

The inspiring story of a Bucks student
 Shaيدا Abbas was paralyzed by a terrible mistake but that hasn't brought him down. ▷5

Grab a bite at a great local restaurant
 Find out where to eat as we count down the top ten best places in Bucks County. ▷10

Clueless about going on a first date?
 Hope Kumor has some great tips to help you get over that dreaded time out. ▷11

Heavy rain on the Bucks soccer team
 The men's soccer team had to endure heavy rain as they went against Harrisburg. ▷12



THE CENTURION

Bucks County Community College
 The week of November 3, 2009
 Volume: 45 Issue: 6



Cheap tuition, costly books

BY KYLE REAVES
 Centurion Staff

Although students attending Bucks are passing on the costly tuition prices by staying home and not attending a four-year university, the price of the books still remains the same.

Some students may only be purchasing one book per class, others are forced to buy multiple books for every class they have. This can leave students buying over 20 books per year (two semesters) in many cases.

Furthermore, used textbooks that were originally sold with CD-ROMs are not resold with the CDs, forcing students to have to purchase the new version of the book in order to have access to the CD.

While some students and parents would like to point their fingers at Bucks for the price of the books, Willy Coleman, director of the Bucks bookstore, urges people to understand that the college has little say.

"Everyone agrees that the prices are high, they're high at every college, but the prices are not set by the college, they are set by the publisher," said Coleman. "The CDs are not sold at the publisher's request. You could go online and purchase the access codes but at the point it would almost be cheaper and more convenient to pay full price."

The prices of the books are relatively the same at most colleges and universities, said Coleman.

Chris Puzo, current Penn State student and Bucks alumni confirmed this. "The prices at Penn State were slightly higher than

▷ Continued on page 2

▷ Continued on page 6

Faculty seek benefits for same-sex partnerships

BY AMANDA SMILEY
 Student Life Editor

The Open Door Club hosted a bake sale to raise awareness of a demand by some Bucks faculty that their same-sex partners receive benefits.

The sale table offered a variety of baked goods such as cookies, brownies, cupcakes, carrot cake,

and Halloween grab bags. Not only were the goodies appealing to students, but prices were reasonable as well, ranging from 50 cents to \$1.

The bake sale not only attracted hungry students, but helped gather support for Bucks faculty who are seeking to have their same-sex partners receive the kinds of benefits that spouses normally

receive. Currently, Bucks does not extend benefits to the partners of its homosexual employees.

In hopes of establishing a new policy, the club will present a petition to the school signed by Bucks students. President of the Open Door Club, Sarah Campbell, said in regards to the sale, "We're raising awareness for the petition, and raising funds

for the club's cause." At the bake sale table, the petition was sitting out for students to sign.

Rik Boorademe, a history professor at Bucks and member of the Open Door Club, explained how important it was for the college to reconsider its policy. "Many other colleges, except

ALSO INSIDE

Get to know Robert Alexander

He is a public speaking teacher at Bucks but there is much more to him than that.

PAGE 4

Saving Earth selling t-shirts

A Bucks student has found his own way to go green with a t-shirt company.

PAGE 5

Review: Couples Retreat

Andrew Laufer reviews a new comedy starring Vince Vaughn.

PAGE 9

Radio Bux on its way back on the airwaves

With brand new equipment, the station is making a comeback



Courtesy stock.xchnng

BY MARK MAROZZI
Centurion Staff

College campuses around the nation have radio stations that give students the chance to get a feel for the broadcast industry and provide local news at the same time. Bucks is now on its way to jumping back in those ranks.

Radio Bucks is a new podcasting club fronted by Professor John Sheridan and fueled by the ideas of Bucks students and coordinating professors. “The original idea was to revive the radio station,” Sheridan said, referring to the old student station that used to broadcast to the cafeteria. “Some people expressed interest in it and I thought it was a great idea for the students to get the experience.”

The podcasting itself will be

done in studios at Bucks with new equipment and sound booths that were donated by the school. Sheridan was excited by these new acquisitions, saying, “We have all new equipment, the school bought us some really nice microphones and sound insulated the booths, so we have the facilities and we are going to utilize them.”

The podcasts will be done completely by the students. The idea is to give them the freedom to be creative with different topics, but at the same time keep the subjects discussed relevant to the school.

“I really want the students to steer it,” Sheridan says. “Some of them have their own ideas and we’re going to run the podcasts like radio.”

When the podcasts are completed, they must be uploaded to iTunes University. This will get the word out and allow students to see the reactions of listeners.

Although in the beginning stage of the project, Sheridan and the students hope this is just a springboard to a live on-campus radio show.

There are many different ways students can be a part of this new project.

“Some people want to be the talent, some people just want to be the engineers, and some people

want to do the promotion. There are a lot of opportunities.”

Sheridan adds, “We’ve had a good number of people express interest in it, about 15 people came to the first meeting and there were a few others who couldn’t make it.”

In the next week or so, Sheridan along with other staff members, hopes to elect officers and ratify the club’s regulations and by-laws so that they can get the podcasts up and running as soon as possible.

So keep a look out for Radio Bux. Before we know it, Bucks will have its own live radio show to keep students updated on campus events, entertainment, sports, and much more.

For further information on Radio Bux contact Sheridan.

Bake sale for same-sex rights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Catholic institutions, extend these benefits to their employees with same sex partnerships, and Bucks is at the tail end of these new policies. There is no real reason why we should be there,” he said.

Bucks already maintains a nondiscriminatory hiring and enrollment policy. The Open Door Club believes that this acceptance should be demonstrated throughout all of the college’s policies.

One argument against the approval of the change is that costs for college will rise. Tim Schillaci, student and member of the Open Door Club said, “Research has been done on these costs, and the rise would be hardly 1 percent.”

Even with the concern for costs, members of the Open Door Club say this is a moral issue rather than a financial one. The college’s faculty union also the cause.

If the petition is recognized and accepted by the administration, an Open Door Club representative will attend the college’s Board of Trustees meeting where they will discuss and decide on the issue. There, the club representative will present students’ opinions on the matter.

“

“The members of the Open Door Club say this is a moral issue rather than a financial one”

INFORMATION

Facebook group:
Search The Open Door Club

Group meetings:
Group meetings are held every Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. in the Clubs Meeting Center located next to the Student Life office (Rollins, 2nd floor) for anyone interested.

THE CENTURION

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Professor profile: Robert Alexander

The Bucks public speaking teacher talks about his life and his interests

BY AMANDA SMILEY
Student Life Editor

Professor Robert Alexander teaches one of the most dreaded courses at Bucks: Public speaking.

Students dread the course because of the anxiety that public speaking inspires.

Because Alexander knows how nervous students become when speaking in front of the class, he

starts the course off with a speech due just two weeks into the semester. "I know if we don't jump right into it, they become even more nervous with anticipation," he said.

Alexander tries to make the topic of the first speech simple and unthreatening. "They pick a fruit, and inform us about it." The "fruit speech" is simply a primer that will eventually lead students

to more complicated forms of informative and persuasive speech.

Alexander describes his teaching style as very relaxed. "I'm having a conversation with my students," he said of his lecturing style. He prefers discussion in the classroom over him lecturing to his class.

Because speech presentations take up only about half of the classes during the semester, he

uses the rest of the classes to educate students on topics they might have not already known about. Instead of lecturing, he often shows a movie on the topic.

Alexander explained that the worst course he had ever taken in college was world history, where the professor read the textbook to the class, verbatim, for the entire hour. "I would never lecture for 50 minutes without a visual," he laughs.

Alexander shows his classes

“He prefers discussion in the classroom over him lecturing to his class”

“movies that raise questions.” One of the movies involves the controversial nature of artificial sweeteners.

According to Alexander, the chemical that these sweeteners are composed of, aspartame, can be very dangerous to a person's health, especially if consumed in large quantities. "Any time I

see something like aspartame that is going to kill students, I feel as though it is my responsibility to teach them about it."

