

The Centurion

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

The week of April 14, 2009

www.bucks-news.com

Volume: 44 Issue: 12



INSIDE

Paul Revere play at Bucks

PAGE 2

Credit card debt affecting students

PAGE 4

Economy: Who is to blame?

PAGE 4

Interactive Media: Latest Game Reviews

PAGE 8

JenEric reviews orange treasure

PAGE 10

SPORTS

Can the Phillies do it again this year?

BACK PAGE

WEATHER

Tuesday: Rain, with a high near 52.

Wednesday: Showers, with a high near 54.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 61.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 60.

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

Saturday: Showers, with a high near 55.

Saturday Night: Showers, with a low around 42.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 59.

WEATHER COURTESY OF THE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

Will the economy improve?

BY DIANA LEE GRODEN
Centurion Staff

The Bucks County community has hardly been immune to the nation's economic woes. Every aspect of our lives seems to have been touched by them. Everywhere we turn, we seem to run up against the fallout. The very air is fraught with stress. The financial landscape has changed, becoming unfamiliar and treacherous.

Like so many of us, Bucks student Latonya Evans is feeling the pinch in the tough economic times. She works part-time at her local "Y" but said it's getting harder to pay her bills. "My hours were cut back from 35 to 15 a week."

Though the county is faring better than the nation as a whole, its unemployment rate has steadily risen to 6.5 percent. It jumped 2 percent, or by about one-third, over the last year. And 1,668 of its families' homes are in foreclosure. In Newtown, that's one in 1,505 homes. In Feasterville, it's one in 636.

Amid the uncertainty, loss, and worry, the Centurion decided to find out how people at Bucks and those who live in the area are faring and what they are doing to cope. What we found

are in this edition's pages.

Another case is a man from Bristol Borough who started a blog that chronicles his job loss and ultimately successful efforts to find another one.

We heard from students who are experiencing cutbacks and losing jobs they counted on to help defray tuition expenses. They share the ways they found to save money. Bucks President James Links, and Matt Cipriano, director of Student Life, weigh in.

Using their credit cards to the hilt, some students owe thousands of dollars. Also, parents of students worry about their dwindling savings, which they had worked so hard to put away for their children's college education.

With the ranks of the unem-



KEY ECONOMIC STAFF MEMBERS CONFER DURING A BUDGET SESSION IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
PHOTO COURTESY WHITEHOUSE.GOV

ployed swelling, displaced workers flocked to the college's tuition-free program, hoping to learn skills that will help them find a job.

To take a step back and gain some perspective, a Bucks professor explains how the country got into the mess it's in and how it might get out of it.

Some of the nation's senior citizens have been through severe economic times before. Sister Molly McGuire, 91, shares her memories of living through the Great Depression.

People's stress levels are rising

as fast as their means of earning a living and savings are evaporating. While most everyone seems to be feeling the emotional and psychological impact of the recession, faculty and staff offer coping strategies for students struggling to find balance in the high-pressure world of academia that, for many, has intensified due to the ailing economy.

However, there is a silver lining to the multitude of challenges we are facing now. As Bucks student Sarah Palladino said, "It makes you think about what's really important in your life."

Retired principal reflects on Holocaust

BY DIANA LEE GRODEN
Centurion Staff

The Army truck came to a halt. The engine quieted. Twenty-year-old Cpl. Leon Bass, a member of the intelligence and reconnaissance unit of the 183rd Engineer Combat Battalion, stepped down into the stillness of a cool afternoon. It was 1945, April 11 or 12, he doesn't remember exactly. Several men from his unit had been ordered to drive to a place outside Weimar, not far from their camp in Eisenbach, Germany.

Before them, unguarded and eerily agape, hulked a large black iron gate, the words "Jedem Das Seine" ("To Each His Own") soldered at the top, inserted into the middle of a white enclosure studded with several small windows and above which loomed a brown wooden watchtower. All was silent. They saw no one. The young American men in uni-

form were unprepared for what waited beyond.

The white officer had said they were driving to investigate a concentration camp. Buchenwald. In all of his training, Cpl. Bass was never told about such a thing. Now there he was, about to enter another world.

Before him lay the shock of his life. People stood staring as he stared back at them. They were nothing more than skin and bone. Their eyes were sunken. Their heads were shaved. Some were covered in sores and bruises - they had been beaten and starved. Tattered, striped pajama-like clothing hung on their skeletal frames. Some were naked. As they started to stumble toward him, Bass drew back. "What is this insanity? Who are these people, and what have they done to be treated like this?" Bass asked himself.

A young prisoner stepped forward to tell the story of the

people in the camp. They were gypsies and homosexuals, Jews and trade unionists, even Catholics, all transported there by the Nazis. He led Cpl. Bass around the camp. They stepped into an unheated barrack, where the prisoners slept in rows of dirty, bare wooden bunks stacked four levels high. On a bottom bunk, in a filthy bed of straw, laid a cadaverous old man in rags, too weak to speak, beseeching in his eyes. The stench of death was overwhelming; Cpl. Bass couldn't breathe. He stepped out into the cold air and made his way to the next building.

There, the young soldier saw the cement floor of the interrogation room covered in blood and torture instruments spiked into blood-spattered walls.

In the third building, labeled jars containing human body parts sat on shelves. His



BASS AT AGE 18. CIRCA 1943.

guide explained that "selection" took place every morning, when people were chosen as subjects for operations and medical experiments. Naked, atrophied bodies had been stacked neatly in a pile 4 feet high and 10 feet long near the crematorium.

Continued on page 3

Follow us on Twitter.com at buckscenturion

“Midnight Ride” to be performed

BY JOHN BRODIE
Centurion Staff

The play “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” will be performed at Bucks on Friday, April 17 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. It is sponsored by the Office of Cultural and Community Programming. The play will cover important historical events including the Boston Tea Party and, of course, Paul Revere’s famous ride to warn of the British invasion.

“The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” is set in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, where Samuel Adams and others form “The Sons of Liberty” in reaction to the rising British taxes on the American colonies. Paul Revere joins this group. The Boston Massacre then takes place, along with the infamous Boston Tea Party.

The Sons of Liberty set up a network of spies to warn of incoming danger, with a

“Minute Man” chosen to warn the citizens. Paul Revere is given the assignment, and rides to warn the American citizens of the British invasion. The play ends at the beginning of the American Revolution.

The show is mounted by TheatreWorksUSA, a New York-based touring company. The cast will contain young professional performers, leading to what Jonathan Lee, the Director of Cultural and Community Programming, calls “a terrific opportunity for Bucks students interested in the arts to interface with young pros with one foot in the door.” He urges all students involved in theater, communications, and music classes to attend.

According to Lee, the play fulfills the criteria that the Office of Cultural and Community Programming uses to select its programming, including cultural relevance, artistic integrity, arts-

in-education, and affordability.

The play will be performed in the Gateway auditorium, which the Bucks website says “offers exceptional staging, lighting, and acoustics in an intimate 330 seat setting.” The auditorium is located on the main campus in Newtown, and was renovated in 2000.

All Bucks students receive free admission; for non-students, tickets for both shows are available via the Student Life office located in the Rollins Center. The regular



THE CAST OF “THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE.”
PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS.

price for the play is \$5 for the 1 p.m. show and \$10 for the 7 p.m. show.

Students may also volunteer to help the show run smoothly, acting as ushers, box office personnel, and more. All volunteers are welcome to attend the show, and

will receive a free ticket for a friend. If interested, go to bucks.edu/cultural, click on the “Gateway Stage” link, and then click “Volunteer,” or contact Jonathan Lee directly at leej@bucks.edu

Dancers to unleash energy at Bucks

BY ERIC NOCITO
Editor-in-Chief

Bucks will be host to a special presentation of dancers showcasing various forms of dance on April 15. The performers are mainly Bucks students and alumni and the proceeds will go to charitable organizations.

With the idea of combining physical fitness and fun, Bucks will continue to give students an outlet for expressing themselves through dance and creative choreography.

The name of the show is “Energy Unleashed” and will take place in the Gateway Auditorium from 7-8 p.m.

“The theme of the show involves transforming your life into a positive experience no matter what you encounter,” said Donna Greenfield, professor of physical health and education and main choreographer of the show.

“Many styles of dance will be showcased, such as hip-hop, funk, modern, jazz, and lyrical.”

The participants are

Greenfield’s students from her modern dance class at Bucks. The dance routines will consist of techniques learned from class and also student-created choreography under Greenfield’s direction.

All levels of experience will be represented.

Greenfield teaches modern dance on Wednesday evenings at the Lower Bucks campus and on Tuesday mornings at the Newtown campus.

“New dancers, ones with minimal experience and

advanced experience will be included in the show,” said Greenfield.

“But they all show the same passion for expressing themselves through dance.”

Admission to the event is \$5 and proceeds from the show will be donated to Habitat For Humanity and the Red Cross homeless shelter. Additional donations will also be accepted.

In addition to the dance portion of the show, there will be a music portion performed by a Bucks alumnus. A montage of art will be

showcased by a former Bucks student as well.

Following the dance section, there will be an improv theater and acting portion.

“We are very excited for the show,” said Greenfield. “The students have been working really hard and they will be able to show what they learn in class as well as demonstrate their own created dance routines.”

For more information on the show, contact Greenfield at (215) 504-8500.

THE CENTURION 

Bucks County Community College’s Student Newspaper

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Eric Nocito

MANAGING EDITORS

Jen Golding and

Chris Johnson

ADVISING

Tony Rogers

SENIOR STAFF

Interactive Media/ Web
News
Student Life
Features
Sports
Photography

Chris Johnson
Kristen Walsh
Liz Messina
Joanna Schlicher
Colin Gerrity
Kisha Lowenthal

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Ian McLean
Diana Lee Groden
Debbie Henry

TO RECEIVE THE CENTURION’S EMAIL EDITION:

Register at www.Bucks-News.com and a .PDF version of the newspaper will be delivered directly to your email box.

LETTER POLICY

Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be edited for spelling and malicious or libelous statements, and may be edited for space. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s full name, address, and telephone number, although the address and telephone numbers will not be published.

Send letters to:

Centurion
275 Swamp Rd
Newtown, PA 18940
Centurion@bucks.edu
www.bucks-news.com/Letters to the Editor
215.968.8379

Official Member
2008-2009



Bass hopes to continue inspiring

continued from page 1

Cpl. Bass saw a blackened skull in one of the six ovens. He was to learn that, once a week, human ashes were trucked out to the fields to be used as fertilizer to grow crops for Germany's Wehrmacht.

Bass saw no children. But he did see a mound of clothing against a wall: little caps and sweaters and booties and stockings and shoes.

The American unit drove back to camp in silence that night. The memory of the "walking dead" haunts Bass to this day.

For more than 25 years thereafter, Bass spoke to no one about what he saw at Buchenwald, but his encounter would change how he saw the black experience, influence the course of his life and hand him a mission. Before he walked through the gates of the concentration camp, Cpl. Bass was an angry young black soldier, disillusioned and embittered by segregation and racism both at home in the United States and in the military while at war overseas. When he emerged, he knew even then that he was meant to draw on what he had witnessed to speak out against prejudice

other again.

And it saddens him to remember hearing his father addressed as "boy" by whites.

