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THE CENTURION

Bucks County Community College
The week of April 20, 2010
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Student government elections at Bucks

BY: ANDREW FISHER
Centurion Staff

Bucks held elections this week for 10 positions in the Student Government Association.

Students could vote online at <https://eBallot.votenet.com/bucks>

The only problem was, as of press time only one student was running for office.

"The Student Government Association, or SGA, acts as the representative body for all Bucks students," Director of Student Life Programs and adviser to the student government Matthew Cipriano explained.

Students were supposed to vote on executive board positions of president, vice president of executive orders, vice president of activities, executive treasurer, executive secretary, and the councilor positions of councilor for student involvement, councilor for public relations, councilor for clubs and organizations, councilor for student advocacy, and councilor at large.

Cipriano said even though one candidate was running, students could nominate write-in candidates online.

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Bucks library wins award

BY: JOHN MACDONALD
News Editor

The world-class Bucks library program has been recognized for its leadership in information literacy.

The library won the 2010 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award (EAL Award) for community college libraries, "a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding services, programs and leadership they

provide to their students, faculty, administrators and community," according to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) press release announcing this year's award.

Dr. Maureen McCreadie, dean of learning resources (which includes the library) said, "We think of it as an award for entire college; we want students and faculty to celebrate along with us."

McCreadie emphasizes that

winning this award could not have happened "without the latitude and support given to Learning Resources by Provost Annette Conn and the college as a whole."

This remarkable achievement was the result of the dedicated work of the entire Learning Resources staff. She particularly credited the contributions of an "awesome group of librarians."

Bill Hemmig, Online Librarian, Margaret Montet,

and Linda McCann, director of library Services, prepared the winning award application.

"The selection committee was impressed with the library's commitment to areas often underrepresented in community college libraries, including fundraising and development," noted Julie Todaro, chair of the 2010 EAL Selection Committee, in the press release.

Learning Resources and the

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While it may be rare, the Bucks basketball team suffered through a disappointing season

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Student government elections at Bucks

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“While the people holding the elected positions do a lot of work, we do our best to keep it democratic by encouraging the students who make up the Bucks student population to give us their voices and ideas by talking to the SGA,” said Cipriano.

Students could vote by signing into the website using their student identification name and password. Students could vote only once for each position.

Had there been numerous candidates, “In the event of a tie in votes, we let the students who are running work it out together, but if they cannot come to a compromise, we do a runoff election to decide the victor,” Cipriano said.

Any student who has main-

tained a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and completed one semester at Bucks can run for office.

Students who want to run for a SGA position must speak to Cipriano in the Student Life office in Rollins 112. He gives students an election candidate application packet that explains all the details about what students who wish to run for election must know.

Often, a student will wait until the last minute to campaign for election.

Campaigning usually includes putting up flyers as well as talking to fellow students online and in person.

“Campaigning can make a huge difference because it’s not uncommon for students to get favored in an election simply because they are more popular than most other students,” said Cipriano.

The elected students will be officially sworn in to their positions at the Student Awards Luncheon in May.



Cipriano said, “We often have to deal with open positions since students unexpectedly transfer from time to time, and we fill these positions by appointment. Some students have asked to switch positions simply because they didn’t like

what their job entailed.”

While it is not an issue that any political group would want to consider, the idea of impeachment has come up in the past, often for personality conflicts, though no student has ever been impeached.

There is a personal conduct policy in place for the students holding SGA positions, which means that a student can lose his position not only for committing a serious infraction on campus, but also if it is discovered that they’ve committed an infraction off campus.

The SGA meets once a week on Tuesdays from about 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and they discuss anything pertaining to the college.

While the SGA’s primary

concern is what happens within the borders of the campus, issues from outside Bucks will often arise. Any construction that occurs on the local roads is often discussed since it can affect transportation to and from the campus.

The recent Haiti earthquake has prompted the SGA to begin a fundraiser called “Hearts for Haiti” to donate money and valuables to the people of the nation of Haiti.

The SGA has always had a good reputation for keeping a budget. Budgeting and funding have, according to Cipriano, never been an issue.

To better the college, SGA members, especially the executive ones, should be available to talk to students with concerns.

Award of excellence for Bucks library

Bucks’ incredible library has won the 2010 national excellence in academic libraries award

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library work closely with Information Technology, said McCreadie.

Todaro said the library’s “productive partnership with IT was also noteworthy.”

The innovative and collaborative spirit of McCreadie and her staff is an important part of the reason that Bucks has a world-class library program. She explained that information literacy (IL) is integrated across all curricula at Bucks and said the award was also due the faculty that incorporate IL in their teaching.

The IL Mission Statement created by Montet, in collaboration with all of the Bucks librarians, McCann and McCreadie, states that “The mission of the Bucks County Community College library’s IL program is to collaborate with classroom faculty to

teach students how to find, retrieve, evaluate, and use information ethically and efficiently for success in their courses and as lifelong learners.”

IL sessions are conducted in the library’s popular multipurpose Learning Studio.

