



Ivy-league poets pack the Orangery

BY: DIANE DAVIES-DIXON
Centurion Staff

The Orangery was packed from window to window as the crowd waited to hear the poetry of Ethel Rackin and James Richardson. Over 100 people filled the Newtown campus room for one of the most attended events in this year's Wordsmith's series.

Ethel Rackin, an Assistant Professor of Language and Literature at Bucks, was the first poet to present her work in front of the audience during the event on Friday, Feb. 17. She earned a Masters in Fine Arts from Bard College and her PhD in English Literature from Princeton University. She began writing in 7th grade and started writing poetry consistently at that time. She found the inspiration to start writing when her best friend ran away from home as a child.

"I write when I try to make sense of things," she said. "It's

a way to work through difficulties in life."

Her book of poetry consists of notes, pictures and songs. Rackin started out reading poems that had a theme of nature running throughout them, a major inspiration for her.

"It's surprising because I grew up in the city," she said.

As Rackin was reading, people kept filing into the Orangery. Only several empty seats remained in the front of the Orangery by the beginning of the event.

Rackin writes about places that she's never been and things she has never seen in her life.

"Writing is a great way to transport yourself to those places," Rackin said to the audience.

Audience members identified with her messages and found her poetry effecting at that message.

"She makes me want to write about places that I have

never been to" said Cristina Feniak, 34, of Chalfont.

Eric Hueber, 26, of Chalfont, said he thought her poems were short and flowed together well.

James Richardson, the author of six poetry books and two works of literary criticism, was the second poet to present at the event. He is currently a professor of English and creative writing at Princeton University.

The nationally recognized poet has won numerous awards including a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship, an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was a finalist in the 2010 National Book Awards for his work titled "By The Numbers: Poems and Aphorisms".

Richardson read poems from, "By the Numbers", that had the audience laughing in their seats. He recited his poetry in a humorous way that



James Richardson



Ethel Rackin

left his audience smiling.

The audience hung on to his every word taking in the messages he was relaying through his words.

"He was witty, funny and held the audience's attention" said Feniak. "His work is a combination of different genres."

The turnout was so great that Richardson's books sold out at the event.

The next scheduled Wordsmiths event will be held on March 30 at the Orangery and will feature poet April Linder.

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"Bucks Most Eligible"

BY: GREG PROBST
Centurion Staff

Bucks students cram the Gallagher Room to bid on their favorite lovely lady or handsome gentleman in hopes of landing a private lunch.

It's two days after Valentine's Day but that doesn't stop the sparks from flying as students shout out bids for the people on display before them.

Jessica Jennings, 20, and a science major, was one of the first ladies auctioned off. Jennings was auctioned for \$20 for the cause.

"I wanted to help out my friends," says Jennings on her decision to join the Bucks Most Eligible auction. "I'm an officer in the Gaming Club and wanted to help my other friends in clubs that helped set up the event."

The student government was behind the event but they received a lot of help from other clubs including the Open Door Club and the Anime Club to assist in setting up tables and collect tickets.

Cindy Cowles, 20, photography major, was roaming around snapping pictures of the event.

"The Student Programming Board wanted me to take pictures," said Cowles. "The stu-

dent government put this together but I think a lot of other clubs helped out."

Bucks Most Eligible was organized to raise money for a movie night, expected to take place in the first week of May. All proceeds from the movie night will fund Autism Speaks.

There was a large turnout for the event. The Gallagher room was very crowded with students hooting and hollering while shouting out bids over the dub step music blasting over the speakers.

"I think the student government was surprised by the turnout," said Director of Student Life Matthew Cipriano. "They thought it would go well but I don't think they thought it would go this well."

"How can we bring the average student, that doesn't participate in any clubs, into a fundraising event?" Cipriano said that was the question the student government asked themselves before creating Bucks Most Eligible.

Cipriano appeared to be having a blast, acting as MC for the auction and egging students to bid higher and higher.

When Mike Kamedula, 24, criminal justice major, and former United States Marine, stepped up on stage, dressed in

his military issued dress blues, the crowd was uproarious. The bids rose quickly.

"We accept checks," joked Cipriano in an attempt to raise the bid.

At \$50, Kamedula raked in the most money for the event. And for her generous donation, Rachel Wood, 51, part time paralegal major, enjoyed a private buffet-style lunch with her date.

"I saw he was dressed in his military uniform," said Rachel. "I had to give him credit for the duty. Here's a guy that's educated and disciplined. And guys in uniform are always good."

With the proceeds raised from the auctions, the student government should be well on their way to setting up a movie night in May for their noble cause.



Mike Kamedula, former United States Marine pulled in the most money for the event.

Photo By Greg Probst



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Students enjoying the auction and some food.

PHOTO BY GREG PROBST



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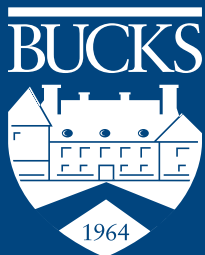
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Where to learn. Where to return.

Bucks actors audition for Spring play

BY:GREG PROBST

Centurion Staff

The air in the Gateway auditorium is bitter cold as Bucks student actors hurriedly flip through scene pages they've just been given; warming themselves up and becoming familiar with every character, not quite sure who they'll be auditioning to play.

"They say the heat is on," play director Shelli Pentimall-Bookler reassures.

She could've fooled me as I sit in the very back, shivering and observing the students' eyes filled with wonder, always scanning their lines.

There are over twenty cast hopefuls littered about the auditorium on the second day of auditions. This is a much better turnout than the first audition date, I'm told.

