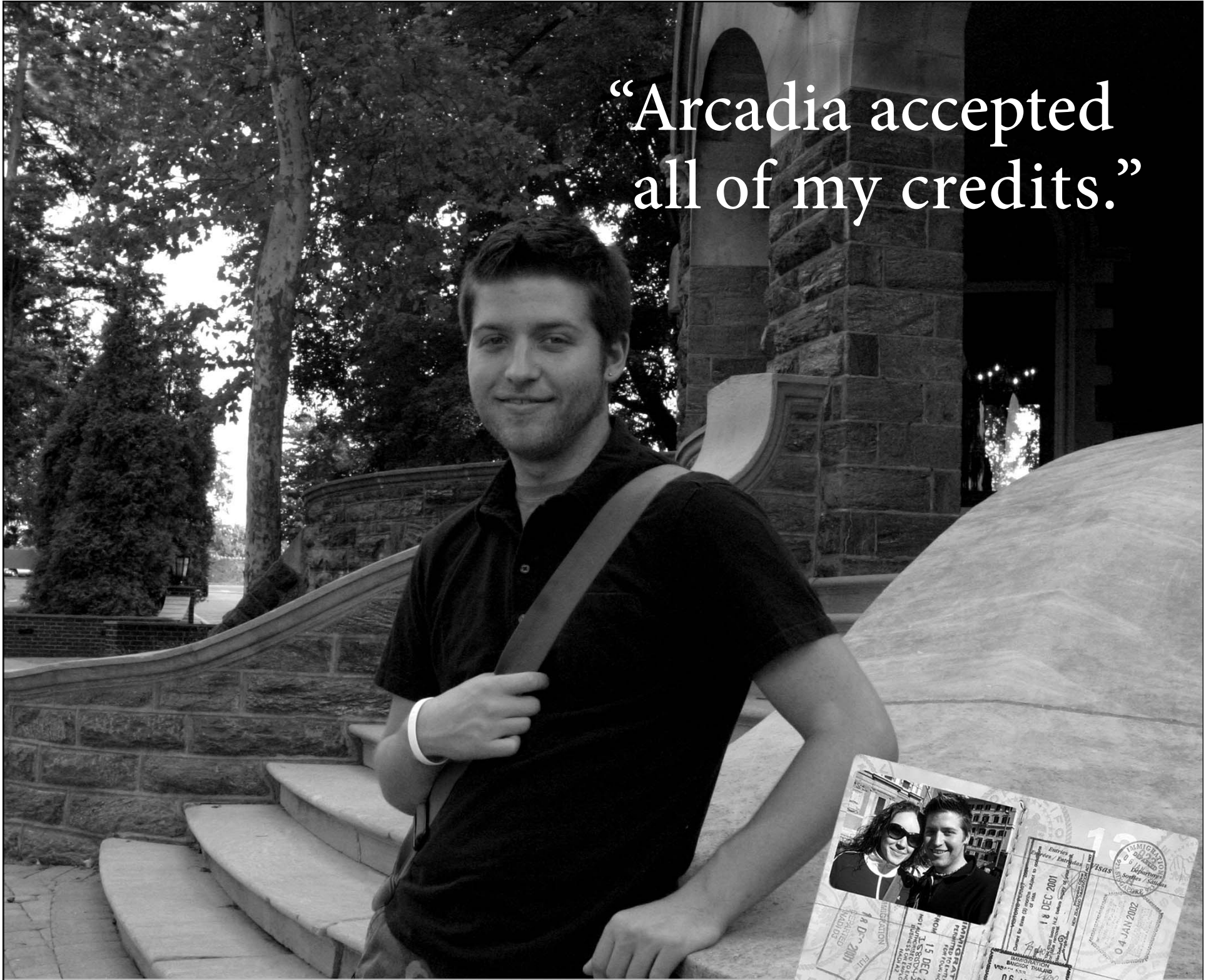
I love you this much.



Photo by Laura Irwin

Random Photo of the Week
Happy Holidays!

“Arcadia accepted all of my credits.”