The library’s award application states that the Learning Studio is available for “group work, individual study, or any form of classroom use.” There are laptops with wireless access available for students, and “instructors have access to a mobile instructor’s station with projection capabilities and Internet2 access.”

One innovation is the MInDSpace (Media and Instructional Design) multimedia lab, featuring 11 PCs and Macintosh computers that are equipped with the latest multimedia applications. MInDSpace is “designed to bring 21st-century learning

skills to 21st-century students and their instructors, in order to foster awareness of new media literacies and skills,” according to Bucks’ application.

Online courses are burgeoning at Bucks. Hemmig and Montet have a strategy to bring “the same focused IL instruction for online courses that is offered in face-to-face courses.”

Hemmig’s team of “Embedded eBrarians” deploy “online, tutorials, dedicated electronic discussions, videos, LibGuides, delicious.com and other technologies” available through the Library’s website and online course workspaces.

McCreadie also credited the Technology Learning Center (TLC) as being an important factor in winning the award. The TLC provides technology assistance for an array of applications and internet access and provides comput-

ers for student use.

The award criteria seemed “made just for us,” she said. Two of the three criteria in the award guidelines were “creativity and innovation” and “Leadership in developing and implementing exemplary programs that other libraries can emulate.”

She pointed out MInDSpace and TLC as two of the many Bucks innovations that other libraries are emulating. “We have been in the lead in the fields of information literacy and the new media; other libraries follow us.”

The LR staff is working hard to remain at the cutting edge of IL and learning technologies. Matt Siebert, Emerging Technologies Librarian, talked about two projects that are currently under way.

He noted that the library is evaluating various mobile communication applications for use vehicles to provide

students and faculty with access to educational content. Networking applications like Facebook are also being considered as vehicles for providing course content and facilitating student and faculty interaction and collaboration.

The challenge of keeping up with ever-changing technology in order to properly serve the Bucks community keeps McCreadie and her staff motivated.

Receiving a prestigious national award for “doing what we love ... is a bonus beyond our imagining,” she said in a Bucks press release.

The \$3,000 award and plaque will be formally presented at the Bucks’ Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, May 13.

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Professor profile: Stanley Timek

BY: JESSE TROUT
Centurion Staff

A class full of students sits eagerly on the edge of their seats, in anticipation of the professor's next action or engaging question. Now, 20 minutes into Media and Society, and immersed in an entertaining yet educational student-professor discussion, you wonder in your head, "could this class get any better?"

Almost as if Professor Stan Timek could tell what you were thinking... he quickly reacts. At that very moment Timek, dressed in a dark brown V-neck sweater, tan creased khakis, and dress shoes, hops up onto a bench resting near the massive chalkboard and confidently projects out towards his audience, much like a seasoned Shakespearian actor.

Question answered: Yes this class could get better. It just did.

"I'm passionate about teaching," Timek says, "as such I draw from all of my life experiences to make my classes interesting and relevant."

His passion for teaching is intriguing and sincere, and also strikingly evident from the minute a lecture or PowerPoint of his begins, as his energetic personality gets the entire class excited to discuss the latest media tactics and how we as a society adapt.

Timek's ability to speak in front of a lecture hall packed with mostly 20-something college students and keep them focused on one main idea for an entire hour and 15 minutes is no small feat. He is able to do so by speaking with conviction and working the entire classroom - pacing the room left-to-right, right-to-left with eyes focused intently on his audience.

Many students are juggling three or four other courses, stressing about work, or are too engrossed in their cell-phones or I-Pod. However, gadgets and wandering student minds are no problem for this professor. His swift hand movements while he's speaking during his PowerPoint presentations keep the students hanging onto the last word and will have the effect of a classroom hibachi.

But instead of the entertainment and food, you receive entertainment and an educa-



tion.

Professors also face a challenging task depending on the various opinions, personalities, and views of their students. But Timek does a tremendous job getting every student involved in class discussions, and an even better job relating the subject matter to a classroom full of students with differing viewpoints.

"I strive to make the learning environment fun and engaging. I want my students to understand the subjects I teach and how they can use the information/knowledge in their lives," he says.

That seems to be the driving force behind the growing enthusiasm for this class.

Not all professors have this degree of devotion to their students. In some cases, they may be teaching at the collegiate

level for the esteem, the 'professor' title, or monetary reasons; but these are not the reasons why Timek became a professor at Bucks.

Instead, Timek says he teaches because he enjoys the overall interaction with students who are also interested in communication. He wants his students to become better media producers or consumers, and most importantly he enjoys helping them become "the best that they can be - whether it's a writer, director, camera person, or businessperson in the industry."

To understand his inspiration for teaching communication classes and the direction he envisions his career taking, you must first realize what/who has gotten Timek to be the person and professor that he is today.

Timek grew up just outside of Pittston, Pennsylvania and graduated from King's College in Wilkes Barre with a degree in mass communication; he went on to receive his Master's Degree from Bloomsburg University in Instructional Technologies.

Throughout early childhood and as his education continued, he says, "always having good teachers in high school and beyond, and in general having interesting life experiences," all contributed to making him the person and professor he is today.