"I was getting a little nervous," Pentimall-Bookler mentions as the hopefuls filter in. With only about nine or so actors on the first date, the director was questioning how easy it would be to fill the thirteen-person cast.

Shelli Pentimall-Bookler is no stranger to theatre. In addition to being a director, she is also a playwright and actress while teaching at Bucks'

She laughs, emoting brightly

as actors customarily do, "Sometimes I forget which job I'm doing!"

This will be the fourth show she's run at BCCC. Last year, she directed an original play dealing with tough subject matter including substance abuse and addiction.

This year she's taken a slightly softer approach by selecting the Sherman L. Sergel adaption of Reginald Rose's 1954 teleplay, "12 Angry Men." However, the show receives the name change "12 Angry Jurors" to be more gender inclusive.

The play revolves around a group of jury members given the task of deciding whether or not a young man is guilty of murder. Tension builds as each juror has their own unique opinion on the fate of the boy.

"I'm very interested in the justice system and the flaws within it," says Pentimall-Bookler. "I want to highlight the social issues. There are people on death row that are innocent."

The director also mentions, "I want the audience to challenge themselves. I want them to be self-aware of their prejudices towards others and start giving people the benefit of the doubt."

"Shut up, you son of a bitch!" bellows out several times, the actors often shouting the line in a Christian Bale Batman-esque raspy growl while the actresses let their voices shriek and break under the weight of the scream.

The director is not looking for her idea of what the character should be portrayed by any of the cast hopefuls, "the actor is more of the expert on their own character." She smirks almost tensely when voicing that she allows that liberty to actors.

"The director has a lot going on with controlling every element and detail of the show," Pentimall-Bookler says. "The actor has to only know their job which is the character. So they know that person best."

Pentimall-Bookler sticks to a list of C's that she looks for when observing the auditions. "I want to see creativity, character choices, comfort on stage, and a connection between the other actors, chemistry, and cohesion."

The end of the auditions brings on individual monologues for each actor. Some really shine on stage, making a deep connection with the on looking actors awaiting their turn.



Actors have an interesting body language. When in character they purvey that person's mannerisms, they'll be stiff and rigid if the scene is tense. So by the end of the monologue, the actors will pop back into their own bodies, often skipping off the stage to their seats, beaming with pride.

And after all the scenes have been run through and all the monologues have been recited, the stage looks like a warzone. Folding chairs are scattered across the stage, some flipped to their side in the heat of the moment.

Shelli Pentimall-Bookler addresses the hopefuls, positively reinforcing their good performances and letting everyone know what a tough decision it will be to select only thirteen of them. She thanks them for coming and says the results will be posted over the weekend.

A pack of actors right aft

er auditioning is a sight to see. They're all smiling and laughing with one another, sometimes talking about how each other did, sometimes avoiding the topic altogether.

The actresses' hair is frazzled and the actors' hair tossed about from the fury of the scenes, but despite all the aggression on stage they're bonded together by the special camaraderie of theatre and perhaps by the mutual hope of getting selected to perform.

"12 Angry Jurors" will open the Arts at Bucks week with shows on April 26th, 27th, and 28th at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

If anyone is interested in assisting with crew work for the play, (lighting, sound, set building, etc.) contact Shelli Pentimall-Bookler at pentimal@bucks.edu.

The end of the American dream

BY: CRYSTAL GOULDEY

Centurion Staff

With unemployment still over 8 percent, you have to wonder: how is this economy affecting young adults?

Pew Research Center wondered too, which is why from December 6-19 they surveyed 2,048 adults, 808 of them between ages 18-34, and used their data along with stats from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to produce a comprehensive overview of what the workplace looks like for young adults.

Unfortunately, the results brought some bad news. This wasn't surprising though, given that we know the economy currently isn't great and hasn't been for a few years now.

However, there was also good news; a glimmer of light at the end of along, dark tunnel.

Let's start with the bad news: the percentage of young adults between ages 18-24 that are employed today is at 54 percent, which is the lowest rate since 1948 when the bureau started collecting data. What's worse, the young adults that are employed aren't necessarily happy with their jobs. About half of them aren't doing what they want or making the money they need.

"Among all 18- to 34-year-olds, fully half (49 percent) say they have taken a job they didn't want just to pay the bills, with 24 percent saying they have taken an unpaid job to gain work experience," says Pew. As for sticking with the

jobs they have? Not likely, says the 30 percent who don't consider their current job a career.

All adults surveyed by Pew recognized that the younger generation is struggling. 41 percent believe that young adults have the toughest time in this economy. Many more believe that "back in the day" things were much easier: 82 percent say that finding a job now is harder than for the previous generation, and 75 percent believe it's also harder to save for the future.

One reason it's hard for many of the unemployed to get a job is they lack experience and education. Only 27 percent of unemployed young adults say they have the education and training they need for the job

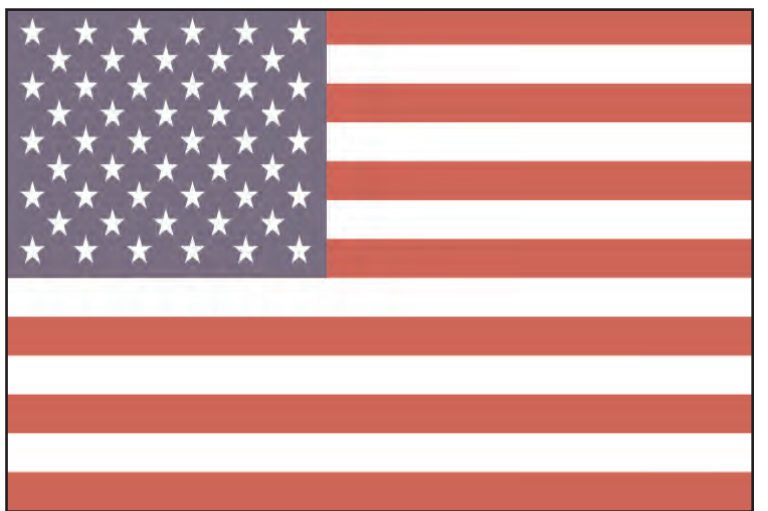


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they want.