Alexander shows his class other films hoping to spark students' interest in doing some investigating of their own. "I present them with the information, and it's up to them to research it and make their own conclusions based on their own research."

Films like these lead to what is arguably the students' most important speech. Alexander calls it "the problem speech," in which the students elaborate on a current societal problem.

Beyond the classroom, Alexander's favorite past time is flying. He is a licensed pilot, and he is building his own plane. Alexander's Osprey can land both on water and on land. To those who are afraid of flying, Alexander says, "the sky is the safest place in the world to travel."

Alexander is also very involved in the world of theater and has many years experience in technical directing. Technical directing is the supervising and application of lights and set design of a theater performance. Six of the plays he directed he also wrote.

His love for theater began during his education at the University of Hawaii where he saw an opera performance for the first time. From then on, he's spent his life building an impressive resume that includes working on sets at U.C.L.A. and working for 13 years as chairman of the drama department at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse.

Alexander is also a prolific reader. "I'm often reading three or four books at the same time."

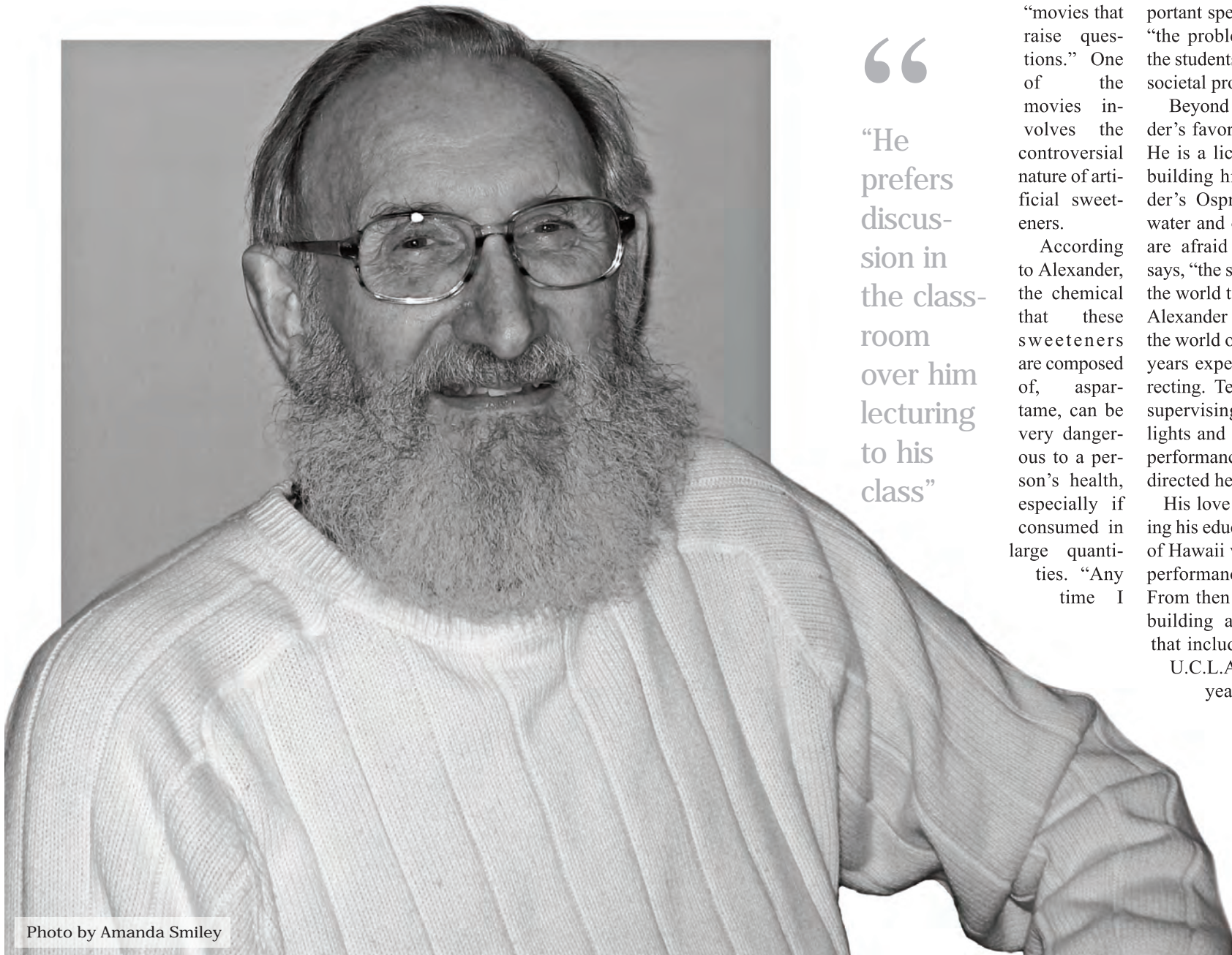


Photo by Amanda Smiley

Pulitzer prize-winning journalist to speak at Bucks

BY MATTHEW FLOWERS
Entertainment Editor

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Madeleine Blais will be speaking at Bucks' Newtown Campus on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

Blais will speak at the Fireside Lounge, which is located in the Rollins Student Center.

Author of "Uphill Walker," "In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle," and "The Heart is an Instrument," Blais will be reading with memoirist Hayden Saunier.

Blais graduated with a bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle in 1969 and a master's from the School of Journalism at Columbia University in 1970. She worked as a reporter for the Boston Globe, the Trenton Times, and Tropic Magazine of the Miami Herald.

She has also written for the

Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Northeast Magazine in the Hartford Courant, Philadelphia Inquirer, Newsday, Nieman Reports, Detroit Free Press, Boston Globe and San Jose Mercury News.

Blais coordinates the honors journalism program at The University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She teaches several courses at the university. Her courses include "The Art of the Profile," "Literature and Film in the Documentary Tradition," and "Diaries, Memoirs and Journals."

Blais has tried to encourage students to stick with journalism even in tough economic times.

"Even if you have to live at home and work at Planet Fitness to create cash flow, you can volunteer to do a newsletter for an organization you admire, coach a sport you might want to write about, create programs or videos

for a charity event you support—something, anything to stay in the game," wrote Blais in a Boston Globe column addressing journalism students.

Blais overcame a lot of personal challenges in her own life.

"One of her most famous stories is 'Uphill Walkers,' about how Blais and her family pulled together to survive as her father died, leaving his pregnant wife and their five young children, alone, according to a review on the Barnes and Noble web site.

"Blais was inspired by her mother, who expected much, but gave even more for her children, as a single-parent," said the description of her book on the web site.

Bucks students are very excited about Blais' visit to the Newtown campus.

"I am a great fan of her stories.

My favorite is 'The Heart is an instrument.' The story is inspiring to me and gives me hope," said Dan Coleman, 22.

"The Heart is an Instrument" was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for

nonfiction.

The event is sponsored by the Bucks Cultural Affairs Committee and Department of Language and Literature. It is free and open to the campus and community.



Madeline Blais

Saving Earth one t-shirt at a time

One Bucks student makes a difference with his “green” t-shirt company

BY ANNMARIE ELY
Features Editor

Every time Bucks student Ian McLean sells a t-shirt, he plants a tree.

So far McLean and his partners have planted 1,000 trees through Verde Styles, an environmentally conscious t-shirt company they launched last year.

The student business owners are passionate about “going green,” which is the reason they started the company.

“We wanted to do a green company because we want to make a difference. We could sit back and work toward the nine-to-five job, but that would not be satisfying for any of us. We are all aware of the growing environmental issues and we want to spread the word of change because we need change,” said McLean.

According to McLean, the company has signed a contract to plant 1,000 more trees in a partnership with the American Forests Association.

Verde Styles sells t-shirts online. They cost between \$13 and \$17.

