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. Like so many of us, Bucks student Latonia 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 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.

Among 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 from Bristol Borough, where Miss Robinson 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 stave off money. Buck President James Linksz, 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 educations.

With the ranks of the unemployed 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, R1, 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 academics 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 huge black iron gate, the words “Jedem Das Seine” ("To Each His Own") sol- dered 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 unif- 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 star- ing as he stared back at them. They were nothing more than skin and bone. Their eyes were sunken. Their heads were shaved. Some were cov- ered in sores and bruises – they had been beaten and starved. Tattered, striped pajama-like clothing hung on their skeletal frames. Some were raked. 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 prison- ers 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 instru- ments spiked into blood-spat- tered walls.

In the third building, labeled jars containing human body parts sat on shelves. His guide explained that “selection” took place every morn- ing, 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.

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**Midnight Ride**” to be performed

**BY JOHN BRODIE**

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 the British invasion.

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 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

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**Dancers to unleash energy at Bucks**

**BY ERIC NOCITO**

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.

BY ERIC NOCITO

Editor-in-Chief

Bucks County Community College’s Student Newspaper

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**THE CENTURION**

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**THE CENTURION**

Bucks County Community College’s Student Newspaper

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Cpl. Bass saw a blackened skull in one of the six covenants. He was to learn that, once a week, human ashes were transformed into 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 bandages.

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 his experience to have at 18,” he said. "I know I wasn't good enough."

He remembers his teachers as those who "spoke out against prejudice — in school. Dr. King addressed as "boy" by some teachers. Dr. King addressed as "boy" by some teachers.

Bass had emerged from boot camp in 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 play-ground, 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."

Bass talked about loving and respect and understanding 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 students would later assess the Wharton School as "tough but fair. He loved us.").

Principal Bass brought to the students the same kind of care and the education system.
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 recession.

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 severe 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. Burke is becoming the first in her family to go to college and is currently studying for her 4th semester. “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 caused network 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,” said Megan Bertrand, a senior marketing major from Bensalem. “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, particular 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 wishes 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 responsible with a credit card 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.

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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. Store managers say that many customers are just not spending as much because 74 percent of jobs pays below a living wage and, quite literally, complex cost of living increases by tracking changes in the price of goods and services.

Based on determinations by a Living Wage Calculator, people living in Bucks County, with a sole provider working full-time, would require an hourly wage of $29.20 to provide adequate financial support.

At an hourly rate of $10 or less, this family lives below the federal poverty level.

Yet minimum wage is $7.25 per hour. "Not enough," says Burns of the Bucks homeless shelter.

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, garages, 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 found the homeless hotline. And, increasingly, the number of people seeking shelter in the middle class is becoming subject to the problem, according to the Coalition for the Homeless.

Contributing factors include the slumping econo-

menteers who fall into a low-income bracket, have lost some major appeal on the 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 the federal poverty threshold does not provide escape from poverty because 74 percent of jobs pays below a living wage. In Bucks, according to Alicia Saxon, 31, who has been living at the Red Cross shelter for six weeks, $1,200 a month is not enough to pay for rent and utility bills.

And even though Saxon works full-time at Friendship Circle, a special education and career center, she said 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 $19,570.

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 seen a similar impact on the earnings of low-wage workers as the rising cost of living reduces the value of their pay-check, writes one economist who favors minimum wage increases in proportion to the Consumer Price Index.

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

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

"It’s nice we got out of there earlier, but the cutback hurts my paycheck."
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 factoring in that they must now look for work while trying to make ends meet. They find themselves in a quandary: They need to fit into the job market, yet they need a small fortune to find work.

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

A customer service manager at the Bucks, Nieman, 45, was laid off last May. But she didn’t settle for treading water. After mailing out resumes 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 ballet dance, Nieman is enrolled in algebra and composition classes 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 home, and property-tax bills are due every day. She feels 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 “desperately needed” a job. Unlike Nieman, Hart’s last employer didn’t participate in COBRA, so she has no health benefits.