"Having a college degree makes a big difference on this question," states Pew, "69 percent of young college graduates who are working say they have the education and training they need to get ahead. This compares with only 39 percent of those who do not have a degree and are not enrolled in college."

Do you hear that fellow students? Here is where that glimmer of light is seen; another reason to keep pursuing that degree. One thing to note about the Pew study is that the adults

surveyed were not exclusively college graduates. It's also important to note that more young adults are attending college now, which may account for the low employment rates.

There's an interesting trait that these young people shared: the majority seemed to be very optimistic. 88 percent believe they have or will eventually have the money they need to meet their goals. Is that naive? Students here at Bucks and other schools have a chance to get ahead, stay ahead, and achieve what they want.



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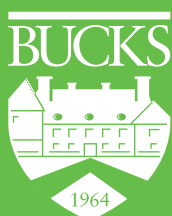
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Whitney Houston: A Career Perspective

BY: CRAIG MILLER
Centurion Staff

On Feb. 11, 2012, internationally known pop and soul singer Whitney Houston was found dead in a Beverly Hills hotel bathtub.

Her career began as a child in her church's gospel choir. She then went to New York City with her mother to share her talents on a larger scale, becoming a singer in the Michael Zager Band. Her voice was prominently featured in the song "Life's A Party," as well as others such as "I'm Every Woman," both of which were inspirations for her musical career later in life.

Still working and singing with her mother in NYC, she was eventually discovered by the head of Arista Records, Clive Davis, who offered her a recording contract.

After her national debut on The Merv Griffin Show, Houston decided it was time to release her debut album, "Whitney Houston". The album garnered three number one singles: "Saving All My Love for You," "How Will I Know" and "Greatest Love of

All". Her debut album received four Grammy nominations and won the award for best female pop vocal performance.

The awards Houston won from that album were a sign of things to come. In total, she won 22 American Music Awards, six Grammys and 30 Billboard Music Awards.

She was also a symbol among African-Americans. Supporting the exiled Nelson Mandela, she partook in a concert in London in which over one billion people tuned in, all while bringing awareness and understanding to the situation in South Africa and apartheid.

It didn't end there, however, as Houston would go onto form The Whitney Houston Foundation for Children which is a "nonprofit organization that cares for such problems as homelessness, children with cancer and AIDS and other issues of self-empowerment," according to multiple sources.

In the following decade, she married Bobby Brown, an R&B singer with drug issues. Brown and Houston had a daughter, Bobbi Kristina

Houston Brown.

In time, Houston became a national symbol performing during Super Bowl XXV, where Houston sang the National Anthem.

As time went by though, the spotlight started to catch up on Houston, and to an extent, Bobby Brown as well. Both were found with marijuana in an airport in early 2000, but charges were dropped.

In August of 2001, Houston signed a \$100 million contract to produce six more albums.

A year later, Whitney sat down in an interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer, to put an end to the speculation of her supposed rampant drug use: "I make too much money to ever smoke crack. Let's get that straight, okay? We [Houston and Bobby Brown] don't do crack. We don't do that. Crack is whack," Houston firmly stated.

In 2006, Whitney filed for divorce from her husband and gained custody of her daughter. She admitted to frequently using drugs with Brown: "It was an everyday thing.....I wasn't happy. I was losing



Whitney Houston

PHOTO BY LUCA VISCARDI

myself," Houston said on the Oprah Winfrey show in late 2009.

Following her interview, Houston announced plans for her first world tour and in essence, a comeback of sorts. Unfortunately, the tour was criticized, with fans citing a lackluster performance.

Deciding to go back to acting, it was announced last fall that Houston would be performing in the film Sparkle alongside Jordin Sparks and Mike Epps, a remake of the 1976 film which focused on three teenaged sisters who form a girl group in Detroit, certainly something Houston can relate to.

Preparing for the Grammys during the week of February 6th, Houston died five days

later, found in a bath-tub. While the cause of death is not known, sources have speculated that prescription drugs may have played a role.

At the 54th Grammys, Jennifer Hudson performed a tribute to Houston, singing perhaps Houston's most well known song, "I Will Always Love You."

Whitney Houston left this world at the age of 48, and her fans are left pining for more of her stardom and success. In the end, Houston left too soon, an all too familiar possibly cautionary tale of drug use and demons, despite talent and fame.



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Jonathan Sun (BA 2011), The Conqueror, 2011

Fake news from Jon Stewart

BY: ANTHONY DIMATTIA
Centurion Staff

With an abundant amount of media outlets vying for viewer’s attention, “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” has the unique ability to inform its audience, while making them laugh at the same time.

The satirical format of the Comedy Central show allows Stewart and his correspondents the ability to cover outrageous stories that would scare off other traditional news programs. It seems almost undeniable to those that watch the program that they gain more than just a few laughs from the 30 minute program that airs every Monday through Thursday night at 11 p.m.

“I think The Daily Show is the smartest, most up-to-the-minute show on television. It makes one laugh and makes one think,” said Susan Sutton, a retired register nurse who currently works at Newtown Book and Record specializing in American and English fiction.