“I’m a Video Communications Major at Arcadia and this semester I have a great internship at Unisys Corporation. Italy Preview was my first trip abroad—I got to know other students, visited Rome and Florence, and earned two credits,” Aaron Clark ’08.

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Monday, December 10, 2007

Westbrook Could be the Best Thing in Philly

PHIL COLES
Centurion Staff

Ladies and gentlemen, meet the best running back in the NFL: Philadelphia's own, Brian Westbrook. The sixth-year running back out of Villanova is leading

the NFL in total yards from scrimmage, as well as providing the Philadelphia Eagles with their only consistent offensive threat.

Westbrook's remarkable season is one of the few bright spots in an otherwise forgettable year for the Eagles. Westbrook's ability to score every time he touches the football, and often times in scintillating fashion, is reason enough to keep watching the Eagles this season.

When people start talking about the best running backs in the NFL, for some reason, Brian Westbrook's name does not usually come up in the conversation.

Football analysts start by mentioning Ladaian Tomlinson who is having another outstanding year for the San Diego Chargers.

Okay, that argument is fair enough, but what about Westbrook?

Through week-13 he is fifth in the

NFC in rushing, despite averaging less than 20 carries a game. He is fifteenth in the NFL in receptions with 69, ahead of such big name receivers as Steve Smith, Plaxico Burress and Antonio Gates.

The next highest running back on the list is Ladaian Tomlinson, who has 50 catches. He ranks 40 in receiving yards, ahead of receivers such as Laveranues Coles, Jeremy Shockey and Chris Cooley. The next closest running back on the list is Ladaian Tomlinson who is 177 yards behind Westbrook.

The stats themselves can make the argument for Westbrook being the best running back in the NFL, but they only tell part of the story.

In the NFL, games are decided by playmakers, and nobody makes more game changing plays from the running back position than Brian Westbrook. His combination of speed, elusiveness, power and vision make him the most exciting back in the league, with the ability to break off jaw-dropping runs at any moment in a game.

His game combines the traits of all of the best running backs in NFL history. His elusiveness and vision conjure up thoughts of Barry Sanders slicing through opposing tacklers. The way he uses his vicious straight-arm is reminiscent of the way Walter Payton used to punish defenders



Brian Westbrook
Photo courtesy of the AP

My Top 10 Players in the NFL this season

1. **Tom Brady**- Three super bowl rings, and the most poised quarterback since Joe Montana.
2. **Peyton Manning**- It must be nice to play with your offensive coordinator in the huddle.
3. **Brian Westbrook**- Do it all running back is the most underrated player in the league.
4. **Ladaian Tomlinson**- No player entered into the season with more hype, and he has not disappointed.
5. **Tony Romo**- Cowboys catalyst has been great... so far.
6. **Adrian Peterson**- Rookie sensation is well on his way to becoming the league's best.
7. **Albert Haynesworth**- An absolute beast... in his contract year.
8. **Bob Sanders**- Colts dynamo is league's best safety.
9. **Randy Moss**- I guess he hasn't lost a step.
10. **Brett Favre**- Gunslinger having one of the best seasons in his hall of fame career.

who dared to tackle him. Combine these characteristics with his speed that allows him to flat-out run by would-be tacklers and you have a very special player. Now just imagine if he got the ball 30 times a game.

When you think of the best players in the NFL, guys who can consistently change the outcomes of games week after week by making momentum swinging plays, the

list is a short one. They usually are great quarterbacks such as Tom Brady or Peyton Manning. A few other players who are destined for the hall of fame may attain this level on the defensive side of the ball. They include: Brian Dawkins, Michael Strahan, Ray Lewis and Ed Reed. You can add Westbrook's name to that list, and if he continues on his current pace, the list of future hall of famers.

Bucks Equestrian Team Looks to Grow in 2008

SALLIE JO REID
Centurion Staff

The Bucks Intercollegiate Equestrian team's most recent win was their placing as the reserve high point team at Redwing Farm at the Dec. 1 show with only three levels filled.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association is going strong at Bucks under the guidance of Coach Amber Jewel, a former intercollegiate rider herself. Jewel, who also operates Red Wing Farm in Hilltown, PA, said

she is looking forward to next semester and is interested in recruiting new members.

