Students unaware of Egypt’s uprising

BY: EDDIE CELIESIUS
Centurion Staff

A wave of protests in Egypt led to President Hosni Mubarak resigning from power, but many Bucks students have been oblivious to it all.

After days of often peaceful protesting, Mubarak resigned, ending his 30-year rule. The protest was begun in part by Facebook users who expressed their unhappiness with the corrupt Egyptian government, poor economy and high unemployment.

After surveying Bucks students, most questioned about what was happening in Egypt could not give any insight. They did know what Lady Gaga wore to the Grammys.

When Bucks students were asked “What is going on in Egypt right now?” the common answer was that they were having a war. Others had no idea or simply didn’t care.

Maria Anzola, 19, from Newtown said, “They are protesting because the president is an a--hole.” She believes that Mubarak should be executed for being ruthless and that other nations of the world should support the protesters in overthrowing him.

Frances Dono, 18, a preallied health major said, “I have no clue what is going on in Egypt but I think we should help them because we always stick our noses into everyone’s business.”

Liam McAllister, 21, majoring in business from Yardley said, “They’re angry with the president but overall I don’t give a [crap], and I am sure he will be assassinated.”

BY: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt replaces several Mubarak-era ministers

Egypt’s military rulers swore in a Cabinet with 11 new ministers Tuesday, a nod to the protest movement that ousted longtime leader Hosni Mubarak.

However, three former members of the Mubarak regime retained senior posts. The move comes as the military leadership overseeing the country’s transition is trying to assure Egyptians that it is committed to democratic reforms.

However, the decision to keep Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq, Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit and Justice Minister Mamdouh Marie - three former Mubarak’s loyalists - in their post drew criticism from youth activists who helped launch the uprising on Jan. 25.

Mohammed Abbas, a member of the Egypt Youth Coalition, described the changes as “patchwork.” He called for swift, comprehensive changes.

He said the youth groups hope to draw one million to a rally in Cairo’s Tahrir Square, the center of the uprising, on Friday, and will urge them to stay overnight. “We have to keep...”

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Many students unaware of protests in Egypt

McAllister also believed that it is the Egyptian people’s problem and that no foreign forces should intervene.

Alex Galinsky, 20, from Yardley majoring in business, had very little to say on the matters in Egypt because as he simply put, “I have no [freaking] clue what is going on and I really don’t care.”

Mubarak’s resignation left彼得 country in the hands of the army. The Army has the task of trying to fix the growing problems with employment and the stumbling economy.

More recent interviews showed signs that some students were starting to take notice of what was happening, though most still had heard little.

Steve Weinberg, 20, a sports management major, said, “The stuff going on in Egypt has been [messed]up for a while now. I don’t know what is really wrong with the country but now everyone is happy due to the president’s stepping down. The United Nations or someone should help set up their new government so it happens fast and easy.”

Mubarak’s resignation made front-page news around the world. More students seemed to take notice of the story then.

Elisa Nath, 21, majoring in mathematics, knew a bit more than most. She explained that “The protest began on the popular website Facebook with the intentions of a peaceful gathering to have the president resign from office ending his 30-year rule, in which, after some clashing, the citizens finally succeeded.”

Dalia Omran, 19, a bio major whom is very informed about the news from Egypt, said, “Citizens are protesting because the president doesn’t support the police. They have a brutal police force who works for Mubarak.” She believes Mubarak should have finished his term in office and have a new election once he left office.

Mubarak-era ministers replaced

the pressure until all our demands are met,” he said.

The new Cabinet includes independents and members of opposition parties for the first time in decades, pushing out the longtime ministers of oil, social justice and labor.

The new Cabinet also included two Coptic Christians, including an ex-lawmaker.

Among the new names were Monier Fakhri Abdel Nour, a Coptic member of the Wafd opposition party as minister of tourism, filling a position that has been vacant since Zuhair Garana was jailed on corruption charges. Top leftist Tagammu party member Gouda Abdel Khaleq also was named minister of social justice.

Warning of new mass protests, the young activists who led the movement have pressed the military council to form a broad-based government that excludes Mubarak’s cronies, release political prisoners and abolish laws on political parties and allow free and fair election.

The military council already has dissolved parliament, which was stacked with members of Mubarak’s National Democratic party, and suspended the constitution.
Big plans for Bucks Eco-Club

BY: SARAH BOROCHANER
Centurion Staff

Despite their small membership and low funding, the Bucks Eco-Club has high expectations for 2011.