One recent airing of the show focused on the GOP nominees; poking fun at the hypocrisies that many politicians fall victim to these days. Stewart cleverly used his wit and comedic timing to drive his point home about Republican nominee Mitt Romney’s baffling asser-

tion that “I’m not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there.”

“Jon combines informing and entertaining his audience with research and documentation, with news footage to back it up,” Sutton said.

The Daily Show rated higher, with 54 percent of the audience scoring in the high knowledge range, than of other comparable news shows according to a 2007 Pew Research Center survey.

“Daily Show viewers have access to many quick sources of ‘real’ news – blogs, internet, news clips, and perhaps more cynicism about some ‘regular,’ establishment news shows,” Sutton said.

Being an election year, the show has currently made its focus on their “Indecision 2012” segment. Although on most nights, Stewart focuses his attention to the news media and his assertion of their sensationalism of the news.

“Stewart’s critiques of the news media, I think sometimes they’re justified, other times not” said Professor Tony Rogers, a professor of journalism at Bucks.

“He complains a lot about what he sees as the sensationalism of the news media, but if you look at all the sources of news available, print, broadcast, online, you’ll see that the

vast majority are not sensationalistic,” Rogers said.

Rogers said that there are many forms of legitimate news publications that report accurate, reliable stories.

“I don’t think it makes much sense to complain about sensationalism in the news media when there are so many choices out there. In other words, no one’s forcing anyone to read the National Enquirer, and if you don’t like that kind of thing, read the New York Times,” Rogers said.

With a large portion of the audience below the age of 30, Stewart has relied on a younger demographic to boost ratings. As recently as September 2010, the Pew Research Center also reported that close to 80 percent of the shows demographic ranged from ages 18 to 49.

“Younger viewers, having grown up with the internet, Facebook, You Tube, etc., like their facts presented in a fast-paced, clever format. Some may think of it as ‘fake’ news but it’s hard to argue with ‘real’ news footage,” Sutton said.

Rogers argues that, although well produced, the show should not be a substitute for other substantial news outlets.

“I think it’s very well done; it’s satire on a really high level,” Rogers said.

“What worries me is that young people will use the Daily Show as a substitute for the real news, which it’s not,” Rogers said. “That would be tragic.”

Even with more media coverage and numerous news outlets than ever, Rogers has grown discouraged by those that use such programs like the Daily Show as their main source of information.

“It’s been my experience that most young people are woefully ignorant of current events,” Rogers said.

Rogers encourages young people to watch the show, but to also use other news outlets like daily newscasts, newspapers, and even internet sources to gather up as much news coverage as possible.

“As a citizen of this country you have a responsibility to be informed about what’s going on in the world, and simply watching the Daily Show won’t help you accomplish that,” Rogers said.

Jen Leachko, 21, a nursing major from Langhorne, feels that much of the viewership may be attributed to Comedy Central, which draws in a much younger audience than other cable networks. Jen believes that the jokes used for the show appeals to their predominately younger audience.

Leachko views Stewart’s



Jon Stewart himself.

PHOTO BY MARTIN MONROE

ability to conduct an informative and entertaining interview as one of the shows strengths, but added, “The show looks for laughs. They will find more ridiculous news that usually won’t make the headlines.”

Sutton agreed, stating, “Being labeled ‘comedic’ does give the show a forum to bring up and accentuate the sometimes ridiculous and unbelievable ‘coincidences’ that most other news outlets don’t put together.”

This gives credence to Rogers, who reminds us to take the Daily Show for what it’s worth.

“That’s [Stewart’s] prerogative; he’s a comedian, not a reporter, so he’s under no obligation to be even-handed,” Rogers said.

THE WEEK IN TV/MOVIES/MUSIC

TV

Tuesday 2/21

NCIS - CBS - 8:00
Glee - FOX - 8:00
New Girl - FOX - 8:30
Tosh.O - Comedy Central - 10:00

Wednesday 2/22

American Idol - FOX - 8:00
Modern Family - ABC - 9:00
CSI- CBS - 10:00
Law & Order: SVU - NBC - 10:00

Thursday 2/23

The Big Bang Theory - CBS - 8:00
Americal Idol - FOX - 9:00
Greys Anatomy - ABC - 9:00
The Office - NBC - 9:00

Friday 2/24

Fringe - FOX - 9:00
Blue Bloods - CBS - 10:00

Sunday 2/25

Amazing Race - CBS - 8:00
84th Academy Awards - CBS - 8:30
The Walking Dead - AMC - 9:00
Celebrity Apprentice - NBC - 9:00

Monday 2/26

How I Met Your Mother - CBS - 8:00
House - FOX - 8:00
The Voice - NBC - 8:00
Two and a Half Men - CBS - 9.00
Alcatraz - FOX - 9:00

MOVIES

Theaters

Wanderlust (R)

A Manhattan couple experiments with a free loving, rural commune while searching for salvation after abruptly being left unemployed.

Directed by: David Wain

Starring: Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd, Malin Akerman

Release Date: 24 February

DVD

J. Edgar (R)

A story of the life and times of legendary FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

Directed by: Clint Eastwood

Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Naomi Watts

Release Date: 21 February

MUSIC



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16 March

Leona Lewis

New album “Glassheart”
26 March

The All-American Rejects

New album “Kids in the Street”
26 March

The heartbeat of Tyler State Park

BY: BEN FULLER

Centurion Staff

I pulled into the Tyler State Park office parking lot half asleep and coffee in hand. The sun danced on the golden fields rolling towards the silhouette tree line where the sun had launched from less than an hour before. I tried imagining the type of people who work at a state park. I pictured Brian, the park manager, with a fly-fishing vest, an untamed beard and old baseball cap. I admit when thinking about the park staff, certain phrases like “tree hugger” and “hippie” came to mind. I trodden gingerly through the grass on my way to the office, afraid I might step on rare indigenous specimen of plant. I pictured the staff slowly shaking their heads at me in disappointment. “City kids,” they would say, “no respect for nature.”

