

The Centurion

All the news--about Bucks--that's fit to print.

The week of October 13, 2008

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WEATHER

Columbus Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Thursday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. Chance of precipitation is 30percent.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

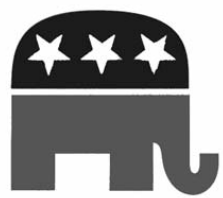
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 57.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60.

WEATHER COURTESY OF THE
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RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE ELECTION SPECIAL



Who will pick up the pieces?



President George W. Bush is packing his bags, but what is he leaving behind for the next president?

BY DAVID NONINI
The Centurion

George W. Bush could be the most controversial, polarizing president ever to occupy the Oval Office, an assessment that is shared in the Bucks Social Sciences Department.

The most recent Gallup poll placed the president's approval rating at an all-time low of 27 percent. He shares this honor with only two other presidents: Richard Nixon and Harry S. Truman.

During his presidency,

America has launched invasions into Afghanistan and Iraq resulting in a multi-trillion-dollar debt, a crumbling economy and extreme partisanship by both sides. With only four months left in his term of office, and the main focus on who his successor will be, the question now becomes: What will be the lasting impact of the Bush presidency?

The Bush administration's foreign policy and handling of terrorism has been a main focus, if not the focus, of the public dur-

ing the past two terms. The war in Iraq has since been defined as part of the "Bush doctrine," which reserves the right to start a war if it is in the national interest.

The current difficulties facing U.S. forces in Iraq stem from how the war was initially implemented. Tom Mazurek, a Bucks history professor, said that until Iraq, all U.S. military actions in the past three decades have followed the "Powell doctrine." This strategy, created by Colin Powell in the 1980s in response to the handling of the Vietnam War, specified for a clearly defined war strategy and exit plan.

The cost of the war has forced the U.S. to borrow money from other countries. So far, the war has cost the United States \$1.3

trillion.

But not all of Bush's policies regarding terrorism have been unsuccessful.

Since Sept. 11, the U.S. has not suffered another terrorist attack on its soil, which some attribute to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

Relations with other countries have been strained over the last eight years. After the Sept. 11 attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, there was an outpouring of grief and sympathy from countries around the world. One of these countries was Iran, which publicly mourned the 9/11 attacks, according to Bucks Professor

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Bucks government already in office

BY ERIC NOCITO
Features Editor

Since the 2008-09 Student Government Association took office about a month ago, they went straight to business and started planning for Bucks.

Much of the student body is uninformed about what the plans of the SGA are, and even, in some cases, unaware that the SGA exists.

"A lot of students don't know about their student government," said Student Life Director Matt Cipriano. "The SGA is trying to market to students, in order to get their attention and become more visible."

SGA consists of an executive board of five members with John Skudris leading as president.

This year, SGA is aiming to address any concerns that students have about Bucks, and hoping to offer events and programs that will appeal to a wide range of the student body.

One such event was a 5k run, held on Oct. 5 by Contact Greater

Philadelphia. Contact Greater Philadelphia raised money for their hotline for those afflicted with depression.

Another major event that will take place at Bucks is "International Celebration Day." Sponsored by the Children's Cultural Center, "International Celebration Day" will showcase different heritages and enable students to become more aware of their own cultural backgrounds.

"International Celebration Day" will take place on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. by the library area, cafeteria and auditorium.

Further information about "International Celebration Day" can be found at childrensculturalcenter.org/id/.

In the upcoming weeks, the SGA hopes to find a solution to the lack of communication between Bucks' clubs and organizations.

"I ran for president because I thought this school had immense potential that had yet to be

reached. That's what I hoped to do. Be someone who could work with my fellow students to make this school better. That's what we're doing by hosting these charitable fundraisers and by forming the Clubs and Organizations Council," said Skudris.

SGA Vice president Ravi Patel said of the council, "This would allow students to become much more aware of the things available to them at Bucks."

The council would be made up of one representative from each club or organization at Bucks.

The members would then meet and discuss plans of events for one organization or joint events sponsored by more than one club.

"This will allow the clubs and organizations to come together and provide more services for the students of Bucks," said Cipriano.

Centurion Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin said she looked forward to being a part of the council. "Clubs and organizations are

having fundraisers or looking for new members, but the message isn't getting out. Then, clubs are mystified no one sees their play or watches their game or attends their event." Irwin added, "Of course, I can recommend them to get in touch with the Centurion."

The SGA is encouraging the student body to voice their opinions so they better serve Bucks. In the case of the semi-ban on smoking that took effect on Oct. 1, the SGA curbed the ban from being campus-wide.

Patel said that since the campus is comprised of a plethora of smokers, a full ban at Bucks would have been unfair to many students. "Students have the right to smoke and no one should stop them."

Student government is the means for the student body to communicate on an official level to authority.

They represent every student in the decisions they make for Bucks. That is why the new SGA will be dedicated to the needs of the students of Bucks.

Student parking complaints continue

BY JEN GOLDING
Centurion Staff

Every year, students complain about what they say is a lack of parking at the Newtown campus.

Students complain that the Office of Safety and Security issues far more parking permits than the number of spaces available, often making it difficult to find a spot in a reasonable amount of time.

"Sometimes I'm late to class because I can't find a parking spot," said Natalie Graf, a 19-year-old nursing major. Often, Graf is forced to park in lot C, the furthest lot from Penn where she has classes.

Chris Lloyd, director of security and safety, has heard complaints about the lack of parking in all his years as director. However, he maintains that parking should not be an issue. "There is more [parking] than we need, we just can't guarantee it's going to be convenient," he said.

Yet, students disagree.

When it comes to parking, "There seems to be a lack of responsibility and accountability," said Edward Steele, a 22-year-old political science major and member of student government.

On the Newtown campus, there are five student parking lots. On a typical school day, lot B tends to fill up the fastest because of its convenient location across from Gateway. Lot A fills next, with D and E shortly after. "With five student lots, there are always spaces," said Lloyd. "In fact, lot C always has more than enough spaces. People just don't want to have to walk."

As every Bucks student comes to learn, parking issues in the first few weeks of school are the worst. "Often students are hanging out on campus longer than usual so they can buy books," said Lloyd. To help with the heavy congestion during this time period, the Office of Security and Safety attempts

to direct traffic.

In addition, vehicles without parking permits are not ticketed for the first month of school. According to the motor vehicle and parking regulations on the Bucks website, the violation for parking without a valid permit is \$15.

As of Sept. 24, parking enforcement has been ticketing cars without permits.

When the spring semester begins, cars will not be ticketed until Feb. 1.

The biggest problem this year, according to Lloyd, is that two employee lots are closed due to steam line construction, and half of an employee lot is being used as a storage area for the construction equipment.

Because of this, some faculty now park in the student lots.



THE CLOSEST SPACES FILL QUICKLY, AND STUDENTS DON'T WANT TO WALK.
PHOTO BY CHRIS JOHNSON

This increased congestion could be the cause of the few accidents that have already occurred on the campus lots this year. "In the most significant accident, a car struck several vehicles, but no injuries were reported," said Lloyd. The other few acci-

dents were also minor, mainly involving cars backing out of spaces into other cars.

Some students choose not to pick sides in this ongoing battle. Sarah Watters, a 19-year-old liberal arts major, had only one thing to say: "Teleporting is the way."

New York Times columnist wins Nobel Prize

By The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Paul Krugman, the Princeton University scholar, New York Times columnist and unabashed liberal, won the Nobel prize in economics Monday for his analysis of how economies of scale can affect trade patterns and the location of economic activity.

Perhaps better known as a columnist than an economist to the public at large, Krugman has also come out forcefully against John McCain during the economic meltdown, saying the Republican presidential candidate is "more frightening now than he was a few weeks ago."

Krugman also has derided the Republicans as becoming

"the party of stupid."

Not one to tone down his opinions, Krugman has compared the current financial crisis to the devastation of the 1930s.

"We are now witnessing a crisis that is as severe as the crisis that hit Asia in the 90's.

This crisis bears some resemblance to the Great Depression," Krugman said.

But he was optimistic that a global effort aimed at stemming the financial blood loss had taken root.

In a column Monday in the New York Times, Krugman wrote that British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Chancellor Alistair Darling "defined the character of the worldwide rescue effort, with other wealthy nations playing catch-up."

The Royal Swedish

Academy of Sciences praised Krugman for formulating a new theory to answer questions about free trade and said his theory had inspired an enormous field of research.

"He has thereby integrated the previously disparate research fields of international trade and economic geography," it said.

The award, known as the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, is the last of the six Nobel prizes announced this year and is not one of the original Nobels.

Showing a sense of humor, Krugman's New York Times blog had an entry early Monday that read "A funny thing happened to me this morning..." with a link to the Nobel announcement.

Krugman introduced his trade theory in 1979 in a 10-page article in the Journal of International Economics.

It posited that because consumers want a diversity of products, and because economies of scale make pro-

duction cheaper, multiple countries can build a product such as cars.

A nation like Sweden can build its own car brands for both export and sale at home, while also importing cars from other countries.

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THE CENTURION 

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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



Students still smoke, despite ban

BY LAURA IRWIN
Editor-in-Chief

With the new smoking ban in place, Bucks officials have now decided where students can – and cannot – smoke.

According to the Bucks administration, smoking is permitted in parking lots A, B, C, D, E, F and H, which are beyond Linden Lane and Employee Road and in private vehicles.

Elizabeth Kulick, assistant dean of enrollment service, said students had been notified about the ban's status through signs, pamphlets, word of mouth and an e-mail blast to the Bucks Gmail system.

But it remains unclear exactly how the ban will be enforced – or if it will be enforced at all. Some students say they'll keep smoking where they want until someone stops them.

"Essentially speaking, I'm going to do what I want to do until I'm reprimanded. I'm not going to stop smoking on campus, but I think I'm being respectful," said Zach McConnell, 22, liberal arts major from Pipersville.

McConnell was smoking a clove cigarette outside Rollins when he was asked why he was smoking on campus after the ban. He responded, "There's no other place to go." He mentioned he had no idea where the designated areas were.

Other students interviewed by the Centurion said they had no idea there were new prohibitions.

"I didn't know there was a ban," said Chris Stewart, a 21-year-old education major of Langhorne while smoking on the benches between the Fireside Lounge and the Library. When told there were signs across campus grounds and in doors and windows, Stewart said, "Signs? Where?"

Mike Christodoulou, 20-year-old business administration major from Richboro said, "I don't see any signs."

In the days between the Sept. 11 approval and Oct. 1 enactment of the designated smoking areas on campus, administration met the requirements the Bucks Board of trustees outlined.

These requirements were that notification was to be in place to alert the Bucks community of the ban, and the designated smoking areas were to be—designated.

Smoker Ryan Stroud, 19-year-old multimedia major from Bensalem, said the ban had "sloppy organization" but he had seen the signs that a ban was in effect. He lit a cigarette on the benches outside of the Fireside Lounge.

All these smokers said nothing about getting an e-

mail about the ban and according to a report last year in the Centurion, only 14 out of about 10,000 Bucks students had activated their Bucks Gmail. Debbie Noble, chief information technology officer at Bucks, didn't return calls for comment about whether more students were using Bucks Gmail this year.

What or who is really going to prevent smokers from lighting up?

According to Kulick and Student Life Director Matt Cipriano, Bucks students, staff and faculty should be wagging a finger at smokers and reporting them to Safety and Security or Student Life if they continue to smoke or a problem develops.

But Cipriano said that the ban is in a time of adjustment. Smoking will ultimately be suppressed as time goes on, and an immediate cessation across campus is unrealistic, he said.

Cipriano has been walking about campus whenever he has time between obligations and meetings with fellow Student Life staff Carol Watson and Dave Collelo, informing students of the ban. "It was actually nice because I got to meet a ton of new students," said Cipriano.

Samantha Monter, 18, education major from Bensalem, was smoking with Stroud. "[Cipriano] was the only person I've seen enforcing the ban. He just asked me nicely to put my cigarette out, so I did."

Kulick said she believes there will be a two-week window for students to become aware of the new policy and afterward changes will be made to the policy if needed. "My expectation is the majority will comply [with the ban]," said Kulick.

Cipriano believes that as time passes there will be fewer incidents of smoking, but he will address regular violators.

He also mentioned he has seen the same people lighting up and that they are more likely to have action taken against them. "[The ban] needs to be constantly reinforced," said Cipriano. "All faculty and staff should be enforcing this."

Monter said that she always sees faculty smoking on campus. "Usually, they sit down with us to smoke, security officers too."

Then the question arises: If you are smoking on campus, are there consequences?

As of now, Cipriano says no.

The ban is written up in the Student Code of Conduct. If you are a student, or staff or faculty member at Bucks, you agree to the terms in the code when you are matriculated or

Protest lights up outside Fireside with cigars

BY CHRISTIAN PANNACKER
Centurion Staff

On Oct. 1, day one of the smoke-free campus policy, about 15 students and Brian J. Weibley II, led by a 27-year-old custodian at Bucks, protested the new policy by smoking cigars and cigarettes outside the Fireside Lounge.