McGuire’s father did lose his job early in the depression and she thinks it was his small pension from the Spanish-American War that pulled them through. “There was no such thing as dessert, but 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 expected to pay an unprecedented debt left to future generations, and McGuire is no different. “What I really worry about is the debt we’ll be leaving for our grandchil- dren. That makes me heart- sick.”

She said that despite the concerns, the Depression and the recession can have a posi- tive effect on people. “I saw it then and I see it now. People became very willing to help others. It’s nice to see.”

McGuire remembers that her own family was always able to put food on the table. “We had a friggin’ job!” If it’s not a perfect fit, she thinks, “it may not be the best, but it’s experience that I can use down the road.”

Hart’s resume 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 the cleaning up the nation’s natu- ral resources.

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In the 1930s, there were no trillion dollar bailouts like the one Congress recently passed in an attempt to resuscitate the economy. Americans are expected to pay an unprecedented debt left to future generations, and McGuire is no differ-
Some students’ parents pay tuition

BY ERIC NCOCITO
Editor-in-Chief

These days we hear all about students struggling with their college debt and loans. Especially in this recession, it is 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; it is without having to worry about paying my tuition,” said Danny Dalloisio, a 180-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 university 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 my reality,” said Danny’s father, Pat Dalloisio. “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 university, according to swivel.com data. “I have no problem with fully supporting my son with his tuition,” said Danny’s mother, Debbie Dalloisio, 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 education, 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,” said Pat Dalloisio. “We are incredibly proud of our son,” said Debbie. “I don’t think he will turn out any better, and it’s all thanks to us,” he joked. “Pat Dalloisio works as a marketing 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,” said Debbie. “I think parents have a responsibility to help their kids financially. If you aren’t prepared financially to have children, then don’t,” said Pat.

When asked how he will handle money when he graduates college without the “experi- ence” 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 love what I study.”

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

Danny hopes to follow in his parents’ footsteps. He loves being a college student and can’t wait to take the big steps of his life like landing a great first job, buying a house, getting married and perhaps having children of his own someday.

For now, Danny is concentrat- ing 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 sci- ence/criminal justice major. “I cannot wait. I will definite- ly miss my parents but I’m excit- ed to live with my friends in the city and spend money at bars and going out to eat,” said Danny. “I really love fine din- ing, especially a great piece of juicy steak,” he added.
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 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 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 on 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 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 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 Linksz said the real problem is the schedule of the bus, the distance and the route Septa has selected.

“We try to encourage students to ride the bus. It’s easy; we have it. It’s not like everyone is here at the same time. Every student is different. It’s something hard on our students. What we need is for them to work together, help one another. So now we try to do that.”

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

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

“I love my truck too much to take the bus,” said Remi Trolli, a 19-year-old accounting major. “The only way I would take the bus is if gas prices were as high as they were back 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 education major.

“Other people I know are getting here later because the buses are running late.”

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

“I’m not sure how else to encourage students to take it. There have been signs around the campus. We hope it gets used.”

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.

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 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 $50 or so 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 middle 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 will be going and add in a few extras for the “unknown” trips and divide that by your miles per gallon.

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 crunching 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 extra effort to keep 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.

Build a Work Wardrobe on a Budget. Score a free copy of the book "How to be a Budget Fashionista!" 12 - 1 p.m.

How to become a successful College student. Student Services Center - Room 19. 1 - 2 p.m.

“The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.” Gateway Auditorium. Students free with ID.

Do your homework. 17

Phillies v. San Diego. 7:05 p.m. Citizens Bank Park.

Studys. 19


Learn what it takes to interview like a STAR and get the job. Upper Bucks. 12 - 1 p.m.

Career Fashion Show. Gallagher Room. 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Dave Douglas Concert. Music & Multimedia 001. 7 p.m. $10.