Ask me a question about Tyler State Park, I bet I know it. I know about Mr. and Mrs. George Tyler, the lavishly rich and eccentric couple who purchased the land between 1919 and 1928. I know about the world class Frisbee golf course that weaves through the park, at times crisscrossing with the 10.5 miles of paved roads used for bicycling. All of this, along with numerous hiking trails, picnic areas and the longest covered bridge in Bucks County lies within the 1,711 acres of the park that wrap around the perimeter of Bucks County Community College. You can figure all of this information out with a quick look at the parks website, but the website will not give you a backstage look to the personalities who run the park.

Enter Brian Flores, park manager and the self-proclaimed mayor of the Tyler State. Brian kindly gave me the privilege of shadowing him for a day: allowing me to follow him around for a typical morning of work and nagging staff members with questions. At the end of the day, Flores went the extra mile and took the time to drive me around the park, gracing me with an expert’s tour of the park.

I waited for Flores in the visitor’s center, circling the room and gazing at bugs in glass jars

like an elementary kid on a field trip. Within a few minutes, Flores strolled in sporting thick, modern glasses and clean-cut shirt and hair. If he hadn’t told me he was the manager I would have taken him for a typical nine to five businessman from the city. Brian walked me through the office building, stopping every few minutes to introduce me to the friendly full-time staff. We walked up the stairs to meet the head Ranger at the park. I noticed the mud running up the sides of Brian’s boots.

Brian told me about his education as a Parks and Recreation major, a pathway chosen after serving four years in the Navy. Our conversation then drifted from Brian’s personal life to a discussion about kids living in the “concrete jungle.” Up until this point Brian had answered my questions in a straightforward, mathematical sort of way but now his responses began sounding more poetic.

“It’s amazing how kids who grow up in the city never get to experience the serenity and peace of nature.” Brian was now more animated than ever: his hands began circling as he is rubbed his thumb against his fingers like an Italian chef describing a meatball cooked to perfection.

“The outdoors are not manicured,” Brian added, “so many people have an unhealthy fear of the nature because they have never been educated about the outdoors. It’s a fear of the unknown.” For Brian, the park serves as a place where people can be slowly introduced to nature like a boy wearing little swimmers for his first time in water. When their initial fears of the unknown are relieved they are able to experience the serenity and peace that nature can bring.

I meandered downstairs to allow Brian to complete some paperwork. I quickly found other people to bother. Cathy, 20, the veteran of the park was my first victim followed by Bonnie, the parks Environmental Interpretive Technician.

“That’s a mouthful,” was my response to Bonnie’s job title.

“It just means I can communicate with the raccoons,” she

quickly explained.

“Oh,” I said. “Really?”

Bonnie explained that she was in charge of the educational programs at the park. Sometimes she travels to schools to give interactive lectures about various aspects of nature, but as often as possible Bonnie would prefer that school groups come to the park. Instead of hearing about nature, they are able to immerse themselves in it. Like Brian, Bonnie believes that spending time in nature is vital to the wellbeing of a person.

“Our lives are incredibly broken down and scheduled,” Bonnie explained. “Kids need to have the opportunity to manipulate their worlds.” As a former teacher, this triggered a whole new sphere of my brain. I thought about children in today’s society who do not have the opportunity to be creative and to learn experientially. How can you do that when you go from filling in bubble sheets for seven hours, to being ordered around at soccer practice, to watching three hours of television? We began discussing the importance of unstructured play for the wellbeing of a child.

Brian whizzed through the room to pick up some paper and overheard our conversation about unstructured play. “That’s what I’m talking about!” Brian emphatically agreed.

Brian, Bonnie, Cathy and all the full-time staff love speaking about the trees and the various animals and insects that make up Tyler State Park. Brian, on our drive through the park, spoke about fighting off the foreign plant species like the briars and “mile-a-minute” which suck up the life of the indigenous plants. This knowledge and love for nature from a park staff was not surprising for me. What did surprise was their love for the people who come to the park.

In a short morning at Tyler State all my preconceived notions of park staff proved false. It turns out the folks that run the show at Tyler State Park would rather talk to people than hug trees. They also, as it turns out, do not spend most of their time climbing trees, frolicking in the hay



A warped tree in Tyler State Park.

fields and smiling at the smoky bear posters in their offices. The staff people love the beauty and unpredictable wonders of nature, but their purpose for working at the park is much deeper and grand than a corny slogan like ‘save the trees.’

When I asked Brian to describe a perfect day at the park, he paused, nodded his head, and looked up toward the ceiling. “A perfect day at the park would be getting out of the office and mingling with the people at the park,” says Brian.

Brian wasn’t the typical nine to five businessman that I imagined when I first met him. And no, the park staff was not the tree hugging hippies that I daydreamed of while I was half asleep pulling into the office. Brian lives in the residential housing at Tyler State and is able to call the park his backyard. He is able to experience the serenity and peace of nature everyday, and wants other people to experience this joy as well.

I took Brian’s recommendation and went to the park the

other day. I walked around with no agenda, no schedule, and no purpose. My shoes crunched the frozen mud through the horse trails on the west side of the park. Off the trails, a long vine hung low to the ground between two trees and I decided it looked like a good swing. Within seconds the vine snapped and I fell flat on my back.

