Landslide Obama

The ballots were cast and an epic election closes with Barack Obama as the first African-American president of the United States.

By John Skudris
Managing Editor

It all began in February 2007 with the words, “It’s time to turn the page.”

Now, 21 months later, a whole new story is being written. With victories in almost all the key swing states, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama captured the 2008 presidential election over Arizona Sen. John McCain. A night that started slowly ended abruptly when California and Washington were called for Obama, effectively pushing him over the 270 electoral vote plateau and electing the first African-American president in U.S. history. “The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America — I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you — we as a people will get there.” The always charismatic Obama uttered these words in his acceptance speech in front of billions of viewers all around the world, signaling that a change has come to America. It’s no doubt a victory for African-Americans everywhere who grew up never imagining that they’d get to see a black candidate, let alone the first black president. Celebrations erupted all throughout the world, most notably in Africa, where the sea of change proved to not be restrained by the walls of our continent. Election night began with the closing of polls in five states at 7 p.m. and didn’t end until well into the morning, as states like Indiana and North Carolina went right down to the wire. However, the result became increasingly clear when Obama became the first Democrat to win Ohio’s 20 electoral votes since former President Bill Clinton in 1996. By winning this key state, he did what Sen. John Kerry couldn’t do four years ago, triumph in GOP territory.

The president-elect would end up sweeping the swing states of Florida, Virginia, New Mexico, Colorado and Nevada on his way to victory. Pennsylvania

Continued on page 4

Bucks reacts to election outcome

By David Nonini and Ashley Pizzi

The people of the United States elected Sen. Barack Obama the first African-American president in our nation’s history, and on the Bucks campus, most students and staff shared a sense of awe at witnessing a historic first. It has been 138 years since the passage of the 15th Amendment after the Civil War, which guaranteed every citizen the right to vote regardless of ethnicity and race. “It was great to view history,” said Marc Johnson, an African-American staffer of the Act-101 goals office who is adviser to the Bucks Black Student Union. When asked if he ever thought an African-American would be elected president in his lifetime, he said that anything is possible. “But I never thought that I would live to see it.” However, Johnson added that the election wasn’t about ethnicity or race. “Obama couldn’t have won without the Caucasian vote. People were fed up. I was watching the news and saw a 108-year-old person vote for the first time. It’s pretty incredible. “This is a turning point in American history,” said Mitch Bunkin, a Bucks political science professor. Tony Wolf, another political science professor, was equally pleased. “I’m absolutely thrilled. It was my birthday yesterday, and it was the best birthday in decades,” he said.

Wolf said he has received e-mails from friends in Sweden, France, Germany, India, Bangladesh and Cuba that have congratulated the U.S. “People throughout the world have followed the campaign and are happy and hopeful. It’s a new day,” he stated. “I think that this election is a good thing for the country. We cleared a hurdle that goes way back,” said Martin Sutton, chair emeritus of the social sciences department.

Sutton drew comparisons between this election and the Kennedy-Nixon election of 1960. The 1960 election made history because Kennedy was the first Catholic elected to the Oval Office. “There are a lot of parallels. Both Kennedy and Obama have great oratory skills,” he said. Wolf agreed with these comparisons. “I think Obama has the intellect, charm and vigor of Kennedy, and the progressive vision and humanity of FDR,” he said.

Some students shared these positive sentiments. “I think the election results were great. I think Obama will do a good job,” said Alex Naylor, a 22-year-old sports management major.

Continued on page 11
Murphy wins re-election easily

BY CHRISTIAN PANNAPACKER
Centurion Staff

On Tues, U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy won a second term in the House of Representative. Murphy represents the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, consisting of Bucks County and a small portion of Montgomery County and far Northeast Philadelphia.

Murphy, 34, the only Iraq war veteran in Congress, followed the nationwide trend of Democratic victories. Murphy received a solid victory of 56.8 percent or 197,168 votes.

Republican opponent Tom Manion came in a distant second with 41.7 percent, 144,732 votes. Independent perennial candidate Tom Lingenfelter came in last with 5,509 votes, 1.6 percent of the total.

During eight debates and his frequently-aired and positive TV ads, Murphy focused on his accomplishments and plans for the 8th District. His talking points included bringing in green energy jobs, such as the windmill factory and solar panel field now in Bucks County, as well as improving veterans benefits and providing flood relief for Yardley.

To appeal to Republicans, Murphy also promoted himself as a fiscally conservative “blue dog Democrat” and as someone who “votes my conscience and not my party.”

Manion also campaigned on Obama’s theme of change by saying, “If you want more of the same, if you want more of the status quo, then I’m not your guy. But if you want something different from what Bush has been doing for the past eight years, than I’d appreciate your vote.”

Manion’s message was quite different. Without any prior experience in government at the age of 54, Manion promised himself as a citizen legislator with prior ties to the GOP and as someone with two successful careers, one of which was serving 30 years in the U.S. Marines.

In the Senate race in Minnesota, the Associated Press called early Wednesday. The Minnesota, were too close to including the contest in a fragile 51-49 majority. Four incumbents to the Democrats’

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Democrats expand lead in Congress

WASHINGTON — Democrats broadened their control of Congress in Tuesday’s elections, though in the Senate they fell short of the 60 votes needed for a filibuster-proof majority that would have given them almost unlimited power over legislation. Voters ousted Senate Republicans in North Carolina and New Hampshire and added three seats held by retiring GOP incumbents to the Democrats’ fragile 51-49 majority. Four other Senate races involving Republican incumbents, including the contest in Minnesota, were too close too call early Wednesday.

Democrats expanded on their accomplishments in the House, where they increased their majority from 231 to 235 seats, giving them a comfortable edge for the 112th session.

Democrats gained 63 seats in the House, bringing their total to 232 seats, which will give them a comfortable edge for the 112th session.