It was around 11:20 that morning when Weibley, who clocked out early to hold the event, walked into Fireside Lounge and held up a bag of five cigars. He then asked the students there, "Who would like join me in 'celebrating' the smoking ban?"

Several students indicated their interest and followed Weibley lead. They each grabbed a folding chair from the lounge and followed Weibley outside. They set up their chairs just to the side of the walking path.

The impromptu protest lasted a half hour or so, starting with five students and growing to 15 as friends joined in.

Campus security did not come by during the protest. As of now, campus security enforces the smoking ban by informing a smoker of the new policy and asking him or her to stop.

Justin Mathews, safety and security officer, admitted having doubts about the policy, and said, "I don't think it's very effective."



BAN-PROTESTORS SMOKE CIGARS OUTSIDE FIRESIDE, AND SAY THEY WERE AWAY FROM WALKING PATHS.

PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN PANNACKER

Weibley said he deliberately chose a location that was away from a doorway to show his consideration for non-smokers. He also said he wasn't within range of a walking path, but the patch of lawn they smoked at was within 5-feet of a heavily-trafficked path. All of the students involved in protest agreed with his argument.

Weibley stated, "I don't think [people] should smoke near the doorways or on the walking paths. I disagree with that."

Kyle Ciminera, a 19-year-old non-smoker with mild asthma, complained about having to deal with walking through a cloud of second-hand smoke when leaving class. However, he thought that smoking away from

entrances and pathways didn't bother him.

Outside of Weibley protest, many students are defying the smoking ban on their own.

Bucks student Casey Nimmo argued, "There's no time to smoke between classes if we have to walk all the way over to our car and back."

Being a campus custodian, Weibley had a strong view about the removal of ashtrays from the campus. He argued that they failed to hinder students from smoking and thus caused more problems than it solved. Weibley said some students resorted to throwing their butts in the trash, and he already had to deal with a trashcan fire that day.



(LEFT) EMPLOYEES ARE STILL SMOKING. (CENTER) STUDENTS ON THE BENCHES IN THE QUAD LIGHT UP. (TOP RIGHT) MATT CIPRIANO HANDS OUT FLYERS TO STUDENTS WHO ARE SEEN SMOKING. (BOTTOM RIGHT) SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICERS IGNORE THE SMOKERS THEY SEE ON CAMPUS.

PHOTOS BY LAURA IRWIN

hired. The penalties for breaking the code of conduct vary. Cipriano said it could be a fine, a warning, probation or something more "creative."

"If someone continues to challenge the ban, I can have them write a paper on smoking cessation or pick up butts," he said.

Safety and Security, with Newtown Township Police, have been on campus to address a student outside the Fireside Lounge who continued to smoke and was disturbing the Bucks community.

Kulick said, "There will always be somebody that attempts to challenge a new policy. [Punishment] will

depend on how far they push."

Six students were interviewed specifically about whether they knew who was enforcing the ban and what the consequences were if caught smoking. None said they were aware of the designated areas or enforcers. All interviewees said that going to the parking lots was incon-

venient and they weren't going to smoke there.

Stewart said, "Unless they fine me, I don't care."

As Bucks continues to light up, and faculty and safety and security walk by smokers, who knows when it will be butts out, but administration claims to have sufficiently alerted the campus to the changes.

Race to the White House: The issues

ABORTION AND HEALTH CARE

By John Skudris
Managing Editor

Abortion has long been a controversial topic in America. Ever since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973, the country has clashed over whether a woman should have the right to choose. This election is the most crucial one in decades when it comes to abortion because of the likelihood of at least one Supreme Court Justice retiring in the next four years.

Obama is staunchly pro-choice. He was given a 100 percent rating by NARAL Pro-Choice America, signifying a completely pro-choice voting record. In March, he voted against a bill that would have prohibited minors from crossing state lines to get an abortion. This coincides with his stance against a bill that would have notified parents of minors that get out-of-state abortions. He has stated that he is

“undecided” on whether or not life begins at conception and has always remained pro-choice. He is against any bill that would ban partial-birth abortion, but he believes that women can make the right choice when it comes to the issue.

McCain, on the other hand, has always been pro-life. He has voted yes on almost every anti-abortion bill brought to Congress and has a 0 percent voting record with NARAL. He also voted no on a bill that would have provided \$100 million to reduce teen pregnancy by education and contraceptives. He stated in January 2000 that he supports overturning Roe v. Wade, leaving it up to the states to decide the legality of abortion. Where Obama said he is undecided, McCain is staunchly the opposite, hav-

ing voted against partial-birth abortion in congress.

The other key issue is health care. Of course, much has been made about the financial bailout and market crash of the past couple of weeks.

But the economy goes much farther than the last two weeks. It also involves health care and the fact that 47 million Americans still don't have it. Obama's health care plan has two major goals - to make health insurance companies work for people and businesses, not just insurance and drug companies, and to reduce costs and save a typical American family up to \$2,500. His plan would require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions so all Americans, regardless of income, can have health coverage at a fair cost. It will promote public health, but will not be a uni-

versal health insurance program.

McCain's health care plan is much different. He plans to use competition between health insurance companies to improve the quality and amount of coverage. He also plans to reform the tax code to offer more choices beyond employer-based insurance coverage. He will give a \$2,500 tax credit to individuals to offset the cost of health coverage and he will encourage the use of Health Savings Accounts for families. The difference between the two plans is that Obama wants to let the federal government help with the burden of health care while McCain wants to leave it up to the market. He believes that allowing insurance companies to compete will mean lower prices and better coverage, while Obama believes that insurance companies have done enough to hurt Americans and that they cannot be relied upon.

This election has been stamped as a mandate between “change” and “experience.” But what many young voters don’t know is the issues that will be affecting their lives. In the coming weeks, The Centurion will dissect the key issues, showing where John McCain and Barack Obama stand.

Some may say that abortion is not a key issue at this point in time. However, with many liberal justices ready to retire, it is believed that only one more conservative judge could be enough to repeal Roe v. Wade. Should this historic court decision be repealed, the states would have to vote on whether or not to keep abortion legal.

EDITORIAL

It’s the home stretch and SGA President John Skudris says remember the senate

With such a huge presidential election coming up in a few weeks, it is no surprise that most people have forgotten that there are elections in the legislative branch as well. U.S. Senate and House of Representatives elections occur every two years. Senators have six-year terms, while congressmen have 2-year terms. This year, we have 35 senate seats at stake; 23 of those seats belong to the Republicans while just 12 belong to Democrats.

Democrats is that not one of those 12 seats is in play; meaning that the Democratic candidates should easily be able to win. Of the Republicans' 23 seats, 11 seats are likely to be in play. Therefore, the Democrats could boost their senate stock all the way past 60 seats. This is important because if one party has 60-plus seats in the senate then they can pass any bill that they want without opposition from the other party.

Some of the key U.S. Senate races are in Alaska, Minnesota, Mississippi and North Carolina. In Sarah Palin's home state, longtime incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Stevens is slightly trailing Democratic Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich. This race is close because of Stevens' recent indictment for not disclosing his finances correctly. In Minnesota, incumbent Republican Norm Coleman is staving off a late surge by Democratic challenger Al Franken. Coleman won the seat in 2002 by a small margin when his opponent was killed in a plane crash. Franken is a former comedian and Saturday Night Live cast member. Recent polling shows a very close race. In Mississippi, Republican Roger Wicker is seeking to win his first full term after being appointed by Governor Haley Barbour to replace the retiring Trent Lott. Wicker will be facing off against Democratic former Gov. Ronnie Musgrove. This is normally considered a very safe Republican state, but with the challenger already having won a statewide election and with Wicker having



not, it's an extreme tossup. Finally, we come down to North Carolina. This was a senate race that was not supposed to be close. However, Barack Obama's success in the state along with the growing issues with the economy has helped the Democrats here. Republican Sen. Elizabeth Dole was expected to cruise to reelection. However, Democratic state Sen. Kay Hagan has closed the gap considerably, and even has a lead in some polls. A victory here could easily propel the Democrats

towards their 60 senate seat goal. As of right now, it appears that the Democrats are likely to have 59 seats in the senate when this election is over. Along with the states mentioned already, races in Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon, New Mexico and Colorado are all extremely close and should be kept an eye on. Remember, it's not all about the presidential race, and the real change could be made through the elections of the legislative branch.



ELECTION SPECIAL

Playing the numbers for an election

BY JOHN SKUDRIS
Managing Editor

Just weeks remain in the race for the White House. A year-and-a-half of campaigning comes down to one final sprint for Democratic candidate Barack Obama and Republican candidate John McCain.

For most of the year, the major news networks talked about national polls and who was leading among all the registered voters in the country. However, as any stout political activist knows, we don't elect presidents via a national popular vote. Instead, it's the Electoral College that decides the victor.

The Electoral College is a group of electors who cast their votes for the winner of

the popular vote in their state. Each state has a predetermined number of electors based on population. Each state's electoral vote number is the same as the number of U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators from the state. For example, Pennsylvania has 19 Representatives and two Senators. Therefore, there are 21 electoral votes in Pennsylvania. That's why "swing states" are the states with a high population. Alaska is large, but has few residents compared to a much smaller, geographically speaking, state like New York. These states, which are high in population and therefore electoral votes, can swing the election one way or another if it's a close call.

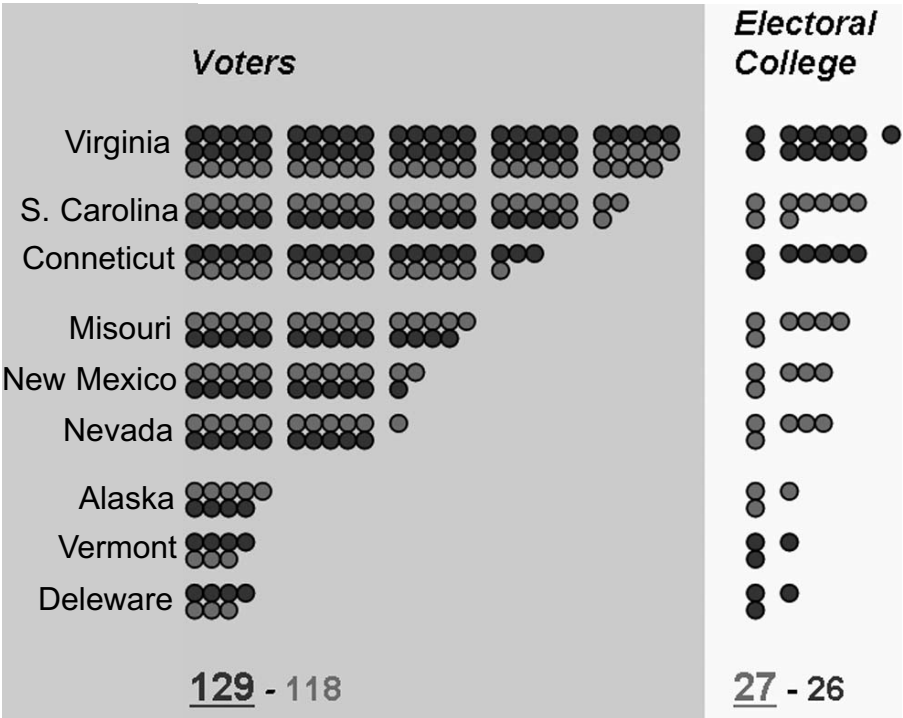
This election is unique because the state of the nation

and Obama's candidacy allows many typically Republican states, or red states, to be in play. States such as Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado and Indiana are all considered swing states this year despite the fact that they've voted predominantly Republican the past 40 years.

This brings us to the state of the race. In order to win the election, a candidate must receive 270 electoral votes. As of press time, Obama has 264 electoral votes from states that are either safe or lean Democratic. These include all the states John Kerry won in 2004 along with the Bush states of New Mexico and Iowa.

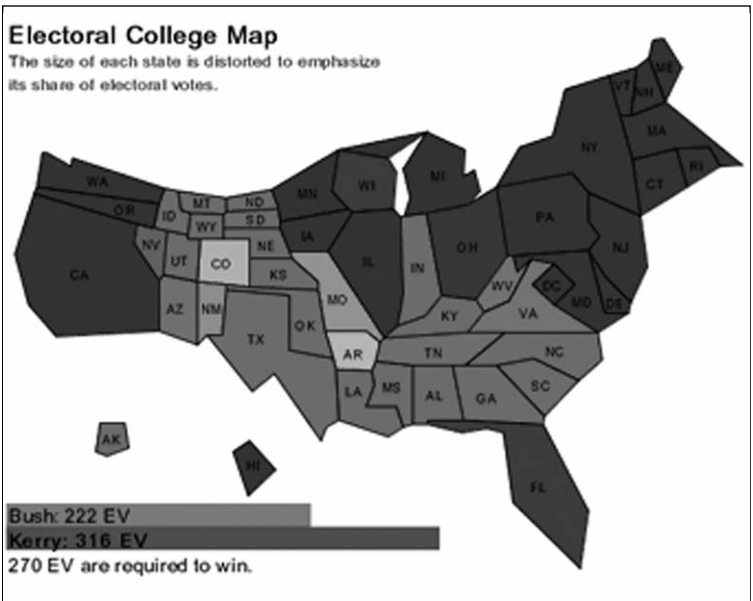
Barring any cataclysmic gaffe by the Obama campaign, these states are likely to go for the Democrats. This means that they would need just six electoral votes in order to win the election.