Lying on the ground with no other human being in sight, I looked up at the maze of branches and laughed. The wind zipped through the trees and I realized that at any time I could be crushed with any of the large rotting branches from above. I was vulnerable to the uncontrollable forces of nature. It was a bit of perspective that I normally float above amidst my busy schedule and anxious thoughts. I stood up, brushed the leaves and snow off my back, and spun around to make sure no one was looking at me. Relieved that no one was in sight, I hurried to my car, to my meeting, to practice, to the television, and to bed.

Is today's music still original?

BY: CRAIG DINWOODIE
Centurion Staff

As the current music industry grows in size and sound, many Bucks students question whether pure talent amounts to anything anymore.

Especially in the pop music scene, the use of Auto-Tune rose significantly since its birth in 1997. This program serves as a tool to hide any screw-ups in an instrument or singer's pitch, but it quickly became a crutch for struggling artists to propel them into stardom.

Jessica Nielsen, 20, business administration major from Levittown speaks further on the matter.

Nielson said "I think people 50 years ago were more talented than today. I like the current music today, but I don't think the artists have that much talent and originality. I mean, for the most part, artists today don't even write their own

music and lyrics!"

Perhaps Auto-Tune started a lack of emphasis on talent, or maybe it only perpetuated an already existing indifference to being original and creative. But regardless of the cause, it is a noticeable annoyance for people like Patrick Hays.

Hays, 20, journalism major from Bensalem said "My thing is classic rock and I actually play the piano and guitar. I think Auto-Tune can be used well, but people tend to abuse it and then it cheapens the quality of music and the music industry becomes more and more generic."

Hays admits that the use of these technologies has, in some ways, enhanced the dance scene with the emergence of Dubstep – a new genre of artificially generated beats. In other ways, it has allowed for bands like LMFAO, to press buttons and make millions.

Students like Andres Flores,

20, liberal arts major from Warminster, remain semi-neutral on whether the current music industry has been negatively affected.

"Nowadays, every pop star has a good song writer" Flores said. "So yeah, there is a lack of creativity on the artist's side, but maybe not on the song writers'. And I think Sher was the first star to use Auto-tune, and she's alright; I mean she's Sher."

Other students like Jenni Roxsberry, 18, biology major from Croydon, said that music is just taking a new direction.

"Yeah, I believe rock is dead and bands back in the day like ACDC were musically genius" Roxsberry said. "Nowadays people aren't as musically inclined, but they use their resources with the varying skills they have. If anything, that is more admirable and for artists who write their own music, like Kanye West and



Music star LMFAO.

PHOTO BY EVA RINALDI

Eminem, it makes their lyrics isn't really an issue." more meaningful. Auto-tune

Are tattoos a thing of the past?

BY: ANDREW WOY
Centurion Staff

With the tattoo convention occurring in Philadelphia this past week, it brings up the question; are tattoos still a popular thing for teens and college students to get?

The tattoo convention was held at the Philadelphia Convention center from Feb. 10-12. Hundreds of people lined the streets of center city, waiting to see the many different booths and new designs for this year.

The people attending ranged from having one tattoo and looking for a possible new one, to one man who was completely covered from head to toe, including his neck and parts of his face.

While all of these people gathered in the city for the convention, I couldn't help but wonder how this would translate to Bucks students. Are Tattoos even relevant anymore?

Obviously they are since hundreds of young adults attended this year's convention. The question is, are they something that a Bucks student would want to get.

Talking to Bucks students, opinions vary greatly.

Vanessa Amber, 18, journalism major, has two of them and is planning to get more. "They aren't something that I ever planned to get but they mean something to me so I know I will never regret it."

She has one on the inside of her wrist that is a picture of a book and has the word "write". She went on to say, "Writing is my passion and I am going to be doing it for the rest of my life."

Lauren Davis, 24, journalism major from Levittown says, "Tattoos are the norm now, and in twenty years everyone in my generation will most likely have them and nothing will be thought of covering them up."

"Most businesses are accepting this and changing the rules," Davis says. "I got interviewed at an insurance company and got the job, and I have a full sleeve and a chest piece."

Another student, Timothy Hutton, has a "sleeve" going from his shoulder down his arm of a tribal pattern. He said, "I just always wanted a tattoo since the time I was young, I would never think about removing it."

A big part of this for all of the students that were interviewed was that almost everyone with tattoos, or aspirations of getting them, agreed that they should be in a place where they can be covered up if they wanted to.

Anna Livitsky, an art major at Bucks agrees. "Why would I want something on my body that can always be seen? I don't want to see a tattoo in my wedding pictures." This seems to be an ongoing trend with all of the students interviewed. The idea of being able to hide their tattoos when they don't want the world to see them, is a commonly agreed upon stand on the issue.