"Being blessed with a good family environment growing up," Timek says was another huge factor that he feels played a pivotal role in his development.

That healthy family life has continued into his adult life

with his family. Timek says he enjoys basketball, hiking, various other outdoor activities, and playing games with his family.

While currently teaching at a part-time basis at Bucks, Timek still has many goals as he hopes to continually grow in every aspect of his profession and beyond.

"My aspirations are to continually grow as an instructor, a person, and as a businessman," he says.

With set goals, a positive outlook, and a welcoming personality such as Timek's... personal and professional growth is only a matter of when, not if.

Role Play theatre preview

BY: ALEJANDRA LEWANDOWSKI
Centurion Staff

From April 22-24 at 8 p.m. in the Gateway Auditorium, the Bucks Department of the Arts will present "Role Play," a theater production starring Bucks students and directed by Bucks professor Michelle Pentimall Bookler. Tickets will be available at the door, and are \$5 for students and \$7 for nonstudents.

At a recent rehearsal, the Gateway Auditorium is dim and hushed. Four students stand onstage, carefully reciting lines and interacting.

"Try smiling!" is the first direction from Bookler. "Prove how much you admire yourself."

Though many actors would have no problem with this last direction, these Bucks students are sincere and humble; or at least, they are acting like it.

The theater production "Role Play" is actually four short, one-act plays.

In "A Contest," a young couple battles over who has it rougher, men or women.

In "The Most Massive



Woman Wins," four women about to have liposuction discuss why they feel the need for perfection.

Two guys cruising for babes on a Saturday night star in "Louis and Dave," and they discover new sides of each other.

Finally, in "Impromptu," four actors on stage improvise a play and find out who they are behind their characters.

"The general theme is the roles that we play in our daily lives," said Bookler, roles including gender, leadership, and the ever-secondary "main

character's best friend."

Bobby Lang, 21, a theater major from Newtown, said that the production will "bring out the reality as well as the humor" of the issues explored in the plays.

Next, four new actors take the stage, ready to rehearse "Impromptu." Lang takes a seat in the center of the front row.

At once, the students seem to slip effortlessly into their characters, engaging in lively dialogue. Every now and then, an actor shouts, "Line!" and Lang reads out the character's line to

the actor.

Lang and the other students in Bookler's Play Production class contribute, whether by becoming an assistant stage manager, finding props, or making costumes, among the many tasks needed to put on a show.

Becky Schneider, 22, a communications major from Princeton, fills in for an actress who is unable to make this rehearsal. Schneider carries a copy of the script, but interacts with the rest of the characters flawlessly. She said that it's not difficult, and that she's comfortable doing cold readings.

Cold readings, during which actors are handed a copy of the script minutes before they take the stage, are an integral and often harrowing part of theater auditions.

Rehearsing is challenging, said Bookler, because students have classes, work and other obligations, and it is tough to find a balance. Still, they manage to come together and work their magic.

"It's a great process going from auditions to the finale,"

said Nick Creighton, 20, a communications performance major from Richboro. "The cast gets close."

Jeff Barth, 19, a communications performance major from Holland, agrees. "A great part of it is that it's a collaborative effort; it's great that all these talented artists can come together and make something special," he said.

Ultimately, the humility and sincerity shown onstage are genuine.

"The students are working hard and are going to come out with a production that we can all be proud of," said Bookler.

Those attending the show, Bookler said with a smile, will get a fun night and a chance to laugh. But they will also learn about the dangers of "playing a part."

A line from "Impromptu" sums up the message of the production. About the audience, Schneider reads, "They're no different from us. Except that when the curtain falls and the house lights come up, they'll have to go on-improvising."

Help prevent tuition raises

BY: JOHN STRAUSS
Centurion Guest Writer

So—how 'bout that tuition raise? Pretty frustrating, huh?

Sure, it's not like Villanova, where for this year, tuition went up by the cost of an entire year at Bucks, but it's a matter of scale and necessity. People go to Bucks because of its low cost and high quality education. Of course, costs do go up, and the college needs to deal with that. But it's still frustrating.

There are particular reasons that tuition has risen as much as it has in the last several years, probably the biggest of which is a decline in outside funding.

When community colleges were started in Pennsylvania, it was with the idea that they would be funded one-third by tuition, one-third by the sponsoring county, and one-third by the state.

Historically, for Bucks, that has rarely applied: the state has, up until recently, provided

one-third, but the county has lagged behind, leaving students to take up the slack, paying more than their ideal one-third.

But now it's gotten worse: tuition pays for half of the college's budget. Part of the reason is that a number of years ago, the state changed the way it funded community colleges and put a cap on funding for increases in the number of students, so that, as Bucks President James Linksz tells me, after a certain point, the more they grow, the less they get per student.

That's right—community colleges essentially wind up being penalized for having more students! In a time when everyone is saying that higher education is the best way to get out of the high unemployment and low economy swamp which is plaguing the entire country, funding for the institutions that are accessible to the largest number of students is dropping. (Because home sales are down due to the recession,

county coffers are lower as well, so our funding from there is even lower—but we'll save that discussion for another time.) It just doesn't make sense, does it?