As for McCain, he's likely to capture most of the South and Upper Midwest. However, capturing any of the Kerry states from 2004 fell by the wayside when his campaign announced they were pulling out of Michigan last week.



This graph describes how the winner of the popular vote can lose the election.

This map depicts the Electoral College votes in the 2004 election.



This leaves his campaign with 174 electoral votes.

After all of the safe and lean states are counted, that leaves the swing states—or battleground states. According to CNN, these states include Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, Missouri, Colorado, Nevada and Florida. These seven states contain 100 electoral votes that will be the key to the presidency.

Unfortunately for McCain, he currently has his back up against the wall. Due to his inability to make inroads in any state that went Democratic in 2004, he is forced to win every single one of these seven states in order to win the election.

Obama, on the other hand, has to just win one of them.

The most recent polling in these states shows slight leads for Obama in every single one. However, most of these leads are too close to be called significant.

On Nov. 4, millions of Americans will go to the polls knowing that their vote will help to determine what direction our country moves in.

Will McCain be able to pull out the shocking victory after having his campaign sputter in recent weeks? Or will Obama become the first ever African-American President?

No matter what happens, history will be made in the coming weeks.

Bush is leaving office, and his legacy

continued from page 1

Mitch Bunkin.

In addition, Iran and Syria offered to sit down with the Bush administration and talk about any issues that the U.S. had concerns with. The Bush administration declined.

In recent weeks, the economy has taken the war's place as the dominant focus of media and public attention. Congress passed a \$700-billion bailout of Wall Street in response to the collapse of holding companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, insurance company AIG and financial firm Lehman Brothers. These were in turn the result of the recent housing boom, where people would take out sub-prime mortgages on houses that they couldn't afford.

Unable to make the payments, the banks would foreclose and take the house while the loans couldn't be collected. This

caused these companies to lose billions of dollars.

These collapses triggered the largest, single day point drop in the New York Stock Exchange, exceeding the Crash of 1929, which was a contributing factor to the Great Depression.

The argument could be made that Bush could have done more to prevent the economic decline throughout his administration. Being a conservative, Bush follows the tradition of small government, with little government regulation of business.

However, the blame for the faltering economy cannot be completely put on Bush. "You can't pin the economy on one person," Bunkin said.

Albert Rieger Jr., economics professor, said that up until recently, the economy had been growing stronger. He said that our economy has had recessions before, the most recent around 2001.

The argument can be made that during seven years of the Bush administration, the gross national product (GNP) and unemployment indexes were very positive.

The point can also be made that the economic decline didn't occur until 2006, when the Democrats took control of both houses of the Congress.

Before that, the inflation and stock indexes were on the positive side.

The Bush years have seen some of the most intense partisanship in recent memory.

However, Bush has not always

been such a divisive politician.

"He was voted for as a moderate. Instead, he became rigidly

conservative, even more so than his father. There was no willingness to work with moderates and Democrats," said Tony Wolf, professor of sociology.

This partisanship is seen in some of the appointments that he has made, most notably to the Supreme Court.

Some of the responsibility for Bush's more aggressive and partisan approach belongs to Vice President Dick Cheney.

Bunkin said that Cheney pushed Bush to be tougher, and to go for his goals regardless of the partisan differences, where Wolf described him as being surrounded by rigid ideologues that helped shape his policies very conservatively.

"It's going to take a while to recover from what's happened in the last eight years," said Martin Sutton, social and behavioral science professor. "There's no easy solution for anyone."

However, this negative view of Bush may not last as the years and decades go on.

"Never judge a sitting president. You should judge them later after the effects become apparent," said Dirk Dunlap, history professor.

Contemporary judgments can be unreliable due to the emotional nature of whoever is giving the assessment. As time passes, the opinions of a president can change.



ELECTION SPECIAL: CONGRESS



PATRICK MURPHY

TOM MANION

BY JEN GOLDING
Centurion Staff

Patrick Murphy, a Democrat from Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District, is up for reelection as U.S. congressman against Republican Tom Manion.

Born Oct. 19, 1973 in Northeast Philadelphia, Murphy started out his college career at Bucks. He then went on to King's College in Wilkes-Barre, where he joined the Army ROTC program. After graduating with the rank of Second Lieutenant, Murphy attended Widener University School of Law.

After law school, Murphy served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York, a prosecutor in North Carolina, and an assistant professor of constitutional law at West Point Military Academy. Murphy is the only Congressman who is a veteran of the Iraq War. He volunteered to serve overseas following the terrorist attacks of Sept.11, 2001. He was first sent to Bosnia in 2002, and then to Baghdad in 2003 as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Murphy earned the Bronze Star for service and his unit earned the Presidential Unit Citation.

In the election of 2006, Murphy won his congressional seat in a surprising victory by un-seating Republican incumbent Mike Fitzpatrick with a margin of only .6 percent. This election has attracted national attention because of both candidates' ties to the war in Iraq. Murphy is a veteran of the war and a critic of George Bush's war strategy, while Tom Manion, whose son was killed in Iraq last April, is a supporter of the war strategy.

In an interview on NPR in January 2007, Murphy said the Iraq War is "the defining issue of our generation. And I believe, as someone who has served there, as someone who has walked the streets of Baghdad as a captain in the 82nd Airborne Division, that ... it's time to turn it over to the Iraqis. It's time to start bringing our men and women home."

Last August, Murphy announced his endorsement of Barack Obama for president. In a quote on Obama's website, Murphy said, "When I returned from Baghdad, I saw that we needed to go in a new direction—both here at home and in Iraq. I am inspired by Senator Obama's call to service and believe he is best suited to bring about the changes we need in our country."

On Oct. 3, Murphy voted for the economic rescue package. In a press release from his website, Murphy said, "With Bucks County families unable to pay their bills and businesses unable to make payroll, we could not afford to play 'Russian Roulette' with the American economy or the future of hard-working families in hopes that everything will be just fine."

Locally, Murphy secured thousands of dollars for flood relief in Yardley. Additionally, he passed an amendment that stopped waste company J.P. Rail from building a waste transfer station in Bensalem.

According to Murphy's campaign website, Murphy08.com, Murphy will be facing off against Manion in two upcoming debates, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29.



BY CHRISTIAN
PANNAPACKER
Centurion Staff

Tom Manion is the Republican candidate for the House of Representatives, running against incumbent Patrick Murphy for Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District seat.

At age 54, Manion is a retired 30-year Marine and has been a successful business executive for 18 years.

With two careers under his belt, Manion says he is running for Congress to be a citizen legislator, not to become a career politician.

Rather, Manion was inspired to run for Congress by the sacrifice of his only son, Travis, who died fighting in Iraq in 2007.

Manion wants to end the war in Iraq because he does not want other parents to go through what he and his wife have, but he does not want to end the war before the U.S. military is able to stabilize the region.

He argues that regardless of whether we should have initiated the war or not, ending the war prematurely will threaten the security of Iraq and the U.S. and the stability of the Middle Eastern region.

Manion also supports having the Iraqis pay for their share of the cost of the war.

Manion believes solving the energy crisis should be the country's highest priority.

He has his own three-part plan to deal with the crisis, which includes developing alternative energy sources, providing incentives for energy conservation and expanding domestic oil drilling and exploration.

Manion said the government should create incentives to encourage scientists and engineers to develop new alternative-energy technologies.

Manion also believes in low taxes and cutting spending to reduce the size of government.

He supports making the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent, as well as a moratorium on earmarks to eliminate pork-barrel spending.

Other conventional Republican positions Manion supports include protecting the nation's borders and reforming immigration, as well as giving tax credits to help individuals afford their own health insurance.

Manion claims Murphy has voted in favor of raising taxes and for wasteful earmark spending.

Of Murphy's popularity among college students, Manion said, "If they like higher taxes...if they like bigger government, if they agree that we should have a single payer health care system...if they don't want to drill for increasing our internal energy, they should vote for him. But they shouldn't vote for him because he's popular. It should be about the issues."

To learn more about Manion and his stances on the issues, you can visit his website at votemanion.com.

Biden campaigns at home, attacks McCain

By The Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. — Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden on Sunday accused the McCain campaign of trying to distract Americans from their economic woes by launching "unbecoming personal attacks" at Barack Obama.

Appearing at a boisterous rally near his childhood home, Biden said John McCain's campaign is desperate to change the subject from the financial crisis that has wiped out many Americans' college and retirement savings. He said McCain has resorted to making "ugly inferences" about Obama in

the waning days of the campaign.If Obama and Biden win Pennsylvania, Sen. Clinton predicted Sunday, "there's no way they can lose the White House."

Biden on Sunday cast McCain as out of touch with the concerns of everyday Americans who are worried about their jobs and the declining values of their homes. He said McCain doesn't know how to get the nation's economy back on track and would simply continue the policies of President Bush. At an Obama rally in Roanoke, Va., later Sunday, Bill Clinton said Bush's response to the financial crisis is helping Obama's cam-

paign."The administration keeps plowing an Uzi's worth of bullets into the McCain-Palin ticket every time they have something else go wrong," Clinton told an evening rally of several hundred people gathered at Roanoke's downtown Market Square. "It's good politics for us." Clinton praised the Democratic candidate's plan for financial recovery and his proposals for health care reform, an issue that he said nobody has taken on "since Hillary and I got our brains beat out trying to fix."

In Pennsylvania, Biden defended a comment he made in an ABC interview last month in which he said

the wealthiest Americans should show their patriotism by paying more in taxes.

The Obama campaign has said it plans to hike taxes on people earning more than \$250,000, but would cut taxes for those making less. Republicans have criticized Biden over the remark.

Accusing businesses and wealthy individuals of using "offshore tax loopholes" to hide \$100 billion a year in income, Biden told the crowd Sunday, "It is unpatriotic when you earn your money in the United States of America and you hide it offshore to avoid taxes, making sure YOU have to make up the difference."

His voice rising, the Delaware senator shouted: "It is unpatriotic to take \$100 billion offshore and not pay your taxes! That is unpatriotic! So I don't need a lecture on patriotism! I've had it to here!" The McCain campaign pointed out that Biden and both Clinton had raised questions about Obama during the Democratic primaries.

"As voters in northeast Pennsylvania continue to raise serious questions about Barack Obama's judgment and character, it is befitting that they will now hear from the three leading voices who sounded the alarm on the risk of an Obama presidency," said McCain spokesman Paul Lindsay.

ELECTION SPECIAL

Bucks students weigh in on Biden

BY MIKE VESEL
News Editor

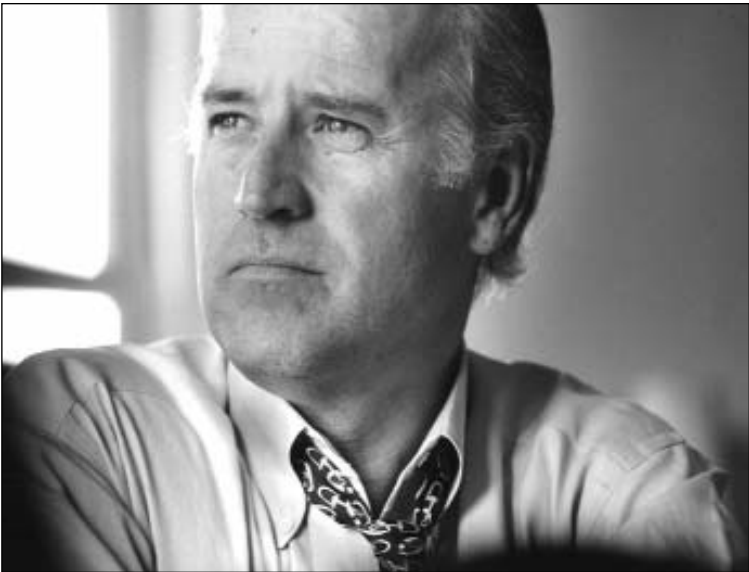
With the presidential election heating up, all the big names are on the table, but how much does the student body at Bucks know about the senior senator from Delaware?