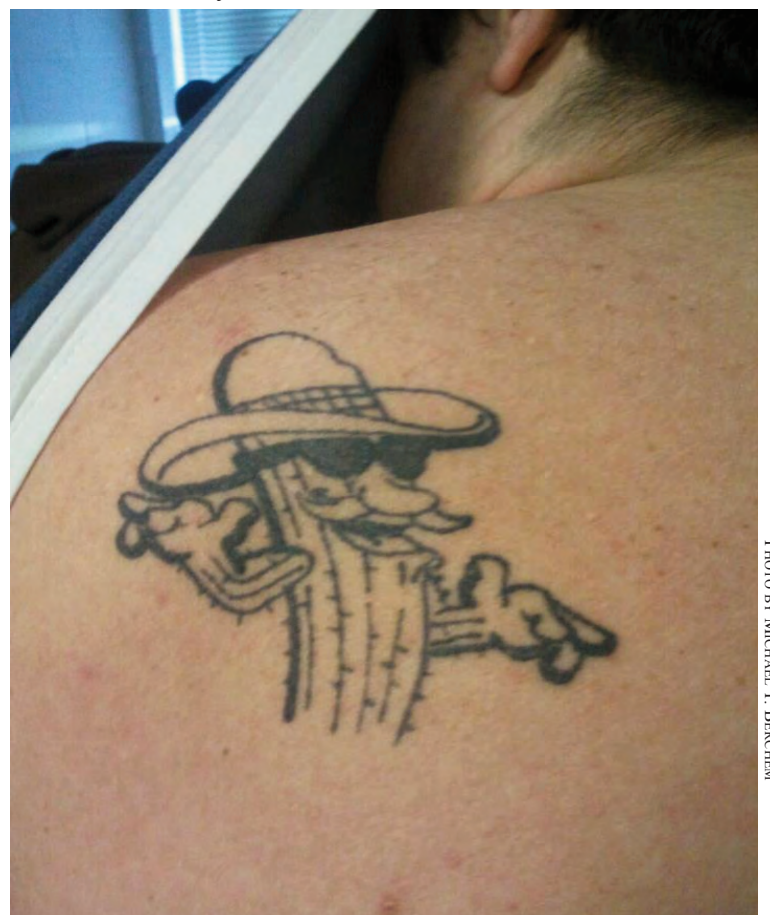
So why would people want to get something so permanent? Vanessa Amber said, "I will always love writing and it's an expression of what is meaningful to me." This is something that is personal and means something to her so she will always want her tattoo.

Tattoos are not easily removed and if they are, it costs thousands of dollars, and is a painful procedure. The act of getting the actual tattoo is painful, but nothing compared to the pain of getting it

removed. "I think that if someone wants a tattoo they should go for it!" Zach Sanders, a 20 year old, second year student said. "I just know that I personally don't ever want one."

So while students are mostly in agreement, and we continue to see television shows like Miami Ink, tattoos are becoming less and less popular. We are fascinated by them and

some students want them but it comes down to personal choice. "If people want to "ink their whole body", then let them. Everyone can do what they want" said Sanders. However, almost everyone agrees, if you're going to get them just make sure you can cover them up when you don't want them to be seen by everyone.



Managing Editor of the Centurion Edmund Celiesius's tattoo of a cactus. His mother always called him "cactus."

PHOTO BY MICHAEL T. BERCHMAN

Bucks secure playoff spot with win over Cougars

BY: ANTHONY DIMATTIA
Centurion Staff

While snow and ice fell outside the Bucks gymnasium on Saturday Feb. 11, the Centurions were on fire downing Lehigh-Carbon County Community college 66-58 in a possible playoff preview.

The win by the Centurions snapped Lehigh-Carbon Counties' four game winning streak, and nudged them into fourth place ahead of the Cougars in the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference standings with a makeup game against Philadelphia Community college set for Mon. Feb. 13.

Leading the charge in scoring for the Centurions yet again, was guard Emmanuel Pittman, scoring 14 points while adding four assists and four steals. The Centurions spread the ball around with eight of 10 players figuring into the scoring.

With strong contributions throughout the lineup, the Centurions took the lead seven minutes into the first half and never looked back. After falling behind early 7-0, the Centurions were able to use their noticeable size difference

to out muscle the Cougars.

When asked what contributed to the big win, head coach Steve Coyne emphasized the Centurions team play. "It was a team effort from top to bottom, we got contributions from up and down the line up," says Coyne.

One player that literally stood out from the rest was center Tariq Benn, who filled up scored 10 points, eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and a steal. The Cougar's smaller lineup struggled mightily on the boards without a clear answer to Brown.

"When he has his head in the game, he's unstoppable," noted Coyne after the game. "When focused for 40 minutes he (Benn) is the best player in the league," says Coyne. When further questioned about Benn, Coyne assertively stated that the powerful center needs to play well for the team to succeed.

The Centurions closed out the first half with a sizable 33-23 lead, with their aggressive defense forcing the Cougars into tough shots that just wouldn't fall. "They're a big team, we need to shoot better

to have a chance to win," says Cougars first year Head Coach Mike Iorio.

Coming out of the break forward Michael "Knockdown" Desirderio drained a long range three giving the Centurions a 12 point lead, their largest of the game. Unfortunately the lead failed to last as the Cougars 8-0 run cut the score to 38-34.

The Cougars defense forced the Centurions into almost 20 turnovers, keeping them within striking distance even after being outplayed. "Not enough," says Coach Iorio jokingly after the game, referring to the Centurions turnover struggles.

"They played well against our height. They double teamed our big guys down low to keep it close," says Coyne, complimenting the Cougars for keeping the score close for much of the game.

As the second half wore on, the Centurions used their longer bench and size advantage to distance themselves from the scrappy Cougars. Midway through the half, the Centurions went on a quick scoring blitz, ending with an emphatic breakaway dunk by



Bucks faces off against the cougars.

PHOTO BY: BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETIC FACEBOOK PAGE.

Benn.

After Cougars guard Adrian Brown missed a three from the corner with just over a minute left, the Centurions secured the rebound and ran out the clock. "We played flat, with no momentum or energy," says Coach Iorio. Clearly disappointed in the effort, Iorio emphasized the importance of the loss, "This was a big game. We were fighting for fourth place."

Centurion guard David May chipped in eight points, seven rebounds, four assists and a steal. May credited the team's collective defense and ball movement for the win.

May also singled out forward Tyler Nicol, who recorded the games only double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds, as a catalyst for the team's spirited effort. "Tyler's

energy is awesome," says May. "He brings that when everything else is lacking."