The Bucks Eco-Club, which meets every Tuesday, aims to promote awareness of simple things you can do to protect the ecological system on our campus, in our community and for the world.

Currently, the group has a battery-recycling bin outside of the Student Life office for all non-rechargeable batteries.

Dominic McGraw, the club’s adviser, says most people do not realize their batteries at home should not be thrown away, even though it is clearly stated on battery packaging. Once the bin is filled, the club sends it back to Battery Solutions (batteryrecycling.com) for proper disposal.

This semester, the Eco-Club plans to take advantage of the empty greenhouse at the college’s Newtown campus and plant an organic garden. The fresh herbs and vegetables would be available to the culinary program at Newtown, which would cut down their spending.

To gain funding for projects such as the greenhouse, the Eco-Club is always looking for new ideas. In the past the club has set up bake sales, but to earn larger amounts of money the club will have to think bigger.

To get the word out about the Eco-Club and environmental awareness, members are setting up booths for Earth Day (April 20) and the country themed Spring Fling (April 29).

Throughout the semester the Eco-Club will head campus clean ups, collecting litter from the parking lots and campus paths. Last year, the club collected over half a bag of cigarette butts alone.

The club will also be involved in helping the college with Recycle Mania, which rewards the schools with the best trash/recycle percentage with funding. This year the eight-week competition started on Feb. 6 and involves 630 schools across the country.

To get involved with the Bucks Eco-Club, you can meet the group on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in room 7 of Student Life (located across from the cafeteria), friend them on Facebook at Bucks Eco-Club (BCCC Main Campus) or contact McGraw at 215-968-8108 or mcgrawd@bucks.edu.
Bucks’ transfer services

By: Chez NYE London Clark
Centurion Staff

As part of transfer planning week, Bucks County Community College’s Transfer Services welcomed students interested in transferring to a preparation workshop on Feb. 16, in an attempt to simplify the often complicated process of transferring.

Debora Bergen, assistant director of transfer services, delivered the short PowerPoint presentation in the Solarium of the Rollins building. “The purpose of this Transfer Planning Workshop is to assist students in learning about Transfer Services and our resources that will help them plan their transfer,” said Bergen.

Transfer Services assists students in goal-setting,” said Bergen. “Our message is Start Here and Go Anywhere!” Yet, anywhere seems to be a similar destination for many students. “Temple University and Penn State seem to be the most common choice for transfer students,” said Bergen.

The week of February 22, 2011

The play after auditioning, along with kids our age.”

Education major at Bucks, is a perfect example. When asked where she would like to transfer she said, “Definitely Temple or Penn State, but I am not sure what classes will transfer to each school.”

This is where transfer services come in. They assist each student in everything from selecting the appropriate classes for a specific major to the final application process. Many students do not transfer until they receive their associate’s degree program at Bucks to be admitted automatically.

Many students do not transfer until they receive their associates from Bucks, but as a bullet point on the transfer PowerPoint stated, “PLAN EARLY!”

“We often suggest making appointments with us in the first semester,” said Bergen. “These workshops help students prepare for the transfer fairs that take place later in the semester.”

There are two transfer fairs coming up on the Newtown campus, Tuesday Feb. 22 from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., and Wednesday March 30 from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. “There will be more than 50 schools at the fair on March 30. It’s our biggest one.”

Any student interested in transferring may attend any of the workshops or fairs, no matter where they are in the transferring process. To make appointments with a transfer specialist on the Newtown campus call 215-968-8031, on the Upper Bucks campus call 215-258-7700, and on the Lower Bucks campus call 267-685-4800. For further information, visit the transfer webpage at www.bucks.edu/transfer.

Previewing the play Addicted

By: Nicolette Kampf
Centurion Staff

From April 21-23 at 8 p.m. in the Gateway Auditorium the Bucks Department of the Arts will present the spring play, “Addicted,” to kick off “Arts at Bucks” week.

The play is made up of current Bucks students and directed by Bucks professor Michelle Pentimall.

Tickets will be $5 prior to the show on April 11, which is subject to change. At the show, tickets will be $7 for students and $10 for non-students. For the initial read through of the script, Bucks students who were selected to be a part of the play after auditioning, along with Professor Pentimall, met in the Orangery on Feb. 11.

The cast members were talking to one another and seemed excited to start reading through their lines as a group. Everyone sat at three tables pushed together and spat out their lines with enthusiasm.

Many of the students had a sense of humor and remained positive throughout the hour and a half that it took to read the script.

Alex O’Brien, 19, a communications/performance major from Doylestown, said that it would benefit students to see the show because “it’s good to be aware of what’s going on with kids our age.”