**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

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
14. Sleevelss garment
15. Slip, for one
22. Stho, 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

**Sudoku**

```
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 8 |
| 1 |
| 2 |
| 7 |
| 4 |
| 9 |
| 5 |
| 3 |
| 2 |
| 4 |
| 5 |
| 1 |
| 7 |
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**CryptoGram**

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G HNGBBM DIIO ONENUEVLN XNLNH DNEF WGHHSVNO.
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The Language and Literature

Penland Prize
Student Literary Contest

$50 Prize
in each category

- 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

Gene Penland 1935-1985
Department Chair, Professor of English

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
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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 28 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 lot or also in Lot C.

For more information, go to www.bucks.edu/journalism or contact journalism@bucks.edu
Everything you “Wanted”

BY CHRIS JOHNSON
Managing Editor

In keeping with this week’s comic-based game reviews, it’ll be surprising that The 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 curling 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 command the adrenaline in their bodies to slow down time, curve bullets and perform a number of other near supernatural 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 “Psy” difficulty while “Assassin” and “Killer” are unavailable.

Right away you can tell this game is based solely on using cover and waiting for your opponents 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, where-as 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. It actually a little disappointing, the gameplay is pretty repetitive after awhile and the episodes a relativity 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.
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.

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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 free and is open to the public and the media day forum. The event will host the ninth annual Centurion at Bucks, the journalism program and the Centurion at Bucks, the journalism program and the Centurion at Bucks. The event is free and is open to the public and the media day forum. The event will host the ninth annual program and the Centurion at Bucks.

Day 36: Recycling On Gangulan

It hadn’t been four Gargatic Moons since my crash landing and I had temporarily set up camp in the Gangulu colony of Smarkmenian. Since my near-fatality ejection from the cockpit of my Warp Speeder I had lived on this strange planet of Gangulan 7 in complete and utter hopelessness. 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 Ganguluans and wounded hundreds more. They looked at me with complete contempt and I had not known 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 earling 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, and the automated bank tellers, and the smells 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 filthy infested barges and garbage dumps and how much more efficient this was than having seven of the largest and most worthless Gangulonian swallow the debris and then let this digest in their Tortuckugorts (the equivalent to human stomachs), and thus, create a odorless and soundless massive explosion. I later approached upper Gangulan hierarchy with a suggestion that would help to save the lives of the laziest of their race while also reducing the Gangulanoid suicide rates. I approached the ruler of Gangulan 7, Dando The Great, with the suggestion of recycling.

Each year three speakers will be giving presentations at the event. The speakers are Chris Krewson, the Executive Operating Officer at Calkins Media. Each speaker will speak 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 online-based journalism should attend the forum. The forum offers first-hand 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.

Mystery on the planet of Gangulan

BY KEVIN VORKE
Centurion Staff

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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 quick- ly 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 high-profile visit was last year with French President Nicolas Sarkozy’s 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- worker 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 female students, who were swarmed by them — to the extent that some Secret Service agents stepped nervously forward.

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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 a four-year-old on the first day of kindergarten.

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 being rushed to grab that first hot-off-the-iron T-shirt.

He scored 18 points, Wayne Ellington had 19 and Danny Green 14, but it was clear this was Tyler's night.

"I desperately wanted this championship..." 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 down 40-12 at halftime and only scored 38 points in the second half.

"You've got six NBA players that could be drafted..." 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.

Hansbrough had a double-pump scoop layup and a 3-pointer and Hansbrough spotted up and sank a 14-footer — the 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 break, 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.

"It's not war, it's not the economy or anything, but it wasn't really that close..." Michigan State guard Kalin Lucas, the Big Ten player of the year, had 14.

Overall, North Carolina dominated every matchup that really counted, and hit 23 home runs and drove in 110 RBI for the Mariner.

Tyler brings solid player to the middle of the order and despite being on the left side of the plate, has proven to hit left-handed pitching well.

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

With Hansbrough 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 Howard, Utley and Ibanez, the meat of the order, to have big RBI seasons. Sprinkle in the steady bats of Ryan Howard, Chace Utley, catcher Carlos Ruiz, and right fielder Jason Werth, and the Phils lineup is as good as any in MLB.

The Phillies should be solid again with the addition of second baseman Marcus Giles joining infielders Greg Dobbs, Eric Brunett, 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 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 J.A. Happ (signed by the Yankees for five years and $82.5 million) both starting pitchers.

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 Roy Halladay, a solid no. 2 starter, and late season acquisition Joe Blanton.

Blanton was last season after coming over from the Angels 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 due to a positive for performance enhancing drugs.

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