As an American soldier, he suffered, too. A white soldier peeking into the truck transporting Bass and his all-black unit to the front, jeered, "We must be winning the war. Here come the n-----s!" "I felt flat," said Bass, "My stomach churned. I wanted to strike back, to say something, but it was neither the place nor the time."

While at boot camp in the South, Bass bent his head to drink from a water fountain to quench his thirst. People pointed in rebuke at signs that commanded him to use the "Colored Only" facility. And when he was hungry, he was directed to a restaurant's back door, where he could buy a meal and then find someplace else to eat it. "That was the beginning of my education," said Bass.

When he traveled 100 miles to a training camp in Mississippi, he was told to stand on the bus, a "damned experience to have at 18," he said. In uniform, standing for hours and staring at empty seats, he raged inside: "My country was using me. They

allowed to live in the campus dormitories. But he followed his father's advice: "Get an education. No one can take that from you. There will be time to speak up later."

Bass did have his own Rosa Parks moment. He walked into the movie theater in town and gave the usher his ticket, who then pointed at the stairs to the balcony, where blacks were expected to sit. Instead, Bass walked right down to occupy one of the middle seats on the main floor. "I'm good enough," he fumed to himself. Once his anger had cooled, he felt terrified, afraid he would be arrested and taken to jail. But no one came. "Every step I took going home, I got taller and taller. I came face-to-face with evil, but I didn't become evil," he said.

Then came Martin Luther King Jr., who told blacks after the 13-month Montgomery bus boycott to take their rightful places on the bus but not to harbor hate in their hearts. "He wanted us to wear them down with love. I thought he must be crazy!" said Bass. But he heard Dr. King speak in a Philadelphia playground, and heard his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. "He said the things I needed to hear and the things my students needed to hear. He talked about loving and respect and understanding and excellence in school. Dr. King touched me with his words," said Bass, his eyes misty.

Now 84, Leon Bass, Ph.D., looks back on a proud legacy of innovation and leadership as principal of the Benjamin Franklin High School in Philadelphia (one of his first students would later assess him this way: "He was hard but fair. He loved us."). Principal Bass brought to the students the same kind of care he had received at Martha Washington Elementary School as a boy, which was during the heyday of the Harlem Renaissance. He remembers his teachers as strict and kind. They spoke about role models such as A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and invited noted black artists, such as Mary McCloud Bethune, to speak about black achievement and recite black poetry.



BASS AT HOME BEFORE A PORTRAIT OF HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE.
PHOTO BY DIANA LEE GRODEN.

Bass' voice is inflected and passionate when he speaks, and he speaks, in measured tones, at length. Positioned on a round, light-brown face topped by a halo of dark curly wisps of hair, his glasses frame thoughtful eyes that glisten as he thinks of Mary, his late wife of 53 years, and his loving parents. "Everything starts with them," he said.

The approach to Bass' apartment in Newtown invites a visitor to pause to consider who might live there. Affixed to the wall outside his apartment door are, among other things, a wooden African mask, a plaque draped with a medal honoring Bass' work, a poster celebrating A. Philip Randolph and a short quote by President Barack Obama on a red, white and blue bumper sticker. Above these, he plans to fasten a banner with the complete text of President Obama's inaugural speech.

In the living room of his bright and cozy apartment, there are books everywhere — and art work. A large portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. hangs next to another large portrait, one of Bass and his wife posed against a red background. Just inside the entryway to his home hangs one of his favorite paintings: A black man who appears to be a grandfather is sitting on a couch with a grandchild on either side of him, one girl and one boy. They are peering together into ethereal curls of smoke from his pipe, where appear dreamscapes of black people achieving greatness in many disciplines.

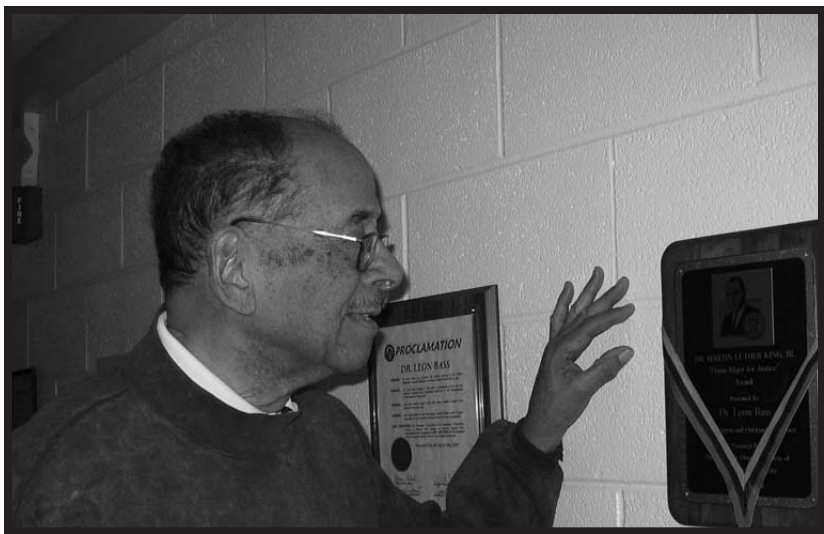
Bass is hopeful about the future. "I'm an Obama fan," he says. "We've made the biggest step in my lifetime. And the new attorney general [Eric Holder] is going to do a [great] job. But we are still bogged down. We still have to do something about health care and the education sys-

tem and the lack of job opportunities for people of different races and religions. Racism is still going on, but not to the degree that it used to be. This new president can set the tone and get people stirred up. There's much work to be done."

During his tenure as principal, a Holocaust survivor came to speak to the students. In the face of the students' disrespect, Bass addressed them: "Listen to this woman. What she is saying is true." And for the first time, out loud, he said, "I was there. I saw it."

Bass now devotes his life to bringing people closer to understanding. He travels the country speaking against racism and the Holocaust. "When I retired, the floodgates opened," he said. His planner is crammed with dates. Recently, he flew to Florida to speak there. Last month, his host flew him by corporate jet to Indianapolis to give another speech. He was honored for his work last summer, in Chicago, by a group called Facing History and Ourselves. NPR Radio has made a series of interviews with him. He is the recipient of the Pearlman Award for Humanitarian Advancement from Jewish Women International. Even West Chester University, the alma mater where he was not allowed to use the cafeteria a half-century ago, honored him with a plaque. He seems wistful, proud and humbled and perhaps a bit amazed as he points to it on the wall.

But Bass brushes aside all curiosity about how he keeps going and what he feels about the recognition he receives. He is simply driven to speak out. "Some might ask, 'Don't people get tired of hearing about it all the time?' " he remarked. "Well, I say to them: 'What about the people who lived it and didn't have a choice?'"



BASS CONTEMPLATES A PLAQUE GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS ALMA MATER, WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY.

PHOTO BY DIANA LEE GRODEN

wherever and however it manifested itself.

Bass remembers the daily indignities and frustration of growing up black — second-class status — in Philadelphia. He remembers the elementary school he attended: Although the teachers were nurturing and attuned to the needs of the all-black student body, they had to work with fewer resources than the white public schools nearby.

While in middle school, Bass came to make friends with a white boy. They hung out together during the school day, but it was understood that neither one could spend time with the other at their homes. Once they graduated to high school, which was segregated, they lost touch and never saw each

where I wasn't good enough. They were putting me in harm's way to fight and die for most things I couldn't enjoy."

Bass had emerged from Buchenwald and World War II a changed man. In a hushed voice, he said, "My tunnel vision dissipated. I understood that my suffering is everyone's and everyone's suffering is mine. I knew the suffering I saw [at Buchenwald] could touch anybody if we allowed hatred and evil to continue. I had found a reason to fight."

Back home after the war, with the GI Bill in hand, young civilian Bass registered for college to become a teacher. His joy was short-lived. He found blacks were not allowed to eat in the cafeteria. Neither were they

How did we get into this mess?

BY JEN GOLDING
Managing Editor

These troubling economic times have affected almost every facet of our society, but many people are unsure what has caused this mess and who is to blame. Recently, Washington has been swept up in a heated debate over how to solve this problem and bring our nation's fundamental economic troubles out of the gutter.

Across the nation, homes are being foreclosed and people are losing their jobs. The American dollar is losing its value and due to consumer borrowing and bad loans, there are record debt levels and a credit crunch that has led to unprecedented problems.

These national economic problems have seeped down to the local economies. Even Bucks County, one of the fastest growing counties in Pennsylvania, has not been without trouble.

Bucks County is located at the crossroads of major transportation networks and markets, is known for a well-educated labor force, low tax system, and high quality of life.

Furthermore, the majority of business in Bucks County is small, and this smallness has allowed Bucks County to more successfully survive past tough economic times than the rest of the state and

the nation. However, due to this current recession, the county has experienced a 7.5 percent unemployment increase since Feb. of 2007, according to Pennsylvania's Center for Workforce Information and Analysis.

This recession has made it a particularly hard time to be a college student, and many Bucks students seem to be confused as to how it all began.

"Being a college student is hard enough as it is without having to deal with this recession," said Natalie Burke, a 21-year-old business major from Levittown.

"The cost of groceries and gas is bad enough, and then worrying about paying back my student loans is just the cherry on top," said 19-year-old Jessica Collins from Richboro. "I don't even understand how we got into this mess. It's so confusing."

According to Bucks economic professor Deborah Meissner, it all began with easy credit created by the Federal Reserve monetary policy. Easy credit enabled people to purchase homes who were previously unable to do so. This caused the demand for housing to increase, and therefore housing prices skyrocketed.

Furthermore, loans were made to people who couldn't really afford them. There was

an expectation that as long as prices increased it wouldn't be a problem. However, last year is when the trouble really began. Oil prices began to rise significantly, and since oil is a resource cost for other products, those prices rose as well.

It was then that the Federal Reserve increased target interest rates to combat fears of inflation. Higher interest rates coupled with higher gas, oil, and food costs pushed high-risk mortgage holders to default, leading to housing foreclosures. Foreclosures increase the supply of housing on the market, which causes housing prices to fall.

"With little or no money down, many houses are worth less than the mortgages taken out on them. Lending institutions find themselves in trouble, and since many of these mortgages were bundled and sold as investments, the distress spreads to the rest of the financial community," said Meissner.

Because of this, banks are afraid to lend out money for fear of not being repaid. This

tightening of credit causes housing prices to decrease even more and also reduces the demand for other products like cars and electronics. The downward spiral continues as companies in the construction, automobile, and electronics industries lay off workers causing even more foreclosures and further reducing the demand for consumer goods.

So who is to blame for all this?

"The easy credit policies of the Federal Reserve, the lack of oversight by regulatory agencies, the compensation and reward system (bonuses), which based rewards on the volume of loan activity and not the quality, and consumers for taking on more debt than they were able to handle," said Meissner.

"Who cares how it happened?" said Meredith Baiker, a 22-year-old communications major. "I just can't wait for the economy to get back on track, although I

have no idea how that's going to happen."

According to Meissner, efforts must be continued to stabilize housing via the government program to aid those facing foreclosure and the tax incentives to encourage home purchases. Also important is increased government spending via Obama's economic stimulus package, particularly in areas that would stimulate job creation such as the highway and renewable energy projects.

Even if the stimulus package spending proves successful, and if banks become more willing to lend again, the consumer will most likely be reluctant to take on more debt.