In last week's Centurion article about the tuition hike, a number of students said that Bucks is still a good deal (yes, it is) and the additional cost would not be a deterrent. Certainly, many students feel the same way, and we appreciate the dedication.

However, even this action is only stop-gap; other things may become necessary to offset costs—things that may interfere with that quality education that brings so many here. Think cutting courses. Cutting back programs.

And much more. They're not happening here yet, but they are strategies in use elsewhere. The way to prevent them is to get our other funding up to where it should be.

What can we do?

You can help.

Next week, you will see faculty members staffing tables in the cafeteria lobby and at central spots on the Perkasio and Bristol campuses.

They will have postcards to state representatives and senators, sample letters and talking points, and sign-up sheets for Community College Lobbying Day.

Sign a postcard asking your state representative to fully fund the state's share of the community college budget. Even more effective, write a personal letter about your own experience at Bucks to show your representative how important it is to appropriately fund community colleges.

But best of all, sign up to go to Harrisburg for Community College Lobbying Day.

The Bucks County Community College Federation of Teachers (the organization that represents and is made up of Bucks professors), along with the college itself, is co-sponsoring a trip for students, faculty, and staff

to the state capitol on Tuesday, April 27.

There, we will speak with our representatives about what the college brings to its students and its community and how essential its improved funding is.

To reinforce the message, we also will give them your postcards and letters—hopefully bags of them.

If enough of us participate, we can make ourselves heard.

The bus will leave from the college at 7 a.m. and return around 5:30 that evening. You can get further information and sign up at the tables, or contact John Strauss at (215) 968-8177 or straussjohn@bucks.edu.

John Strauss is a professor in the Department of Language and Literature and president of the Bucks County Community College Federation of Teachers.

Cooper helps students succeed

Marie Cooper, Bucks' disability services director, says her job is rewarding and challenging

BY: KRISTIN MEADE
Centurion Staff

Bucks' Marie Cooper says she loves her job. But what exactly is it that she does to help students here at Bucks?

Cooper is the director of the college's Disability Services office, a service created to help Bucks students with physical or learning disabilities have an equal chance to be successful in college.

Cooper, who has been running the disability services office for 24 years, says her job is very rewarding.

The most rewarding part of her job is, "watching a student grow, learning things about him or herself, watching that light bulb go off," she said.

However, this isn't always easy for Cooper, as she knows the students she works with are struggling with more disability-related issues than just academic stress.

"It's always challenging when you learn there are significant issues that affect their ability to do well." The past five years have made this aspect of her work particularly challenging for Cooper, as her position as director has her handling more administrative responsibility for her office, in addition to communicating and meeting with students.

One of the things, however, that helps Cooper deal with the stress of her job is that she understands exactly what her students are going through. Like the majority of her students, Cooper has a physical disability.

She doesn't let this stop her when it comes to working with them. While she said her students' reactions to this news vary, she doesn't see anything negative about her disability when it comes to her work at the college. "It helps me with those that can relate," said Cooper.

She also said she understands that many students have a hard time explaining their disability and how it affects the way they learn. Cooper suspects that some of these difficulties maybe a result of her students' high school experience.

She points out that while Bucks' services provide more support with technologies, such as the use of tape recorders and alpha smart word processors, high schools



have a very different approach to dealing with students' disabilities. According to Cooper, disability issues are often "handled for the student" in high school, which makes the transition from high school to college very difficult for some.

According to Cooper, Bucks provides more support services for transitioning students than some other colleges and continues to come with new ways to do so. Within the last two years, Cooper and her co-worker, learning disabilities specialist Marge Zipin, have introduced the Achieving College Transitions Now (ACT) course for high school juniors and seniors who are considering Bucks as a place to start. This is a four-session course designed to prepare students for their future.

ACT isn't limited to college

skills. Cooper and her staff understand that college isn't for everyone, whether they have a disability or not. One of Cooper's goals and the goal of the ACT course is to help students make the decision that's right for them.

For those who do choose to attend Bucks after they graduate, the course focuses on what to expect as far as college level coursework, what services are available to students with disabilities, and how to provide proper documentation of a disability in order to receive those accommodation services.

Cooper says she plans to continue with her work for years to come.

"I love my work. I guess I'll do it until I don't," she added.

It isn't just helping students with disabilities that Cooper loves. She also enjoys being

involved with several of the college's committees and working with all of the school's staff and students. According to Cooper, she and her staff don't exclude or discriminate. They provide assistance to anyone at the college who needs it.

The disability services office participates in Bucks' New Student Orientation to describe their work to new students who potentially qualify for academic accommodations. In addition, Cooper and her staff also provide disability services for students taking classes at the Bristol and Perkasio campuses.

Cooper is continuously working to improve the quality of services offered at the two additional campuses. The disability services office now offers an educational session at the Bristol campus called

Disability 101. The purpose of Disability 101 is to educate Bucks faculty on how to provide eligible students the necessary academic adjustments needed because of their disabilities. According to Cooper, Disability 101 will be available at the Perkasio campus sometime in the near future.