Currently, the company is hosting an online competition for new t-shirt ideas. When a designer’s idea is used, they are awarded \$200. Applicants can enter at verdestyles.com/contest. Some of the designs featured on the site include a melting snow man, a pair of green lungs, and a green turtle.

McLean hopes to send an e-mail to all Bucks art students encouraging them to enter the design competition.

Also available on the site are

wristbands that read “breathe green.”

The clothing line aspect of the company was at first just an idea for a contest.

“My friends and I started the t-shirt company last year when we entered a business plan contest at Temple University. Our idea has evolved into the clothing line that it is today,” said McLean.

McLean, a journalism major, is responsible for marketing and editing content. He worked with Nish Patel, Matt Munchnick, Sean Coker and Alex Vazquez to make the company a reality.

Patel and Munchnick, both students at Temple University, serve as presidents of the fledgling company. Vazquez, who works



out of California, is the company’s web designer.

Coker, the treasurer, also designs t-shirts and occasionally models them for the web site.

By combining their different areas of knowledge, the five students were able to create a working company.

“All five of us have knowledge in different fields and that has really helped us. Nish and Matt are both business majors, and Sean is an art major. Alex is a webmaster so he knows what he’s doing when it comes to designing the page,” said McLean.

The group has learned a lot through trial and error.

“When you put all of us together we can really figure

things out as we go. The process has been difficult, but we all understand now how to run this business much better than we did before,” he said.

The most challenging part of starting the company has been finances.

“If we don’t have money we can’t produce a product,” said McLean.

McLean and his partners are putting their initial profits right back into the company.

By investing more money, they hope to help the company grow.

So far McLean describes sales as “ok.”

His next goal is to invest in advertising.

“The online store hasn’t really taken off quite yet because we can’t afford to advertise at the moment,” he said.

“But we are capable of selling the shirts ourselves, and that is something we have done successfully over the last few months. That will eventually allow us to advertise and draw attention to our online store.”

“So far McLean and his partners have planted 1,000 trees”

The inspiring story of Bucks student Shaida Abbas

BY JESSE TROUT
Sports Editor

Shaida Abbas’ life story could have been just about the surgery he had four years ago that went terribly wrong.

In fact, his life is about so much more. He’s made sure of that.

The surgery, meant to correct a condition known as scoliosis, involved placing two metal rods held down with hooks and screws to help support the fusion of the bones to the curved spine and its surrounding vertebrae.

Unfortunately, during Abbas’ surgery, which was performed in his home country of Kurdistan, the doctor made a terrible mistake and one of the hooks used to support the rods straightening out his spine hit the spinal fluid in his lower back. This devastating contact with the fluid used to protect the spinal cord left him paralyzed from the waist down at age 16.

“The doctor was from France, but was over in the Middle East performing surgeries and everybody said how great of a surgeon he was, so I had the surgery. During the surgery though, he irritated the spinal cord liquid while placing the rod and that immediately paralyzed me,” said Abbas.

Abbas, a 21-year-old biology major now in his second year at Bucks, is just months away from graduating and receiving his associate’s degree.

“After graduation at Bucks, I plan on attending Jefferson Pharmacy School to become a medical pharmacist because I have always been good at science and wanted to do something that I enjoy.”



Shaida Abbas

Photo by Jesse Trout

With Abbas’ dedication, desire, and work ethic, he certainly seems to have the skill set to do just that.

However, what many professors and students alike at Bucks do not know is the challenging journey that has taken Abbas to where he is today. At a young age it was discovered he had developed scoliosis, in which a person’s spine is curved from side to side, which usually forms the shape of an “S”

or a “C.” This disease can create emotional problems for those diagnosed, severe back pain and respiratory complications.

Once a doctor notices a child has scoliosis with a curve of 40 degrees or greater, surgery is required because curves that large have a higher risk of getting worse even after the growing process stops.

Still, while many in a similar sit-

uation might be resentful or angry, Abbas has a great attitude and a certain level of confidence that is noticeable from the very minute you sit down with him. His honesty and ability to speak so candidly about what happened to him just four years ago shows a remarkable level of maturity.

Like any college student though, Abbas still has his interests outside of homework and

studying. They include fast cars, girls, the Phillies, and hand-cycling.

“I’ve always loved cars, even when back in Kurdistan,” said Abbas excitedly. “I’m also a huge fan of a newly developed sporting race called hand-cycling; it was developed for disabled athletes who could no longer ride bikes

but still wanted to race,” said Abbas.

It is clear that Abbas, who now resides in Morrisville, is an emotionally and mentally strong individual. Six months after the failed surgery, he and his family moved to Pennsylvania where he finished his last three years of high school before moving on to college at Bucks.

From the very first day he passed the driving tests for his license, he says, “Now I don’t have to rely on the bus or van transportation at Bucks because I drive, and it’s a great freedom.”

Above all, it is his attitude and personality that gives him the true freedom to be happy, enjoy life, and continue his dream.

“What many professors and students alike at Bucks do not know is the challenging journey”

Confused about choosing a major?

Bucks offers a quiz created to help students choose their direction for the future

BY ANDREW LAUFER
Centurion Staff

Many students today have trouble deciding on a specific major to pursue in college. The career personality quiz located on the Bucks website can help you make this decision more efficiently.

If you are having trouble deciding on a major the career personality quiz is your place to get all the answers you need.

“It’s a good place for students to get ideas,” says Amy Armstrong, director of career services here at Bucks.

The career personality quiz consists of 18 questions. It is designed to help students understand their personality.

“The idea is for people with certain personalities to match up with a specific workplace,” says Armstrong.

When asked how many people take the quiz, Armstrong said, “Yes they do use it, but there isn’t a way of monitoring it.”

The quiz is able to distinguish six different personality types. The first type is realistic; people who like to work with their hands outdoors, such as landscapers. Secondly, there is investigative; people who enjoy research such as journalist or even scientists. The third type is artistic, for people who like to draw and paint. The fourth is social; people who want to be in a profession that enables them to help others, such as social

workers.

The fifth type of personality is enterprising. These people may go into fields like politics or sales.