The final game of the regular season takes place on Monday Feb. 13 against Philadelphia Community College. "With Benn being from Philadelphia, I really think he'll shine Monday," says Coyne, highlighting Benn as a player to keep an eye during their next matchup. The game between Philadelphia will determine the bracket seeding for the upcoming EPCC playoffs.

With playoff games starting Wens. Feb. 15 at 7 p.m., the team seems confident in its chances to succeed. "We could go deep as long as we all play together," says May. If Saturday's game against Lehigh-Carbon County is any indicator, a long playoff run may be in the Centurions' near future.

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SPORTS

Centurions defeat Lehigh in round one of playoffs

BY: STEPHEN GODWIN JR.
Centurion Staff

The Buck’s Centurions rode the backs of guards Emmanuel Pittman and center Tariq Benn to their first playoff win of 2012. Benn scored 17 and Pittman scored 25 to give the Centurions a 83-70 win over Lehigh Carbon Community College on Wednesday, February 15.

The Centurions exploded at the very start and looked as if they could ride this initial lead all the way to a win. Lehigh would, however, make a few runs in the second half to make the contest competitive. The Centurians know they will need more people contributing on the offensive end if they are to win the championship. The

next highest scorer for the Centurions was forward Tyler Nichol with 8.

The first half was played with the intensity of a playoff with both teams exchanging buckets for much of the half. By the end of the first half the Centurions had pulled away slightly with a 36-27 lead.

The real action finally began in the 2nd half when Lehigh scored the first points, but the Centurions answered right back with Benn powering through the middle for some dominating dunks. The morale of Lehigh had to be hurt as they had some serious trouble stopping the big man.

Pittman was white hot beyond the 3 point line nailing four of his attempts. Defensively

Nichol and point guard Sean Ritter shut down a lot of Lehigh’s offensive attempts.

When Ritter was near the net with the ball he was not afraid to take some hard hits on the way to the basket for a layup.

Bucks was able to jump out to a twenty point lead behind these efforts, but Lehigh was not going away that easily as they slowly crept back into the game.

Lehigh scored several unanswered points, but the Centurions were able to keep a comfortable lead. Both teams put up a great fight for the ball and the game was action packed for most of the night before the Centurions finally closed out the game with a win.



Michael Desideriodribbling past a Lehigh defender.

PHOTO BY: BUCKS FACEBOOK ATHLETIC PAGE.



David May moving down court looking for a pass.

PHOTO BY: BUCKS FACEBOOK ATHLETICS PAGE.

Centurions defeated by Philly

BY:STEPHEN GODWIN JR.
Centurion Staff

The last two times the Bucks Centurions and Philadelphia Community College met the games were claimed by Philadelphia, but only by a few points. When the Centurions went to Philadelphia this past week in an end of the season tune up for the playoffs, Philly once again looked like the better team.

Philadelphia beat the Centurions with a team effort lead by Fred Dukes with 14 points in a 79-58 win on Mon. Feb. 13. Philly players Marcus Johnson and Kiari Salisbury helped their team with 13 and 11 respectively. Shooting guard Emmanuel Pittman also scored 18 in a losing effort.

Centurion center Tariq Benn

scored a game high 21 points in his hometown, but left the game late, because of foul trouble.

The Centurions took a 4-2 lead early, but that was last time they would lead as Philly then went on a 16-4 tear to open up a 18-8 lead. Bucks made early mistakes with turnovers and offensive fouls to aid in the deficit.

It seemed every time the Centurions would make a charge, Philly would answer back. Near the end of the half Philly let the Centurions back into the game, who slowly started to round into form, but they were still behind 32-22 at halftime.

In the second half, Philly was with three quick fouls which sent the Centurions a chance to make up some points from the

foul line. After an 8-2 run by Philly, early foul trouble for Philly proved beneficial for the Centurions as they ended up in the penalty early.

Unfortunately the Centurions were not able to cash in from the strike, missing far too many foul shots throughout the night.

With the Centurions inept at the foul line, Philly really poured it on offensively running away with the score at 52-33. The Centurions ended up making some late buckets, but it was too little too late as they ended their regular season with a record of 8-7 with the final score 79-58.

Centurion Coach Steve Coyne seemed more fired up then depressed when he said, “We will play these guys again this Saturday and we will win



Sean Ritter taking a free throw againsts Philadelphia.

PHOTO BY: BUCKS FACEBOOK ATHLETICS

this time.” As far as his analysis of the game Coyne said, “You know what turnovers killed us again, they really killed us.”

The Centurions went with a bigger lineup for most of the night. Explaining his reasoning behind the change, Coyne explained, “We knew they were going to be very athletic, and we thought a bigger lineup might slow them down, because they did not really have a big man.”

Philadelphia Coach Dondi Desiteies said afterwards, it

was a lot different this time around, because last time we had to come back from 18 down, but we were missing some guys we do have now and the team is more seasoned this time. One major thing we get these guys to work on is defense, because defense without offense is nonsense.”

Centurion center Tariq Benn seemed a little down when he said, “I’m kind of disappointed man, we were not able to take advantages of our opportunities and we let them get ahead of us.

WEATHER

Forecast by NWS for 18940

TUE Feb. 21

49° | 34°

Mostly sunny

WED Feb. 22

51° | 34°

Showers

THU Feb. 23

53° | 35°

Partly cloudy

FRI Feb. 24

48° | 32°

Showers

SAT Feb. 25

60° | 44°

Few showers

SUN Feb. 26

47° | 29°

Mostly Sunny

MON Feb. 27

50° | 34°

Partly Cloudy