Murphy’s solid 15-point victory is a significant shift from the first victory in 2006, against Republican incumbent Michael Fitzpatrick, in which Murphy won by only 1,521 votes — less than 1 percent.

Murphy’s message focused on distrust of the two-party system, claiming that both parties are controlled by special interests and are the cause of all our problems. “The Republicans will tell you the Democrats are at fault. The Democrats will tell you the Republicans are at fault,” he said. “They’re both right.”

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The GOP retained some leverage in spite of Democratic gains. The Associated Press called the Senate race in Minnesota prematurely. Republican Sen. Norm Coleman finished second to Democrat Al Franken in the final vote count, but Coleman’s 571-vote margin falls well short of the state’s mandatory recount law. That law requires a recount any time the margin between the two top candidates is less than one-half of 1 percent.

In the House, Democrats captured GOP-held seats in the Northeast, South and West, adding at least 17 seats to the 30 they took from Republicans in 2006. Fewer than 10 races remained undecided. Going into Tuesday’s election, Democrats controlled the House 232-199 with one vacancy. “Tonight, the American people have called for a new direction. They have called for change in America,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada credited the excitement and record turnout that helped propel president-elect Barack Obama to victory.

Obama ran a terrific campaign, said Pelosi. McCain. There were bigger endorsements Republican John McCain.

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Bucks fakes it with mock election

BY JOHN SKUDRIS
AND DANIELLE EMERY
Managing Editors: Centurion Staff

If there was any question as to whether or not Bucks would follow the same path as the rest of the country when it came to this election, the answer was given during last week’s mock election.

The students of Bucks made their voices heard, and they resoundingly chose Barack Obama to be their next president.

By corollating more than 67 percent of the vote, Obama was declared the winner of the 2008 Bucks Mock Election.

It had been talked about for months that young voters would carry Obama to victory, and it was no different here.

As for John McCain, his persona as appealing to an older generation hurt him. He was only able to secure 21 percent of the vote thanks to many voters decisions that his experience combined with his liberal viewpoints on the issues were enough to warrant his election.

As for the third party candidates, Independent Ralph Nader was able to corrall 10 percent of the vote outstanding his educational viewpoints and his experience combined

It needs to be noted that the student vote is crucial in this election.

Whether or not Bucks students actually made it out to the polls on Tuesday, they at least made their voices heard last week in our mock election.

They stood up for their rights as American citizens and cast their votes in our mock election; an election that correctly predicted the outcome of the real election.

Tyler mansion restoration continues

BY ELIZABETH MESSINA
Student Life Editor

Every June, a food and wine tasting fundraiser is held to raise money for the Tyler Restoration Committee. For the past 20 years, the fundraiser has raised more than $350,000.

Between the fundraiser and donations from the Tylers, the committee raises about $60,000 annually, all to pay for restorations in the Tyler mansion.

The 45-room Tyler Estate was designed by architects Willing, Sims & Talbutt in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The construction began in 1930. The mansion cost $1 million to build, an estimated $12.3 million today.

The Tylers were the largest landowners in Bucks County, owning 2,000 acres. Stella Elkins Tyler died in 1963. On Jan. 29, 1965, a settlement was made for the purchase of the estate, consisting of 200 acres for the price of $700,000. The remaining 1,800 acres of the Tyler Estate is Tyler State Park.

The Tyler Restoration Committee members include college faculty, students, board members and community volunteers. Their mission is to “restore Tyler Hall to the extent it was when it was a private home, but still be able to function as an academic building,” said Tohi Bruhn, executive director of the foundation.

Furniture styles popular in the Tyler’s time are being reintroduced throughout the mansion, especially in the reception hall. Original paintings have been donated from the Tyler family. Recently, the octagonal room was repainted in its original colors by student volunteers.

In addition to the ongoing restoration, a major project taking place within the next year is the replacement of the stone work in the formal gardens. A tree limb shattered the stone work, leaving the stone crumbling. It needs to be replaced for safety reasons, said Bruhn.

The Pub, one of the most popular and talked about rooms in the mansion, is home to the restoration committee meetings.

It was designed in Colonial-revival style, complete with fake doors and pine paneling. Designed as a “male domain,” the pub was used for relaxation and entertaining after fox hunts. The bar area of the pub is located in the back, behind a door—since the mansion was built during prohibition.

The lighting fixtures are similar but not original; the originals were much dimmer, said Lyle Rosenberger, director of the restoration committee.

“During prohibition, you don’t want bright lights!”

Tyler is “not a museum, but a living museum,” Rosenberger said.

There is no expected amount of time the restoration will take. The committee outlines projects for the next two to three years, but they address urgent issues as they show up.

News 3

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President-elect Barack Obama

‘Yes We Can’ changes history

continued from page 1

contested by McCain over the past couple weeks as per-
haps his last-ditch effort to win a “blue” state. His efforts
came short, however, when the state was called for
Obama shortly after the polls closed at 8 p.m.

With the key victories, Obama had a landslide victo-
ry, a reported 349-173 in the Electoral College.

The potential outcome of this election became evident
early on in the evening when exit polls revealed that
the economy was the key issue in voter’s minds as opposed to
Iraq and terrorism. In 2004, moral values and national
security were the key issues, and this helped lead
President George Bush to a victory.

Not only did Obama become the first African-
American president, but he also became the first
Democrat since Jimmy Carter in 1976 to receive more than
50 percent of the popular vote.

An election that saw record turnout and enthusiasm
eventually concluded with the election of a man who
preached one theme throughout the entire campaign, “Change is
coming.”

Obama’s strong victory wasn’t the only good omen
for Democrats on Tuesday night. They also picked up
critically key senate seats in Colorado, New Mexico, North Carolina
and Virginia to move their majorities up to 56 seats. The House wasn’t immune to a
Democratic tidal wave either, as they expanded their lead in con-
gress.