"Hopefully this new administration can help strengthen our economy," said Collins. "Until then, I'll be worrying about repaying my student loans while cutting coupons and topping off my gas tank."

Credit card debt affecting students

BY MIKE FRAIOLI
Centurion Staff

Statistics show over 75 percent of college students have a credit card, making it easy for them to pay for beer, food, books, or a fun night out.

Most use credit cards figuring they will just pay the money back later.

Unfortunately, they don't realize that they are spending more than they have, which puts them in a bad position later.

Credit card companies go to great lengths to pull students in. Some set up booths and tables at college campuses. They may go as far as telling students they offer free "giveaways" to anyone signing up.

They are banking on the assumption that students will be unable to pay their bill on time as a result of the sky-high interest rate. In most cases, this is what happens and many students get in way over their heads.

Students at Bucks are greatly affected by this. "I was offered a couple credit cards in the past few years and I decided to accept them. Then I

would always spend money not realizing I would not be able to pay it back later, and I did not realize how high the interest rates are, and really I am paying so much more money than I actually spent," one student who wished to remain anonymous said.

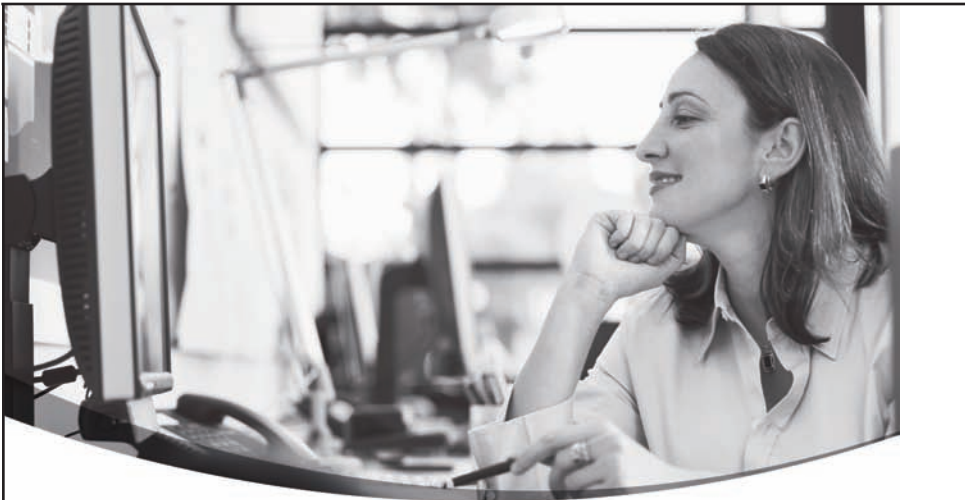
"It is definitely one of my biggest regrets and wish I could have used it more wisely," the student added.

Clearly, this is how credit card companies make money.

It is possible to use a credit card wisely, but it takes discipline. Banking experts say the best way to stay out of credit card debt is to pay the entire balance as soon as possible.

Part of being disciplined is having a budget and figuring out how much money will be coming in each month. This will determine how much money can be spent. The most logical thing to do is save the card for emergencies.

If students do not follow these seemingly simple instructions, credit card debt can hang over their heads like a looming black cloud for a very long time.



TRY FOR THAT DREAM-JOB EDUCATION

Summer Courses Start
May 18th

Register Now!

It's time to improve your earning power and advance your career. A Graduate or Continuing Studies degree from Alvernia University Philadelphia Center will do just that. It gives you the knowledge, critical awareness, and leadership skills to better your professional life – and the world around you.

Have questions? We're here to answer them.
Please visit our website at www.alvernia.edu/summer
Email: philadelphia@alvernia.edu
Call us at: 1-215-635-4734 or text alv7 to 84444

ALVERNIA
UNIVERSITY

An Education in the Franciscan Tradition

Homelessness still a problem in Bucks

BY DEBBIE HENRY
Centurion Staff

When 45-year-old Brian Kelly was found dead of probable hypothermia in his tarp shack in Bristol Township early last month, many were no doubt shocked by the news.

However, in reality, the only thing noteworthy about the story was his actual death, not the fact that he was homeless and living in a tent in the woods with several others just like him.

William Burns, director of the American Red Cross homeless shelter on New Falls Road, says the facility has been full for months. "This is not new," he says. "There's a camp in Morrisville with over a hundred guys in it. Any wooded area, you're going to find homeless living there." He mentions known camps in Croydon and the "Tent City" where Kelly was found.

Established in 1881 by nurse Clara Barton, the American Red Cross is well known for its emergency-relief efforts in natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, but equally important are the numerous local community services the organization performs. Among them are providing needed blood to area hospitals, educational programs on health and safety, and emergency shelter for the homeless.

Burns blames "endemic poverty and absence of affordable housing" for creating the homeless problem. More specifically he cites a lack of affordable housing for an increasing number of people that fall into a low-income bracket.

Though one of the wealthier counties in the nation, Bucks has a surprisingly high poverty rate. In 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 32,000 individuals (out of a population of approximately 621,000) fell below the federal poverty threshold. It is sobering that, with a 5.2 percent poverty rate, Bucks alone accounts for nearly half of the poor population for the entire state of Pennsylvania.

The National Coalition for the Homeless, a non-profit organization, asserts that employment does not provide escape from poverty because 74 percent of jobs pay below a living wage.

An example of this is Alicia Saxton, 31, who has been living at the Red Cross shelter with her two children, ages 4 and 6, since September. She and her husband (who is now living with his mother after being asked to leave the shelter for unknown reasons) had been living in an apartment in Glen Hollows until the death of a child in June caused things to "spiral down" and they were evicted.

And even though Saxton works full-time at Friendship Circle, a special education center for children, she says they were unable to afford another apartment and ultimately became homeless.

The federal poverty threshold is updated yearly by the Census Bureau. In 2009 it was estimated that a family of three - two adults and one child - would fall below the poverty line with an annual income of less than \$18,000. A family of five would fall below with less than \$26,000.

Economists at the labor-backed Economic Policy

Institute place much of the blame for rising poverty on the federal government. "A stagnant minimum wage has a significant impact on the earnings of low-wage workers as the rising cost of living erodes the value of their paycheck," writes one economist who favors minimum wage increases in proportion to cost of living increases.

The Consumer Price Index,

“I’m waiting for housing to kick in. Hopefully it won’t be too much longer.”

regularly consulted by business, labor and government, reliably measures cost of living increases by tracking changes in the price of goods and services.

Based on determinations by a Living Wage Calculator - patterned after the EPI living wage tool - a family of four, living in Bucks County, with a sole provider working full time, would require an hourly wage of \$29 to provide adequate financial support. At an hourly rate of \$10 or less, this family lives at the federal poverty level.

Yet minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.

"Need is outstripping our capacity to meet it," says Burns of the Bucks homeless situation.

A head count of 465 people residing in county shelters in January would seem to support this, especially since the official count doesn't include the many living in their cars, or abandoned homes and buildings, or on the street.

The Bucks County Housing Group, which provides transitional housing programs,

said that more than 4,000 local residents have recently called the homeless hotline. And, increasingly, even the previously invulnerable middle class is becoming subject to the problem, according to the Coalition for the Homeless.

Contributing factors include the slumping economy, skyrocketing healthcare costs, mental illness, sub-

stance abuse and domestic violence.

Statistically women and children make up the largest percentage of the homeless population and, in fact, five newborns are currently living at the shelter, Burns says.

Worsening the situation locally, Bucks unemployment jumped from 3.7 percent in December 2007 to 5.7 percent this past December.

Stephanie Childs, a pastor and the administrator for the Salvation Army, has noted the changes. "Even driving around I see a lot more [homeless] than just a few years ago," she says, "and there's a huge increase in people who need stuff from our pantry."

Located in the Appletree section of Levittown, the relief agency is religion-based and was originally founded in England in 1865 by William Booth, a devout Christian, for the purpose of offering salvation to the poor, destitute and hungry.

Down at least \$20,000 in charitable donations since last year, Child's nonetheless

says they are doing everything they can to help residents in need. They are often contacted by people asking for help paying their mortgage and electric bills, she says.

There are several shelters in the Bucks County area. In addition to the Red Cross on New Falls Road, there are shelters in Milford Square, Pennndel, Croydon and Doylestown. There is also A Woman's Place, in Doylestown, for abused women and children, and the Valley Youth House, in Warminster, for short-term care of displaced teens.

Of the Red Cross shelter, Burns says it is more than just a temporary place to sleep. With inspirational messages about perseverance, determination and focus adorning the walls of the entrance, he says that a "central part of what we do here is develop the skills needed for residents to become independent."

With that in mind, new residents are immediately set up with a caseworker who will develop strategies for finding work (if the resident is unemployed), employment training that will enhance success and a budget plan for saving money.

A Section 8 housing form is completed so the individual can become eligible for low-income housing available through the federal Housing and Urban Development department.

There is, however, often a wait before this comes through and that is where Saxton is at now. "I'm waiting for housing to kick in. Hopefully it won't be too much longer."

Operating hours reduced for Oxford Valley Mall

BY KRISTEN WALSH
News Editor

In the past year, malls have been looking slightly less packed. Aside from being used as a Friday night baby-sitting replacement for young teens, malls across America have lost some major appeal due to tighter budgets.

The Oxford Valley Mall in Langhorne is no exception and appears to also be a victim of the economic crisis.

Stores that once attracted many buyers are now going out of business, and major anchor stores such as Boscov's are closing after filing for bankruptcy.

"An empty department store at the end of the mall can hurt the smaller stores," said hairstylist Joyce Robinson at the Regis Salon at the Oxford Valley Mall.

"The anchor stores attract customers to that part of the mall, and since Boscov's is gone, that part of the mall is dead," said Robinson.

According to a report by ABC News, Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers, said the industry has "really been battered by every part of this recession."

As a result, this past holiday season was the weakest since 1970.

The amount of money spent at the nation's retailers from Nov. 1 through Christmas Eve was down 5.5 percent to 8 percent compared with last year, according to MasterCard SpendingPulse, which tracks retail sales for all forms of payment, includ-

ing check, cash and credit card.

Another noticeable change at the Oxford Valley Mall is the sudden change in hours of operation. Instead of closing at 9:30 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, it now closes

“It’s nice we get out of there earlier, but the cutback hurts my paycheck.”

30 minutes earlier. On Sundays the amll closes an hour earlier, meaning fewer hours for many mall employees.

Build-A-Bear Workshop employee Megan McTegue said the sudden cut in hours definitely cut back the time she spends at work.

"It's nice we get out of there earlier, but the cutback hurts my paycheck," said McTegue.

Another employee of Build-A-Bear, student Esther Shon, 21, is finding a second job to keep up with her basic needs.

Shon, like most college students, finds that having money is a necessity to pay tuition.

"Because the hours have been cut back, Build-A-Bear doesn't really need a whole lot of people, and I wasn't getting the scheduled hours. I love working there, I just need the money," she said.

The simplest answer as to why the mall is closing earlier is the fact that many people are just not spending as much as they had previously.

"It would be completely unnecessary to keep the mall open at dead hours," stated stylist Joyce Robinson. "No

one is in the mall."

Shoppers who graze the mall do not feel negatively about it. Mall-walker Maureen Healy of Levittown said that as long as she gets to walk before hours, she's fine. She also said that people are definitely watching what they are spending and looking for other, cheaper places to shop.