If anyone has any questions, they can contact Cooper at 215-968-8463 or visit disability services, located in Rollins rooms 11, 12 and 14. It is also open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lower Bucks keeps growing

BY: JENNIFER BELL
Centurion Staff

The Lower Bucks Campus has grown dramatically in its first three years, with spring enrollment jumping 13.8 percent from a year ago.

“We have close to 1,900 students,” says Executive Director James Sell. “There were 1,000 students at the Bristol Center,” the Lower Bucks Campus’ former building, in 2007.

Full-time unduplicated students (those who are only counted for Lower Bucks, based on the majority of credits taken) total 444, up 16.5 percent, while part-time unduplicated students total 814, up 11.7 percent from last spring.

Evening classes are at 90 to 100 percent capacity, Sell says, while day classes are at 60 to 70 percent.

“Certain nights, we’re at the max. Lower Bucks is growing the most of the three campuses, percentage wise,” Sell says. “Online learning is bigger than all of them.”

The Bristol Center was

focused on night classes, Sell points out.

Sell, a Bucks alumnus who helped launch the Lower Bucks Campus, says students are drawn by the attractive building, its proximity – students can get there by bike, bus and I-95 – and “our ability to offer all the sections we want. We’ve been aggressive with the number and depth of courses.”

He adds, “Students are staying here, for the most part,” as opposed to taking classes at the Newtown campus. “It’s the college. Bucks has an amazing reputation. Students do well when they move on.”

One indication of the enrollment increase is the crowded parking lot behind the two-story brick building.

“In the evening, when the campus is typically at full capacity due to the evening schedule of credit and non-credit classes, the parking lot is also at just about capacity,” Sell says. “There are still spaces. We have not reached the point yet where students and faculty can’t find a spot in

the lot.”

Sell says there are plans to build a lot in front of the building, possibly by the end of the year. “This new parking area was part of the original design for the campus, and will at some point ... surround an additional building when the campus is expanded,” he says.

In addition to making the most use of the campus’ 24 classrooms, six computer labs, two instruction rooms, science labs and library, the campus has a chemistry lab in the Dow Chemical building (Rohm & Haas) in Bristol Borough.

Increased enrollment has also resulted in student requests to form clubs, such as a Literature Club and possibly a Black and Latino Association, Sell says. “Next fall or spring, we’ll bring some art groups to campus.”

He adds, “Student events are well attended. We’ve had the Mummies here and a Cheese steak Day.”

Sell stresses the importance of raising the social consciousness, pointing out the success of the Cassalia Pond clean-up,



conducted each semester by students, faculty and neighbors of the wet lands behind the parking lot. At the most recent event, last month, 39 volunteers pulled tires, bottles, bike parts, a mattress and metal fencing from the pond.

Next semester, enrollment should continue to increase, Sell says.

“As long as we’re increasing the number and the breadth of courses,” the executive director says, “we’re doing OK.”



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Healthcare reform impacts Bucks students

BY: JOHN MACDONALD
Centurion Staff

Now that healthcare reform has become law and the dust of the contentious debate has begun to settle, Bucks students ponder what the new healthcare law means for them.

Dependent students covered on parents' policies until age 26

Many Bucks students should benefit from a provision that allows dependent young adults to remain on their parents' health insurance policies up to age 26. "Nice," was how Julia Valdetto, 21, a psychology major from Warminster, reacted to this news.

Like millions of other Americans, Valdetto lost her health insurance coverage when she became unemployed.

As long as she remains her parents' dependent, Valdetto will be able to get health insurance coverage for the next five years through their policies.

Mwansa Mupunda, 30, a nursing major from Bristol, is too old to benefit from this provision.

Mupunda is as employed as an L.P.N. and has health insurance coverage through his employer.

There are numerous provisions in the new law, however, that will benefit those like Mupunda, who already have private health insurance.

No more denials for pre-existing conditions

Health insurance companies will no longer be able refuse to pay medical costs for children or adults with pre-existing conditions. Also, companies can no longer terminate coverage simply because someone becomes sick.

Bucks students who are majoring in healthcare related professions will also benefit. The new law will provide additional government funding for training of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. "That's great news for students like me," said Mupunda, who intends to become an R.N.

Cheaper Student Loans and More Grant Money

The new healthcare legislation also contains provisions that make sweeping reforms to the student loan and Pell Grant systems. President Obama highlighted these reforms by signing the bill that contained them, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, Va.

Unlike the present system of banks using government money to issue student loans, the government will loan the money to directly to the college students. The loans will still be serviced through private companies under performance-based contracts with the government.

"By cutting out the middleman, we'll save American taxpayers \$68

billion," said President Obama when he signed the Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act. Obama said in his speech that the savings would be reinvested "to help improve the quality of higher education and make college more affordable."

According to the ABC World News website, the changes include more than \$2 billion (distributed over a four-year period) in funding for community colleges. The new law also caps the amount of annual student loan repayments for graduates at 10 percent, down from the previous 15 percent cap.

Mupunda and Valdetto welcome these changes as good news. Mupunda said that these changes would help him directly.