The candidates weren’t the only things on the bal-
lot, as many states had measures to be voted on that could
impact the lives of many citizens. Arizona, California and
Florida all voted to ban gay mar-
rriage in their respective states. Meanwhile, a South Dakota
amendment that would have banned abortion was voted down.

After eight years of the Bush administration, Obama made it a
priority to prove his worth to the nation in his ac-
ceptance speech.

“There are many who won’t
agree with every decision or
policy I make as president, and we know that govern-
ment can’t solve every prob-
lem. But I will always be hon-
est with you about the chal-
enges we face,” he said.

Within minutes of Obama
capturing victory, McCain walked onto a crowded
ballroom and congratulated
his opponent on a well-
fought campaign.

He didn’t admit any mis-
takes by name, but he
acknowledged that the cam-
paign was flush with too
many flaws to win. “The
American people have spoken,”
he said.

“In a contest as long and
difficult as this campaign has
been, his success alone com-
mands my respect for his
ability and perseverance,”
said McCain. “But that he
managed to do so by inspir-
ing the hopes of so many mil-
ions of Americans who had
once wrongly believed that
they had little at stake or little
influence in the election of an
American president is some-
thing I deeply admire and
commend him for achieving.”

McCain will return to his
Senate seat in Washington
after his lifelong dream of
becoming president was “his
failure” and not the GOP vot-
ers’.

The U.S. spent hundreds of
years treating blacks like they
were lesser beings. But now,
after more than 200 years of
white, male presidents, the
most powerful and free
nation on Earth will be led by
an African-American.

Obama and his running
mate, Sen. Joe Biden, of
Delaware, will take the oath
of office on Jan. 20, 2009, as
the next president and vice
president of the United States.

Imagine, you can actually
vote for someone of color.
Obama must be the choice.
"Yes We Can" takes on a
whole new meaning.

SGA President John Skudris says it’s Obama’s nation now

It only took a little more
than 220 years. But
finally, we have made
history in America. By electing Barack
Obama our first African-
American president, the
United States can finally
stand up and say that we are
among the civilized nations
that saw their dreams and
helped to realize those
dreams.

Americans all
two-thirds of the coun-
your state cast their
ballots on Tuesday. This
election mat-
ted to people.
Not in 40 years
have we seen
this much excite-
ment over a presi-
dential choice.

Every person
became grippingly
engaged. This election
no doubt divided people, but
the time for healing has begun.
America voted with exuber-
ance and passion, and that
same passion should be used
to bring our country back
together.

If your candidate lost, it’s
time to live in spite. It was
a hard fought election that
was carried through by the
winds of change. People were
tired of the last eight years,
and that’s what helped prop-
el this election in the direc-
tion it went. Granted, John
McCain did make some cata-
strophic mistakes.
He should never have
admitted that he didn’t know
much about economics,
which was a strange decision.
He also should not have cho-
sen Sarah Palin as his running
mate. She proved over and
over again that she was not
intentional enough to even
sniff the West Wing. Had he
chosen an economics-minded
VP like Mitt Romney, he
might have had a better

How different would this
election have been like if
Hillary Clinton had won the
Democratic nomination? She
likely would have lost the
Western swing states, but she
would have done better in
states like West Virginia,
Kentucky, Tennessee and
Arkansas. It would be an
interesting race.

But it’s now Obama’s
chance to rewrite the history
books. The first African-
American president in our
history will have much to
deal with in the form of two
wars, an economic recession,
an ever increasing culture
war in our country, and a ris-
ing debt that only gets larger
by the day. Can Obama really
deliver on the change he
promises if he has this much
to deal with? One would

hope so, but pessimism has to
be in the back of your head.
It seemed a long time com-
ing, and for the many of us
that watched 2000 and 2004
and were heartbroken after
each long drawn out election
night, it was nice to see our
candidate win when it was
still Tuesday. Granted, I start-
ed to feel good about his
chances when Pennsylvania
was called, and knew he was
going to win when Ohio was
called.

With such a strong mandate
for change, Obama can now
go into the White House on
Jan. 20 with the knowledge
that he is the chosen candi-
date by a vast majority of our
country.

We want him, we’ll stick by
him, and we’ll fight for him
as he fights for us.

Editorial
NOVEMBER

Bucks events and listings In the county, in the city

Study 5 New Kids on the Block with Natasha Bedingfield and Lady Gaga at the Wachovia Center 8 p.m.

FBI Information Session in from 12:15 to 2 p.m. 6 Hairspray at the Walnut Street Theater at 8 p.m.

Arts Faculty Exhibition from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7 Decemberists play the Electric Factory at 8:30 p.m.

Do that project 8 Flyers vs. Tampa Bay Lightning at Wachovia Center 8 p.m.

Write your paper 9 Eagles vs. New York Giants at Lincoln Financial Field 8:15 p.m.

Study 10 All American Rejects play the Theatre of the Living Arts at 8 p.m.

Veterans Day Reception 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. 11 76ers vs. Utah Jazz at the Wachovia Center at 7 p.m.

Lower Bucks Day Transfer Fair 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 12 Puddle of Mudd plays the Electric Factory at 7:30 p.m.

Study 13 The Academy Is... plays the Electric Factory at 7 p.m.