As for the future of malls, a report conducted by The Moderate Voice editor Joe Gandleman said, "As more stores exit malls, vacancies in regional malls could rise past 7 percent by year-end."

According to real estate research firm Reis, this is a level not hit since the first quarter of 2001.

For now, the malls in the area are staying open, but the mass population is spending less.

Recollecting the Great Depression

BY JOANNA SCHLICHER
Features Editor

The state of the economy is no secret—it's discouraging at best. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate is 8 percent and rising. People are losing their homes or struggling to put food on the table, and experts predict this will continue through 2009.

It has been said that the recession, which actually began before anyone really knew it in December 2007, is comparable to the Great Depression.

Is it possible that one of the worst time periods in American history is repeating itself? Can the Great Depression and this current recession even be compared?

"Oh no. No. No. No," says Molly McGuire shaking her head, her eyes wide. McGuire was born in 1918, which makes her 91 years old. She was 11 when the depression began.

"This is nothing like the

depression. People were much more accepting back then. I don't remember any of this 'blaming it on the president,'" she said.

McGuire, a nun at the Grey Nun Academy in Yardley, grew up in Mahanoy City, a small town 50 miles northwest of Reading, in the heart of the coal region. She refers to it as "the best place on earth."

McGuire's life was good before the depression. Her father did what most men in the area did - work in the coal mine. She had seven brothers, two of whom joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a program started by Franklin D. Roosevelt when he came into office. The program was a part of Roosevelt's "New Deal." It put young men to work cleaning up the nation's natural resources. And more importantly, they were able to earn a paycheck. Another brother traveled to Atlantic City to find work.

McGuire remembers that

time in her life like it was yesterday. "I was walking home from school and I saw a man someone my family knew. He was hunched over the ticker, and he was very upset. It was over the stocks. That was the first time I realized there was really a problem."

Although times were hard, McGuire explained that everyone worked together to get through it. "You didn't seem poor because everyone else was in the same boat. If a neighbor had a loaf of bread, they would give us half."

One of the clear differences between then and now, McGuire said, is the amount of things people have. "We weren't used to having as much. We had to put cardboard in our shoes when the soles wore down. We were lucky if we had a radio. Maybe now children will learn they can't have everything they want."

McGuire's father did lose his job early in the depression and she thinks it was his small pension from the



MOLLY MCGUIRE RELAXING IN HER ROOM.
PHOTO BY JOANNA SCHLICHER

Spanish-American War that pulled them through. "There was no such thing as dessert, but my mom always had food on the table."

In the 1930s, there were no trillion dollar bailouts like the one Congress recently passed in an attempt to resuscitate the economy. Americans are concerned with the amount of debt left to future generations, and McGuire is no dif-

ferent. "What I really worry about is the debt we'll be leaving for our grandchildren. That makes me heart-sick."

She said that despite the concern, the Depression and the recession can have a positive effect on people. "I saw it then and I see it now. People become very willing to help others. It's nice to see."

Free tuition program can be lifesaver

BY DIANA LEE GRODEN
Centurion Staff

When Bucks threw a lifeline this winter to workers tossed from their jobs into the stormy seas of the economic downturn, Wendy Nieman and Kathleen Hart were among the hundreds who grabbed on and held tight.

Nieman, Hart, and the many thousands of suddenly unemployed in our area are facing the fact that they must now look for work while trying to make ends meet. They find themselves in a quandary: They need a degree or new skills training to fit into the job market, yet often don't have the funds available to pay for the education they need.

That's where the new Tuition-Free Program for Displaced Workers offered at Bucks comes in.

A customer service manager for Marriott for nine years, Nieman, 45, was laid off last May. But she didn't settle for treading water. After mailing untold numbers of résumés and landing quite a few interviews, she hasn't yet found a safe harbor in the professional world.

Potential employers either told her she was overqualified or they took the position for which she was applying off the market because of the worsening economic landscape.

"It's an interesting situation," said Nieman.

And then she learned about

the free tuition program. After graduating from high school 27 years ago, working and teaching ballroom dancing, Nieman is enrolled in algebra and composition courses this semester, hoping to earn her associate's degree and transfer to a local four-year college. She plans to be a math teacher with a focus on special education. "I feel blessed to be able to take advantage of the free tuition program. I love it every single day I am on campus," she said.

The program could not have come at a better time. Nieman's entire family has been hard-hit by the recession. Her husband and son were recently laid off. They have a mortgage on their "modest" condo in Doylestown and must pay for their health-care coverage through COBRA, so there are scant funds available for education expenses.

Hart, 54, is a single mom from Perkasio and a recent college graduate. Laid off in February from the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services Council, she and one of her two sons, Greg, 27, who was also laid off, spend much of their time attending job fairs, tracking down government job openings and taking civil-service tests. It's grueling. It's not unusual for them to take more than one test in a week — or even in a single day. "I

feel beat up," she said.

Hart said she plans to "take as many civil-service tests as possible" because a public-sector job "offers amazing benefits and a very good pension."

After her layoff, she says she panicked. Unlike Nieman, Hart's last employer didn't participate in COBRA, so she has no health benefits.

"I feel blessed to be able to take advantage of the free tuition program. I love it every single day I am on campus."

And this month, thousands of dollars worth of insurance and property-tax bills are coming due.

The good news is that Hart has a chance at a job with the state. The not-so-good news is that the position pays less than what she receives in unemployment benefits, no health coverage is offered and it's an intermittent position. The bad news is that if she is offered the job and she refuses to take it, she must give up her unemployment benefits.

But Hart is practical. If a job comes her way, she might heed the advice she heard on CNN lately: "Just take the friggin' job!" If it's not a perfect fit, she thinks, "it may not be THE job, but its experience that I can use down the road."

Hart's résumé is impressive. A straight-A student, she recently earned her college degree while working 12-hour shifts in the emer-

gency room of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She started a business. She is a professional skier. And she has been a paramedic since 1985. After actually witnessing the second airplane as it crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center while she drove along the Pulaski Skyway on 9/11, she spent a month helping out at

process seem doable. Beyond her helpfulness, she's a champion of the program."

The program is open to Bucks County residents who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own since Dec. 1, 2007, and, according to the application form, are "not receiving education or training assistance from their former employer or a government agency."

The program is available through August 2010, by which

time displaced workers may take as many as 30 credits tuition-free.

Meanwhile, Kathy Hart continues to focus on her search. She is taking advantage of every option in order to find a job and stay afloat. But she is aware of the daunting task before her: "I look at my son, who has a master's [degree], and he's out of work. It's very scary right now," she said. "I think it's neat that Bucks has this program."

And like many at the college, Nieman hopes that by taking courses at Bucks, employment will soon appear on the horizon. "I'm an eternal optimist. Everything happens for a reason," she said. "I am where I'm supposed to be right now. I think that with the courses, doors will open that wouldn't open otherwise. It's been great."

Ground Zero.

Two years ago, Hart studied anatomy at Bucks. Now, she's taking an eLearning class in nutrition from Bucks through the tuition-free program, hoping that the skills she learns will help her land a good job that she likes.

About 800 Bucks County residents have jumped aboard to take advantage of the free tuition program. Monica Flint, the college's coordinator of experiential learning said, "It is a win-win for all concerned. The college will benefit from the students, who will go on to take more classes and finish their degrees. They will recommend the college to other people, who will see the high quality of the programs here."

Hart is enthusiastic about Flint's resources and knowledge. "Monica is incredible," she said. "She makes even the unpleasant parts of the

He blogged about his hunt for a job

BY CARL WAXMONSKY
Centurion Staff

Mike Dyszel’s determination, humor, and faith in himself landed him his current job at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Dyszel, 23, of Bristol Borough, has always been one to strive higher and achieve. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management at Rider University, and later a Masters degree in Business Management at Bloomsburg. Upon graduating Bloomsburg in 2008, Dyszel was eager to put his skills to good use. Like most college graduates, he waited until after the holidays to begin the job search. But by the time January rolled around, Dyszel found that jobs were hard to come by. He attended job fairs and applied for over 100 jobs at companies like Lockheed Martin, DB Mason, and Ring Beverages. Around 80 percent of the companies he applied to didn’t respond to his applications. In fact, only two companies called him back to schedule an interview. “It was a weird time to apply for a job,” said Dyszel. “Companies were freezing and I had to look into whatever was open. Being selec-

tive was not an option.” So how does one stay focused through all this? Look for connections and reach out to those with jobs, suggests Dyszel. “It’s not about what you know, it’s about who you know,” he said. When February rolled around, Dyszel was still jobless. He thought long and hard about how to proceed with the job search, and soon decided to share his jobless sorrows in a blog. Dyszel turned his frustration into amusement. He thought the blog could be motivational and helpful to others in the same position. The blog, called “Easy Diz,” was created with job fulfillment in mind. On his blog, Dyszel touched on issues such as being single and jobless on Valentine’s Day. He told his readers in the same predicament to enjoy the movies “Good Fellas” and “Godfather” to stitch a broken heart. Dyszel then partied the night away at Lafayette College with his buddies. On his blog, Dyszel compared a job fair to a first date. He also wrote about leaving the “party” and entering “jobsville” on the metaphoric job trolley. Every blog entry

kept readers wanting more, as Dyszel inspired people to “heat up” their job searches. Making sandwiches at home everyday and spending afternoons watching “King of the Hill” and “Mad TV” could make anyone go crazy after long enough. After 58 days of being unemployed, Dyszel was hired by Enterprise Rent-A-Car. When he got the phone call, he was down to his last \$100. Dyszel’s energy and commitment are now being used in the world of customer service. He makes sales while learning marketing skills and puts stressed patrons back on the road. Dyszel said he is excited to be a part of Enterprise. Only four of 60 people who applied to work at the Langhorne branch were hired. Dyszel credits his success to remaining optimistic. “Keep searching and look deep,” Dyszel tells those still seeking employment. “Don’t be choosy, be open to more opportunities. You never know what is out there until you seek it.” Dyszel respects his branch manager Julie Jenson. He said she is supportive and does all the little things it takes to hit



DYSZEL JESTS FOR THE CAMERA.

numbers and goals for the company. She is willing to discuss anyone’s concerns and can be very sympathetic if problems arise, as she wants everyone to feel comfortable. Enterprise is an equal-opportunity company. Everyone starts at the same position and works their way up the ladder. Even those in higher positions do the little things like washing a car or driving cars to different branches. Dyszel doesn’t have to search the internet for jobs anymore. He gets his eight

hours of sleep while committing himself to a 40-hour work week. In his spare time, he lifts weights and runs miles, but saves television and Xbox for the weekends. In his blog, Dyszel made readers laugh with such words as “Dizulous, Dizrespectable, and Dizgenda.” The humorous blog entries were helpful in reaching a dream and fulfilling a personal endeavor. Dyszel was “picked up” by Enterprise and plans to stay in the driver’s seat for a long time to come.