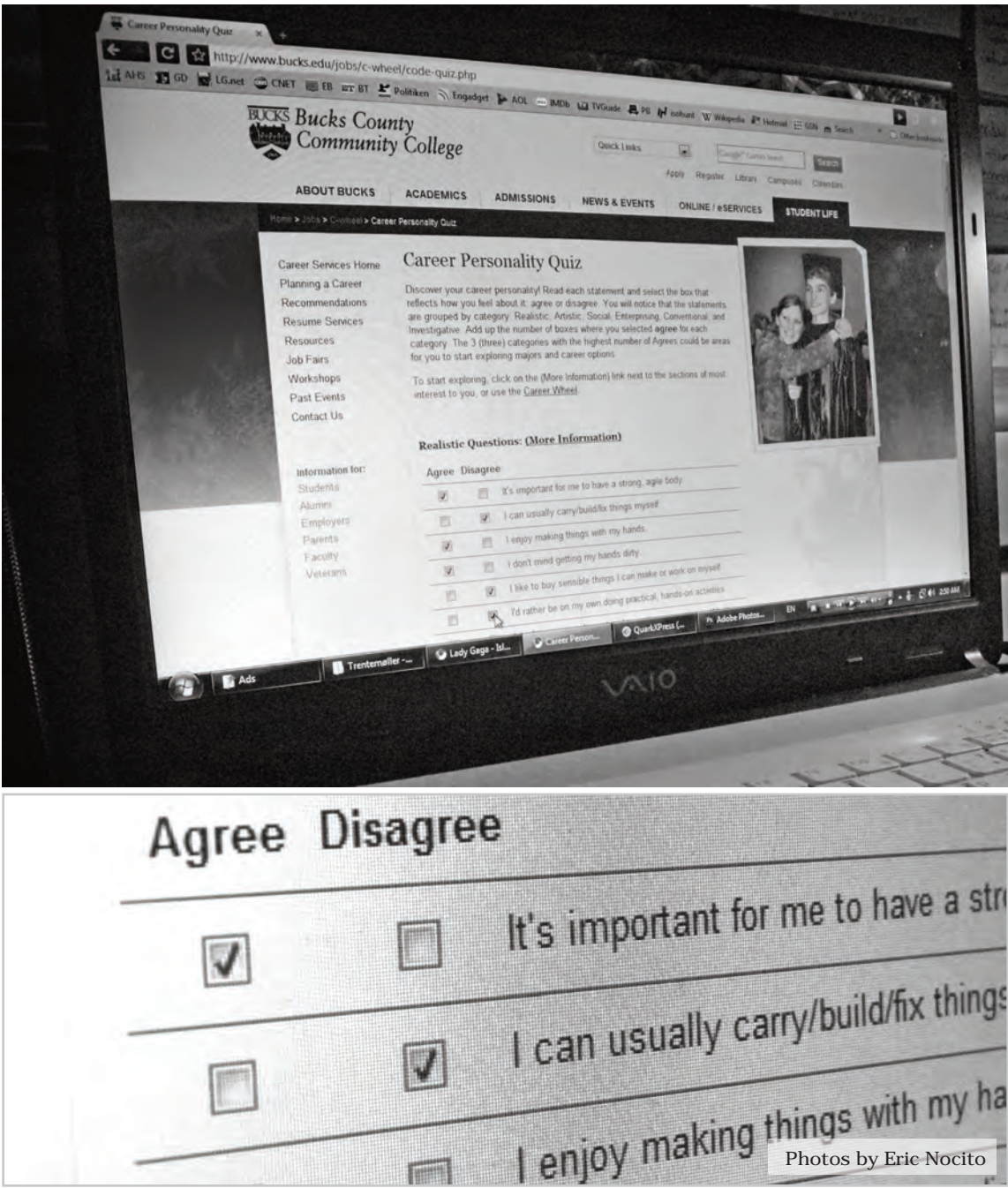
Finally, the sixth is conventional, which is for people who like to keep things organized and very clear. This personality would fit an event planner.

After putting a check under “agree” or “disagree” for each question, tally up the number of questions you agreed with, then calculate the highest personality types that fit your answers best.

After calculating, click on the career wheel icon, which will be highlighted. You are then given a choice of each type of personality and the majors that fit each category; chose the major that fits your type.

“It’s a good place for students to get ideas”

the Google search bar on the Bucks home page. After entering this, click on the first icon that comes up and that will lead you to the career personality quiz.



Books prices set by publishers, not colleges

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the ones at Bucks actually, new or used,” said Puzo. “I rely on websites and libraries for the books that are really expensive or that I can’t find used copies for.”

The fact that students are purchasing books that they hardly use is another factor that has them on edge.

“It annoys me that I pay for books that I hardly use all semester and when I go to sell them back to the school I don’t get the money that I spent back,” said Alyssa Rapoport, 19, of Newtown.

For example, if a student purchases a new book for \$170 she may receive about \$100 of that back when it is time to sell the book at the end of the semester.

“We can’t control how much the professors actually use the textbooks of course, we only sell the books the professors request us to,” said Coleman.

As many students know, books can be purchased online from various websites. There are even sites that they can rent books from and return them upon completion of the semester.

One solution to beating the high prices is a scholarship that Bucks offers.

This book scholarship is for students who demonstrate financial need. There is an essay that students have to submit describing how the bookstore fits into their educational experience and how it would aid their pursuit of a higher education degree.

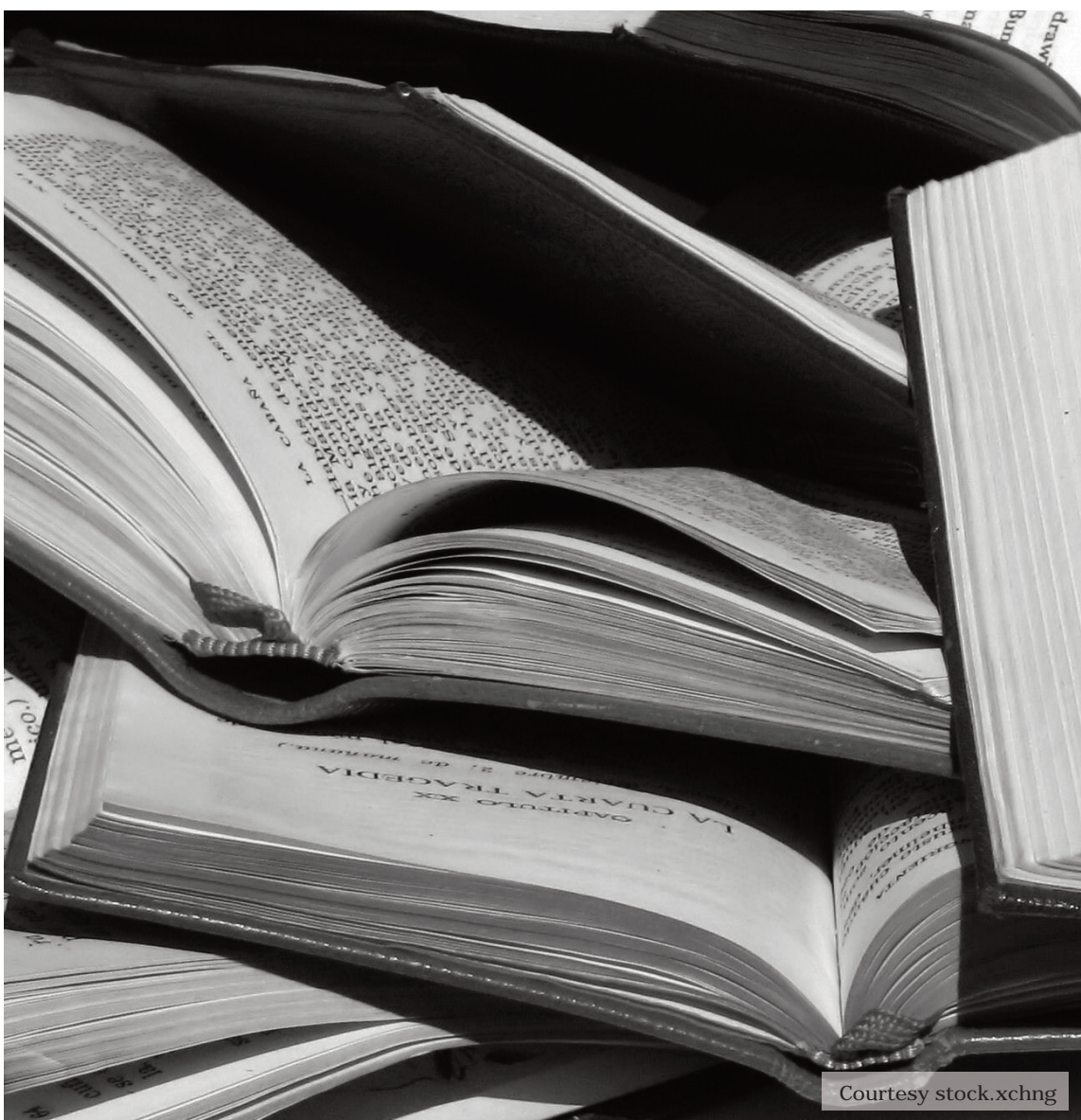
Students must have a minimum of six credits and should be returning for the following fall or spring semester and also enroll in at least six credits. They will receive from \$100 to \$250 to help pay for the books.

“It annoys me that I pay for books that I hardly use”

INFORMATION

For the scholarship application, type in:

www.bucks.edu/foundation/documents/BCCCBookstoreScholarshipApplication.pdf



Courtesy stock.xchng

Students and teachers get connected on Facebook

BY ADAM STAPENELL
Centurion Staff

A relatively new phenomenon is the ability of students and professors to connect on Facebook.com, but students who think that they can boost their grades or earn brownie points may be mistaken.