Barack Obama, John McCain, Sarah Palin - all of these names are well established in the American lexicon. It might be because of a message of hope and change that has spurred on a younger generation of voters. For McCain it could be the courageous action of staying behind in a Vietnamese POW camp, or in the case of Palin, a hilarious collection of "Saturday Night Live" skits. But one name is seemingly absent from the general talk-

ing points, the veteran senator from Delaware, Joe Biden. How much does the student body at Bucks even know about the Pennsylvania native, if anything at all? When a large group of students were asked if they knew anything about Biden, eyes glazed over and jaws turned slack, as a slurry of "uh's" and "um's" came spilling out in confusion. For those who do not know who Biden is, he is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Scranton on Nov. 20, 1942 to Joseph Robinette Biden Sr. and Eugenia Finnegan, and he was the first of four children in the family. Biden graduated from the University of Delaware in 1965, where he double-majored in history and political science. He received his law degree from the Syracuse University College of Law, and at the age of 30, was elected a U.S. Senator for Delaware, becom-

ing the fifth-youngest senator in history. Biden, with more than 35 years in the Senate, is also the longest-serving senator in the history of Delaware, and the sixth-longest of current senators. In the course of those 35 years in office, Biden has run for president twice, once in 1988 and again in 2008, before being picked up as the vice presidential nominee for the Democratic party this year. Despite his respected pedigree of time and commitment within the U.S. government, very few people at Bucks, during one of the most heated elections in recent history, seem to have even the vaguest knowledge of Biden. "Palin and him came out of nowhere," said Kevin Shelmire, a 20-year-old liberal arts major from Southampton. "I'm not sure what it will be like to have either of them as vice president."



Even with the more politically active students, there seems to be an air of mystery to the senior senator from Delaware. "Honestly? The debate was the first time I ever saw him," said Anna Hollenbach, a 20-year-old pre-nursing major from Sellersville. "He was so inconsistent at the debates. He completely 180-ed on the

topic of gay marriage. He was condescending; he just smiled and looked down at [Palin.]" So what would help Biden move out from behind the veil of obscurity at Bucks? "Maybe he does have great ideas, but we don't get to see them. We need to see more about him, see more of his family like we do with Palin," said Hollenbach.

Voters wonder if Palin is ready for office

BY ERIC NOCITO
Features Editor

With less than a month to go until the presidential election, many students at Bucks are unsure of Gov. Sarah Palin's readiness to potentially become the next vice president.



Palin would be the first female vice president in history, but a surprising number

of female students felt she wouldn't fit the role properly. Four out of five female Bucks respondents interviewed said they were happy to see a female as vice president, but not this candidate. "I don't think she is ready to be vice president," said Diana Karasanyi, an 18-year-old biology major. "She needs people to tell her what to say and she is too general when answering questions. And most importantly, she doesn't have enough experience." Surprisingly, only two out

of five male Bucks interviewees said that Palin wouldn't be able to lead the U.S. as second-in-line. "Yes, I believe she is ready to assume the role as vice president," said Kevin Grass, a 23-year-old liberal arts major. "I trust Obama and McCain to make their choices for their running mate. Palin and Biden are good sub points in the process, but the vice presidential position shouldn't be a deciding factor." Since Hillary Clinton sus-

pended her campaign in early June, Palin has become the most dominating woman in the race to the White House. Her increased recognition around the country has been met with many mixed feelings. Some feel that Palin might be taking too much on as second to the president, while others believe she would be able to handle many things at once. Some criticized the judgment of Palin, a mother of five, for wanting to become

vice president while still raising her children. Others said a strong woman could definitely handle both tasks, because she has already proven herself as governor of Alaska. Many Bucks students, though, either have never heard of Palin or don't care if she is elected or not. "I really don't care if she becomes vice president," said Casandra Waite, a 21-year-old liberal arts major. "It doesn't interest me and I don't care about that stuff."

A heated debate: Palin and Biden sound off

BY KENNETH MCCAFFREY
Centurion Staff

The recent political debate between Gov. Sarah Palin and Sen. Joe Biden showed the true colors of this election's vice presidential candidates. The debate began with a brief introduction from both parties. What ensued was a plethora of questions relating mostly to the current state of the American economy. Palin seemed more confident than previous interviews indicated, claiming outright that it was the fault of the "predator lenders" that led to the current economic crisis, and using her down-home appeal in asking Biden if she could refer to him as "Joe."

Palin concentrated mostly on the issue of energy, focusing on the importance of becoming an energy-independent nation by domestic drilling. "Yes, Senator McCain does support [domestic drilling]. The chant is 'drill, baby, drill.' And that's what we hear all across this country in our rallies because people are so hungry for those domestic sources of energy to be tapped into," said Palin. Global warming was another issue discussed. Biden argued that it is a man-made problem. Palin's response was that she didn't want to discuss the causes so much as the effects. Foreign policy was another subject of debate. Both Biden and Palin called Pakistan and Iran legitimate threats, and recognized Israel as America's most reliable ally. Biden said that America's

current foreign policy with Pakistan and Iran was "an abject failure." Biden's dominant skill is his knowledge and understanding of foreign policy. He was able to speak more freely than Palin, who regularly read off notes to fill in the blanks. On the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Biden agreed with Gen. Dave McKiernan's analysis that the current counter-insurgency plan in Iraq wouldn't work in Afghanistan. "Barack Obama was saying we need more troops [in Afghanistan]. Again, we spend in three weeks on combat missions in Iraq more than we spent in the entire time we have been in Afghanistan. That will change in a Barack Obama administration," said Biden. Both Biden and Palin

focused their attacks more on the presidential candidates, McCain and Obama, respectively, rather than on each other. Biden said that Obama was well aware of the impending economic crisis, and McCain was oblivious to the issues because he claimed the economy had a strong foundation. Biden also criticized McCain's current plans for Iraq, while emphasizing that Obama would concentrate on getting our troops out of there. Palin responded by saying that McCain knows what he is doing and can win the war. She also accused Obama of voting to cut funding to the troops in Iraq. Another big issue was the question of what each candidate would do if the presi-

dent died in office. Biden responded that he would carry out Obama's policies to the letter, saying that he would make sure that health insurance would become affordable and he would push America toward an independence from foreign energy source while creating 5 million jobs in the process. Palin claimed that she would do her best to follow McCain's plans and concentrate on getting rid of the corruption that is plaguing Wall Street. The possibility of either of these vice presidential candidates taking power within the White House is clear. Therefore, it is imperative that the American people are well-informed on each vice president's attitudes and viewpoints on the issues.

ELECTION SPECIAL

Profs say it's important to vote

BY ASHLEY PIZZI
Centurion Staff

Amid all the campaign ads and pundits' talk it can be difficult to focus on what's really important about this election - the issues.

So what are these issues? According to Bucks professors, issues are anything from the economy to Iraq.

"Anyone approaching retirement... anyone with money in a 401K needs to be concerned about the effect that the economy is having on the working class," said Professor Robert Welsh, of the math, science and technology department. "Terrorism is a major problem as well," he added. "We are reasonably well-protected now, but that doesn't mean that we can let our guard down."

Dr. Doug Rosentrater of the social and behavior science department said, "There are obviously three issues that concerned citizens need to examine in this upcoming election. The first is the economy. The second is the war in the Middle East. And the third is the fact that the national healthcare system is approaching bankruptcy." Rosentrater urged, "Everybody should look at the background and previous actions of their chosen candidates before making a decision."

Dr. Mitch Bunkin teaches political science and history. He recommends that students with questions about the validity of statistics visit factcheck.org. The website is published by the School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania

Most students interviewed at Bucks aren't interested in voting

BY ELLE CREEDON
Centurion Staff

Recently, students were approached by volunteers from moveon.org asking if they are registered to vote. Others passed out buttons and stickers to show their support for a specific party.

It seems that many people in the area are involved with and excited about the upcoming election, but the question remains: Are Bucks students just as excited?

Students hold various opinions on the upcoming election.

Surprisingly, many students talked about their ability to vote, but in fact are

choosing not to vote for their lack of interest or their dislike for the candidates involved.

Chris Sheeder, a 21-year-old accounting major, is not excited about the election because he does not like either of the presidential candidates.

"I do not think either candidate will help improve the current economic situation," said Sheeder, who is not planning to vote this year.

Students not participating in the voting process were a frequent find throughout campus.

Sean Cook, 20, an actuarial science major, also said he was not registered to vote, nor did he want to after the

two presidential candidates were named this year.

"I like Obama a little better than McCain, whose vice president [Palin] is a total [idiot]," said Cook.

"Politics are not really my thing. They just don't interest me," said Adams Schwartz, a 21-year-old education major.

However, a small group of students said they were excited about the election.

Many said they are voting to make a change. They are embracing a change that they said is needed for the country under the economic turmoil.

The consensus of people interviewed at Bucks said they were, in fact, not in favor

of either party or candidate, and did not care either way, which was particularly surprising.

Although there were many students walking the halls with Obama buttons and McCain stickers covering their binders or bags, many insist they do not care about the election.

The lack of interest may be the reason that they do not like either candidate, or simply do not register for fear they will be called in for jury duty.

Either way the students here at Bucks for the most part did not show much enthusiasm toward this year's presidential election.



Professor Mitch Bunkin

most-important political issues.

"When people lose lives for controversial reasons, it's impossible for me to believe that the war isn't the no. 1 issue in this upcoming election," said Bunkin. The economic disaster comes in at a close second on his list.

Next, Bunkin posed the question, "What type of fed-

eral judges do you want? The federal judge appointments are life-long. That is longer than the president himself even has in office." These judges will be responsible for interpreting the Constitution during our lifetime.

Completing his "top-five issues" list, Bunkin said the environment and foreign policy tie.

"Clean air and water regulations have dramatically dropped in the past eight years, and we need more businesslike communications with the world," he said. "We can't survive without close and meaningful relationships with other countries—whether we admire them or not."

Asking Bucks students about the most important issues resulted in a mixed response.

"The economy is the most important issue facing the incumbent president. It looks pretty bad right now. And the war," said 20-year-old liberal arts major Kevin Tamasitis.

Dan Riesenberger, 26, works in intelligence for the U.S. Army in Arizona. "The Iraq debacle is significant because it's driving a lot of other things. I would also look at how the candidates are looking at the economic crisis we are in and what their take on foreign policy is, in general."

Steve Crow, 28, said, "I would say that the crumbling financial system is the most important issue that the future president has to deal with."

Independent Barr, the third candidate

BY SARA MCBRIDE
Centurion Staff

With the 2008 presidential elections rapidly approaching, John McCain and Barack Obama are on everyone's lips, but what about a third option? Bob Barr, the Libertarian nominee, represented the 7th district of Georgia in the House of Representatives from 1995 until 2003.

Barr served as member of the House Judiciary committee, committee on Financial Services, and was vice chairman of the Government Reform committee. He now practices law in a consulting firm.

Barr is a speaker for the All American Speakers Bureau. He has spoken and traveled across America and interna-

tionally. Barr also served as an official member of the U.S. delegation at several major United Nations conferences.

In an interview with Glenn Beck, Barr got the chance to answer the questions that McCain and Obama were being asked every day.

Beck asked Barr what his stand is on oil and if he were president how would it change. Barr responded, "What we need to do is we need to free up businesses, free up enterprise so they can get out there and start tapping into the huge off-shore reserves that we know are there."

Barr said his stance on global warming was, "Mankind has done a lot of good in the world as well as bad," but that he hasn't seen any legitimate scientific evidence that

indicates the climate changing is mankind's fault alone.

Barr said that it has become such a push with the other two parties because public policy is generally based on notions that sound good, and solving global warming sounds good to the general population.

When asked about the Patriot Act, Barr stated that he cannot narrow down one single problem with it but that he can sum up some of the faults.

"We didn't need more laws, more invasive laws. I have no problem at all with the government taking legitimate evidence that somebody is committing, or might commit, or is about to commit a terrorist act and investigating them to the full extent possible. But when you have, as



we now have in the Patriot Act enshrined now in U.S. law, the power of the federal government to initiate an investigation and gain private records on any person in this country without any evidence whatsoever that they have done anything wrong, that to me is going too far.

And that's the problem that we see in a number of the provisions in the Patriot Act."

Barr is a strong candidate and a relief from the typical Republican or Democratic parties in this election, and a new voice during this heated election season.

OCTOBER

Bucks events and listings In the county, in the city

Mens Soccer vs. Reading (home) at 3 p.m.
How to Be Successful at BCCC from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.
Golf PCAA Tournament Round 1 starts 9 a.m.

Golf PCAA Tournament Round 2 starts at 9 a.m.
Navigating Through College 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Upper Bucks Day Transfer Fair 10 a.m. to 1p.m.

General Job Fair: Newtown from 12: to 2 p.m.
Managing Time Effectively from 12 to 1 p.m.

Deadline for teacher initiated withdrawals
Fall 2008 Mid-Semester grades due by noon

Men’s Soccer vs. Delaware (away) starts at 1p.m.
Women’s Volleyball PCAA Championship (East)

Study for Classes and watch Football

Men’s Soccer vs. Harrisburg (home) starts at 3 p.m.

Newtown Pre-Fair Session from 5 to 6 p.m.

13 Terror Behind the Walls: Haunted House at Eastern State Penitentiary through November 2
NLCS Game 4 Phillies @ Dodgers 8:22 p.m.