The intercollegiate riding competition was established in 1999 as the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). Its purpose is to promote competition for riders of any skill level regardless of financial status.

Here at Bucks, the college offers hunter seat and western. The average size of the team is 18 members who practice weekly.

Practice is held at local barns

and the shows are local or in the region. There are no team tryouts.

Riders competing in the shows get points for placing. First place gives the rider seven points, second place is worth five points, third is worth four and so on. Riders advance to the next level when they have accumulated 35 points. After qualifying at college shows, riders go on to regional finals. The top three riders go onto zone finals. The Nationals are where the top two teams from each region compete. The top college riding team

receives the Cacchione Cup.

Competitions are kept affordable because the colleges host the shows and provide the horses. Riders are not allowed to use their own horses in IHSA shows. The riders draw a horse to use the day of the event. Schooling is not permitted and riders must use the tack provided by the horse owner.

Former Bucks student and intercollegiate team member Chrissa Dooling, 34, of Broadway, now rides over fences at Harmony Equestrian Center in NJ. Dooling

said, "You learn to really read your horse before your class. You put a lot of faith in the instructors, coaches who have watched that horse work. You have no opportunities to school over fences so you just have to ride your horse and do your best. Having a lot of opportunities to try different horses was the best for me. Now I own and show an Appaloosa/warm blood cross. I think that I developed an appreciation for large horses with a lot of bone when I rode for Bucks."

Baseball Winter Meetings Turn Out to be No More than a Bunch of Hype

GREG HALL
Sports Editor

The big story going into Major League Baseball's annual winter meetings was the trade of Johan Santana to a big market club such as the Red Sox or Yankees, but it was the Detroit Tigers who stole the show.

This year's meetings were extremely over-hyped, expecting Santana to be moved early and an abundance of trades and free-agent signings soon to follow; however, Santana is still a Minnesota Twin and there were only four transactions with any value

behind them.

The blockbuster deal that has everyone talking is the acquisition of Miguel Cabrera and Dontrelle Willis by the Tigers, whom were thought to be observers in this year's meetings. In return, the Florida Marlins received coveted prospects Cameron Maybin and left-hander Andrew Miller, along with four other top-flight prospects. Rumors of Willis being swung around to the New York Mets were quickly shot down as Willis fortifies the Tigers' rotation, already consisting of Jeremy Bonderman and Justin Verlander. Maybin and Miller are both

expected to make the Marlins' 2008 roster and be immediate contributors.

As for the Phillies; they did absolutely nothing at the winter meetings this year. They were in talks with certain players and clubs, but no actions were taken. GM Pat Gillick, for the first time, even said he was willing to trade prospects such as Carlos Carrasco, Josh Outman and Joe Savery. Japanese right-hander Hiroki Kuroda will not be in a Phillies' uniform next season. "We're out [of the Kuroda race]," Gillick said.

Reports were that the Phillies made an offer including Kyle

Kendrick, Shane Victorino and two other prospects to the Baltimore Orioles for ace Erik Bedard, but local reporters squashed that rumor saying the two sides have never discussed the lefty.

Three names jump out as possible Phillies before the start of next season. As far as pitching is concerned; Kris Benson, formerly of the Orioles, is throwing for interested teams on Dec. 17, one of those teams being the Phils. The Cubs have officially put injury-magnet Mark Prior on the trade block. Prior, 27, is said to have "all the talent in the world", but has not completed a healthy season since

his rookie campaign. The last name is third-baseman for the Tigers, Brandon Inge. With the Tigers getting Cabrera to play third, Inge will be a \$19 million bench player. The Phils have shown some interest in trading for him; maybe a Wes Helms or Tom Gordon plus a mid-level contract for Inge deal. It could be more of a salary dump for the Tigers if the Phillies will take on the \$19 million Inge is owed.

With March 31 beginning the regular season and the Phillies' desperate need for an arm, this Holiday season may bring cheers for Phillies fans.