Facebook has given people a way to connect to others who would otherwise have drifted out of their lives. One can go on Facebook, look up a classmate from kindergarten, and send that person a "friend request."

This social networking power can give people a way to initiate, maintain, and/or re-establish relationships that would have not been possible just years ago, and students have been using this tool to reach out to their professors.

Professors who choose to accept a student's friendship request have done so without interference from their employing institutions, and use the online service as a way to enhance communications between themselves and their students.

Bill Meiers, a part-time professor in the Language & Literature Department, said, "I think [Facebook] is another way for me to 'connect' with a student or students and when they occasionally find out I'm on Facebook it makes me look 'cool.'"

Can this "friendship" cause a conflict of interest between professors and their students? This question has fueled news stories across the country about how professors interact with students on the popular social networking site.

A perception that professors may not be able to grade impartially if they "friend" students online has become a question of interest, but according to professors who do "friend" students, this is not an issue. Students can expect equal treatment from Meiers, who said, "I'm not the least bit worried about conflict of interest because I know I am going to grade every student as fairly as I can, both for their sake and for mine."

Allen Hoey, Language & Literature professor, acknowledged that a perception of favoritism or impropriety could develop amongst outsiders. "I suppose anything can create different perceptions... it's possible to get involved with students on [Facebook] in a way that blurs the responsibility we have as professors."

Hoey continued, "I've had friendships with students over the course of my professional career, and they always understood that friendship didn't translate into special consideration. Or, if they didn't understand, they learned."

Some professors who use Facebook refuse to initiate friendships with current students, but will accept friendship requests from their students. Hoey said, "I don't want to presume on the kind of access



they might want me to have, and I don't want to put them on the spot in terms of a friend request. At some point, it usually emerges that I'm on [Facebook], so they can choose to friend me if they wish."

If professors and students are communicating via Facebook,

“Can this “friendship” cause a conflict of interest?”

what value does it hold for the education process? Facebook can help professors and students connect on a more human level, as Hoey explained: "I think it can give each a better idea of the personness of the other. I get a glimpse into their concerns

out of the classroom, their interests, and they get a sense of [me] when I'm not in class. I've never really believed that much is gained by maintaining an absolutely formal... arm's-length relationship."

Meiers echoed this sentiment. "I think the goal of education is to make a connection with another human being in the interests of teaching them something and helping them learn. So, while I don't spend any time on Facebook (or any other social networking site) on my own, I think of it as a (small) 'tool' to help me in the classroom."

Students who choose to initiate a Facebook "friendship" with a professor may find it can give them greater access to and respect for their professors.

But in the end, Bucks professors say, getting good grades is a matter not of social networking but something more old-fashioned: Hard work.

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Broadway star to sing at Bucks

The highly acclaimed Broadway singer John D. Smitherman makes an appearance on November 14

BY AMYLYNN BELLINGRATH
Arts Editor

John D. Smitherman, the man who the Miami Herald has called “the Mario Lanza of the century,” is coming to the Gateway Auditorium on Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. to entertain with his highly acclaimed tenor voice.

He has been honored by being chosen as one of the Three American Tenors, and has performed all over the world showcasing his amazing voice.

His many achievements include multipal shows on Broadway, including “Oklahoma,” “Showboat” and “South Pacific;” he’s also performed in many operas, such as “Madama Butterfly” and “Le Nozze di Figaro” (The Marriage of Figaro). “He can hold a note as well as Pavarotti,” says The NY Press.

Natalie Kaye, the program director for Student Life, has arranged for Smitherman to perform here. She feels that concertgoers will really enjoy his versatile vocal style.

“I have seen John perform for the past two years at the Bristol Riverside Theater, and was really impressed by his talent and musical ability. I told him that I wanted to bring him to the college.”

During a recent survey for the college, Kaye discovered that the kind of program people would be most interested in attending was musical theater, so she tried for more than a year to bring Smitherman to Bucks. It wasn’t until a

few months ago that the pieces began to fall into place, and the college arranged for him to be the final act in the “Bucks Live” music festival.

“I would like students to leave this concert with a greater appreciation of musical theater, and the way a talented performer can grab an audience and move it through

music,” Kaye said. She feels that any student with an appreciation for a great voice would benefit from Smitherman’s experience, talent, and expertise.

If you have a love for musical theater, and if you’re interested in this amazing talent, then come support the arts at Bucks!

INFORMATION

Tickets:
Available at the Student Life office for \$10

Further information:
Call or email Natalie Kaye
215-968-8015
kayen@bucks.edu

“He can hold a note as well as Pavarotti”



THE WEEK IN TV/MOVIES/MUSIC

TV

Tuesday 11/3
90210 - CW - 8.00
Melrose Place - CW - 9.00

Wednesday 11/4
Mercy - NBC - 8.00
So You Think You Can Dance - FOX - 8.00
America’s Next Top Model - CW - 8.00
Ghost Hunters - SyFy - 9.00
CSI:NY - CBS - 10.00

Thursday 11/5
Survivor Samoa - CBS - 8.00
Greys Anatomy - ABC - 9.00
The Office - NBC - 9.00
Fringe - FOX - 9.00
Project Runway - Lifetime - 10.00

Friday 11/6
Smallville - CW - 8.00
Dollhouse - FOX - 9.00
Psych - USA - 10.00
The Soup - E! - 10.00

Sunday 11/7
The Simpsons - FOX - 8.00
Family Guy - FOX - 9.00
Cold Case - CBS - 10.00
Mad Men - AMC - 10.00

Monday 11/8
Heroes - NBC - 8.00
House - FOX - 8.00
One Tree Hill - CW - 8.00
Gossip Girl - CW - 9.00
Greek - ABC Family - 9.00

MOVIES



The Fourth Kind (PG-13)

An investigator (Jovovich) is dispatched to Nome, Alaska to puzzle out a 40-year-long mystery involving an extraordinary number of unexplained disappearances in the town. Her videotaped evidence looks to present the most convincing evidence of alien abduction ever documented.

Directed by: Olatunde Osunsanmi
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Elias Koteas, Will Patton
Release Date: 6 November

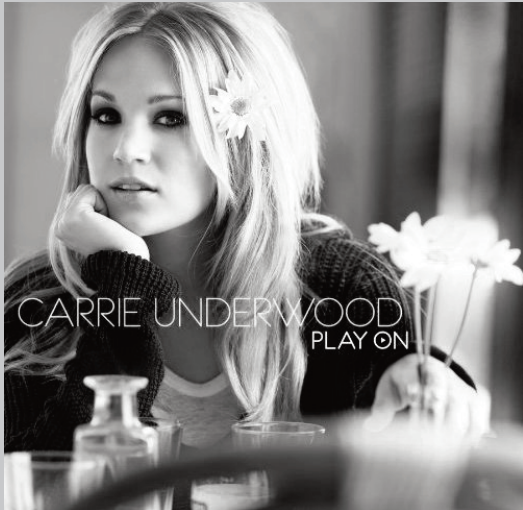


The Box (PG-13)

A young couple is gifted with a mysterious box that promises them a handsome windfall with deadly consequences.

Directed by: Richard Kelly
Starring: Cameron Diaz, James Marsden, Frank Langella
Release Date: 6 November

MUSIC



Carrie Underwood
New album “Play On”
3 November

Andrea Bocelli
New album “My Christmas”
3 November

Morrissey
New album “Swords”
3 November

“Couples Retreat” is marriage counseling made funny

Vince Vaughn's character tries to save his marriage by traveling to a couples therapy retreat

BY ANDREW LAUFER
Centurion Staff

“Couple’s Retreat” begins much like any other romantic comedy of the last decade or so; a couple, who are having marital issues and close to a divorce, are looking for something to rekindle that spark they once had.