Some students’ parents pay tuition

BY ERIC NOCITO
Editor-in-Chief

These days we hear all about students struggling with their college debt and loans. Especially in this recession, it’s not often we hear about a student who is financially fully supported by his or her parents in terms of tuition. “My parents understand that going to school full-time is hard enough as it is without having to worry about paying my tuition,” said Danny Daloisio, a 20-year-old biology major from Yardley. “I work about 20 hours a week at Old Navy in Oxford Valley, but my earnings don’t come anywhere close to being able to afford my tuition and still go out and have fun with my friends.” College is a time of transition and many parents think they are doing their child a favor by not financially supporting them with tuition costs. However, times have changed. When most of the baby boomers were in college, they could work and pay off their tuition as they went. Now, college tuition prices have skyrocketed, leaving many students in debt years after graduating. In 1980, when Danny’s parents were in college, it cost about \$2,039 to spend a year at a public four-year uni-

versity and \$8,910 at a private four-year university, according to statistics from swivel.com. Both of his parents paid for their own college tuitions with the money they made working at their part-time jobs. “It was never really a problem,” said Danny’s father, Pat Daloisio. “I don’t remember having any financial problems when I was Danny’s age.” Nowadays it costs approximately \$5,836 a year to attend a public four-year college and \$22,218 to attend a private four-year university, according to swivel.com’s data. “I have no problem with fully supporting my son with his tuition,” said Danny’s mother, Debbie Daloisio, as she sipped a cup of Earl Grey in her immaculate kitchen. “Some people think that by forcing their kids to pay for their own tuition, it will teach them responsibility, but Danny has a job and works hard to get straight A’s and is the most responsible kid I know.” Pat Daloisio laughed. “We really are incredible parents. Our Danny couldn’t have turned out any better, and it’s all thanks to us,” he joked. Pat Daloisio works as a mar-

keting executive for a company called Thomas Publishing Co. He loves his job and is more than happy to contribute part of his income to paying Danny’s tuition. “I think parents have a responsibility to help their kids financially. If you aren’t prepared financially to have children, then don’t,” he said. Danny’s mother Debbie works as a medical receptionist and feels the same as her husband. “Someday, I’ll be old and gray and Danny’s salary as a successful biologist will put me in a good nursing home,” she laughed. “So we’re happy to help him now.” “I don’t get financial aid from the government or any student loans. I feel lucky that I have successful parents who can pay for my college education. Plus, I like to use the money I earn to go out places with my friends,” said Danny. “I feel bad for the people who have to pay for themselves. They always seem to be miserable and complaining. I wouldn’t have kids until I had a budget for the first 25 years of their life mapped out.”

When asked how he will handle money when he graduates college without the “experience” of dealing with money troubles, Danny did not seem concerned. “Are you serious?” he asked. “It’s not that difficult to make a budget and stick to it. The biology field is hot right now despite the economy. I know I will be alright. I have a lot of ambition and I love what I study.” Danny hopes to follow in his

parents’ footsteps. He loves being a college student but can’t wait to take the “big steps” in his life like landing a great first job, buying a house, getting married and per-

haps having children of his own someday. For now, Danny is concentrating on his studies at Bucks, but plans to move to Philadelphia next year to attend Drexel University where he will apply the biology skills he learned at Bucks towards a forensic science/criminal justice major. “I cannot wait. I will definitely miss my parents but I’m excited to live with my friends in the city and spend money at bars and going out to eat,” said Danny. “I really love fine dining, especially a great piece of juicy steak,” he added.

“My parents understand that going to school full-time is hard enough as it is without having to worry about paying my tuition.”

Bucks Hottie of the Week



Students depending more on SEPTA

BY HOPE KUMOR
Centurion Staff

She has had to stand a few times. She says when it's too full, it's a hassle. And it's usually like that in the morning. She comes from Langhorne and that's pretty far. But taking the Septa 130 bus is beneficial to her because she saves money.

"Buying bus tokens saves me money. Bucks helps with transportation. It gets me the tokens," said Amber Gushue, an education major.

The college buys the tokens in bulk at Septa and there are

center.

Amanda Webb, an education major, said the ride itself wasn't bad and it wasn't too costly.

Jamie Emmons, also an education major, takes the bus Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. She says she doesn't think it's too bad, but she wishes she had her license.

"I hate having to sit around waiting for the bus to go home on Fridays. I don't mind the ride and the people because no one talks, unless they're friends," said Emmons.

Emmons has no other way

are between four and six. Around 6 p.m. there are around 12 people, said Willie Newton, a Septa bus operator.

"I think it's great. I want to do anything to save our students money. If anything it's a way for them to get to school. When I'm out there I see the bus unload a lot of students, but I would like to see more students take advantage of Septa," said Cipriano.

But Christina Griffin, 20, an early childhood education major, has a problem with having all those students on the bus.

"The bus is usually full. People have to stand. The 1:15 bus is usually crowded," said Griffin.

The number of students who ride the bus has gone up, but many students could be having a problem actually taking the bus.

Bucks President James Links said the real problem is the schedule of the bus, the distance, and the route Septa has selected.

"We try to encourage students to use it. It's neat we have it. It's not like everyone is here at the same time. Every student is different. It's sometimes hard on our students. We thought it would help. We hope some students still can find it useful," says Links.

Links said the bus could never be used only for Bucks because then Septa would be losing money. They added the route to Bucks to provide access to the college for students.

The new feature this year has been the alcove students can stand under. It was built so students wouldn't have to

to get to school. She takes the 7:15 a.m. and the 5:15 p.m. bus. She said there are only about 10 people in the morning, so it's not too crowded.

The Septa bus runs about every hour, and the number of students on the bus varies according to the time of day.

"In the early morning there are between eight and 10 students. In the evening there

have money to get to work?" said William Devonte, a 22-year-old political science major from Levittown.

It often seems it's the college students whose hours are cut so that adults with families can get more hours. It's times like these that budgeting becomes important. Budgeting not only allows one to see where the massive amounts of money are going to or where some could be cut back, but it also serves as a tool to use to persuade your boss to give you more hours.

When beginning a budget, start with the necessities. Figure out how much gas you need in your car each week. If you know how many times you fill up a week, then you already have a good estimate. If you are the type of person who likes to put \$5 or \$10 of gas in the tank whenever it is

handy, a good tool to figure a budget out is as follows: take the amount of miles you drove from the trip meter and divide that from the number of gallons of gas you put in your car. That number, most likely in the mid to upper teens depending on the type of car, is the number of miles to the gallon you are getting. Then simply figure out the distances to the places you know you have to go, add in a few extras for the "unknown" trips and divide that by your miles per gallon. You will then know the number of gallons you need a week in your car and can include that figure in your budget.

Credit card bills and student loans are another issue. Divide the sum of your monthly bills by four and put aside that number each week.



THE SEPTA BUS STOP AT BUCKS.
PHOTO BY HOPE KUMOR

stand in the rain.

"It was provided at little cost to try and make it comfortable for students to wait for the bus," said Links.

"I love my truck too much to take the bus," said Rem Trolli, a 19-year-old accounting major. "The only way I would take the bus is if gas gets as high as it did in the summer. The Newtown bus is a hassle because you have to transfer buses."

Some students say they wouldn't take the bus because you have to switch buses and it takes too long to get to school.

"That might be my last resort to take the bus. A friend of mine who lives near me said it took him two hours to get to here taking the bus. He had to switch buses and by the time he got to the other station he had to wait another hour until that bus returned to get to school," said Stephanie Margerum, a 19-year-old elementary educa-

tion major. "Other people I know are getting here later because the buses are running late."

"What stunk about the bus was that if I wanted to make sure I got to my 11 a.m. class on time I would have to leave my house by about 8 a.m., which became tiresome," said Webb.

"I'm not sure how else to encourage students to take it. There have been signs around the campus. We hope it gets used," said Links.

Just because some students have issues with the buses doesn't mean other students shouldn't give them a try if they are looking to save on gas money. Since this service is provided by the school, students should take advantage of it.

If you would like more information, the Student Life center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



THE SEPTA BUS ROLLS BY THE STOP.
PHOTO BY HOPE KUMOR

1,000 tokens per batch, said Director of Student Life Matt Cipriano.

"We sell them at face value, \$1.45 per token. Students can buy up to a 10-pack. On the bus, it's \$2. The only spot to purchase tokens is here," says Cipriano.

If any students are looking at buying tokens, they are cheaper at the Student Life

Budgeting becomes more and more popular

BY SARA MCBRIDE
Centurion Staff

In these bad economic times, everyone is focused on the "bigwigs" getting stimulus packages and bonuses while one of the largest struggling populations is being forgotten about: the twenty somethings struggling to make ends meet and still get an education.

Times are tough for everyone and will most likely continue for a while. So what is there to do? The best thing for students and young adults is to make a budget and stick to it.

Most Bucks students seem to agree that the toughest thing is keeping their gas tank full and getting enough hours at work.

"If they cut your hours, how are you supposed to

have money to get to work?" said William Devonte, a 22-year-old political science major from Levittown. It often seems it's the college students whose hours are cut so that adults with families can get more hours. It's times like these that budgeting becomes important. Budgeting not only allows one to see where the massive amounts of money are going to or where some could be cut back, but it also serves as a tool to use to persuade your boss to give you more hours. When beginning a budget, start with the necessities. Figure out how much gas you need in your car each week. If you know how many times you fill up a week, then you already have a good estimate. If you are the type of person who likes to put \$5 or \$10 of gas in the tank whenever it is

handy, a good tool to figure a budget out is as follows: take the amount of miles you drove from the trip meter and divide that from the number of gallons of gas you put in your car. That number, most likely in the mid to upper teens depending on the type of car, is the number of miles to the gallon you are getting. Then simply figure out the distances to the places you know you have to go, add in a few extras for the "unknown" trips and divide that by your miles per gallon. You will then know the number of gallons you need a week in your car and can include that figure in your budget. Credit card bills and student loans are another issue. Divide the sum of your monthly bills by four and put aside that number each week.

That way, you are less likely to be crunched for cash the day you must make your payments.

If you have to pay room and board, that is another bill that can be divided into a weekly amount to put aside. Keep a jar or envelope and every pay week take out a small amount, so come the end of the month your bank account doesn't have the big goose egg.

Cigarette smokers whose wallets are suffering from the recent tobacco price increase of 62 cents a pack might want to consider quitting. If quitting is too hard, try not to be picky when it comes to the brand and just get the cigarettes that are on sale. Most stores have a two- or three-pack special price which equals about a free pack at all times. Normally Marlboro

has many deals.

Coupons are another money-saver for everything and anything. Go onto the websites of your favorite restaurant, energy drink supplier and even cigarette company and you can join mailing lists or download printable coupons to receive savings on products and services that interest you.