Valdetto said the changes should also help those who either can't attend college or have to drop out because of financial issues.

Dustin Ciukurescu, 20, a kinesiology major from

Richboro, and Lou O'Connor, 19, a psychology major, are not supporters of the reforms.

O'Connor and Ciurescu said that the changes to the loan and grants programs might be beneficial, but doubt that the changes will actually be put in to effect. Ciukurescu reserves his final judgment until he sees what actually happens.

Penalties for failure to buy health insurance not as bad as students fear

O'Connor and Ciukurescu are concerned about being required to have health insurance.

Beginning in 2014 people who don't purchase health insurance will be required to pay a penalty.

According to The New York Times, in 2014, the

penalty will be one percent of income or \$95, whichever is greater. By 2016 the penalty increases to up to 2.5 percent of income or \$2,085 per household, whichever is greater. People would only be fined after going three months without insurance.

Concerned students are not alone.

According to CNN, officials from 14 states including Pennsylvania have filed lawsuits. Those suing are calling the penalties unconstitutional.

"If, for instance, I only make \$26,000 a year after I graduate, how will I afford 8,500?" asked one concerned student.

In 2016 someone making \$26,000 would pay a penalty of \$650 a year, at most, a far cry from the \$8,500 some fear having to pay in the future.

The reforms will be putting a lot of money into community colleges and might prove positive for a lot of Bucks students.



It's Mac's Manic Musings

BY: JOHN MACDONALD
Centurion Staff

Buttface, Fritter, Granny Gang Wars, Janitorville, and cybersex--is this really what life has become in the Twenty-First Century?

To find out, I asked Jack Jackson, a 27-year-old Bucks e-student where and how he spends his time.

Jackson responded, "In cyberspace, of course, what planet are you from?"

When I told him Earth, he said, "Never heard of it. What website is it on?"

Jackson, who hasn't been out of his apartment in months, used to spend a lot of time on the social networking site, Fritter, but found it to be "a waste of time." Now he spends it on Buttface, the new anti-social networking site where relationships are based on the old Middle-Eastern adage: "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

"Common hatred has a way of really bringing people together," notes Jackson, who has 8,473 friends on Buttface. Jackson explains: "On Buttface, you get to butt people that you don't like.

When you butt someone their face is superimposed over an unappealing buttocks photograph."

"The buttocks picture gets grosser and grosser the more that they are butted.

You are notified when someone else butts someone you have butted, allowing you to friend that person," said Jackson.

Jackson likes to play online games on Buttface like "Granny Gang Wars," in which you build up a gang of grandmothers and try to muscle in on other gang's territories.

To succeed in Granny Gang Wars, you need to have lots of friends playing the game who will send you things that you need in order to proceed to the next highest level. Jackson showed me a message Granny Gang Wars sent about his friend, Tina Swanson, a 25-year-old social work major: "Tina has to get rid of six bloody meat hooks in a hurry and needs her friends to help her out."

Jackson reacted quickly and received a coveted and rarely available bloody meathook. Jackson had been envious of Tina, who was at a higher level of play. "Now that I've got a

meathook, my Granny will be able to finally torture and maim her victims too."

Jackson finds balance in his cyberlife by also playing "Janitorville," a 'public service' game in which you run a cleaning crew and clean up other peoples messes. Jackson started out emptying trash cans and ashtrays. Now he is more advanced and is currently cleaning out a cyber-sewage plant.

"The graphics are out-of-sight", noted Jackson, "all the filth in the plant is portrayed as real as real can be..." He added, "The only thing that I miss is the smell. I guess that you have to be willing to sacrifice something to live the cyberspace life."

I asked Jackson if he missed going out and meeting women. His response: "Why would I? I've had cybersex with beautiful women from all over the world."

Jackson finds cybersex much more convenient than actually having to deal with real women: "Real women are such a hassle.

They expect you to have an intelligent conversation with them.

"That's way too hard for

me," Pointing to his mouse, Jackson says, "with cybersex, sexual relief is always within my grasp."

"Cybersex frees me up and allows me to explore new sexual horizons," adds Jackson. He says: "Well, posing as 'Lola'--I am a Lou Reed freak--I had a cybersex affair in a chat room with a handsome man named 'Jack.'"

I asked Jackson if it didn't disturb him that 'Jack' was probably a fictitious persona and that he had no idea who he was revealing his sexual secrets to. "Man, you are way too hung on up reality; get with it," said Jackson.

"One of the hottest cyber affairs I ever had was with a 22-year-old dominatrix named Brandy. It turns out that 'Brandy' is actually Damian, a 69-year-old male slaughter house worker from Krakow. What do I care? Brandy's hot," Jackson said.

"Sadly, our affair was interrupted when Brandy was arrested for exposing herself to a busload of tourists. I got very jealous that she exposed her, or should I say his, privates to strangers," Jackson said.

I noted that promiscuity

seemed to be everywhere these days, and at least with cybersex, you can't catch any nasty diseases.

"You are so wrong," countered Jackson. "I once visited a cheap porn site and caught the nastiest virus you could imagine, knocked me off-line for over a week."