In “Couple’s Retreat,” the viewer is taken through the marriage of Jason and Cynthia, who have tried and failed to have a baby.

With tension growing, they’re close to getting a divorce. However, in a last-ditch effort to save their marriage, they book a vacation to a couples therapy retreat: Eden.

The theme of marriage crisis in movies has nearly been overdone, but adding the therapeutic vacation element brings a new dimension to an otherwise bland movie.

Jason and Cynthia, to save money, encourage their other married friends and their spouses, who have perfectly happy marriages, to join them. The other ‘happy’ couples are lured in by the belief that they can simply enjoy the party activities and beautiful weather, while not having to partake in the therapy sessions.

Reluctantly, their friends, Dave (Vince Vaughn) and Ronnie (Malin Akerman), Joey (Jon Favreau) and Lucy (Kristen Davis), and Shane (Faizon Love) and his girlfriend Trudy (Kali Hawk) all agree.

Once they arrive, they’re immediately sent to the couples resort on the west side of the island and cut off entirely from the fun amenities. During the very first night, the island’s resort host Stanley (Peter Serafiowicz) tells all four couples that they must receive couples therapy or leave the resort immediately.

The strongest performance in the film by far is by Vaughn, who showcases hilarious timing and comedic genius yet again.

Despite a lack of enthusiasm, the other three couples agree to the therapy so that they can enjoy

the other fun activities on the island.

During their first therapy sessions, all three couples realize their relationships may be worse than Jason and Cynthia’s marriage. Even Dave and Ronnie, who seem to be the most stable couple, realize they have problems with their relationship. These problems involve intimacy, trust, and work. Resort owner Marcel (Jean Reno) makes improving Dave and Ronnie’s relationship his personal mission.

Marcel unleashes his rather unusual methods of relationship building, like having them swim with sharks and practice yoga with instructor Salvadore (Carlos Ponce) who is rather “hands-on.”

The key points of the movie are poorly structured plotwise and often rely on simple slapstick comedy. Lead therapist Marcel’s actions are clearly out of the blue, and no true explanation is given for his odd behavior, other than that he’s crazy. This lack of information regarding the strange behavior of Marcel left me and many other moviegoers dazed and confused.

After an argument between Jason and Cynthia, whose marriage continues to get drastically worse, the men and women split up, heading in opposite directions on the island of Eden.

It seems that at times the movie tries to make deeper and more insightful observations about real marriage and relationship problems, but these attempts come off as

ridiculous, especially when combined with the clumsy slapstick comedy tools.

“Couple’s Retreat” never really solidifies as simply a pure comedy, like Vaughn’s “Wedding Crashers,” or as a romance movie with funny parts.

Following the argument, the girls, predictably, go to the overly-

“
The movie was still hilarious and had everybody in the theater rolling in laughter”

friendly yoga instructor Salvadore and he takes them to Eden East, the singles resort coast. The four guys then, also rather predictable, come across the staff lounge looking for the girls. They receive directions to Eden East.

Upon arrival at Eden East, Dave finally realizes how great a marriage he has with Ronnie and takes her to a private waterfall. Joey knocks Salvadore out, after seeing him getting cozy with Lucy; she then realizes her husband will fight for her and they

reunite.

Jason and Cynthia grab a seat at a nearby bar, share drinks and admit their problems. And Shane encounters his ex-wife, who confesses she still loves him.

Once the couples seem to work all their differences out, they head back to the couples resort. Marcel, the lead therapist and resort owner, meets the couples at their rooms and, noticing that they seem truly happy, frees them from therapy.

Finally free, the newly invigorated couples are able to enjoy jet-skiing and swimming.

Like many comedies, “Couples Retreat” all-too quickly and conveniently wraps up everyone’s problems into a big happy ending.

Some deep and complex life issues are quickly fixed by a 45-second “life” conversation, five minutes before the end of the movie. It feels cheap and forced, as if the filmmakers just had no idea how to the movie.

Although some parts of the movie leave you puzzled, and the end lacks a true, strong finish, “Couples Retreat” is still hilarious and had everybody in the theater rolling in laughter.

“Couple’s Retreat” is a great movie to see with your girlfriend or boyfriend so you can see if you will encounter any of these problems in your relationship in the future.

I don’t regret taking the time out to see it.



COUPLES RETREAT INFO

Director:
Peter Billingsley

Starring:
Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman, Faizon Love, Jon Favreau, Kristin Davis

Filmed in:
Bora-Bora, Tahiti, French Polynesia, Los Angeles, USA

Estimated budget:
\$70,000,000

Release date:
9 October

Rated PG-13 by the MPAA



Andrew Laufer's movie rating:



(7 out of 10)

TOP TEN Best local restaurants

Bucks County is home to a lot of restaurants, both corporate and family owned Which are the best?

BY JOSH ROSEBORO
Centurion Staff

Bucks County is home to a lot of restaurants, both corporate-owned and mom-and-pop establishments. Considering one can have a meal from McDonald's literally anywhere in the world, the focus here will be on Bucks County's local flavor.

Here we present an assortment of restaurants, ranging from a simple diner food to pizza and even Chinese cuisine. Bucks County is also the closest thing one can get to getting an authentic "Philly Cheesesteak" without actually having to take a drive downtown

8 Casablanca
Warrington

Casablanca is one of the most interesting restaurants in Bucks County. It is located in Warrington on Easton Road. This restaurant is dedicated to Moroccan food, and you better come hungry and with friends because their serving sizes are massive. The food at Casablanca is something that needs to be experienced. One meal consists of eight courses and it is served family-style. The eating experience is unique because everyone in a party eats from one, giant platter. Casablanca offers different foods, like lamb and rabbit. It is definitely a restaurant for people who are not afraid of broadening their horizons. This restaurant makes one feel like they are in "Aladdin." There are male and female dancers that travel around the restaurant accepting tips from customers. The dancers only come out once and awhile, and they start playing finger bells to announce that they are coming out; it is definitely something to experience as well.



4 Golden Eagle
Croydon

Golden Eagle is a classic in Croydon. It's located on Route 13 and like the Pub, it has a room with huge windows, and it looks really neat from the outside. The food at the Golden Eagle is respectable, but one of the things that separates it from other diners is the bakery case. It is located in the front of the diner so that customers cannot miss it. The case is full of lot of good-looking sweets, such as pies and cannoli.



7 The Clubhouse
Bensalem

The Clubhouse Diner on Street Road is owned by the same people who own the Pub. The Clubhouse is different from the Pub in a lot of ways. The food at the Clubhouse is phenomenal, and they have very large portions. They know how to give a customer their money's worth. Some of the tables in the restaurant have machines that allow people to play games. They are touchscreen computers that have card games like Blackjack and Solitaire, but they also have games like bowling and Puck Shot, which is similar to Shuffleboard.



3 Catherine's
Bensalem

Catherine's in Bensalem on Bristol Road is another diner. It caters to old-school American cinema with their breakfast specials, named after celebrities: the Rodney Dangerfield, Humphrey Bogart and the Elvis Presley are just a few of them. On their kid's menu they have the Mickey Mouse waffle, so even younger kid's have a recognizable icon to see. Another cool thing about Catherine's is the movie posters that line the walls. "Casablanca" and "Gone with the Wind" are a couple of notable films represented. There is also the classic picture of Marilyn Monroe standing over the grate trying to keep her dress down.

10 Place One
Bensalem

A great Chinese restaurant is Place One in Bensalem. It can be found on Bristol Pike (Route 13). They offer Thai food as well. The people who work there are also very friendly. A very interesting thing about Place One is they have a vegetarian menu. The food found on the vegetarian menu is the same as on the regular menu, there is sesame chicken on both menus but one is made out of soy instead of chicken. It is nice to know Place One tries to cater to everyone.