CROSSWORD CLUES

Across
1- Ruin 5- Oracular 10- Mgr.'s helper 14- Chemical used on tree 15- Muse of poetry in Greek mythology 16- Commotion 17- Enormous 19- Ump's call 20- Hot time in Paris 21- Nuisance 22- Obscure 24- Person with a flat, say 26- Takes to court 27- Not resistible 30- Investigate closely 36- Hired parker 37- Part of many e-mail addresses 38- Come up short 39- Titled 40- Other, in Oaxaca 41- Downed 42- Ware 43- Fresh 44- Story for children 47- Goes out with 38- Develop a fixation

Down
1- Breakfast food 2- Winged 3- Nostrils 4- Unit of energy 5- Thin layer of wood 6- Collective word for intellectual pursuits 7- Lacking slack 8- Give ___ rest 9- Confounded 10- Birthplace of St. Francis 11- Olle's partner 12- Separate by a sievel 13- Low card 18- Mimicry 23- Riga resident 25- Team 26- Soundless 28- Dodges 29- Aegean island 30- Subside 31- Traditional passed-down knowledge 32- North Carolina college 33- Thick slice 34- Carry 35- Pre-owned 39- Person named after another 40- Large African antelope 42- Hastens 43- Gridiron 45- Trouble, slangily 46- Recently 49- Pomme or manzana 50- Unit of magnetic induction 51- Discharge 52- Roasting rod 53- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo 54- Heavenly strings 55- Mower brand 56- Mil. school 60- Hole goal 61- Affirmative reply

CRYPTOGRAM

APCT NT KAO PXOSBVPZ QONQCO
ZOUOS SOPL P ZOMYQQQOS APCT ZOUOS
UNKOL TNS QSOYBLOZK NZO ANQOY BK BY
KAO YPXO APCT DNOZ UBLPC
WASHINGTON—America voted in record numbers, standing in lines that snaked around blocks and in some places in pouring rain. Voters who queued up Tuesday and the millions who balloted early propelled 2008 to the highest grand total of voters in a century. It looks like 134 million Americans will have voted for president this election, based on 88 percent of the country's precinct tallies and projections for absentee ballots, said Michael McDonald of George Mason University. Using his methods, that would give 2008 a 64.1 percent turnout rate.

“That would be the highest turnout rate that we've seen since 1952,” which was 65.7 percent, McDonald said early Wednesday. It also would beat the old post-World War II high of 63.8 percent in the famed 1960 John F. Kennedy-Nestor A. forest competition.

The total voting in 2008 easily outdistanced 2004's 122.3 million, which had been the highest grand total of voters before.

But another expert disagrees with McDonald's calculations and only puts 2008 as the best in 40 years. Different experts calculate turnout rates in different ways based on whom they consider eligible voters.

Curtis Gans, director of the nonpartisan, non-profit Center for the American Electorate at American University and dean of turnout experts, said his early numbers show 2008 to be above 2004’s high of just under 64, but not higher than 61.6. He said it looks like total votes, since absentees are tallied (which could take a day or so), will be “somewhere between 134 and 135 million.”

What's most interesting about early returns is not just how many people voted but the shifting demographic of American voters, said Stephen Ansolabehere, a political science professor at Harvard and MIT.

Using exit polling data, Ansolabehere determined that whites made up 74 percent of the 2008 electorate. That's down considerably from the post-WWII high of 63.8 percent.

Kuna also spoke of how Weiss, despite being ill for a long time, being succumbing to cancer, was able to keep a positive attitude until the day she passed away.

The Millennial generation is making their mark on politics and shaping our future.

-Heather Smith, executive director of Rock the Vote

81 percent in 2000 because of increase in black and Hispanic voting, he said.

That's a big shift in terms of demographic composition of the electorate,” Ansolabehere said early Wednesday.

Breakdown by party voting also shows that Republican turnout rates are down quite a bit, while Democratic turnout rates are up, Gans said.

Republican states, such as Wyoming and South Dakota, saw turnout drop. "I think they were discouraged," Gans said.

Experts pointed to a weak economy and a lively campaign that promised a history-making result for the high turnout.

North Carolina set a record for its highest turnout rate of eligible voters, because of close presidential, Senate and gubernatorial races, Gans said.

Other states where turnout increased were Indiana, Delaware, Virginia and Alabama. The District of Columbia also set a record, he said.

Ansolabehere said young voters didn't show up in the advertised wave, but others disagreed.

"Young voters have dispelled the notion of an apathetic generation and proved the pundits, reporters and political parties wrong by voting in record numbers today," said Heather Smith, the executive director of Rock the Vote. "The Millennial generation is making their mark on politics and shaping our future."

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81 percent in 2000 because of increase in black and Hispanic voting, he said.

That’s a big shift in terms of demographic composition of the electorate,” Ansolabehere said early Wednesday.

Breakdown by party voting also shows that Republican turnout rates are down quite a bit, while Democratic turnout rates are up, Gans said.

Republican states, such as Wyoming and South Dakota, saw turnout drop. “I think they were discouraged,” Gans said.

Experts pointed to a weak economy and a lively campaign that promised a history-making result for the high turnout.

North Carolina set a record for its highest turnout rate of eligible voters, because of close presidential, Senate and gubernatorial races, Gans said.

Other states where turnout increased were Indiana, Delaware, Virginia and Alabama. The District of Columbia also set a record, he said.

Ansolabehere said young voters didn’t show up in the advertised wave, but others disagreed.

“Young voters have dispelled the notion of an apathetic generation and proved the pundits, reporters and political parties wrong by voting in record numbers today,” said Heather Smith, the executive director of Rock the Vote. “The Millennial generation is making their mark on politics and shaping our future.”

Wayne State University nursing student Audrey Glenn, 19, spent four hours waiting to cast her vote in Michigan, in part because Southfield election officials couldn’t find her name on their lists.

“But it was all worth it,” she said.

Ann Canales, a 47-year-old single mother, emerged from her Texas polling place with a wide grin, accompanied by her 16-year-old son.

“I’ve just been waiting for this day,” said Canales, who voted for Barack Obama.

Norma Storms, a 78-year-old resident of Raytown, Mo., said her drive-way was filled with cars left by voters who couldn’t get into nearby polling lots.

“I have never seen anything like this in all my born days,” she said. “I am just astounded.”

In some places the wait lasted hours, and lines stretched for half a mile.

“Well, I think I feel somehow strong and energized knowing we’re here together with out food and water,” said Alexandria, Va., resident Ahmed Bowling, facing a very long line. “What matters is to cast my vote.”