14 ALCS Game 4 Rays @ Red Sox 8:07 p.m.
Flyers @ Pittsburgh 7:30 p.m.

15 NLCS Game 5 Phillies @ Dodgers 8:22 p.m.

16 ALCS Game 5 Rays @ Red Sox 8:07 p.m.
Flyers @ Colorado 9 p.m.

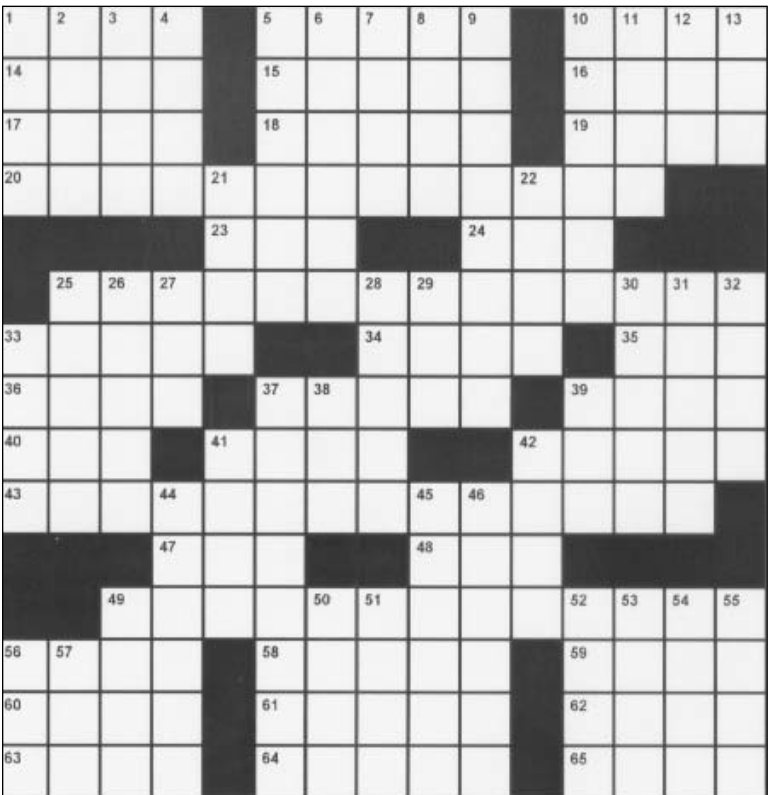
17 Alkaline Trio/Thrice/Rise Against/Gaslight Anthem at the Electric Factory show opens at 7:30
NLCS Game 6 Dodgers @ Phillies 8:22 p.m. (if necessary)

18 NLCS Game 7 Dodgers @ Phillies 8:22 p.m. (if necessary)
ALCS Game 6 Red Sox @ Rays 4:37 p.m. (if necessary)
Flyers @ San Jose 10:30 p.m.

19 ALCS Game 7 Red Sox @ Rays 8:07 p.m. (if necessary)

20 NOFX at the Trocodero starts at 7 p.m.

21 NBA Pre-Season Cleveland at Philadelphia 7 p.m.



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CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1- Scenery chewers
- 5- Dish of raw vegetables
- 10- 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 14- Dash
- 15- Component of organic fertilizer
- 16- Elephant ear plant
- 17- Title bestowed upon the wife of a raja
- 18- Darken
- 19- Increase in height or number
- 20- Suicidal tendency
- 23- "Respect for Acting" author Hagen
- 24- Fail to tell the truth
- 25- Overall configuration
- 33- Mud hut
- 34- Lacoste of tennis
- 35- Label
- 36- Env. notation
- 37- River that flows through Paris
- 39- Flaky mineral
- 40- East Lansing sch.
- 41- Small mountain
- 42- Walked back and forth
- 43- More complex than

groups of atoms

- 47- Seine contents
- 48- Male sheep
- 49- Mass of varied parts
- 56- Look at lustfully
- 58- Pueblo material
- 59- Wander
- 60- Hammer end
- 61- Birthmark
- 62- Over
- 63- Editor's mark
- 64- Head lock
- 65- Gives a bad review;

Down

- 1- Cattle group
- 2- Winglike parts
- 3- "Give that ____ cigar!"
- 4- Bad mood
- 5- Abruptly
- 6- Places of contest
- 7- Scottish boys
- 8- Busy
- 9- Half-moon shape
- 10- Three lines of verse
- 11- Prepare a book or film for release
- 12- NFL scores
- 13- Weeding implement
- 21- Fling

- 22- Pleasing
- 25- Island in the East China Sea
- 26- Malfunction
- 27- Able to
- 28- Run of bird-song
- 29- Stimpy's pal
- 30- New York city
- 31- One on track?
- 32- Mild oath
- 33- Packs tight
- 37- Imitating
- 38- "Xanadu" band
- 39- ____ de mer
- 41- Dutch name of The Hague
- 42- Cougar
- 44- Governor
- 45- Volcano in Antarctica
- 46- Fondle
- 49- Away from the wind
- 50- River in central Europe
- 51- Relocate
- 52- Snare
- 53- New Rochelle college
- 54- Cooking appliance
- 55- Information
- 56- Roman goddess of plenty
- 57- Understand

"CROSSWORD PUZZLES PROVIDED BY BESTCROSSWORDS.COM (HTTP://WWW.BESTCROSSWORDS.COM). USED WITH PERMISSION."

CRYPTOGRAM

PAPLMNXOBQ O XRAP UPRLBPC RDSWN
UOAP FRB DP ZWTTPC WY OB NXLPP
ESLCZ: ON QSPZ SB.
-RBSBMTSWZ

Transfer Services aids in planning

BY DANIELLE EMERY
Centurion Staff

Students are taking their education to the next level by transferring from Bucks to various universities, and Bucks transfer programs are making it easier than ever.

The Transfer Services Center, located in downstairs Rollins, is the place all transfer students need to visit.

Students can come here to make appointments with their advisors and discuss the best possible plan in order to facilitate transferring.

The Transfer Center doesn't transfer credits; rather it helps students plan courses to more efficiently. Because some credits might not transfer, the center guides students to take courses that do transfer, or would assist in completing a Bucks degree.

The resources at the Transfer Center are simply guides for the students to go

by. In order to complete the transfer, students must fill out the proper application and register for the courses that they planned out.

Thinking about transferring from school to school can seem like a headache. However, Barbara Ford, director of transfer services, said it is generally a very simple process.

What could make it complicated is, for example, if a student attends Bucks for a year and wants to take a college-level math course that will transfer to Kutztown. To do so they must first place into the course. A student is not able to take the desired course until the prerequisite is completed.

As far as finding schools that will accept Bucks credits, there are plenty. Some state schools, such as West Chester University and Cabrini, even offer the course equivalencies on their websites.

One of the main resources offered to Bucks students hoping to transfer is the Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC.) This program was set up to increase the number of credits that students are able to transfer. This program is used by 32 different community colleges, universities and even a few private schools. Some of the most popular include Bloomsburg University, East Stroudsburg University, Kutztown University and Shippensburg University.

The PA TRAC website, patrac.org, provides step-by-step instruction on how to transfer for students who are worried about the transferring process. It also shows how to avoid taking classes that will not count toward your degree. You can search for equivalencies throughout a wide variety of schools across the country here too.



INSIDE STUDENT SERVICES, STUDENTS CAN SIT DOWN WITH AN ADVISOR TO PLAN A TRANSFER
PHOTO BY KISHA LOWENTHAL

To contact the Transfer Center call (215) 968-8031 or visit the Student Services office.

Bucks celebrates the right to read

BY VINNY LOMBARDO
Centurion Staff

"Catcher in the Rye," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." These are all titles that have sculpted American Literature, and all are titles banned in many schools and libraries across the country, "Banned Books Week," a national celebration about the freedom to read, was held Sept. 29- Oct. 4 at Bucks.

Sponsored by the American Library Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Association

of American Publishers, the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the National Association of College Stores, "Banned Books Week" was launched in 1982 as a response to a spike in challenges and bans of books in schools, libraries and stores. Across the country during this week, hundreds of libraries and bookstores draw attention to the problem of censorship by mounting displays and hosting events where the texts of challenged books are read.

Since "Banned Books Week" was launched, more

than 1,000 texts have been challenged in every state and in hundreds of communities. People challenge the content of books for many reasons, such as for sexual or violent content.

"It's Perfectly Normal," by Robie Harris is only one of them. A sex education book for children ages 10 and up, "It's Perfectly Normal" uses watercolor and pencil-art drawings to teach children about their changing bodies as they move through puberty.

However, the book has raised the eyebrows of more than a few blushing parents, including Laurie Taylor. A spokesperson for the group Parents Protecting the Minds of Children, Taylor is at the forefront of a move to banish "It's Perfectly Normal," and dozens of other books from her local schools. Though she could not be reached for comment, PPMC's website, TeachClean.com, said, "Our objective is to enforce our parental rights to choose for our children."

Danny Petitti, 30, a business administration major, agrees with Taylor, and said, "Children shouldn't be reading [certain] books, because it might influence them to do things that are not appropriate."

For the second consecutive year, Textbook Manager Jim Nasta of the Newtown campus Bookstore prepared the display for "Banned Books Week."

The books and promotional posters are sent in by the

Top 10 Banned or Challenged Books in 2007, as reported by the American Library Association

1. "**And Tango Makes Three**," by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
Reasons: Anti-Ethnic, sexism, homosexuality, anti-family, religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group
2. "**The Chocolate War**," by Robert Cormier
Reasons: Sexually explicit, offensive language, violence
3. "**Olive's Ocean**," by Kevin Henkes
Reasons: Sexually explicit, offensive language
4. "**The Golden Compass**," by Philip Pullman
Reasons: Religious viewpoint
5. "**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**," by Mark Twain
Reasons: Racism
6. "**The Color Purple**," by Alice Walker
Reasons: Homosexuality, sexually explicit, offensive language
7. "**TTYL**," by Lauren Myracle
Reasons: Sexually explicit, offensive language, unsuited to age group
8. "**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**," by Maya Angelou
Reasons: Sexually explicit
9. "**It's Perfectly Normal**," by Robie Harris
Reasons: Sex education, sexually explicit
10. "**The Perks of Being A Wallflower**," by Stephen Chbosky
Reasons: Homosexuality, sexually explicit, offensive language, unsuited to age group



JIM NASTA POSES IN THE BOOKSTORE BY THE "BANNED BOOKS" DISPLAY
PHOTO BY VINNY LOMBARDO

store's distributor. Nasta said that generally, Bucks students just don't know that some books are banned in school districts around the U.S. "We're in an academic setting, and we do this just to make people aware that these commonly read books have been banned."

The Bookstore isn't the only store in our area recognizing "Banned Books Week." At Border's Express in Neshaminy Mall, there is a similar display of censored books.

Store Manager Erin Gallagher said, "As booksellers, we believe in freedom

of expression." Gallagher said it is wrong for anyone to ever suppress another's voice. "That's what our country was founded on."

For Steve Montney of Bensalem, the issue is a slippery slope. He was accompanied by his 9-year-old son while buying books at Border's Express last week. When asked for his thoughts about banning books, Montney said, he hadn't given it much thought, but added, "As long as I keep an eye on [what my son is reading] I think people should have the ability to read what they want to read."

Breast Cancer awareness

BY ELLE CREEDON
Centurion Staff

The Women's Center continues to offer numerous activities and benefits for the Bucks and local communities. Every month the Women's Center honors experiences and accomplishments by women.

The center, along with Programming Coordinator Natalie Kaye, hosts events to involve all genders to acknowledge these accomplishments.

Every October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month. The center will be supporting those who have, or have had, breast cancer.

"We are inviting students, faculty and staff to complete a memorial card honoring loved ones lost to cancer," said Kaye. Each certificate will be placed on a memorial wall on all three campuses.

On Thursday, Oct. 16, the Women's Center, in partnership with the Practical Nursing Department, will be presenting "Breast Cancer Awareness Day." This consists of several doctors discussing the latest developments in breast cancer research, screening and treatment. The event will take place in the Allied Health Building in rooms 202 and

203 from 11 a.m-3 p.m. The event is free and open to all. "I am really excited about this event," said Kaye.

This event, along with the memorial wall will wrap up Breast Cancer Awareness month, with many other exciting activities to come. In March, The Women's Center will be presenting "Eyewitness to History."

"I am so excited about 'Eyewitness to History,'" said Kaye. "People who lived through these experiences share their experiences, and you remember them."

Guests will be speaking about different events throughout history such as the Holocaust, World War II and the anti-war movement.

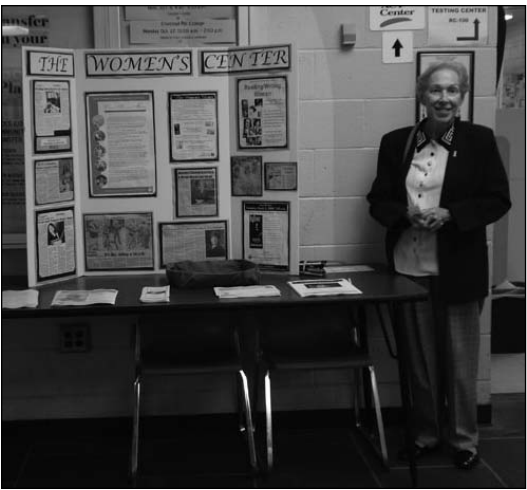
In addition, there will be a musical program entitled "Women in Music: Someone Will Remember Us," held Wednesday, March 4 in the Library Auditorium. This will include a woman who plays 25 instruments, both

modern and ancient, as well as student performances.