9 King Long
Bensalem

King Long, located across from the Neshaminy Mall is home to quality Chinese food. They have a unique atmosphere inside the restaurant. As soon as you enter, there is a large Buddha statue ready to greet you, with a huge smile on his face. The employees are always friendly as well. The food is really good, and definitely worth a try. For some reason it is never busy there, which is nice if someone is looking for a quiet meal.

6 Apollo's
Bensalem

Apollo's on Route 13 in Bensalem has some of the best cheesesteaks and hoagies in the area. Their cheesesteaks are huge and are famous for being half a pound. The amount of meat on the sandwich is plentiful and for the price, they could compete with an authentic "Philly cheesesteak" as being the best around.



2 Tony's King of
Pizza
Bensalem

Tony's King of Pizza in Bensalem has a bold name, and it certainly lives up to it. Tony's offers the usual "pizza place" foods: hoagies, burgers, wings fries, etc. While the King may lack a unique menu, it is easily made up for by the quality of their food.



5 All Star Pizza
Bensalem

All Star Pizza is a pizzeria located on Knights Road in Bensalem. The pizza is some of the best in Bucks County. An assortment of pastas, such as spaghetti, penne, manicotti, ziti and lasagna grace the menu, because All Star is owned by an Italian family.

1 The Great American
Diner and Pub
Bensalem

The Great American Diner and Pub is a very well known place in Bucks County. It has two locations, one in Bensalem off of Street Road and another in Langhorne off of Old Lincoln Highway. The "Pub," as many locals call it is unique in that offers both a pub a diner experience. The Bensalem restaurant is almost like two different restaurants in one. There is a section that is set up like a diner and an area set up as a bar. The diner area has big open windows with a nice view of Street Road allowing customers to view traffic while they eat. The bar side of the restaurant has a more subdued look. It is darker because of the lack of big windows and it has dimmer lighting. There is a jukebox in this room which has a wide range of music allowing anybody to enjoy a song or two of their choice. The menu has a vast array of flavors. Burgers, boneless buffalo wings, pasta, salads, steak, fish; there is so much to choose from that it can be overwhelming.



Surviving that dreaded first date



BY HOPE KUMOR
Centurion Staff

First dates are difficult. They can be awkward, unfamiliar and make your heart beat a mile a minute. If this is the stage you're in right now, I'm here to

help you.

Dinner and movie sounds like a good date idea, but it's not. You can't talk during the movie, and he doesn't know whether he should put his arm around you, hold your hand or do nothing at all. As far as the dinner goes,

girls usually have a difficult time eating in front of guys. This is because they don't want to look like a pig or have stuff all over their face. Eventually a girl will get used to eating in front of you, but it will take some time. My boyfriend and I have been dating for 13 months and I still feel weird eating near him.

A nice first date idea is going bowling. This way there is something to distract you if it gets awkward. Bowling is fun because there's no pressure. You will enjoy each other's company. After this, if it's not dark out, you can take a walk in the park and watch the sunset. The reason I say make sure it's not dark is because the first time I hung out with my boyfriend, we went to the park after dark and didn't know we weren't supposed to be there. Each of us almost got a \$600 fine! I know everyone knows parks close after the sun sets.

It is actually cute to see a guy nervous on a first date. Both of you will be this way; just don't lock your keys in the car, or lose them. Let's just say I've had experience with that.

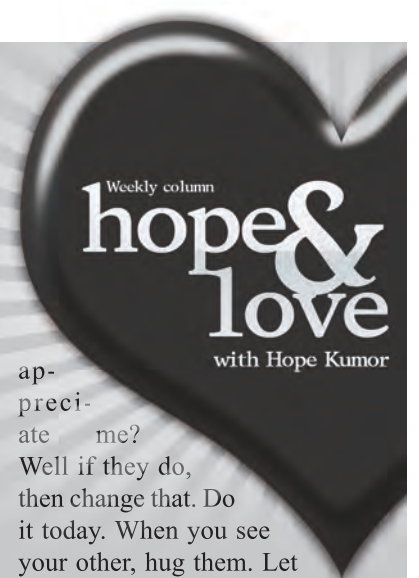
Here's a scenario: It's raining and everything you have planned is outside. What do you

do? Here are some suggestions: Go rollerblading, ice skating, laser tagging, or if you both like to read, the library or bookstore are great. Also, you could play video games.

Or, you could go old-school and take turns showing each other tapes of you when you were little. It will be a good way to open yourself up, if you really want to get to know one another. However, this might not be the best idea for a first date.

I would like everyone to think about this: Do you appreciate your other? You should always make sure to hold them, because you never know what tomorrow brings. Also, be sure to tell them how much you love them. A simple "I love spending time with you," would be a nice thing to say. If you don't say this now, when will you? What happens if it's too late? Then you will live with regret. Appreciating your other consists of taking a moment out of each day to say something like something like, "Thank you for everything you do for me."

Let's say your other is the only one who understands you and then all of a sudden they are gone. What will you do? Do they ever say, I don't think you



Weekly column
hope & love
with Hope Kumor

ap-
preci-
ate me?
Well if they do,
then change that. Do
it today. When you see
your other, hug them. Let
them know how much you
care about them.

Hugs are always nice to give or receive. They are especially good when you are having a bad day. It makes things so much better.

I would like to get some feedback from you guys. What do you think about these subjects I bring up? Let me know what you think through an e-mail.

Also, if I haven't talked about something you wish to know more about, e-mail me. Don't be shy.

I hope you will read my articles and stick with me. H pe

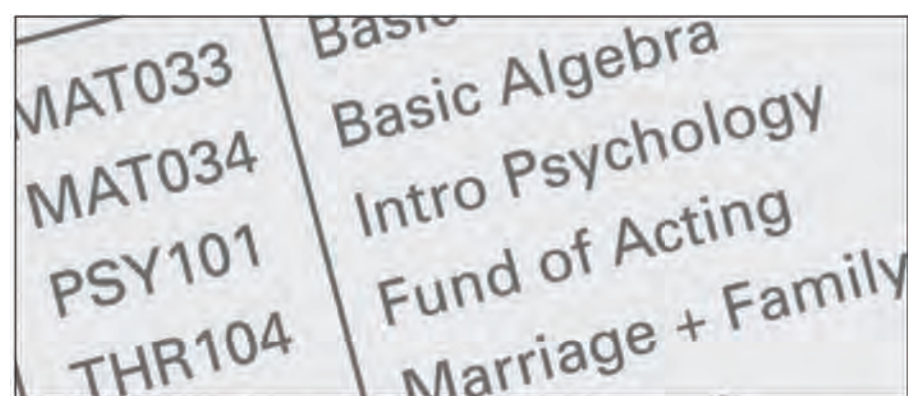
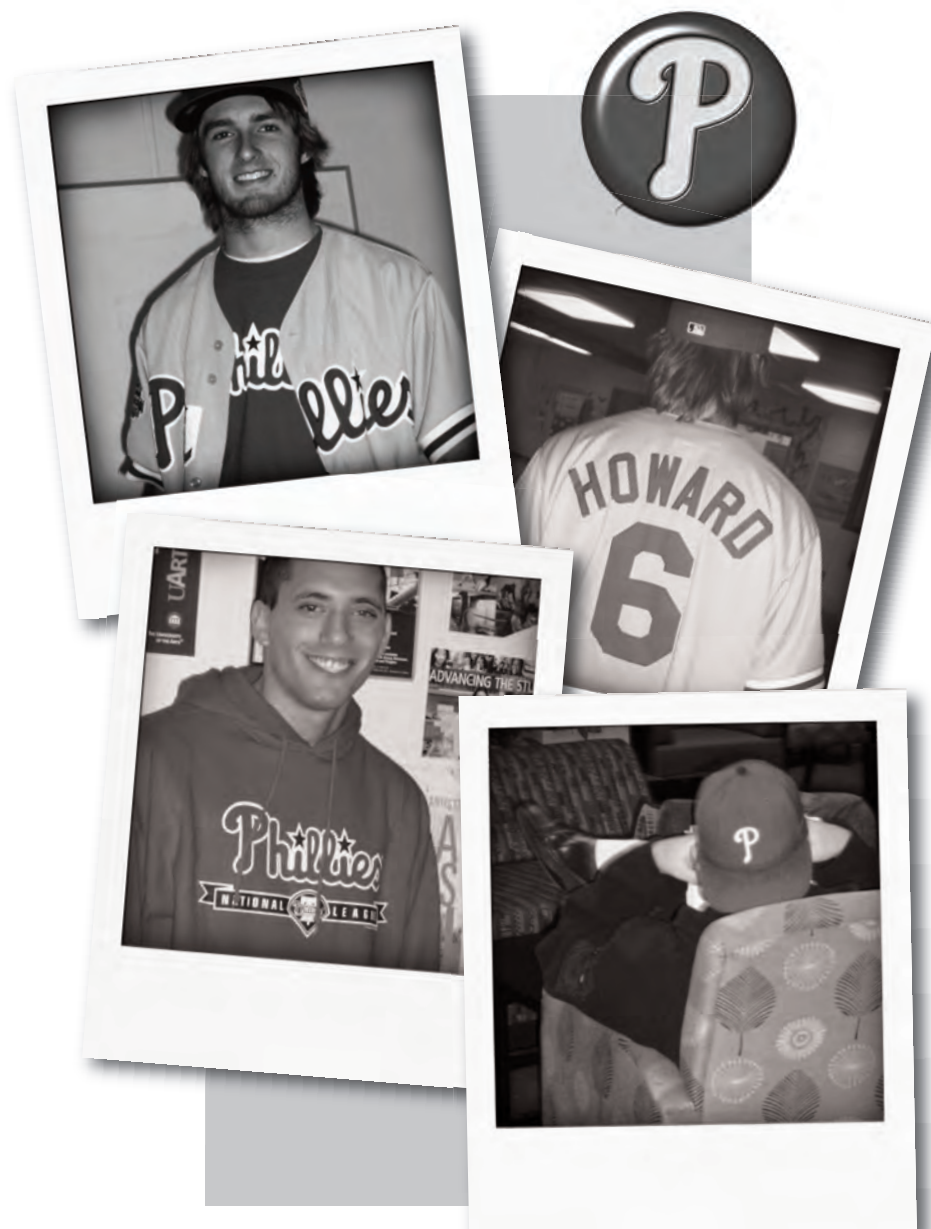
"2" Help.