By Michael Veasel

On Sept. 30, a female student at Bucks was caught sneaking around campus, allegedly feeling for unlocked car doors and, when finding them, stealing everything inside.

The unnamed woman was caught by a few Bucks student, who promptly contacted Safety and Security. The student was then turned over to Bucks Police Department who was called to campus and the woman was arrest ed shortly after the notification to Safety and Security.

Much of the goods that were stolen were various electronic devices, clothing and makeup.

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With the tumultuous economy causing a strain on many wallets, community college enrollment rates across the nation have increased dramatically and caused people to take a second look at the benefits of a community college education. According to the U.S. Department of Education, there was a 10 percent increase in enrollment between 2000 and 2006. Although the 2007-08 figures are not yet available, many colleges have been predicting similar increases since last fall. Many Bucks students admit that the state of the economy was a deciding factor when choosing a college. “Why would I spend money elsewhere when I could go here?” asked Rachel Morrell, a 20-year-old nursing major.

The U.S. Department of Education reported that average annual community college tuition and fees are less than half of those at public four-year colleges and universities and one-tenth of those at private four-year colleges and universities. “If the economy wasn’t so bad I might be at a four-year school,” said Nicole Guth, a 19-year-old psychol- ogy major. “I have to pay for this myself,” said Nick Hernandez, a 19-year-old education major.

In the 2006-07 school year, community colleges in the U.S. enrolled 6.2 million students, which was 35 percent of all postsec- ondary students enrolled in an insti- tution of higher learning that year, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The American Association of Community Colleges said that percentage has risen to 46 percent as of January 2008. “I came to Bucks to save money and because it’s more of a transition [between high school and four-year college] Plus, everyone’s doing it,” said Jacob Bachman, a 20-year-old business major.

The American Association of Community Colleges states on its website, “Globalization is driving changes in our economy and the need for an educated workforce has never been greater. Community colleges often are the access point for education in a town and a real catalyst for economic development.”

“I was at a four-year school, but I came home because it was too far—Bucks was the only place I could get in right away,” said Ashley Mitchell, a 21-year-old education major. What are the advantages that Bucks offers as a community college? The Bucks website says things like “Earn your college degree or certificate.” “Discover which field of study is right for you.” “Find out how Bucks can help jump-start your career,” or “Earn something new for pleasure.”

“I was supposed to go to West Chester but I got in trouble, so my parents wouldn’t let me,” said 18-year-old Mike McCann. The Bucks mission “is to provide to the county’s diverse population of learn- ers accessible, affordable, convenient and comprehen- sive educational, training and cultural opportunities that will equip them to be compe- tent in their work and as citizens of the world.”

Many Bucks students are taking advantage of these community college learning opportunities. “It’s a really nice place to begin when you need to decide on a major,” said Matthew Chang, a 22-year-old criminal justice major.

Bucks and other community colleges across the nation seem like attractive options with the unstable economy. Enrollment rates continue to rise as people take a closer look at their educational options.

Frank Eckert, a Bucks alum- nus, recently donated $7,500 to the college library for books, electronic resources and periodicals that can be accessed by the community for up-to-date information.

Eckert, a 1973 Bucks graduate, came back to the library two years ago and was not happy with what he saw. “He was frustrated because he came across outdated books,” said Maureen McCreadie, the dean of learning resources. “He wanted to update them, especially in areas such as business and accounting where things change frequently.”

Eckert’s donation will be used to enhance online resources where students and members of the community can access current information. “Books can take a long time to get into the library’s sys- tem,” said McCreadie. “When you need something current, electronic materials are bet- ter.”

Eckert began attending Bucks after moving to the area from Long Island, New York. He currently resides in Levittown with his wife Barbara, who also attended Bucks and graduated in 1983. Eckert originally hesitated to help fund e-learning because he believed students benefit more from in-class discussions. However, he soon came to realize that e-learning can be better for dis- cussions because students are typically shy in the classroom setting can partici- pate comfortably online.

Eckert’s donation will also be used to upgrade the tech- nology area. “An extra user will be added to the college’s current database, SafariTech Books Online, to enable more people to access it,” said Linda McCann, the director of library services. “Because Bucks is a community college, the library is open to the public, so the donation benefits not only our school’s population, but the entire community,” said Tobi Bruhn, the executive director of the Bucks Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit, educational trust to provide expanded resources for the college’s growth and development.

Last year, Eckert donated $2,000 to the library. This year he increased the amount of his donation with the intent to help expand the electronic resources. Eckert hoped to get others interested in his cause, and he was pleased with the results. The Friends of the Library group came close to matching Eckert’s donation last year by sponsoring numerous fundraisers. “He provided seed money to encourage oth- ers to make donations,” said McCann.

This year, the group is again attempting to match Eckert’s donation. On Oct. 26, the group hosted a concert in the Gateway Auditorium. Richard Hodges played the saxophone with John Forconi on piano and John Enz playing cello.

Last year, a historic walking tour of Newtown was held to help match Eckert’s donation. Because of its success, the Friends of the Library are holding a reception and his- toric walking tour of Wyomissing on Nov. 8 from 4-7:30 p.m. The cost is $35 per person. For more informa- tion, or to make a donation, contact Linda McCann at (215) 968-8003 or mccannl@bucks.edu.

Frank Eckert poses with Bucks faculty in the library.
Bond game may exceed expectations

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Interactive Media Editor

In traditional movie-marketing fashion, the studio behind the new James Bond movie, "Quantum of Solace," is preparing to release a game based on "Casino Royale" and "Quantum of Solace."

Normally this would make any hardcore gamer cringe at the thought of the release of yet another Bond game. Past games have been filled with subpar elements compared to the still reigning king of Bond games, "GoldenEye."

However, developer Treyarch plans to release a Bond game that should exceed expectations.

Early images of the game show the developers going back to first-person perspec-
tive only, the long standing formula of third-person perspective that has proven to fail other developers. Now the game returns to the first-person mayhem and excitement reminiscent of the "GoldenEye" days.