“I’m taking the right courses,” said Victor Flores, 24, a Health and Physical Education major at Bucks. “Now, I’m going to make an appointment with student services,” Flores said after listening to the presentation.

An advantage Bucks students have when transferring is Dual Admission. “Bucks has many program-to-program agreements, like Dual Admission,” said Bergen. This allows students admitted into an associate’s degree program at Bucks to be admitted automatically to a partner institution that offers bachelor’s degrees.

Arcadia University, Gwynedd-Mercy College, and Temple University are just some of the many institutions that have a dual admission agreement with Bucks, though there are some other requirements, such as a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

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“Addicted” is centered on a group of troubled teens addicted to alcohol and drugs, who are trying to get through life. The monologues that appear throughout the play are “real words from real addicts,” said Pentimall.

Pentimall would like people to see the show and really think about how the consequences of making the choice to do drugs” could really affect your own life along with the lives of others.

Each character has their own internal struggle with drugs, whether it be cocaine, pills, or pot. Some also have to deal with an addiction to alcohol that consumes their lives.

Past experiences, such as abuse, also play a big role in the development of certain characters. Michael, a musician, gets pressured by his peers into drinking, even though his good friend Nikki does not approve.

Lori, abused as a child, turns to alcohol to ease her ever-present pain.

Jim, a member of NA/AA (Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous) is a recovering addict who somehow remains optimistic throughout his time of trouble.

The character Jim, interviewed by Pentimall, is based on a real person who has now been sober for 17 years.

Karl Schoeler, 22, a communications/performance major from Doylestown, plays the part of Jim.

When asked what people should get out of “Addicted” he said “addicts aren’t bad people” and people shouldn’t shun an addict because of their past.

He also said “Addicted” really shows what problems addicts may go through.

Selected scenes from Addicted will be performed on April 19 and April 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room. These dates and times are subject to change.

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Italian film to be shown at Bucks

BY: AMANDA RAYWOOD
Centurion Staff

On April 19, the Italian film "L'isola dei Sordobimbi" will be shown at the Bucks Newtown Campus in the Library Auditorium at 7 p.m.

The film, when translated, means "The Island of Deaf Children." It was filmed in 2009 by Italian director Stefani Cattini, who will be present at the Bucks screening and answer questions afterwards.

The documentary focuses on the struggles and successes of deaf children at a small school in Capri, Italy. While this is not an ordinary documentary, Cattini wanted to capture the unique lives of these children and how they overcame adversity.

The film traces a year in the life of children at a boarding school in which they are separated from their parents for a long period of time. The documentary shows obstacles in their lives and also shows that they are typical children, capable of enjoying life.

"L'isola dei Sordobimbi" was recently awarded best film at the Festival du Cinema Italien d'Annecy and was nominated for a Davide di Donatello Award (the Italian Oscar) in 2010. Later on, the film series began to include all foreign films as a way to generate interest in other languages and cultural diversity.

Last year, the department decided to showcase one film, making the viewing a major cultural event of the academic year. When asked how "L'isola dei Sordobimbi" was chosen this year, Professor Rusnak replied, "While browsing for appropriate films, Professor (Carol) Smolen came across L'isola dei Sordobimbi, a documentary that was being shown in Italy and France, and that had been nominated for various awards. I wrote to him, proposing that he come to the college for a showing of the film and, to everyone's surprise, he agreed!"

So, who does the film appeal to? Everyone.

The film promises to appeal to a wide range of students at Bucks, high school students, students with disabilities, and all students who have battled and fought to learn. It will also appeal to students interested in languages (including sign language), psychology, education, film-making, and social work.

"I think students watching the film will live for 80 minutes on an island that is both sad and beautiful, quite different than the world portrayed in most Hollywood movies," Rusnak says.

In April, "L'isola dei Sordobimbi" will premiere in the United States at Bucks. The film will be shown with English subtitles.