QUESTIONS

Send your questions for
Hope Kumor to
hopeandlove89
@gmail.com

Phillies phan phever at Bucks

With the World Series playing out this week against the New York Yankees, the support for our Phillies can be seen all over campus.



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SPORTS

End of the road for Bucks men’s soccer

The men’s soccer team fought in heavy rain against Harrisburg but fell short, ending the season



Photo by Marites Mangonon

BY LIAM MCKENNA
Op/Ed Editor

The men’s soccer team is considered to be one of the best sports programs at Bucks. This season, the team fell one game short of being in the championship game and winning their second straight title.

“The team was very talented and knowledgeable again this year,” Coach Justin Burroughs said. “The issue this year was mental mistakes.”

“These mistakes kept showing up all year, both on defense and offense. Unfortunately, our strongest point was the midfield this season,” Burroughs said.

Burroughs said the majority of these mistakes were made on defense, and other teams would use this to their advantage by creating turnovers that led to goals.

“The opposing team always seemed to capitalize on our mistakes. Yet we never really capitalized on theirs,” Burroughs said. “When we took the field, 99 percent of the time, I felt we had the better of the other team.”

“I don’t know why we made a lot of mistakes,” Burroughs said. “At times we were outworked maybe because we overestimated ourselves.”

These errors were evident in the team’s final game, a 2-3 playoff loss to Harrisburg on Oct. 24. The game was also marked by poor weather, although Burroughs felt that made no difference.

“The rain played no role in our loss to Harrisburg,” Burroughs said. “We made some

mistakes early, maybe due to overconfidence, and fell behind early. We never really came back.”

Despite the loss, the team can look back on the season and consider it a success. They had an overall record of 11-6.

The first quarter of the season went well with a 3-1 record, including a big win against Philadelphia.

Through the first half of the year, the team was 4-4. They experienced their only consecutive losses of the season to Mercer and Reading.

In the second half of the season, the team went 7-2. They had blowout games against Lehigh Carbon, Philadelphia, Reading, and Northampton. In those games they outscored their opponents 28-2.

Winning has become a regular occurrence for the men’s soccer team; this is a huge feat for any community college athletic program.

Many of Bucks’ athletic programs struggle due to lack of interest and team chemistry. This happens partly due to community college students not having athletics high on their priority list. Burroughs has coached soccer here for the last five years. He has many reasons why there has been so much success over that time.

“You start by having a strong season, that gains more interest from students. Once there is strong interest, you can have more mandatory practices and shape your team around those who attend,” Burroughs said.

During the season, of the 22 players on the roster, roughly 20 would be at the practices. Burroughs looks forward to having the same amount of interest next year.

“Our players have off ‘till the spring. While some will transfer to another school for whatever reason, others do stay. So I take that and look towards next year in a positive manner,” Burroughs said.

As the team forms year after year, there is one key to success and interest: Scouting.

“After some success, other colleges begin to scout your players. That interest keeps talent coming in,” Burroughs said.

Rider University and Temple University are among the Division One colleges scouting Bucks players. There have also been many scouts from Divisions Two and Three.

“Since we’ve started having our players scouted, we’ve been able to not only push our players harder to improve on the field, but in school as well,” Burroughs said. “We’re now trying to show our players what it will be like in a major school.”

“Over my time as coach, we’ve had four players recruited and

taken in,” Burroughs said. “We give our players an opportunity to be scouted. After that, it’s the student’s responsibility to execute moving to that school.”

Among the top players receiving interest from colleges this year is midfielder Timothy Drabyak. He was the only player who was a captain as a freshman this year.

“Tim is our centerpiece; he is very important to our future,” Burroughs said.

The other captains on the team were goalie Christopher Shaffer and defenseman Samuel Fahn-

boto, both sophomores.

“Samuel was an all-league player, but he and Patrick DiLiegro got injured during the season,” Burroughs said. “However, we had a freshman, George Doenlen, step in and play really well on defense.”

“Our captains really did well in just keeping the team together,” Burroughs said. “There were freshmen nerves from the goalie to the forwards. In the end, the team was very levelheaded, and I knew they could dominate the other teams in the league.”

“The opposing team always seemed to capitalize on our mistakes”

BUCKSPORTSSCHEDULE

→ bucks.edu/life/athletics

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Date: Tue Nov 10
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Opponent: Stevens
Where: Home

Date: Sat Nov 14
Time: 3.00 p.m.
Opponent: Reading
Where: Away

Date: Tue Nov 17
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Opponent: Central Penn
Where: Home

Date: Thu Nov 19
Time: 8.00 p.m.
Opponent: Montgomery
Where: Away

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Date: Tue Nov 3
Time: 7.00 p.m.
Opponent: PBU
Where: Home

Date: Thu Nov 5
Time: 6.00 p.m.
Opponent: Northampton
Where: Away

Date: Tue Nov 17
Time: 6.00 p.m.
Opponent: Philadelphia
Where: Away

Date: Thu Nov 19
Time: 6.00 p.m.
Opponent: Montgomery
Where: Away

WEATHER

Forecast by NWS for 18940

TUE NOV 3
60° | 33°
Mostly sunny

WED NOV 4
51° | 36°
Mostly sunny

THU NOV 5
51° | 33°
Showers

FRI NOV 6
49° | 31°
Mostly sunny

SAT NOV 7
51° | 39°
Partly cloudy

SUN NOV 8
58° | 41°
Partly cloudy

MON NOV 9
56° | 40°
Mostly sunny