Jackson is moving from his apartment to a cheap motel room: "I'm wasting money on things that I don't need, like a living room or kitchen. I get all my food delivered. My motel room has everything: a bed, a desk, and a bathroom. It has free internet access and even cable TV, in case I want contact with the real world."

Jackson plans to buy a '65-inch flat-screen, hi-def TV. "That way everything will be bigger than life."

Jackson eagerly anticipates his move: "Brandy is getting out of jail on the same day that I move in. I just know that we are going to heat up cyberspace all over again.

Who knows? Maybe my relationship with Brandy will finally turn out to be the real thing. I'm getting tired of playing around."

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Are you
ready for
what's
next?

Dr. Genovese

A licensed professional counselor gives love advice

BY HOPE KUMOR
Op/Ed Editor

Ever wonder what love or falling in love is? What's the definition of a romantic relationship? The key aspects of a relationship? Well these questions are answered by Caroline "Carrie" Genovese, the behavioral science adjunct professor at Bucks. She's also a licensed professional counselor.

"Love is about wanting someone not needing someone and about being able to care for and about yourself. It takes maturity and sophistication to manage love," says Carrie.

She said she read somewhere that the body changes and there's these biochemical changes which could be the reason why we can't eat or sleep.

She mentioned that your emotions stem from that person and they can impact your personality.

"While falling in love, you're consumed by that person. Thoughts and behaviors revolve around that person," says Carrie.

She says while some people describe the process of falling in love as having butterflies in their stomachs when around the person, others say they start realizing that they are constantly thinking about the person.

"For some their body tells

them, 'I want to vomit, or have a dry mouth.'"

They're a wreck. Some it's their brain thinking about when they will be talking to

them next.

"Others act or dress differently," says Carrie.

She also said love and hate are similar because you think about that person. You think of how you will get back at them for what they did. And you think about how they're doing.

"Usually behind hate is hurt. We're normally hurt by people we care about"

Carrie says that people in a successful relationship will have compatible values, really good communication skills,

personal awareness- knowing you're not holding your partner accountable for past baggage.

While talking about

one is at risk of breaching the expectations in the relationship," says Carrie.

Her key elements to a relationship are erotic, with a happy ending, intimate and romantic.

"Intimacy is a deep, understanding, raw and fragile. It doesn't have to be sex.

I don't see it as sex; I see it as divulging your soul. Gestures that show someone you like them are romantic. Love should have all three of those," says Carrie with a smile.

She also discussed reality shows.

"Everything is paid for. You don't have a couple that could deal with conflict. You're worried about who wins the next date," says Carrie.

When asked about trust in a relationship, she said it will grow overtime and when it's challenged it makes the relationship fragile.

"If you can trust your partner, you realize 'I don't have to know everyone on their con-

tact list,'" says Carrie.

Her advice is to allow yourself to get uncomfortable while talking about the subject you're worried about to fix the situation.

"Realize your relationship is much more significant than that party or that e-mail," says Carrie.

Carrie has been married for 11 years to Keith Noto. The reason why she never changed her last name is because she had started her practice and wasn't sure if people would recognize her name if it was different.

"One day I hope we can put our names together to form 'Genoto,' that's why my e-mail is that," says Carrie.

Her final words of wisdom.

"No one knows if love will end but know that the courage to love is admirable"

"Healing from the loss of love takes time, but everyone can heal from it, taking as much time as you need. But eventually you should consider finding love again."

The Big Four Factors

A healthy relationship needs to have these qualities

1. Trust: the person does what they say they'll do when they say they'll do it
2. Open Communication: listen and talk
3. Boundaries: leave space for your other to be an individual
4. Respect: being able to disagree in a friendly way

Source: The Elsie S. Shenk Women's and Wellness Center

QUESTIONS?

Have a love question or comment?

Email Hope at
hopandlove89@gmail.com

She's on Facebook too! Friend her (Hopeand Love).

A rare, tough run for men’s basketball

After a disappointing 2009-2010 season, Coach Steve Coyne looks forward to next fall

BY LIAM MCKENNA
Managing Editor/Sports Editor

After much success in years past, the Bucks men’s basketball team experienced quite a rough season, going 3-19. Now, Coach Steve Coyne reflects on the season to make next year better.

“We had a couple players more concerned about their individual accomplishments than the accomplishments of the team,” Coyne said. “They didn’t have the confidence within each other which caused them not to play well with each other.”

Coyne has stressed the importance of defense and team cohesion. Both of these issues blended together in his mind.

“The issues on defense were a lack of helping out your teammates,” Coyne said. “If you were dribbling the ball, and you start to get past me, someone has to step in and help out. We didn’t get enough of that.”

Coyne said there’s an attitude about defense - teammates helping each other and stopping the opponents from getting an easy shot.

While the team’s defensive play did keep the team in con-

tention during games against Stevens, Montgomery, Luzerne, Delaware, Lehigh Carbon, and Johnson, it was ultimately an issue.

In losses during the season, their defense gave up an average of 86 points per game, while their offense averaged 72.