Each speaker will be filmed as an archive for the college. Kaye came up with this idea after seeing a documentary entitled "Standing on my Sister's Shoulders."

"People are dying," said Kaye, "but we don't want their stories to die with them." Kaye thinks it is important not only for the college, but for our growing youth that these experiences be shared so that we all know where we came from, as a result of where we are today.

The Women's Center is filling the school calendar, constantly looking to involve the student body in all types of activities. Anyone interested in attending an event may stop by the Women's Center located within the Student Life Information Center in Rollins for more information.



NATALIE KAYE HANDS OUT BREAST CANCER RIBBONS
PHOTO BY KISHA LOWENTHAL

Rebate possible

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON— After consulting with Barack Obama, Democratic leaders are likely to call Congress back to work after the election in hopes of passing legislation that would include extended jobless benefits, money for food stamps and possibly a tax rebate, officials said Saturday.

The bill's total cost could reach \$150 billion, these officials said.

The officials stressed that no final decisions have been made. They spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they did not want to preempt a formal announcement. House Democrats have announced plans for an economic forum on Monday "to help Congress develop an economic recovery plan that focuses on creating jobs and strengthening our economy."

Democrats said Obama's campaign has been involved in discussions on a possible stimulus package.

The party's presidential candidate, running ahead in the polls, has outlined his own proposals for stimulating the economy.

Democrats are increasingly confident of capturing the White House and increasing their majorities in the House and Senate on Nov. 4.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told reporters in Denver last Wednesday a \$150 billion stimulus package is necessary and she may call the House back into session after the election. Obama has

said previously he favors \$25 billion to help states meet their own needs, another \$25 billion for roads, bridges and other infrastructure, and \$65 billion for tax rebates paid for by a windfall profits tax on oil.

Speaking in Ohio on Friday, the Illinois Democrat also said, "we should extend expiring unemployment benefits to those Americans who've lost their jobs and can't find new ones."

The House passed a \$61 billion economic stimulus bill before lawmakers adjourned for the elections, but it was largely symbolic since Senate Republicans had already thwarted efforts to pass a companion measure.

It called for up to 13 additional weeks of jobless benefits in states with the highest unemployment, at a cost of \$6 billion. Another \$14.7 billion was ticketed to help states cover Medicaid costs. Enrollment in the federal-state health care program for the poor and disabled often rises with unemployment.

As a result, Congress adjourned without providing additional benefits for the unemployed as increasing numbers of people are losing their jobs.

Congress enacted an earlier stimulus legislation with unusual speed last winter.

It provided tax rebate checks of \$600 to individuals and \$1,200 to couples and included tax breaks to businesses investing in new plants and equipment.

Course	A	B	4.0	3.0
033 Basic Mathematics				
034 Basic Algebra	A		3.0	4.0
101 Intro Psychology	A		3.0	3.5
R104 Fund of Acting	A		3.0	3
DC102 Marriage + Family	A		3.0	
IS106 US History	B		3.0	
Term Totals			20.0	3
				39.0

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BCCC Chamber Jazz Ensemble to perform at the
2008 Trenton Jazz Festival

The Bucks County Community College Chamber Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of faculty pianist Jeff Baumeister, will perform music of Jazz legend Sonny Rollins at the 2008 Trenton Jazz Festival on Friday, October 10 at 5:00pm. The event will take place on the outdoor stage at the Wachovia Bank on Warren Street in Trenton New Jersey.

Combining the diverse talents of BCCC music students and members of the Youth Orchestra of Bucks County (YOBC), and attracting enthusiastic high school musicians from Montgomery County and New Jersey, the 14-piece ensemble showcases the collaborative artistry made possible through community outreach.

Auditions for BCCC jazz ensembles can be scheduled by contacting Professor Jeff Baumeister at 215-968-8135 or at baumeist@bucks.edu.

Build your own lifeform with Spore

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Interactive Media Editor

It doesn't matter if it's "Roller Coaster Tycoon" or "Diner Dash." At some point, everyone has played a strategic game on the computer. They can be long, boring and almost as tedious as balancing a checkbook or watching grass grow.

What if, instead of building premade buildings and using premade characters, you made your own species?

How about building your own lifeform and nursing it through the various stages of evolution?

"Spore" uses an intuitive design and an impressive scale with simple controls to make a fun and charming game. While "Spore" itself isn't psychologically deep,

it's broad in that one can create anything they want.

The player can make a one-eyed flying lizard or an eight-limbed dinosaur with three mouths, but in order to get to that, the player must get through the first stages of life.

"Spore" starts the player out as a single-celled organism that must avoid predatory microbes and eat smaller microbes in order to evolve. However, before this phase can begin, the player must decide whether to be a carnivore or an herbivore.

From this point on, it's all about building that microbe up to a creature and evolving its society into a space civilization.

There are so many elements involved in this game that it's hard to keep track of them all.

One of the best things about

"Spore" is the colorful design elements. It's all so bright and intriguing that anyone would want to see what everything looks like.

Because of the fact that there are so many color options and skin styles for the creatures, it's almost impossible to make the same creature twice.

Another part about the game that's so fantastic is the phases the player goes through. As previously stated, it starts out as a cell, and then evolves into a creature, a tribal society, a civilization, and then a space civilization.

The best part, that's so different from any other game like this, is there is no time limit for how long someone can spend in each phase.

If you like hanging around as a tribal society, you can.

And if you get bored, you can even skip a phase.

As soon as the creation stage is reached, elements can be added.

The creature discovers a tail to help it swim or a horn to help it attack and defend.

Like all games when something is this intuitive, there are bound to be problems with the game.

A main problem is that the first parts of the game aren't very fun and engaging as they could be.

Drifting around as a cell, eating until it evolves, and avoiding cells bigger than you isn't captivating.

It should take only 20 minutes to complete this stage, which then thankfully changes into the creature stage.

Another problem is that

while very broad in size and scale, the game's elements of creation aren't as deep as they could be.

There are only so many options for creatures.

But since the game can be played online, EA is bound to release a patch and an expansion to help with these problems.

Overall, "Spore" is one of the most interesting games of 2008. Despite some minor problems, the game itself is fun and immersive.

The player may spend hours mixing and matching parts in order to get the creature they want.

Its creative gameplay makes it a must-have for anyone. It's simple enough for a novice to pick up, but interactive enough to make any strategy fan play for hours.

New arcade gets little use

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Interactive Media Editor

The renovations have moved office and department hither and yon, but the new lounge in upstairs Rollins doesn't seem to be the hang-out it was intended to be.

The lounge is filled with chairs and tables and several arcade machines. These machines range from the "Terminator 3" pinball machine to the "Big Buck Hunter" arcade game.

Why aren't students playing them?

"They need to replace the broken cabinets with Pac-Man, Battletoads or Asteroids," said Kyle Ciminera, a 19-year-old liberal arts major.

Some people think the games are out-of-date and ignore them. When people are playing they seem to be drawn to "Street Fighter vs. X-Men" and "Big Buck Safari."

"They should halve a few of the current prices; more people will play if the prices were lower," said Ciminera. The least-expensive game is "World Class Bowling" and "Die Hard Arcade."

"Big Buck Safari" is \$1 per game and the player goes on several "hunting trips." It costs an additional \$1 to continue play.

"Dropping the prices would draw more people in, especially since the lower the price the more inclined [students] to play multiple times," said Steve Young, 19, a computer information science major.

Perhaps with these changes the new arcade will get more student traffic to go up and play.

Even when both the broken machines were working, stu-



STUDENTS HANG OUT IN THE ARCADE LOUNGE, BUT RARELY PLAY THE ARCADES
PHOTO BY KISHA LOWENTHAL

dents ignored the games completely and played the more current games.

Jesse Speidel, a 22-year-old humanities major from Levittown said, "I haven't even played the games up there and even I know they need to have better games."

Bright lights and fast play is the big pull of "X-Men vs. Street Fighter" and "Big Buck Safari." The bland and faded cabinets of the bowling and "Die Hard" games do not draw students in.

Replacements for the older games would be preferable to the students. If they were replaced with retro games like "Asteroids" or even "Donkey Kong" several student stated they would probably go up and spend the money. "They're awful games up there and they don't work half the time," stated Brian Weibley, 27, a member of the custodial staff.

Another problem might be just that the arcade is new and students aren't used to it being there yet. Many students just seem to walk right past it. Some students going past use the doorway down the hall as a shortcut to get to class or the cafeteria.

The previous lounge area was used by a lot of students for a quiet relaxation area and they still migrate to that area thinking the same.

Since the arcade machines have appeared, students have disappeared looking for a new area in which to study quietly.

"A different location would have been better, everyone just walks on by in order to get to the cafeteria or go outside," said Mardilyn McClellan, 19, a psychology major from Levittown. That seems to be a major theme among those who know that the arcade is even there.

Here's a list of major DVDs and Blu-ray Discs coming out in October...

Films:

- "Get Smart"
- "Hellboy II: The Golden Army"
- "Kung Fu Panda"
- "WALL-E"
- "Hancock"
- "Fred Claus"
- "Meet Dave"
- "Star Wars: the Clone Wars"

TV on DVD:

- "John Adams"
- "Heroes: Season 2"
- "Dexter: Season 2"
- "30 Rock: Season 2"
- "The Office: Season 4"
- "The Simpson: the Eleventh Season"
- "The Sopranos: The Complete Series"
- "Scrubs: The Complete Seventh Season"

Here's a list of some cool websites to visit...

- **pandora.com**

The best free internet radio out there. Listen to only what you want to listen to, get suggestions for other bands that fit your genre. Awesome.

- **nintendo8.com**

Need your "Duck Hunt" fix? Play classic Nintendo titles without downloading anything.

- **calnewport.com/blog/**

Stealth studying. Described as getting a 4.0 with 1.0 hours of work.

- **thepiratebay.org**

Don't know what a bit torrent downloader is? No worries, just visit the site and see what movies, shows and music you can download.

- **stumbleupon.com**

Where do all the random websites go? Well, here. User recommendations highlight their best sites and the website catagorizes their best websites under heads from sports to science.

- **wiretapped.net**

This site is an archive of computer security information you can download.

A book worth sinking your teeth in

BY JANINE HIPPLE AND
LISA BRASS
Centurion Staff

The novel "Twilight" by Stephenie Meyer, released in 2005, is a no.1 New York Times bestseller. The idea for the book popped into housewife Meyer's head in a dream, and she outlined the million-dollar idea while waiting for her kids at swim practice.

But what's all the fuss about?

Seventeen-year-old Isabella Swan, who goes by Bella, trades her life in Phoenix, Ariz., to move in with her father in the small town of Forks, Washington.

On her first day of school, shy, klutzy Bella is the center of attention as "the new girl." However, the only boy who catches her attention is Edward Cullen, her biology partner, who does not give her the time of day. In fact, he seems to dislike her, as he ignores her and keeps an on-edge distance from her.

She notices him because he stands out with his pale and beautiful features, not to mention piercing eyes and a cut body.

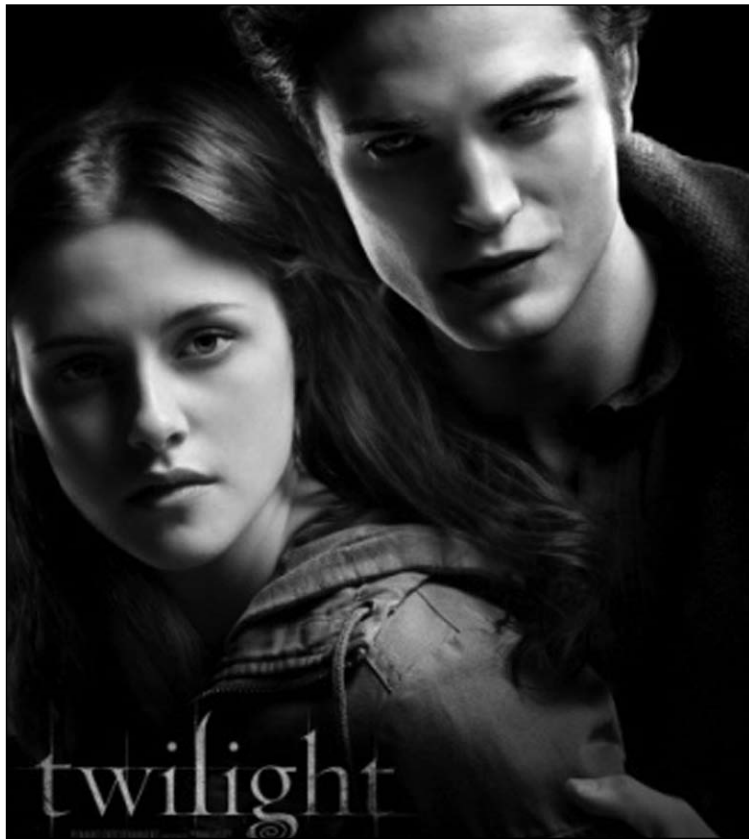
She thinks Edward and his family are different, and she soon discovers exactly how different they are. Turns out, the Cullens are a family of vampires.