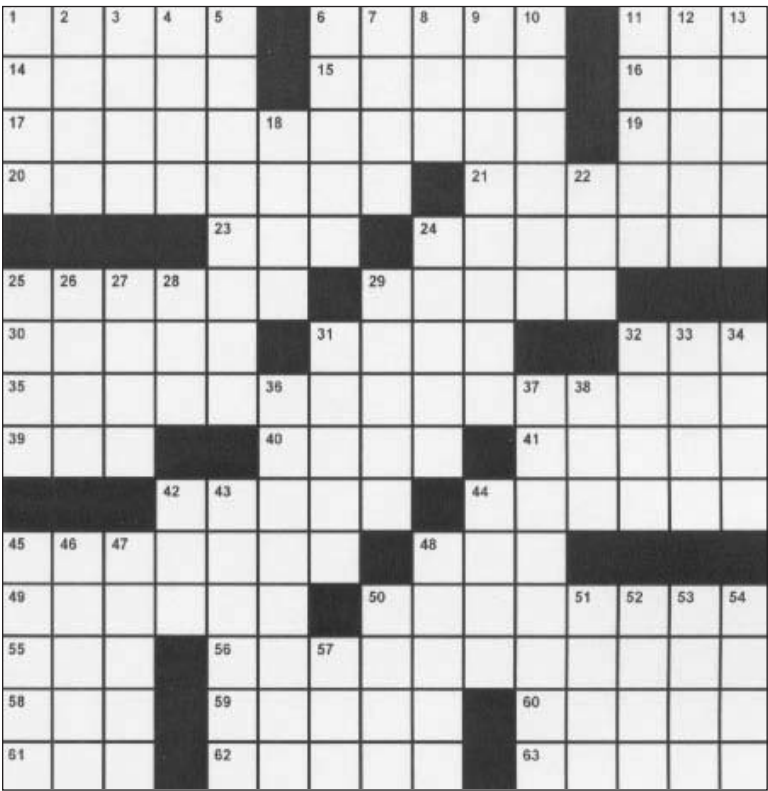
While these are only a few tips, they are almost fool-proof for saving a few dollars a week. Those dollars can go toward larger, more important bills or even into savings for something in the future.

In these tough times when no one really seems to remember that college students are already struggling, we need to take every extra step to secure our own financial future.

APRIL

Bucks events and listings In the county, in the city

Learn the symptoms, treatment, and myths about depression. Student Services Center - Room 19. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	14	Sixers v. Boston. 8 p.m. Wachovia Center.
Build a Work Wardrobe on a Budget. Score a free copy of the book "How to be a Budget Fashionista!" 12 - 1 p.m.	15	Fleetwood Mac. 8 p.m. Wachovia Center.
How to become a successful College student. Student Services Center - Room 19. 1 - 2 p.m.	16	The Chronicles of Narnia: the Exhibition. The Franklin Institute.
"The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." Gateway Auditorium. Students free with ID.	17	Phillies v. San Diego. 7:05 p.m. Citizens Bank Park.
Do your homework.	18	Phillies v. San Diego. 7:05 p.m. Citizens Bank Park.
Study.	19	Phillies v. San Diego. 1:35 p.m. Citizens Bank Park.
Learn what it takes to interview like a STAR and get the job. Upper Bucks. 12 - 1 p.m.	20	Phillies v. San Diego. 7:05 p.m. Citizens Bank Park.
Career Fashion Show. Gallagher Room. 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.	21	Gavin DeGraw. 7 p.m. Whitaker Center, Harrisburg, PA.
Dave Douglas Concert. Music & Multimedia 001. 7 p.m. \$10.	22	Third Eye Blind. 8 p.m. The Electric Factory.



SUDOKU

	4			6			9	
	6		9			1		
5	9	1		7			8	
1						2		
7				4				1
		9						5
	5			9		3	2	4
		4			5		1	
	1			3			7	

CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1- Metal-shaper
6- Chairs
11- Wee bit
14- Paddled boat
15- Walk-on role
16- Mined mineral
17- Annoyance
19- Architect I.M.
20- Wanders
21- Housing
23- Compass dir.
24- Residence of the popes
25- Correctly
29- Gannet
30- Attorney Melvin
31- Work the soil
32- In the manner of
35- Naive
39- Leaves in a bag
40- Some nest eggs
41- Mountain ridge
42- Trademark
44- Emphasis
45- Having stripes
48- Bleat of a sheep
49- The other inheritor
50- Scatter
55- Wow
56- Summarize

- 58- Monetary unit of Romania
59- Capital of Egypt
60- Fabric woven from flax yarns
61- Freddie Krueger roamed ___ Street in the movies
62- Gnu cousin
63- Tawdry

Down

- 1- Shell game
2- Merlin, e.g.
3- Swenson of "Benson"
4- Ripped
5- Supremacy
6- Frighten
7- Consumes
8- Where ___?
9- Aztec temple
10- Musical composition
11- Subject
12- Concert venue
13- Condescend
18- Sleeveless garment
22- Sloth, for one
24- Electrical units
25- Adjoin
26- Lacoste of tennis

- 27- Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
28- Day-___
29- Agave fiber
31- Exhausted
32- To ___ (perfectly)
33- Permits
34- Summer coolers
36- Wintry
37- Ancient military engine
38- Sheet music abbr.
42- Falsehood
43- Each
44- Disrespectful back talk
45- Fish covering
46- Absorbent cloth
47- Head cold
48- Two-legged support
50- Mend with rows of stitches
51- Charles Lamb's pen name
52- Tirade
53- Editor's mark
54- Start of a counting rhyme
57- The Company

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

CRYPTOGRAM

G	HNGBBM	DIIO	ONENUEVLN
XNLNH	DNEF	WGHHVNO.	

The Language and Literature
Penland Prize
Student Literary Contest

\$50 Prize
in each category



Gene Penland 1935-1985
Department Chair, Professor of English

- Entry deadline:
Friday, April 17, 2009,
4:00 p.m.
- Entry form must accompany
all submissions
- Entries must be typed/
word processed
- Reception & reading
to honor winners

Three Categories:

- Poetry: Three Poems
- Short Story: 5000 word limit
- Essay: 1500 word limit

Obtain entry forms from Language and Literature office, Penn 105 or at
www.bucks.edu/academics/departments/lang_lit/LitContestEntryForm2009.pdf



Bucks County Community College

Newtown • Bristol • Perkasi • Bucks.edu

Where to learn. Where to return.

*The Bucks County Community College journalism program and the Centurion student newspaper
present the tenth annual Media Day*

WEB WORLD: THE FUTURE OF ONLINE JOURNALISM

Forum:



Chris Krewson
Executive Editor for
Online News
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Robert Moran
Online Reporter
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Bob Kellagher
Chief Operating Officer,
Interactive media
Calkins Media

10 A.M., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
GATEWAY AUDITORIUM, BUCKS COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
275 SWAMP ROAD, NEWTOWN, PA

You'll also get a chance to:

-Hear about the college's programs in journalism and communications

-Tour the college's high-tech journalism center where classes are held and the student newspaper is produced, the TV production studio, and film editing labs

This event is free and open to the public

Students coming in buses can be dropped off at the entrance to the college's Gateway Center (building 26 on the campus map). Buses should park in student parking Lot C (see campus map). Individual visitors attending Media Day can park in the visitor's parking lots or also in Lot C.

**For more information, go to
www.bucks.edu/journalism
or contact
journalism@bucks.edu**

RE5 for Game of the Year

BY CHRIS JOHNSON
Managing Editor

Once again, the zombie survival genre has unleashed its newest incarnation of evil and it’s oh so good. Resident Evil 5 is the newest version of the long-running zombie survival anthology.

You play as Chris Redfield, one of the protagonists from the previous games, who has left the horrors of Raccoon City behind and is now fighting global bioterrorism as a member of the Bioterrorism Security Assessment Alliance.

Chris is joined by his new partner Sheva Alomar, as they investigate a series of events in a fictional African country called Kijuju.

This whole game is vastly similar to that of Resident Evil 4, which was just as big as was the first Resident Evil in letting players control the camera views and in offering a different setting other than that of Raccoon City.

The controls in RE5 are similar to those of RE4. The one thing about this game that is still lacking is the fact that you cannot run and shoot at the same time. This can be really frustrating at a certain point because the number of attackers makes you wish you could move but also defend yourself at the same time.

The other problem with the game is that your AI partner



will often waste precious ammunition that you worked so hard to procure. This can make the later levels of the game annoyingly difficult.

Other than that the game is excellent; from the visuals to the music the overall experience is really fun, no matter what difficulty level you’re playing on. The thrill of completing the chapter is only equaled by the crushing blow you’re dealt when defeated.

The music and the ambient noises are set just right as you creep around corners waiting to hear the groan of the zombies. The pop-pop of gun fire is your only friend as you delve deeper and deeper into the conspiracy surrounding the events in the game.

During your first time playing, as you get deeper into the story, you begin to figure out what’s going on in that particular chapter. This is usually just in time to hear the roar of a boss and turn in time to see them rip apart a 6-inch

steel door and hurl it at your head.

Since the game has been released, it’s been decided that there are ways to get around the fact you can’t move and shoot. The game is really in depth with great visuals and including the ability to replay the levels over and over on each difficulty lends to a huge amount of replayability.

Anyone who likes the series will definitely pick this up so they don’t need to be told. The people who need to be told are the ones who have heard about it but aren’t decided on whether or not it’s worth the money.

The experience of having hordes of undead come running at you; plus the in-depth and often intertwining story-line coupled with a visual and audio experience that can only be compared to that of a multimillion dollar movie, makes for a great time.

Xbox Live community events

These are some of the events on the Xbox Live calendar for the next week or so...

- 4/15 GamerchiX Ladies Night: Resident Evil 5
- 4/19 Community Playdate: Aeropause
- 4/20 Music Monday: Rock Band 2
- 4/22 GamerchiX Ladies Night: Grand Theft Auto IV

That’s a cool website:

yelp.com

If you want to know about it, it’s probably been reviewed on this site, allowing anyone to tell it like it is.

gasbuddy.com

Where can I get gas the cheapest in my area? Gasbuddy knows.

iliketotallyloveit.com

And I, like totally had to have it so I got it. Ah, the joys of social online shopping, a way to not only get what you like, but what others like too.

zeer.com

An essential site for any dieter.

New DVD releases

Doubt with Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman

Bedtime Stories with Adam Sandler and Keri Russell

Day the Earth Stood Still with Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connelly

Yes Man with Jim Carrey

The Tale of Despereaux with Matthew Broderick and Emma Watson

Everything you “Wanted”

BY CHRIS JOHNSON
Managing Editor

In keeping with this week’s comic-based game reviews, it’ll be no surprise that Wanted: Weapons of Fate will be under as much scrutiny as the Watchmen game.

The Wanted game is based on the movie which was based on the graphic novel, which has very little in common with both the movie and the game. That being said, curving bullets is a ton of fun.

The Wanted game takes one of the best parts of the movie and lets you destroy the laws of physics by curving bullets around corners and killing everyone in your way.

In the demo, you play Cross, who was featured in the film as a former member of the Fraternity. He and other assassins like him can harness the adrenaline in their bodies to slow down time, curve bullets and perform a number of other near superhuman feats.

The demo features a tutorial level that gives you the basics of combat, using the adrenaline, and using cover. After playing these tutorials



you can dive right into the game and play the “Fear of Flying” demo level, which throws you right into the middle of the combat. As a way to taunt the player, the only difficulty available in the demo is the “Pussy” difficulty while “Assassin” and “Killer” are unavailable.

Right away you can tell this game is based solely on using cover and waiting for your enemies to pop out to give you the opportunity to take a shot. For every headshot you make, you’re awarded an

adrenaline point to use to curve a bullet. The bullet curving reticule is an arching beam of light that will give you your best option for hitting someone around a corner or behind a wall.

Another ability available to you in the demo is the “bullet time” ability, which you can use if you have two adrenaline points. However, you can only use this ability when behind cover and you’re set to move to a different cover point.

When activated, time slows

down and all enemies who are in your sight are subjected to a barrage of bullets as you empty the two clips you have already. Once the guns are empty, bullet time turns off automatically and you’re back to regular speed.