For more information visit the website: www.isoladeisordobimbi.it or watch the film's trailer on YouTube.
“127 Hours: Review

BY: DAN PEREZ
Centurion Staff

“127 Hours” takes the viewer on a harrowing journey of survival and determination. Based on the true story of Aron Ralston, a mountain climber who was hiking in Utah when he slipped into a crevasse and had his hand and forearm pinned under a boulder. For over five days (hence the film’s title, “127 Hours”) Ralston survived while trying to somehow dis lodge his trapped right arm and escape. After the numerous days trapped under the boulder (and fighting dehydration and delirium) the hiker took drastic measures and made a decision that would affect his entire life. Ralston broke his arm in two places in order to then cut off his trapped arm using a dull pocketknife. Managing to escape and find a family hiking through the area, Ralston survived (losing his arm) and serves as the basis for the accurate film representation of his ordeal. “127 Hours” casts the talented James Franco to play Aron Ralston. Franco has acted in a wide range of films including all three “Spiderman” films, “Pineapple Express”, and “Milk”. The acting impeccably captures the emotional tension, despair, and ultimately inspiring final scenes of the film. The film is directed by English film-maker Danny Boyle. Boyle does a great job interpreting Ralston’s story and adds his own filmic style and flair that audiences have come to recognize his work by. Boyle also directed “Trainspotting”, “28 Days Later” and “Slumdog Millionaire”. The film is notable for its cinematography, stylized sequencing, and gracious use of music (similar to the very last drop of water entering his mouth, a lone ray of sunlight hitting the trapped climbers body, and visual memories of Ralston’s childhood help the viewer to understand and comprehend an incomprehensible event. “127 Hours” accurately depicts Ralston’s experience down to the last detail (Franco wears the same blue Arc’teryx brand baseball cap that Aron Ralston wore throughout the event). The course of events that play out during the movie, from the opening sequence where Franco is packing for his fateful trip to the miraculous resolution, are very true to the actual events that transpired. The film has received attention due to the reactions it caused in the audience during the first screenings at the Telluride Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival. One audience member experienced severe light-headedness and was taken out of the screening on a gurney. Another audience member suffered a panic attack and required medical attention. These experiences were due in part to the film’s climax, the scene where Franco graphically amputates his arm in order to save his life. “127 Hours” is a cinematic experience that shows the human struggle innate in every person. The movie is a superbly acted and cinematically visceral experience that offers feelings of perseverance and inspiration.

A profile of Aron Ralston

BY: DAN PEREZ
Centurion Staff

Graphic, brutal, devastating, and inspiring. These words could be used to sum up the events that happened to one of the country’s most talked about outdoor adventurers. Aron Ralston, the 36-year-old Indianapolis native, has “carved” a name for himself in American popular culture (both literally and figuratively). An academically geared person, he studied mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. After working as an engineer at the technology company Intel, Ralston left that job to pursue mountain climbing. Gaining his fame from a life-changing experience he underwent while hiking in the Utah desert, Ralston’s story definitely isn’t for the faint of heart. On April 26, 2003, he set out on a treacherous hike in southern Utah. Shortly into his trip he accidentally fell down a crevasse and had his right arm pinned under an 800 pound boulder. Five days (or 127 hours) later, he escaped by performing surgery on himself and made it to safety. However, some critics of Ralston’s newfound fame have asked the question “why?”. Why the unnecessary praise for a man who ignored one of the basic tenants of hiking and outdoor adventuring? Aron Ralston failed to tell his co-workers, family, or friends about the trip he embarked on. A well-known rule among hikers and campers: if you are going on a solo trip, it is so important to let people know where and when you are going. The flip side of his fans and supporters is the argument that his fame is merely capitalizing on his own irresponsible and careless decision that got him trapped under that fateful boulder in the first place. Recently in theaters, the aptly titled film “127 Hours” has been creating a buzz. The film portrays the series of events that occurred during the five days when Ralston was trapped beneath a boulder that was crushing his right arm. Aside from a popular director at the helm of the feature film (Danny Boyle) and a famous actor (James Franco) playing Aron Ralston, “127 Hours” has sparked controversy due to its gory scenes. The movie is a superbly acted and cinematically visceral experience that offers feelings of perseverance and inspiration. People seem to be split upon their view of Aron Ralston. In one camp, people view him as an egotistical and careless air-headed instant celebrity who has received undeserved fame. While the other side is filled with fans of Ralston who see him as a true hero, miraculous-ly overcoming death and continuing to elude the reaper by still adventuring in the outdoors that took his arm (and almost his life).
“The King’s Speech” Rings True