An interesting twist in the new Bond game—when first-person perspective is intact, players can hide behind objects. This is similar to "Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Vegas" series. This new feature will undoubtedly change the way players interact with the game because the perspective that emphasizes the player is James Bond.

Also, the point-of-view introduces new elements, such as a cover system and quick-time events. Quick-time events are sections of the game that require a sharp eye and quick button pressing in order to proceed through the story.

The scene from "Casino Royale" where Bond chases a bomb-maker through a construction site in Morocco will be one of the confirmed quick-time events.

Another quick-time event is hand-to-hand combat. Players who are in close proximity to an enemy will be able to engage in a hand-to-hand combat scenario where they will be required to push a series of buttons to neutralize an opponent. However, one section of game play that could concern players is the multiplayer game. While no stages have been confirmed, rumors are that up to 12 players can play per match, either offline or online; this includes several modes of play for the multiplayer.

A match type that survived the "GoldenEye" days is "Golden Gun." Those familiar with the match know that the Golden Gun can kill opponents with one shot, regardless of health or body armor. The player with the gun appears as a dot on the players' maps who try to ambush the player with the Golden Gun and take it for themselves. So far the early trailers of the game show it will be fast-paced and filled with excitement. The voice acting and likenesses to the actors in the movie will add to the experience of game play and create an in depth type of game play. It can be expected that "Quantum of Solace" will be a financial success both in the theaters and in the video game format.
Phoeny says no more films

By The Associated press

LOS ANGELES – The writing on Joaquin Phoenix's fists said it all. The words "Good Bye" were penned on the actor's knuckles at a premiere Saturday night for his latest film, "Two Lovers," and Phoenix confirmed a surprise announcement he made last week: He's giving up movies.

"I think it's just moving on. It's rediscovering something else," said Phoenix, 34, said in an interview with the Los Angeles Television Network before Saturday's American Film Institute festival, which also premiered "Che," starring Benicio Del Toro. "Two Lovers" is his last film, he said.

His publicist had disclosed Friday that the actor intended to focus on music. Phoenix first mentioned his decision to "Extra" early last week at a fundraiser in San Francisco.

He abruptly ended that interview after the reporter wondered whether he was joking about giving up acting for music.

Phoenix learned to play guitar and did his own singing to play country legend Johnny Cash in "Walk the Line," which earned him an Academy Award nomination.

His publicist also said Phoenix has been directing music videos in recent years. "It's like green-pastures, you know what I mean?" Phoenix said. "But it's fun to do and, like, I'll just be doing the other thing. Hopefully, I will emotionally impact you with that, as well."

"Two Lovers" stars Phoenix as a heartbroken man torn between a needy, neurotic neighbor (Penn Badgley) and the sensible woman (Taylor Momsen). While Stone's new movie, "W," his take on the life and times of the 43rd president, George W. Bush, the plot of the movie should not be a mystery to anyone who has lived through the past eight years, so there are no spoilers here. The story chronicles the life of our president (Josh Brolin) in the same style of Stone's own "Nixon" (1995), by following Bush's presidency while showing flashbacks that detail his journey from a Yale freshman to the Oval Office. The film does a good job following his career in politics, from his congressional bid to the governorship of Texas to the White House. The focus on the White House years is devoted to the run-up to the Iraq War, and the conflicts in Bush's Cabinet and the intelligence agencies over whether or not they should go through with the fight. Bush's men are portrayed as having a cavalier attitude toward the war, being determined to go whether or not the intelligence is correct.

The conflict, mainly between Dick Cheney (Richard Dreyfuss) and Colin Powell (Jeffrey Wright) makes for some of the most compelling moments of the film.

There is one thing that should be noted though. The soundtrack of this film does not go thinking that this movie is a comedy. While the trailer makes it seem like comedy, "W," is not a laughfast nor a parody. While there are comedic moments throughout the movie, this is a dramatic portrayal of Bush's life in the same vein as "Nixon." Though, this is not as heavy, nor as complex, of a fare as "Nixon," the film has a more straightforward approach in telling the story. In casting, Stone's pick for Bush was along the same lines as his choice of Anthony Hopkins as Richard Nixon in that film. Brolin does a remarkable job in embodying all of the characteristics of Bush, capturing the little nuances — Bush's easy-going style, his animated gestures, his speech, face expressions — with accuracy. In watching, it is remarkable how close his performance is to the real person.

Dreyfuss's spectacular portrayal of Cheney shows someone who has great influence on the president, and therefore a lot of pull on the policies of the administration. Toby Jones's Karl Rove is also well done, portraying him as a cold, calculating political tactician, able to turn any situation into a political issue and guiding Bush along with a firm hand.

There are other roles that could have been stronger. While Elizabeth Banks gave a solid performance as Laura Bush, the role seemed to be sidelined and not given the attention that it should have in the film. In addition, the role of Condoleeza Rice (Thandie Newton) was not as rounded as a character as the other Cabinet members. Rice comes off basically as a "yes-woman," someone who completely agrees with the president at every turn.

While Stone directs this film in much the same style as "Nixon," the scenes do not have the same dramatic effect. The film is tame. This may have to do with the fact that the subject matter is still in the news and is current in all of our minds, while 'Nixon' was made two decades after the fact, which allowed for more information to be revealed over time. Because of how recently these events occurred, there is not much in the movie that we don't already know, and therefore is not surprising to moviegoers. Like "Nixon," the movie attempts to give as much sympathy to Bush as possible. This is not a complete Bush-bashing movie. However, it's hard to muster much sympathy because Bush appears to be easily led, and taking no initiative to find things out for himself.

"W" is an interesting movie in this election year, much like Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" several years ago. Even those who aren't very political might find this movie entertaining. However, if you are looking for a more in-depth look into the power structure of Washington, I would also check out "Nixon."
Good and bad
Op/Ed Editor Sara Crouse gives her approval or criticism

Good.
Barack Obama is elected the 44th President of the United States! What an epic and historic election, the first black president!