Not too much of the game’s story is made readily available in the demo. It’s more about the gunplay and abusing the bullet curve and bullet time abilities in the game. The game does pay homage to the graphic novel as Cross in the demo is dressed in

Wesley’s “Killer” outfit from the comic, complete with the signature mask.

Overall, the demo is pretty solid and a lot of fun. As far as the story goes, it appears that later in the game you take over as Wesley as he hunts members of the French Fraternity, searches for a man known only as “the Immortal” and tries to learn more about his family’s past. The story this time will focus much more on his relationship with his mother, whereas the movie focused on the relationship with his father.

Look for this game coming to the PS3 and Xbox 360 later this month.

Since this article was written, the full version of the game came out. Its actually a little disappointing, the gameplay is pretty repetitive after awhile and the episodes a relativley short. The hardest part of the game is when you’re required to use a machinegun emplacement and you have to peek over the protective shield.

Unless you’re a fan of the movie, it’s not worth the 60 bucks to buy it.



OPEN YOUR EYES TO A DEGREE IN THE SCIENCES.

The perfect place for transfer students. A science degree from University of the Sciences could be your next step to a rewarding career! We offer 25 different undergraduate programs in the natural sciences, health sciences, and the business of science, including biophysics, pre-medicine, forensic science, physical therapy, pharmaceutical science, and computer science. Our school is small enough that we can offer you the kind of personal attention to make your academic program planning easier. And we offer scholarships and financial aid. Visit www.usp.edu/transfer and see how a transfer to University of the Sciences could be the right move for you.

Apply for FREE online at www.usp.edu

An in-depth science education.
Hands-on research.
In-demand graduates.

USP UNIVERSITY OF THE
SCIENCES IN
PHILADELPHIA

‘JenEric’

BY ERIC NOCITO
Editor-in-Chief
JEN GOLDING
Managing Editor

Despite being gaga over fries, we chose to avoid the fried food this week. We simply chose to purchase carrot sticks. Now, these are no ordinary carrot sticks. Nothing, and we mean nothing, beats the perfection that is a CulinArt carrot stick. The health benefits of this vegetable are more numerous than a newly born litter of naked mole rats. According to healthmad.com, the carrot is an edible root vegetable which originated from Asia. It gains high respect in Western countries as it has been regarded for its outstanding nutritional and medicinal values. Not only is this delicious veggie an excellent source of antioxidant compounds, it is certainly one member of the vegetable group that provides endless joke opportunities. Here’s a knee slapper: how do you make gold soup?? Answer: Take 22 carrots!! HAH!! When you head into CulinArts with hunger pains, it’s often tempting to grab something “substantial.” However, these colorful veggies from God’s garden are possibly the best way to infuse nutrition and tasteful explosion into your diet. So don’t be shy next time you enter through that CulinArts turnstile; grab yourself a handful of the sweetest, vitamin-filled sticks of delight and take “CARROT” of yourself.

Mystery on the planet of Gangulon

BY KEVIN YORKE
Centurion Staff

Day 36: Recycling On Gangulon

It hadn’t been four Gargatic Moons since my crash landing and I had temporarily set up camp in the Gangulon colony of Smarkmenian. Since my near-fatal ejection from the cockpit of my Warp Speeder I had lived on this strange planet of Gangulon 7 in complete and utter hopeless fear. The natives had been savage to my apparent disruption of daily life on their precious planet, and for good reason. The explosion my speeder caused had killed 500 Gangulonians and wounded hundreds more. They looked at me with complete contempt and I had not known why until their leader kindly approached me and told me the news. I was

shocked and disheartened at the revelation, but it would not bring my resolve down. Was it possible that these creatures were evil by nature? Would they be able to plant their infant seedlings in my belly without my knowing? Could they read my mind and also my earthling language? Was it also possible that I remembered to pack my favorite juice box from earth? This was very important to me but I later found out that nothing survived the giant explosion, not even my Hawaiian Punch.

I quickly shook the shock of not retaining my juice boxes of choice and set up shop in my new home. As this planet was millions of light years from earth, I had little to no chance of returning. I thought of the better things of earth: the soy lattes, the horse racing, the knitting machines,

the automated bank tellers, and the smelly trash heaps. All of this I longed to return to.

I had thought of the systems of trash heap removal on earth and the many filth infested barges and garbage dumps and how much more efficient this was than having seven of the largest and most worthless Gangulonians swallow the debris and then let this digest in their Tortockugorts (the equivalent to human stomachs), and thus, create a odorless and soundless massive explosion.

I later approached upper Gangulon hierarchy with a suggestion that would help to save the lives of the laziest of their race while also reducing the Gangulonian suicide rates. I approached the ruler of Gangulon 7, Dando The Great, with the suggestion of recycling.

Bucks hosts ninth annual media day forum

BY JOSEPH KLAUSA
Centurion Staff

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22 in the library auditorium at Bucks, the journalism program and the Centurion will host the ninth annual media day forum. The event is open to the public and the idea is to give students a feel of what it’s like to work in the field of journalism. This year,

the focus is on online journalism. In prior years, the forum has presented speakers from all walks of the field such as reporters from the Philadelphia Inquirer, NBC and ABC.

This year three speakers will be giving presentations at the event. The speakers are Chris Krewson, the Executive Editor for Online News at the Philadelphia Inquirer; Robert

Moran, an Online Reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer; and Bob Kellagher, the Chief Operating Officer at Interactive Media and Calkins Media.

Each speaker will speak about for approximately 10 to 15 minutes about their career in online-based journalism or website-based newspapers. Each speech will be concluded by a question and answer

session.

Journalism Professor Tony Rogers, author of “News Writing on Deadline,” and a former reporter for the New York Daily News and the Associated Press, suggested that anyone who is interested in a career in the field of journalism should attend the forum. The forum offers firsthand advice from professionals on what it is like to work

in the field and be a reporter.

The event also offers a tour of the college’s high-tech journalism center where The Centurion is produced as well as the television production studio and film editing labs. The event is free and is open to the public. Any questions should be forwarded to journalism@bucks.edu.



My degree symbolizes success and determination. DeVry University definitely gave me an advantage by preparing me for a career rather than just a job.

Mia Buller '06
Accounting

Take your community college experience to the next level. Complete your bachelor’s degree at DeVry University and be on your way to an in-demand career in accounting in as little as 18 months when you transfer your qualifying college credits. With our unmatched Career Service assistance, you will have the help you need to find the career you deserve. In fact, 90% of DeVry Fort Washington graduates seeking employment find a career in their field within 6 months.*

Jumpstart your career in accounting, visit DeVryPhiladelphia.com.

DeVry University
We major in careers.™

3 Philadelphia area locations:

Fort Washington Campus
Philadelphia (Center City)
Chesterbrook (Valley Forge)

*From October '07, February '08 and June '08 classes. ©2009 DeVry University. All rights reserved.

Michelle Obama breaks royal tradition

By The Associated Press

LONDON — Michelle Obama's meeting with Queen Elizabeth II began with a handshake and ended in a hug.

The first lady arrived Wednesday with President Barack Obama. After separate meetings on the eve of the G-20 summit, the couple attended an evening reception for world leaders hosted by the queen.

Mrs. Obama clearly made an impression with the 82-year-old monarch — so much that the smiling queen strayed slightly from protocol and briefly wrapped her arm around the first lady in a rare public show of affection.

It was the first time Mrs. Obama — who is nearly a foot taller — had met the queen. The first lady also wrapped her arm around the

monarch's shoulder and back.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman who asked not to be identified because of palace policy said he could not remember the last time the queen had displayed such public affection with a first lady or dignitary.

"It was a mutual and spontaneous display of affection," he said. "We don't issue instructions on not touching the queen."

When the former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating put his arm around the queen in 1992, the tabloids dubbed him the "Lizard of Oz." When his successor, John Howard, was accused of doing the same, a spokesman insisted: "We firmly deny that there was any contact whatsoever." In 2007, President George W. Bush gave the queen a sly wink during a visit she paid to the United States.

The Daily Mail said the "two women clearly took to each other."

Wednesday's reception was followed by a dinner at Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Downing Street home, where the leaders' spouses were joined by notable British women, including "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling and Olympic gold medal runner Kelly Holmes.

"Michelle walks in and she is as she seems," Holmes told reporters Thursday. "So warm, engaging, a beautiful, beautiful lady — and I quickly got my photo in the middle of her and Sarah Brown," the prime minister's wife.

Mrs. Obama also seemed to win over the often feral British press.

The last time a first lady made such a hit in Britain was last year with French President Nicolas Sarkozy's



QUEEN ELIZABETH II WELCOMES THE OBAMAS.
PHOTO COURTESY WHITEHOUSE.GOV

wife, the former fashion model and songwriter Carla Bruni.

But on Thursday, London's Times newspaper had moved on, writing "Carla who?"

The BBC described Mrs. Obama as her husband's co-star rather than supporting act — appropriate for a Harvard-educated lawyer.

Mrs. Obama visited an all-

girls school in north London on Thursday afternoon. She told the 240 girls about growing up on Chicago's south side, and urged them to think of education as "cool."

At the end of the visit, Mrs. Obama doled out hugs to the students, and was swarmed by them — to the extent that some Secret Service agents stepped nervously forward.

G-20 Offers International Aid

By The Associated Press

LONDON — World leaders pledged \$1.1 trillion in loans and guarantees to struggling countries and agreed Thursday to crack down on tax havens and hedge funds — but failed to reach sweeping accord on more stimulus spending to attack the global economic decline.

At the end of a highly anticipated one-day gathering, leaders of the Group of 20 nations said they would upgrade an existing financial forum to serve as an early warning monitor to flag problems in the global financial system.

They did not, however, satisfy U.S. and British calls for new stimulus measures. Nor did European politicians get their goal of a global financial super regulator.

The leaders did bridge several gaps between the United States and some European nations over how far to regulate the market and how to curb the excesses that sparked the global economic crisis.

President Barack Obama, in his first major venture into international diplomacy, failed to get U.S. trading partners to spend more money on job-creating stimulus programs, as the U.S. and Britain have done. The proposal was opposed strongly by France and Germany.

However, it had become clear long before the gathering began that there was little support for more such stimulus spending outside the U.S. and Britain.

"I think we did OK," Obama told reporters afterward. "We have agreed on a series of unprecedented steps to restore growth and prevent a

crisis like this happening again... We have created as fundamental a reworking of resources to these international financial institutions as anything we've done in the last several decades."

Obama's words echoed comments by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the French and German leaders.

Thursday's gathering was called in hopes of restoring faith in the global financial system — and in one possible gauge of success, European and U.S. markets surged ahead as the outcome of the summit came into view.

The biggest headline figure was the new money for the International Monetary Fund, which helps out governments that run into financial trouble from the crisis, and other development organizations to send credit to countries that have seen it dry up.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who earlier had threatened earlier to walk out if unsatisfied with the outcome, also praised Obama for helping to create consensus and persuade China to agree to publish lists of tax havens.

"There were moments of tension," Sarkozy said. "Never would we have thought to get as big an agreement."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the measures "a very, very good, almost historic compromise" that will give the world "a clear financial markets architecture."

"For the first time we have a common approach to cleaning up banks around the world to restructuring of the world financial system. We have maintained our commitment to help the world's poorest," Brown said. "This is

a collective action of people around the world working at their best."