BY: KIMBERLY KRAZT
Centurion Staff

“The King’s Speech” is a movie worth the Saturday night price of a movie ticket if there ever was one. In every aspect, this film drama fills the heart with appreciation for the actor’s art as Colin Firth delivered an impeccable performance, which never condescends. A stand-out performance by Geoffrey Rush, Lionel Logue, unfolds the story of a man who overcame his seemingly insurmountable stammer. Elizabeth, played by Helen Bonham Carter, does this despite that Albert has sworn off help after multiple failed medical attempts to cure it. Her portrayals of Elizabeth are strong while simultaneously sensitive, perfectly melding her astute guidance while lovingly supporting her husband. Mr. Logue succinctly sets the ground rules in a no-nonsense approach that allows no room for royalty to be superior, but rather levels the playing field. Based on the true story, the film poignantly exposes the trust-building process that evolves into a friendship between Albert and Lionel as the psychological roots of Albert’s stammering are uncovered. Even prior to their first face-to-face moments, Lionel excels in his ability to earn Albert’s trust by sending a young boy, another one of his clients who also stutters, to greet Albert in the reception area. Albert is comfortable knowing that he is second heir to the throne behind his brother Edward VIII, thereby safely avoiding the expectation of royals to be great orators. After the death of his father King George V, Edward abdicates the throne in a scandalous foray with an American divorcee with England on the brink of war with Hitler’s Germany. Albert, reluctantly enthroned as King George VI, finds himself challenged to rise to the occasion of his circumstance, a role which Lionel is confident Albert can play.

Several of the therapy scenes lend themselves well to comedy. A stand out among them is a “breathing exercise” in which Albert lies on his back on the floor while Elizabeth is seated on his chest with Lionel standing over the two directing. “Up comes Her Royal Highness and down goes Her Royal Highness” as Albert breathes. These sorts of scenes provide laugh out loud moments to balance those which expose Albert’s raw loneliness. In an early scene, Albert tells a bedtime story to his two young daughters to their mutual delight. In a later scene though, Albert, then King George VI opens his arms to hug his girls but is greeted with a polite courtesy and a “your majesty” from the two. His pain is palpable while it provides a glimpse of the human side of royalty.

Set aside for a moment that Mr. Firth’s performance in this film earned him the nomination nod for an Oscar. He has already won Best Actor in a Drama at the Golden Globes and Leading Actor at the British Academy of Film and Television Awards (the British equivalent of the Oscars.) Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter, each won awards for their supporting roles at BAFTA. The film received seven nominations for Golden Globes, 12 for the Academy Awards, and it has won seven awards at the BAFTA’s and awards from the Director’s Guild and the Producer’s Guild.

The performances, costuming, scenery and music blend to enrapture even the harshest critic. Run -- don’t walk to see this movie. It is the best drama of the decade.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

BY: JESSICA CAR
Centurion Staff

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship was born in the tiny office of Pastor Scott Bradshaw, the club’s adviser. Students wanted a college environment where they could come together and worship and talk about God, without fear of being judged.

InterVarsity meetings begin and end with prayer. Heads bow, and the floor is open to anyone with requests. Students' majors span the spectrum- one wants to be a missionary; another studies the arts. The InterVarsity meetings end with prayer. Heads bow, and the floor is open to anyone with requests. Students may ask others to pray that her test next week goes well, while another asks that his grandmother be healed of cancer. Most of all, the members thank God for allowing them to gather together at the college.

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship gladly welcomes new members, whether they’re already devoted Christians or just curious. For more information contact Bradshaw at 215-968-8453.
Bucks basketball season comes to an end

BY: ROBERT SCHWARTZ  
Centurion Staff

The Centurions men’s basketball team played their hearts out behind a 16-point effort by power forward David May, but were no match for undefeated Philadelphia’s spirit, inside strength and unparalleled athleticism in a 88-63 loss on Feb. 10.

The team was set for an upset when they faced Philadelphia Community College in the first round of the community college playoffs. The Centurions played their way into the game when they faced and defeated Harrisburg.

Bucks were clearly the underdog in the game and had high hopes for an upset victory, even talking about it as a group minutes before the game. Playing against the no. 1 seed as the eighth and rarely tested favorite, we leave nothing on the floor.”

The game ended in a final score of 88-63. Tyrone Hill and James Williams led the way for Philadelphia with 24 and 17 points respectively. David May and freshman guard Keith Milnazik, a business major from the Central Bucks area, led the scoring for the Centurions with 16 and 10 points respectively.

Although the Centurions tasted defeat, they played Philadelphia with heart, intensity and passion. At the end of the day they were simply physically mismatched, but ended the game and the season with their heads held high, gaining the respect of the entire basketball community.

Catching up with David May at the end of the game he talked about his thoughts on the game and the Centurions’ improvement throughout the season.

“I think we played our hearts out today, we were just over matched because they have a very athletic team,” he said. “I think if we work on some things now we can make a good run. I plan on coming back next year and am looking forward to it.”

Thanks to the Centurions and Coach Coyne, Bucks basketball is once again highly respected in and out of the community.