The remaining living members of the Grateful Dead, Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Bill Kreutzmann and Micky Hart joining forces with some of the Allman Bros. which I don’t care to name, at PSU on Oct. 13 in support of Obama. This is the first time the survived members of The Dead have played together in four years, and they’ve come together for a good cause and a good man. They played such appropriate songs as U.S. Blues, and Not Fade Away to a sold out crowd of 15,000 and showed videotaped messages from Obama between sets. We miss you Jerry.

The grace and poise of Sen. John McCain during his concession speech. He made me want to cry for him. Despite all our differences, and the differences between parties, the final speeches were from the heart.

Bad.
More and more gas stations are installing TV screens at their pumps. I find this to be a complete waste of energy and a joke. Why do we need to have our eyes magnetically attached to the TV while we pump gas for 3 minutes? This just furthers the gap between people’s friendliness in public, how our ideals and opinions are tweaked by TV, and is creating a nation full of droids. Count me out; pumps with screens won’t get my business.

To further discuss an issue relating to cars, the new Cadillac Escalade Hybrid getting 20 mpg on the highway! Why do people continue to buy huge environmentally degrading SUVs? Why do we need to have so much power in a vehicle so that we can drive fast and endanger others on the road? We need to follow in the lead of our European neighbors for standards is right efficiency, emissions, and size for the sake of environment, which is choking under the fumes of conspicuous consumption.

Dear John, Dear Jane
An open letter to those people who bother
Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin somehow

More importantly, you could injure me. Not cool when I know how to pass and follow a trail. Unless you live in one of those countries that drive on the opposite side of the road, you know things like roads, sidewalks and pathways are traveled on the right. Not across the entire path. Not on the left. Not in the center.

As well, you pass on the right. Freezing up or darting in the wrong direction is only going to get you hit. Annoyingly, on hills this lack of direction is my burden.

I am pumping my legs up a steep grade and you are wiggling in front of me in my way. Or you stop and watch. Well, I really don’t want to hit you, so what do I have to do? Stop. How easy is it to start biking again mid-hill? Not easy.

Here’s what you need to do: keep to the right. Be conscious of those that are in the path. Give me space, and just wanna get their workout on. If you are ever confused as to what is right and what is left, I recommend holding up your hands in front of you. The index and thumb of your left hand makes an “L” shape. I, for left. The other hand would then be your right. Thank you.

Dear Tyler Park pedestrians,
Fall is a wonderful time of year for a walk through the park. Seasonal foliage and brisk, invigorating walks can really save you from seasonal depression.

But, when you walk haphazardly across trails, take up the entire trail chatting with your friends or chase after your unleashed puppy, you are setting yourself up for disaster.

I could break you while I am riding my bike at 20-odd miles an hour. Are you really shuffling your child in a stroller in figure eights, chasing after your unleashed poodle, you know things like roads, sidewalks and pathways are traveled on the right. Not across the entire path. Not on the left. Not in the center.

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Laura,
What happened last Tuesday, Oct. 28 was a complete farce! I was extremely disappointed in the way the college handled the unexpected snowfall. No notice of class cancellations was published. Many students did not know if they had class. Some came to classes late. And some students I heard were in an accident due to the weather. To top it all off, I had to give a speech that day and was dressed nicely. Nice dress shoes, slacks, the works. I come out of class to find no walkways shoveled, no sidewalks and pathways are traveled on the right. Not across the entire path. Not on the left. Not in the center.

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**EDITORIAL**

**‘A house divided cannot stand’**

BY ASHLEY RAE PIZZI  
Centurion Staff

I was an emotional wreck on election night. Exhibiting the frenzied fervor of a drug addict searching through his dirty laundry for a missing hit, I clicked from news website attempt to the election results. It was an act of思いつききり and with its ‘Vote Republican’ pin tight. You see, I don’t like losing, and I had the feeling the country was going down to defeat.


“The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly. A little while ago, I had the honor of calling Senator Barack Obama to congratulate him on being elected the next president of the country that we both love,” McCain told hometown supporters in Biltmore, Ariz.

“Senator Obama and I have had and argued our differences, and he has prevailed. No doubt, many of those differences remain. These are difficult times for our country, and I pledge to him tonight that I will do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges we face,” McCain said.

“I urge all Americans who supported me to join not only in congratulating him, but offering our next president our good will and honest effort to find the necessary compromises to bridge our differences.”

McCain’s loss came as a disappointment to me and to many others who voted for him.

But I have taken McCain’s advice and am putting my faith and hope in the right. Regardless of the results, our great country and world can only continue if we put bipartisan differences aside and come together for what feels like the first time in many years. Bipartisan election antics have consumed the media and devoured our attentions and tainted our minds.

One-hundred fifty years ago, Abraham Lincoln stood before 1,000 Republicans at the party’s state convention in Springfield, Illinois. There, he gave a speech in which he paraphrased the words of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” said Lincoln.

Lincoln continued to express these sentiments throughout his presidency. During his 2nd inaugural address, he told supporters that the country needed to persevere. “With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

As the nation moves into the post-election and inaugural phase of Obama’s upcoming presidency, it is imperative for everyone to remember Lincoln’s message. The Democratic and Republican parties are going to have to find a way to work together. Without unity, the United States of America will cease to exist.

Whether your candidate won or lost, you should take heart in the realization that this past election demonstrated our nation’s ability to see past racial, ethnic, gender, and age barriers. As a collection of states— as Democrats, Republicans, independents and undecided individuals, Americans have arrived at a point where we can say that we stand as one nation under God and indivisible.

Bucks weighs in on election outcome

**continued from page 1**

“This is my third time voting, and finally someone I voted for won,” stated Greg Everts, 26. He had previously voted for Al Gore in 2000 and John Kerry in 2004. “I think that he’ll do a good job. He’s got a good plan.”