The G-20 leaders also said that developing nations — hard-hit and long complaining of marginalization — would get a greater say in world economic affairs. They said they would renounce protectionism and pledged \$250 billion in trade finance over the next two years — a key measure to help struggling developing countries.

The leaders also agreed to new rules on linking executive pay to performance, Brown said.

Despite the announcement of a global supervisory body to flag problems, Sarkozy lost his bid for a global regulatory czar that could actual enforce regulations inside U.S. and other countries.

Obama said that the comprehensive deal was just the beginning, and the world's problems "are not going to be solved in one meeting, they're not going to be solved in two meetings."

G-20 leaders agreed to gather again to assess progress on their commitments at the sidelines of the annual U.N. summit in New York in September.

Police were out in force for the G-20 summit Thursday, swarming the east London riverside site after demonstrations in the city's financial district on Wednesday turned spordically violent.

Police boats patrolled the Thames river as small groups of demonstrators protested world poverty and climate change. Over 110 people were arrested over two days, police said.

NJ warns nearly 3,000 to get tested for hepatitis B

By The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. —

New Jersey officials on Thursday advised nearly 3,000 people who share a doctor to get tested after five cancer patients who visited the physician were found to have hepatitis B.

Ocean County health officials said two cases of hepatitis B were confirmed in late February as connected with the office of Dr. Parvez Dara, an oncologist with offices in Toms River and Manchester, near the Jersey Shore.

Health officials decided to send a letter to all his patients dating to 2002. The March 28 letter warns them of the risk and suggests they be tested for the liver diseases hepatitis B and hepatitis C and for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

State officials recently learned of three more cases, all in Toms River. How the disease was spread is unclear.

Linda Bradford of Bayville said she's worried about her husband's health after hearing news of the outbreak.

"The first thing I did was call my husband," Bradford told WCBS-TV. "I was terrified. Oh my God, what's going on here?"

Dara faces suspension of his medical license in connection with the outbreak and for other alleged health code violations.

A hearing is scheduled for Friday before the state Board of Medical Examiners.

Until then, he is performing only patient consultations, not procedures, said his lawyer, Robert Conroy.

There is no proof the patients contracted the disease from Dara's office, Conroy said.

All five patients were also seen at the same local hospital, he said, declining to name it.

Health officials said they ruled the hospital out as a possible source of the infection.

"The investigation looked at all sites where the patients received care. ... The only common site was the physicians' office," said state Health Department spokeswoman Marilyn Riley.

Hepatitis B is transmitted through exposure to infected blood, often by sexual contact or infected needles.

Dara's office treats patients with blood disorders and cancer, some of whom receive chemotherapy there.

Conroy said three patients were found to have dormant hepatitis infections that might have been noticed only after they started cancer treatments, which can suppress the body's immune system.

Meanwhile, Conroy said Dara has received only support from his patients.

"The doctor has never felt more appreciated by his patients than he does right now," he said.



Can the Phillies do it again this year?

BY COLIN GERRITY
Sports Editor

The Phillies championship season of 2008 took a city and its diehard fans on an exhilarating rush of sporting ecstasy.

That was last year. This is now. So how do the Phillies repeat?

With only two unrestricted free agents, Pat Burrell and Jamie Moyer, the club did not have to face the uncertainty of multi-player departures. The club acted quickly to lock up the 46 year old Moyer to a two-year deal after he had a solid 2008 season, leading the team in wins and posted a 3.71 ERA.

Burrell's departure was stinging at first because he was such a big fan favorite. It became more tolerable after the club signed 36 year-old left fielder Raul Ibanez from Seattle.

Ibanez, a former player under Phillies current special advisor Pat Gillick when they both were with the Mariners, was targeted early as the man to replace Burrell, and his career numbers of 251 homeruns, and 827 RBI impressed many. Last year, Ibanez played in all 162 games,

and hit 23 home runs and drove in 110 RBI for the Mariners.

Ibanez brings solid power to the middle of the order and despite being on the left side of the plate, has been known to hit lefthanders well.

With Ibanez teaming up with power king Ryan Howard, and superstar Chase Utley, a big concern going into the season is the middle of the order and its ability to hit tough left-handed pitching, particularly left handed starters.

With Burrell's right handed bat out of the lineup, this could develop into a disruptive dynamic. Manager Charlie Manuel may have to juggle his lineup if this problem arises. Management may have to seek some right handed options to correct this flaw.

Manuel's lineup for 2009 will be relatively the same, aside from the addition of Ibanez. The offense looks poised so far this spring to have another big year.

The lineup will be speedy and consistent at the top of the order with shortstop Jimmy Rollins and centerfielder Shane Victorino getting on base and

being aggressive on the base pads. This should set up nicely for the big three of Howard, Utley and Ibanez, the meat of the order, to have big RBI seasons. Sprinkle in the steady bats of third baseman Pedro Feliz, catcher Carlos Ruiz, and right fielder Jason Werth, and the Phils lineup is as good as any in MLB.

The bench should be solid again with the addition of second baseman Marcus Giles joining infielders Greg Dobbs, Eric Bruntlett, and Matt Stairs. Geoff Jenkins, who signed last year to a two-year deal worth \$8 million a year, was released to give the Phillies another right-handed option off the bench. But as with every team the bottom line toward making the playoffs and ultimately winning a championship is pitching.

The offseason indicated how much pitching was in demand by the mega deals that CC Sabathia (signed by the Yankees for seven years and \$ 161 million) and A.J Burnett (signed by the Yankees for five years and \$82.5 million) both starting pitchers, received.

The Phillies consistency last

year was directly mirrored by the success of their pitching staff and bullpen, front lined by staff ace Cole Hamels, (14-10, 3.09 ERA, 227 innings) and star closer Brad Lidge (41 saves).

Hamels will be followed in the rotation again by Brett Myers, a solid no. 2 starter, and late season acquisition Joe Blanton.

Blanton pitched superbly last season after coming over from Oakland at the trade deadline, going 4-0, and pitching solidly in the playoffs. All indications are that Blanton will be the team's

third starter, followed by Moyer.

Rounding out the rotation in the fifth spot will be Chan Ho Park, who the club signed from the L.A. Dodgers.

The bullpen should continue to be strength of the team. A major blow this offseason was the news that late inning gem J.C. Romero will be out for the first 50 games of the season due to testing positive for performance enhancing drugs.

If they can remain healthy, the Phillies look to be a strong contender again.



PHILLIES FANS CELEBRATE AFTER WINNING THE 2008 WORLD SERIES.
PHOTO BY JEN GOLDING

North Carolina Tar Heels win NCAA championship

By The Associated Press

DETROIT —

Tyler Hansbrough grabbed the T-shirt, the one that said "National Champions," with as much authority as any rebound that had ever come his way.

Some teams win championships by catching fire during a magic spell in March.

Others win them simply because they're better than everyone else. North Carolina was that kind of team.

Hansbrough and the Tar Heels stomped out Michigan State's inspirational run with an 89-72 blowout Monday night in an NCAA title game that wasn't really that close.

"This is the best way to go out. I couldn't picture it any other way," Hansbrough said, choking up, a few minutes after he rushed to grab that first hot-off-the-iron T-shirt.

He scored 18 points, Wayne Ellington had 19 and Ty Lawson finished with 21 points and a record eight steals. Now, they and Danny Green can all head to the NBA feeling good about their decision to return to school. They're bringing home Carolina's fifth championship, and the second for coach Roy Williams.

Hansbrough, the player of the year last season, never thought twice about returning for his senior year. Ellington, Lawson and Danny Green tested the NBA waters but didn't like what they found. They all came back, none of them wanting their college careers to end on the dud of a game in last year's Final Four when they found themselves down 40-12 to Kansas and even Billy Packer was telling the folks it was over.

North Carolina led 40-20 at one point in this one. The rest was about deciding the order for cutting down the nets, and taking bets on who would cry and who wouldn't.

Hansbrough did. Ellington too. Williams? Of course he did.

"My hat's off to these three guys here and the guys

in the locker room," Williams said. "Because they took Roy Williams on one fantastic ride, and it's something I'll never forget."

Michigan State (31-7) would like to.

The Spartans never had a chance. They had been on an uplifting run, and the final chapter was supposed to be the national championship. It would, the storybook said, bring the definitive ray of sunshine to a city and state that's been battered by an ailing economy.

Instead, the 90-mile ride home to East Lansing will be a quiet one.

"I think if we played as well as we did the last couple games, at least it's a game," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "The only thing I feel bad for is that it was the biggest crowd to ever see a college basketball game and it wasn't much of a game."

The crowd of 72,922 at Ford Field, most wearing Michigan State colors, watched the Tar Heels (34-4) go up 55-34 at halftime, breaking a 42-year-old title-game record for biggest lead at the break and setting the mark for most points at the half.

It was, almost literally, over before it began.

Ellington had a double-pump scoop layup and a 3-pointer and Hansbrough spotted up and sank a 14-foot jumper — all in the first 4:25 to put Carolina ahead 17-7. It never got closer.

The Spartans, meanwhile, were having trouble simply getting the ball in after Tar Heel buckets, turning it over that way twice in the first 6 minutes, part of a depressing day that didn't do justice to the effort they put in to get here.

"I just don't think we did the things we did all year," Izzo said. "When you say that, you take away some credit from North Carolina, and I don't want to do that. It was a combination of us and them, but we need to take some of the blame."

Izzo tried to call a timeout to stop the onslaught with 6:45 left in the first half. His team came out and promptly turned it over — one of 14 in the first half, compared to only 12 baskets.

Goran Suton led the Spartans with 17 points, and

Kalin Lucas, the Big Ten player of the year, had 14.

Michigan State pulled within 13 a couple times late in the second half, and the crowd tried to make some noise.

But for most of the game, cavernous Ford Field had the atmosphere of a Lions game — the 0-16 Lions — save the few thousand Tar Heel fans whose Carolina Blue team put in a much better blue-collar effort than the team that prided itself on that.

Izzo conceded in the lead-up to the game that if both teams played their best, Michigan State would lose.

"The best team won," Izzo said. "That's an easy statement to make."

Indeed, this collection of NBA talent was too, too much from wire to wire, from the start of the tournament, to the very end.

Carolina won every game by double digits, something that hasn't happened since Duke did it in 2001.

Lots of basketball fans saw this coming, including America's No. 1 Hoopster-in-Chief.

Yes, President Barack Obama picked the Tar Heels to take it all in his much-publicized bracket.

"You've got six NBA players that could be drafted in the first round or early second," Spartans guard Travis Walton said. "You're looking at a team that could probably beat the worst team in the NBA."

Magic Johnson, Michigan State's Spartan-in-Chief, joined Larry Bird at center court to present the game ball, a tribute to the 30-year anniversary of their historic matchup and Michigan State's first title.

Overall, North Carolina dominated every matchup on the floor. The Tar Heels were a unanimous No. 1 in the preseason and became the first UNC team to start and finish at No. 1 since 1982.

Michael Jordan was the star of that team.

Hansbrough was the star of this one: Someone who will go down as a great college player — and a champion — no matter what the NBA might bring.

"It's not war, it's not the economy or anything, but I desperately wanted this championship..." Williams said. "I know that's corny, but that's who I am."