“We played numerous types of defenses to combat the different teams we played,” Coyne said. “In practices, we played good defense, but we just didn’t transfer that to a game situation.”

The problems with cohesion on both ends of the floor most likely added up to many of the team’s losses.

“We saw that here in Philadelphia with Allen Iverson,” Coyne said. “You look at successful teams whether they are higher collegiate teams or professional teams, one guy does not do it all.”

Success did not come easy for the Centurions, starting with a seven-game losing streak in December and a 10-game losing streak in January.

“I’m the one who needs to take responsibility,” Coyne said. “I don’t like to make Andy Reid-isms because he always says, ‘I got to put my

players in a better position to make plays,’ but I have to make my players work harder so they understand that they can be successful.”

However, it is not as if the 2009-2010 season went without any successes. There were certainly some positive points in the season.

Of the team’s three wins, two of them came against Johnson, averaging a 21-point margin of victory in those two outings. Also, Bucks averaged 87 points per game against Johnson.

During the beginning of the season, Coyne was been very pleased with the leadership of center/forward Dave Durkin and guard/forward Tim Respass.

Both players were sophomores and captains. During the season, they provided help for the team not only on the court, but off of it as well.

“There are no cliques; I think that is due to the leadership,” Coyne said. “They have taken these guys under their wing and showed them how to act and how to be teammates.”



COURTESY JUSTIN BURROUGHS

Tim Respass

experienced. Of the 13 players on the roster last season, 11 were freshmen.

“We all have to do a better job,”

Coyne said, “from the last guy on the bench all the way up to me.”

Next season Coyne wants to focus on helping the players understand that they need to play as a team and that they need to play stronger on the defensive end.

In December, Coyne said that he emphasized defense because, in any sport, defense is what will give you the best chance to win. He continues to emphasize this into next season.

Defense may be the easier thing to fix in comparison to the team’s cohesion issue. None-the-less, Coyne does have a plan to improve that problem as well.

“(To improve chemistry we’ll try) some things like team building activities and skills so that these guys can develop a better court relationship with one another,” Coyne said.

“It’s been proven that those things work and have some success.”

On Coyne’s expectations for the 2010-2011, he said, “better than a three-win season.”

Flyers make playoffs for 14th time in 15 years

With a 3-1 series lead over the New Jersey Devils, the Flyers look like a strong playoff team again

BY DANIEL NUSKEY
Centurion Staff

In the final regular season game against the New York Rangers, the Philadelphia Flyers needed all 60 minutes, and then some, to get the seventh spot of the eastern conference playoffs.

The Flyers struggled coming into the playoffs, losing 13 of their last 22 games, and they put themselves in a tough place. Even with their recent struggles and the loss of three goalies, the Flyers still managed to make it to the playoffs.

This is the sixth time in seven years the Flyers are in

the playoffs, which is a very impressive feat in the NHL world.

Dave Dougherty, 19, Multimedia, from Croydon, a diehard flyers fan said, “I am so excited the Flyers are back in the playoffs. NHL playoffs are one of the most exciting, and I am anxious for them to start.”

The Flyers are currently playing the New Jersey Devils in the first round of this year’s playoffs. Against the Devils this year the Flyers are an impressive 5-1.

“It doesn’t matter what our record was in the regular season; the playoffs are very different and the Devils have

maybe the best goalie ever to play the game in Martin Brodeur,” Kevin Jones, 19, Education, from Humeville, said. “The Flyers need to play with emotion and intensity and if they do that they have a great shot of winning the series.”

Now that the Flyers are likely advancing and looking to go deep in the playoffs, they will have to rely on goaltender Brian Boucher to play well and cut out the mental mistakes, which he had the tendency of having throughout the regular season.

Boucher went 9-18-3 this year, and has struggled mightily throughout the year.

However, in the last game against the New York Rangers and thus far in the playoffs, he’s won the games that really counted for the Flyers playoff lives.

“If we want to win the Stanley Cup, Boucher isn’t the only one to step up,” Brandon Ridler 18, an engineering major from Pennndel, said. “We need everyone to and we need our leaders Richards, and Pronger to play up to the ability that we have seen all year.”

Chris Pronger was brought in this off season to be the player that puts the Flyers past the wall they have hit since they won two Stanley

Cups back to back in the 70s.

Pronger has done very well this year and the Flyers awarded him the Bobby Clarke award, which is the team’s MVP.

Now let’s hope Pronger will be able to hoist the Stanly Cup this year as well.

The Flyers struggled at the end of the season, but, during the year, they have been streaky and could rattle off a 5-6 game win streak.

For the team and their fans’ sake, the Flyers should get hot at the right time and make an exciting and impressive run throughout the rest of playoffs.

Weather

Forecast by NWS for 18940

Thu April 22
66° | 40°
Mostly Cloudy

Fri April 23
64° | 42°
Chance of showers

Sat April 24
66° | 46°
Mostly cloudy

Sun April 25
66° | 48°
Showers

Mon April 26
64° | 42°
Mostly cloudy

Tue April 27
63° | 46°
Mostly cloudy

Wed April 28
64° | 47°
Chance of showers