Relax, they're the vampire version of vegans, only suppressing their thirst for blood with wild animals.

Bella develops a romantic relationship with Edward, much as readers pray feverishly that she will. What has been driving hordes of teenage-to-adult readers is the passionate romance between Bella and Edward. The romantic lure of a seductive vampire is a distant second to the true-love soulmate relationship unfolding page-by-page.

But with all relationships, challenges ensue, though probably not the ones you would think of first.

Edward has the unique ability to hear others' thoughts, but mysteriously, he can't hear Bella's thoughts. The vampires are prone to sci-fi abilities like premonitions and physical manipulation, but Bella is immune. This draws in Edward's interest more, as he is prone to knowing anyone's deepest



secrets.

And Meyer has obliterated the conventional myths of vampire lure. The first date between Edward and Bella is in a clear meadow where it becomes apparent why Edward and his family live in the rainy, overcast Pacific Northwest—a vampire's skin sparkles in sunlight like dia-

monds.

Bella's father is a police officer and although unsure of himself in a fatherly role, he is protective. Edward's family is a coven of vampires that their father-figure, Carlisle, has taken in. Not all of them are thrilled that Edward has told Bella the truth about their situation.

The conflict begins when another group of nomadic vampires migrate into town. These vampires are full of human bloodlust and when their "tracker" leader takes a shine to Bella, a cat-and-mouse chase to kill Bella ensues.

This brief synopsis still may not explain why "Twilight" is such a cult hit. Edward and Bella sound like Mary-Sues, perfect characters who don't have a fault to their name. Thankfully, they do have more depth than what first meets the eye, and this first book out of the four in the series is merely the introduction.

There aren't any sex scenes. Meyer is a Mormon, and any sex in the fourth book is tastefully danced around, but the romance is deep and keeps the reader thirsty for more. In reading, you will understand why readers ages 9-to-90, suddenly wants to marry Edward.

If you like the book, be sure to check out the movie, which comes out Nov. 21. And a fifth book is in production, a re-creation of "Twilight" in Edward's perspective, called "Midnight Sun."

Hef's bunnies are back for another look

BY BRITTANY KENVIN
Centurion Staff

E!'s hit show "The Girls Next Door" kicked off its brand new season on Sunday, Oct.5, presenting the first of 20 new episodes.

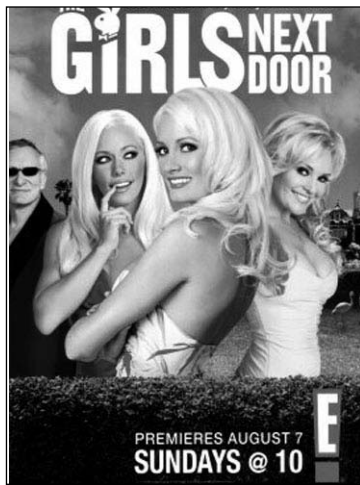
The reality show follows the lives of 82-year-old Playboy founder and mega mogul, Hugh Hefner, and his three girlfriends: Holly Madison, 28, Bridget Marquardt, 35, and Kendra Wilkinson, 23. Although the show's basis might seem a bit unorthodox to some, watch it once and you will be hooked

just like the rest of us.

And the show has a large female fan-base. The main draw for most females seems to be the fact that these gorgeous blonde bombshells are frighteningly normal and down to Earth.

Even the beloved Hef, age difference and polygamy aside, seems to be as simple as millionaires come these days.

While fans prepare to fill their Sunday nights with Hef and the girls for the coming episodes of the new season, a rumor has been confirmed: Hef and Madison are splits-



ville.

Madison, Hef's main girl since 01, is moving out of the

mansion and kissing her bunny days goodbye.

E! News and Madison's Myspace page, which read a mood status of "lonely," said she does have a place of her own, "...but is too busy at the moment to completely move out of the mansion."

It also stated that, no matter what happens, the pair will always be "best friends."

The split seemed to be inevitable after Hefner told Madison six months ago that the two would "never marry or have children."

A TMZ video of the blonde bombshell has also been in

circulation. Caught on camera by the paparazzi, Madison promises that there will be a sixth season with the girls, but that her relationship with Hefner is definitely over.

So, what is a die-hard "Girls Next Door" fan to do in the face of such disheartening change? One can only watch and hope for the best as Madison, Hef, and the rest of the girls move on with their lives. Meanwhile, we viewers enjoy the fifth season for what it is and look to the future for a damn good spin-off series.

Are viewers in for another dreamy season?

BY BRITTANY KENVIN
Centurion Staff

The fifth season of ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" debuted on Thursday, Sept. 25. For the show's enthusiasts, the promise of a brand-new season filled with more delicious gossip, crazy surgeries and the unbelievably gorgeous cast is like a dream come true.

Millions of eager viewers across the nation tuned in to see how this increasingly remarkable show would progress, but one question was in the back of every viewer's mind: will this be the year that our beloved

"Grey's Anatomy" fizzles out of its fast-paced and intense storylines?

It's disappointing, yet honest, to say that after the second season, Grey's has started to wind things down, especially with last season's epic downers like George O'Malley (T.R. Knight) having to repeat his internship, Miranda Bailey's (Chandra Wilson) marital problems, the never-ending-saga of Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) and Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey), and a countless number of others. All of these storylines seemed to leave viewers won-

dering if the show would ever be resurrected back to the glory days of the early seasons.

So, viewers watched with a hopeful attitude and a nostalgic air, as once again the doors of Seattle Grace Hospital opened for all of the drama and wonderfully fascinating medical procedures that have kept us tuning in week after week, but dreading the fact that there just may be no more fresh storylines left to pursue.

In a surprising turn of events, the show seemed to pull through with a spectacular two-hour season opener.

Everything just seemed to fall right back into the groove again.

The relationship between Grey and the ever-so-studly "Dr. McDreamy" was sweetly awkward, just as in show's past. Things between Lexie Grey (Chyler Leigh) and roommate George O'Malley seem to be heating up.

The newly ignited romance between two of the women of Seattle Grace, Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez) and Erica Hahn (Brooke Smith) appears to be progressing quite interestingly as well.

Also, in a surprise turn of events, Christina Yang

(Sandra Oh) seems to have found herself a new love interest, which would be her first romantic pursuit since being left at the altar by ex-character Preston Burke (Isaiah Washington).

Needless to say, the premiere of "Grey's Anatomy's" fifth season was a much-needed uplifting success. Maybe all of those die-hard fans will finally get what they have been waiting for - a return of the show they initially fell in love with. That said, will the rest of the season follow suit? It will be interesting to see how this one plays out.

Good and bad

Op/Ed Editor Sara Crouse gives her approval or criticism

Good.

Smoking ban being put into effect Oct. 1, to have Bucks become a clean-air community.

Representatives on campus to help students to register in time for the Nov. 4 presidential election.

The undeniable return of fall, as the evenings become more brisk and crisp and the sun is setting a bit earlier.

Holidays are just around the corner.

The Philadelphia Phillies.

Campus ascetics, as Tyler Park foliage changes from summer greens to fall oranges, yellows and reds.

Smart cars.

Bad.

Portable classrooms being the safe haven for migrating stink bugs who are seeking warmth.

Those who are disregarding the smoking ban and proceed to light up anywhere on campus.

Unemployment rates skyrocketing around the country during the month of September.

All the talk about nuclear weapons that countries in the Middle East possess, which has been a confusing and frightening topic of the first presidential debate, and vice presidential debate.

The season bringing on people's allergies.



Editor's Note: Do to the intended nature of the following "Letter to the Editor," the Centurion has refrained from altering any part of the letter, including content, syntax, spelling, punctuation or capitalization, so that the author's purpose is clear and unobstructed.

Laura--

Let me begin by saying that after reading your columns, it comes as no surprise at all that almost every sentence (if in fact it IS a sentence) in the paper is structured incorrectly. Please, do us all a favor and take a Comp class or six. Secondly, I wonder if either you or John Skudris has any idea that a story is supposed to be objective as opposed to SUBjective. I have a sneaking suspicion that this probably comes as news to both of you, unfortunately. I will not take the time to point out to you the numerous prejudices in the column profiling Joe Biden and Sarah Palin, but i will say that it is blatantly obvious solely from the way the biographical information is presented who John will be voting for come November (which is in my opinion yet another example of his many shortcomings). If you cannot manage to control your staff, or just don't have time in between complaining about a concert and rambling on incoherently about the nonexistent connection between brain function and Rascal Flatts, at least do your readers the courtesy of doing a little rewriting. Trust me, Rascal Flatts will wait.

Sincerely,

Nicole Atler

P.S. I'm willing to bet a lot that this letter to the editor will not be printed, at least not in the paper. That's actually a relief to me, as I'm sure nothing would be as I originally intended when you finished "editing" it. You should know, however, that the people I associate with--otherwise known as EDUCATED people--share my views. You may want to consider that before you print the next edition of the dismal "Centurion".

Dear Laura,

The Monday, Sept. 22 Centurion newspaper article, "Designated smokers," addresses the importance of a collective commitment between all Bucks students and staff about the implications of "clean-air" and "smoke-free" zones in all three campuses. In addition, I feel that there are two key factors that need to be addressed by all committee representatives, which are the promotion of a "quit-smoking campaign" with referrals/resources to those who want to quit smoking and the creation of a "smoking studies in our community college" by the involvement of students and faculty, so they can productively explore solutions to the facts and possible side effects of smoking in our all campuses. Moreover, these suggestions can have promising opportunities for our community and college, like recruiting volunteers to help in collecting data and surveys. Overall, our concerns should not be limited to how we are going to set perimeters to those who smoke but how we all are going to be an "activist" in this process while it breaths in thin air.

Sincerely,

Dan Lopez

A Modern Hypocrisy

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



Say it with your vote...or shut up

I'm getting so reading Bucks students' quotes this issue. I'm seeing a repeating pattern emerge: apathy.

"I don't care about politics," or "I don't get what's going on," and my favorite, "I don't like any candidate so I'm not going to vote."

Yeah, that's really sticking it to the man.

Let's start with the first comment, "I don't care about politics."

I bet you care about whether or not you can have an abortion, or if you can receive financial aid. I'm willing to bet you get super excited over receiving a stimulus package and care if the state bans smoking everywhere.

Hate deforestation? Don't like the healthcare system? Tired of Wall Street lining their pockets as your grandmother or parents lose thousands of hard-earned retirement dollars?

These, dear peers, are examples of political issues.

If you eat organic then care that McCain and Palin want to drill offshore. If you think that the healthcare system is fine the way it is, vote Republican.

If you think that taxing the millionaires instead of the middle-class is smart, vote Democrat. If you support pulling out our troops, Obama is your man.

Want to build a wall between us and Mexico, McCain will ship the bricks.

Basically, find one issue you care about, something you already have an opinion on, and match your view to a candidate's view. Then vote for them.

Wow, that makes sense and seems easy to do.

But Laura, how do I know what a candidate believes in?

Watch the debates, read a newspaper, visit their website or look around you. You can't miss the candidates' verbal arrows sailing through the air, whispering what they believe in, what they promise to do, what the other guy did.

"I don't get what's going on."

I cannot spit out facts and statistics and bios like some people can, but I do know the current standings in the polls and I know what main platforms each candidate is campaigning for. I haven't had television in almost three years and I know the basics.

Seriously, you can't escape hearing about the candidates and about Republicans and Democrats if you wanted to, so not knowing anything means you live in a cave or you're okay with coming across like you live in a cave.

You should be embarrassed stuttering "um's" and "uh's" when someone asks you who you're going to vote for. My junior high school-aged brother knows who he wants to vote for, so does my former roommate's 3-year-old.

And the piece de resistance, "I don't like either of them, so I'm not going to vote."

I blame television. Since its inception, campaigning has never been the same. All of a sudden, people stopped listening and started watching. Watching what a candidate was wearing, watching their gestures. Watching and not listening.

After all the antennae wiggling, people started to think that an election was about liking someone. You are not their friend and it's sad to see candidates play into the game.

They are going to be a decision-maker, a diplomat, a law-maker.

They are not going to disturb your dinner party with their opinions and long-winded diatribes.

So, please, stop caring that Obama's so well-spoken and McCain is old. Ignore that Sarah Palin's American flag lapel is sparkly (it looks so dumb) but listen instead.

Agree or disagree with just one thing and go vote. Whether you like it or not, politics affects you. Whether you want to believe it or not, voting makes a difference.