Jake Wasserman, 18, had similar feelings. “I’m very happy. It’s a different change from the same old thing.”

Joe Dunley, 19, didn’t think that Obama would win and was shocked. “I think things will be the same in the beginning, for the first few months. We’ll see where it takes us from there.”

In a change from the focus on the economy, the Iraq war motivated some to vote for Obama. “I liked both candidates equally, but I want to bring the troops home.” Thaddeus Bunkin, 19, also said Russell Hackius, 18.

“I would vote. I have seven more years to go!”

Anna Becker, 22, is a German citizen studying business administration abroad. “I would have voted for Obama... America needs a change.” Becker then added, “Go Obama! Go Obama!”

It is the opinion that with the election’s conclusion, partisan differences need to be put aside. “The only way (things will be accomplished) is if there is enough support for Obama in the House and Senate.”

Bunkin. He believes that Obama will set a precedent by working hard to accommodate the Republicans.

Sutton believes that the public will be quick to demonstrate good will to the president-elect. “It remains to be seen. He’s off to a good start. His victory was so convincing that he will have public support.”

When asked if he would vote in the future, Pineda said, “I would win. I thought this election was fairer—not like 2000 and 2004.” When asked if he will vote in the future, Pineda said, “I would win. I thought this election was fairer—not like 2000 and 2004.”

Jenny Pineda, 21, sports management major, was unable to vote because she was not a citizen. “No, I can’t vote yet. It didn’t really frustrate me though because I had an idea Obama would win. I thought this election was fairer—not like 2000 and 2004.”

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2004. “I think that he’ll do a good job.”

“Neither... America needs a change.”

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Soccer Centurions win championship

BY KEVIN YORKE
Sports Editor

After Pat Burrell got the Phillies started to eventually win the World Series, another Pat came through for Bucks soccer in an equally emphatic way.

Pat DiLiegro scored the game winning goal with 21:11 left in regulation, and the Centurions had enough to defeat the Northampton Community College Spartans in the Conference Championship game, winning the EPCC and PCAA championships.

The Bucks Men’s Soccer team are now champions.

The Centurions came into the game having lost in two meetings this year, 4-3 and 5-3, respectively. The team decided this game would be different.

The game was scoreless until Warmomster’s Patrick DiLiegro, a freshman who played high school soccer at Cornell Egan, scored the only goal with 21:11 remaining in the game, breaking a ball on a breakaway right below the crossbar.

In goal for the Centurions was sophomore Chris Shaffer of Chalfont, from Lansdale Catholic, playing his first season for the team.

Coach Justin Burroughs said, “After we scored, we played a lot of defense from there.” Those techniques and great dedication from the team are what led them to victory. DiLiegro “also defended their top scorer,” Burroughs said. The Centurions capped off an amazing and improbable 10-2 regular season.

With both post-season games their final record was 12-2 with their semifinal 4-1 defeat of Harrisburg.

The team had not won the PCAA title since 2003, while the Spartans brought home the PCAA title in 2006. Burroughs pointed out the teams’ unity during the season.

“They were dedicated the entire season, showing up at each practice and playing to the end,” Burroughs said. “Even the injured players still came to practice and hung out with the team.”

Langhorne’s Fabbole Kamara, a Liberian native who played high school soccer at Neshaminy, was the team’s top scorer of the season with 16 goals. Kenneth Wilson, team captain, and Sam Fahnboto anchored the defense, helping the team accumulate a staggering 9 shutouts during the season. Chris Shaffer helped out the defense too, commanding the net and playing fundamentally sound keeper during the entire season.

The team received large contributions from Leo Mosquera, Erhan Aydin, Sean Monagle, Joe Nyuma and Alex Naylor.

Still, some students at Bucks were less than enthusiastic about the win. “‘Eff’ the Phillies with a ‘ph,’” said Frank McDevitt, a 22-year-old nano-fabrication major from Richboro. “I just never really liked watching sports, who really cares?”

Overall, the feeling on the campus has been exuberant. Students all over have been wearing Phillies gear and colors with pride, and the general demeanor is a happy one.

Bucks celebrates Phillies’ big win

BY MICHAEL VESEL
News Editor

With a throw of a ball an entire city erupted into a roar of ecstatic jubilee—the Phillies won the World Series for the first time since they last held the title in 1980, more than 28 years ago.

With celebratory riots in the streets, it is apparent how the denizens of Philadelphia feel about the win, but what about the students at Bucks?

“It’s about time,” said Jonathon Moore, an 18-year-old liberal arts major from Levittown. Moore was heading to a game in the street, cops were everywhere, “It’s been a long time since we’ve had a sports championship,” said Ray Harrison, an 18-year-old environmental science major from Bensalem. “Everybody’s happier now, but people are going crazy out there—riots, cars being turned over and lit on fire.”

To some students, the win came unexpectedly. “I thought we had a good team, but not good enough to go all the way,” said Robert Quinty, a 31-year-old education major from Levittown. “I am very excited about it. I think it’s great for the city. It’s been a long time coming.”

Those with a deeper understanding of the game, like Mike Kelly, a 19-year-old sports management major from Philadelphia, shared their insights on why they felt the Phillies won. “They had a strong bullpen and the right guys for the job, and they finally stepped up as a team.”

“They should be able to keep up the momentum,” said Kelly. “Hopefully they will win next year, they’re natural champions.”

Still, some students at Bucks were less than enthusiastic about the win. “‘Eff’ the Phillies with a ‘ph,’” said Frank McDevitt, a 22-year-old nano-fabrication major from Richboro. “I just never really liked watching sports, who really cares?”

Overall, the feeling on the campus has been exuberant. Students all over have been wearing Phillies gear and colors with pride, and the general demeanor is a happy one.

“Now if only the Eagles will win,” said Moore.