This is your country and it is your civic duty to vote. You want to enjoy your freedoms like you're god's gift to America without paying your dues?

Are you the smoker advocating for "smoker's rights" and scoff at the election like you're too good for it? Are you the person that wishes for something and has never taken one simple action or gesture to prove that you care? Well it is the immature, lazy and ignorant people who sit on their idol hands and complain about the world around them.

Go change the world or shut up.



Got an opinion?
Agree or disagree?

Tell us in a letter to the editor.

E-mail Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin at
centurion@bucks.edu.

Food prices are hard to swallow

BY MICHAEL VESEL
News Editor

Food prices have risen at Bucks, hitting students' wallets hard, but is it a case of greed, or the ripple effect from a growing economic problem?

"I think it's a bit ridiculous," said Samantha Lipinski, a 20-year-old cinema video major from Fairless Hills, as she leaned on the balcony overlooking the Tyler courtyard.

But why the high cost?

"I guess they have to make up for the construction," said Scott Anton, a 22-year-old graphic design major from Bristol, as he waited in line at the Chic-fil-a in Newtown. "Thankfully I am not affected, because I do not buy the food."

So some students feel the hikes are due to the renovations and the improvements going on in the cafeteria.

But in fact the price hikes

have nothing to do with the renovations, and the food prices at Bucks are very much in line with prices at other area colleges.

In checking with other community colleges, it was found that all have fairly similar pricing plans. Montgomery, Mercer and Delaware County Community Colleges all fell in line with Bucks.

A typical chicken sandwich on all three of their menus was around \$4.25. This is 50 cents more than the cost of a chicken sandwich at Bucks, which sells a similar sandwich for \$3.75.

The entrée meals at these schools show an even larger curve in prices. Mercer sells their entrées, with two sides, for \$4.50, Montgomery has theirs at \$5.50 and Delaware has their prices set at a staggering \$12.50. In contrast to Bucks entrées, which cost around \$6, we seem to be in line with a trend in the local area's schools.

"It has to do with the economy, I understand why they have the prices set at what they are," said Lipinski.

According to a March 9 article in the Boston Globe, food prices in the United States have increased at the fastest rate since 1990.

This will not be the last of the price hikes. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the price of food in the U.S. will increase by another 4 percent by the end of 2008.

In an interview with the Centurion last semester, Greg Tozzi, manager of cafeteria services, talked about offering more healthy foods on the menu but added, "We would like to move towards going green by offering organic options, but the price is more and students are already unhappy with the cost of food."

So how do students feel about the increases?

"It affects other schools and



SOME STUDENTS CAN'T AFFORD TO EAT ON CAMPUS.
PHOTO BY KISHA LOWENTHAL

universities the same, but they have a buffer with meal plans for their students, we don't," said Lipinski.

How do students deal with the costs?

If the school doesn't have a meal plan, how does the aver-

age Bucks student decide where to eat? The increasingly long lines at the local Chic-fil-a speak louder than words.

"For a dollar or two more I could just get fast food nearby, and it's a lot better too," said Anton.

CulinArt is card-friendly

BY DAVID NONINI
The Centurion

The Bucks cafeteria is now accepting debit and credit cards at the new cash registers, providing more accommodation for students.

"It was time to update," said Erin Maher, director of food services.

The decision to upgrade to the new registers was the result of continued interest by the student population in alternative and more convenient payment methods.

The old registers were cash-only machines, which meant that students either had to have cash with them, or had to withdraw money from the Wachovia ATM machine outside the cafeteria. These registers were more traditional and conventional, very limited in scope as to the functions that they could perform. A specific price was assigned to a handful of buttons, and there was limited room for the keyboard. This functioned much more slowly than the new equipment.

The new system is designed to allow more flexibility with payment. This is helpful if the ATM is offline, which is the only means of withdrawing money on campus.

The registers, provided by Ross Data System, include a reorganized menu layout that allows for more efficiency in ringing up items. The menu is divided into easier categories, such as hot or cold breakfast, lunch and drinks.

Because of the user-friendly nature of the new system, training new cashiers will be

easier, and there will be more consistency when checking out. One of the major complaints from students had been that they were being charged differently from one cashier to the next. This was a driving force behind the implementation of the new registers.

A new display allows the student to see the charges clearly so that they can make sure that they are being charged correctly. This will address the concerns about students being charged inconsistently.

In addition, the registers keep a record of all of the day's transactions in case there is a problem that needs to be cleared up later. The receipt database will allow for quick reference so that any issues can be resolved quickly, unlike the old registers. With a ticker-tape receipt system, once a transaction was finished on the old registers, the sale was finished for good.

The new system has the capability to print reports, showing volume of sales and the items that sold, and which ones sold better than others. The old registers could only



IT'S EASIER TO PAY FOR FOOD ON CAMPUS
PHOTO BY KISHA LOWENTHAL

make limited reports in contrast to what the new machines can accomplish.

Maher said this will allow the cafeteria management to identify patterns in sales, and get an idea of exactly what items are popular with students. The idea is for the cafeteria to be better prepared for what students want, so that they can accommodate accordingly.

With the installation of the registers, students seem to find them helpful, and seem to like the ability to use their cards. "We seem to use debit cards a lot more. This makes it easier on the student because we carry less cash," said Matt Rumpf, 20.

With all this new technology in the cafeteria, it will be easier for students to buy food, even if they don't have cash.

Womens Center Presents Breast Cancer Awareness Day

**Thursday
October 16
11-3 p.m.**

**Allied Health Building
Rooms 202/203
Newtown Campus
275 Swamp Road
Newtown, PA**

AGENDA:

- Mary Chalich, discussion on diet and the link to breast cancer at 11:00 a.m.
- Breast cancer screening and diagnosis: Catherine Carruthers, MD
- Breast cancer risk assessment and prevention: Stacy Krisher, MD, FACS
- How women can heal: Beth Baughman DuPree, MD, FACS

For more information contact
Natalie Kaye at the Women's Center
at 215-968-8015 or kaye@bucks.edu



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Where to learn. Where to return.



Featured photo: 'Barack O'Bunny'
By Ashley Pizzi, Centurion staff

contribute your photos by e-mailing a jpeg to centurion@bucks.edu



Trot, post and canter: Equestrian rides on

BY ASHLEY PIZZI
Centurion Staff

With alumnae athletes moving on, the Bucks Equestrian team is hosting a brand new roster of riders this season.

The first competition was Oct. 4 at Rider University; so finding a season preview involved a trip to the stable.

It was mid-morning at the George School's upper riding ring and about 10 horses were circling at a trot.

"Use your upper body as the gas pedal!" "Get into the rhythm!" Coach Amber Jewell was calling out commands to the students in the Bucks horsemanship class. This class doubles as practice for the equestrian team, and is open to anyone interested in horsemanship at Bucks.

Stephanie Vona, 18, is a freshman that will be competing in the Hunter/Jumper class. Vona cleared a series of jumps with ease as she guided her horse for the day, Lakota, through a pass. From a non-rider's prospective the feat is impressive, but Vona

is experienced. "I came off that last jump at an angle," Vona yelled before Jewell could even correct her mistake.

Another rider, Casey Nimmo, 17, has been riding for seven years and will be competing in the Hunter/Jumper class this fall. Of the class, Nimmo said, "It's basically free showing! Also, the class is great practice for the team."

Students wishing to compete with the Bucks Equestrian team do not have to own a horse or pay for an individual class or workout time at private barns. The riders do pay for their competition in individual shows, but the \$30-\$40 show fee is manageable to these riders.

At the collegiate level, showing horses is considered a team and individual sport. Riders score points through the place and ribbon they receive in competition. Individual points are added to form a team's score and the schools are ranked based on these scores.

Bucks, along with 13 other area schools, competes in the IHSA

Zone 3- Region 2. Unlike other sports, Equestrian competition groups schools by region rather than size or division. As a result, Bucks competes with schools such as Drexel, Temple, University of Pennsylvania and West Chester University. Schools compete in both Western and English riding.

In competition, the athletes pick their horse at random before they compete. This practice eliminates the bias that sometimes comes from having a "better," more expensive horse for showing.

John Hale, 18, is a Bucks freshman who has been riding for 14 years. Hale was jumping a particularly stubborn horse at practice, but met the challenge with excitement and grace. "I'm looking forward to showing a lot of different horses," Hale remarked as he brushed his horse in the barn, post-workout. Even as a non-rider, it is hard not to catch his enthusiasm.

In the end, the grace and majesty of watching the horses move fluently over cross-beam



BUCKS EQUESTRIAN TEAM PRACTICES AT GEORGE SCHOOL
PHOTO BY ASHLEY PIZZI

jumps and pull through figure-eight maneuvers at a gallop is reason enough any Bucks student should attend the next

Equestrian competition. Information and schedules can be found on the Bucks website at bucks.edu/athletics.

Baseball swings for another championship

BY RUSSELL HACKIUS
Centurion Staff

That time of year is upon us when our national pastime comes into the forefront of the sports world. As the pros swing and slide into the playoffs, Bucks baseball kicks off their fall season with dreams of successfully defending their league title.

Last year, Bucks brought home the district championship. Coach Mark Bohling was the man behind making it all happen. His humorous nature and easy-going style of coaching paid off in the end. Allowing the team to see his goofy side, Bohling connected with his players. This

helped forge a great chemistry within the team.

This year, Bohling has eight returning players. Some of these players include star pitcher Graig Keiffer and star third baseman Ryan Hermann.

And 16 new players are trying out for the team. Bohling feels that this new crop of players brings an element the team has been short on—speed. With more speed in their arsenal, Bohling believes that as long as they play with the same fire they had last year their success will carry over into this season.

The season will begin with pre-season games in October. These games will be against local

schools, with the first game against Montgomery County Community College. Bohling will be looking for talented players who mesh well with the team's existing chemistry. Bohling stated, "I feel confident with the chemistry of the players."

That is assuming every player stays with the team for the duration of the season. Bohling has had trouble in the past, losing players who had poor GPAs or lacked enough credits to stay on the team. Each year about six-to-eight players are lost for these reasons.

Last year the team impressively brought home the champi-

onship with only 11 players, after starting the season with 24.

For the upcoming season, Bohling is giving his players a little extra incentive. If they repeat as champions, he hopes to reward them with a week in Disney World. While in Orlando, the team would play six games against teams from Florida as part of their spring training. The team would be staying at the All-Star Sports Resort located right near the parks.

Bohling is brain-storming ideas on how he will raise the money. He feels that successfully defending their championship and being rewarded with a trip to Disney would be an amazing

experience for everyone.

"As long as you do the basics of the game, you win," said Bohling. Their ability to execute fundamental baseball played a major role in their championship win.

The returning players know this, and plan to instill this philosophy into the new players. Bohling's returning stars are not content with losing and will give their all to win.

They've tasted victory and are hungry for more.

If the new players catch this desire and play with the tenacity Bohling got out of last year's team, Bucks can expect another amazing season of baseball.

Palin gets mixed reaction

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA—To a mixture of boos and cheers, Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin dropped the ceremonial first puck Saturday night at the Philadelphia Flyers' home opener against the New York Rangers.

The Alaska governor and self-described "hockey mom" heard a few boos when she walked onto the ice, but that soon turned to polite applause as she headed to center ice with Mike Richards of the Flyers and Scott Gomez — from Alaska — of the Rangers.

Palin waved to the crowd and smiled as she dropped the puck to applause and cheers. Palin stuck around and watched two periods in the Rangers' 4-3 win over the Flyers.

"As a proud hockey mom and an avid NHL fan, I was thrilled to be here," Palin said. "I enjoyed joining the Philadelphia Flyers to drop the puck at tonight's game. I wish them the best of luck this season."

Last month, Palin visited a Philadelphia bar with Flyers owner Ed Snider, who has donated money to Republican presidential nominee John McCain's campaign.

The NHL said it did not view the Flyers' invitation to be politically motivated.

"Governor Palin is a supporter of the sport, which she has proclaimed publicly," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said. "As a public figure who has a very public connection with hockey, her recent associations with the Flyers and other NHL franchises is not surprising and, in our view, not inappropriate."

There were no apparent signs of protest outside the arena, and one fan held a sign that read "Vote Obama" behind New York's net. A few other held "Obama-Biden" signs behind her.

BUCKS SCORE BOARD

WOMAN'S

VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 24
vs. Harrisburg
(L) 23-25, (W) 25-16, (W) 28-26,
(L) 19-25, (W) 16-14.

Sept. 27
vs. Philadelphia
(W) 25-10, (L) 25-17, (W) 25-15,
(L) 25-20, (W) 16-14

MEN'S SOCCER

Sept. 23
vs. Delaware

(W) 10-0

Sept. 27
vs. Harrisburg
(W) 9-3

MEN'S GOLF

Sept. 19
vs. Luzerne
Sand Springs, Drums
3rd Place team score - 330

Sept. 29
vs. Harrisburg
Dauphin Highlands, Harrisburg
5th place team score - 345