

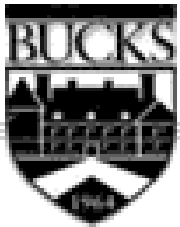
# The Centurion

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

The week of November 17, 2008

www.bucks-news.com

Volume: 44 Issue: 7



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## WEATHER

**Tuesday:** A chance of flurries, mainly before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.

**Thursday:** A chance of snow showers before 1 p.m., then a chance of rain and snow showers between 1-4 p.m., then a chance of snow showers after 4 p.m.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 39.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

WEATHER COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

# Campus records crime

*The annual report on crime has been released by Safety and Security. There's good news and bad news.*

BY DAVID NONINI  
Centurion Staff

Bucks Safety and Security released the 2008 security report, showing theft and vandalism as recurring trends over the past three years, while violent offenses are non-existent on campus.

The report, which details all offenses from 2005-07, includes statistics for violent crimes such as assault, arson and robbery, as well as figures for non-violent offenses such as drug possession, disorderly conduct and forgery. Available for all students from the Security office, it also includes information on programs, safety practices and policies pertaining to reporting emergencies at Bucks.

The report's statistics are compiled from official Safety and Security incident reports, Student Affairs reports, applicable police reports and college officials with responsibility for

student activity.

"We do catch the people responsible," said Christopher Lloyd, director of Safety and Security. "We may not have 100 percent success rates, but we do catch people."

The most common offense was larceny or theft, of which there were 80 occurrences in the last three years, with 31 reported incidents in 2005 alone. However, the report shows a 30 percent drop in theft between 2005 and 2006, and the decrease remained constant in 2007. Some of the items that have been stolen include electronics such as iPods, as well as credit cards taken from student's wallets and purses. Textbooks become the target of theft around the end of the semester when the bookstore is buying back books from students.

Lloyd described theft as a crime of opportunity, and that



THEY CAN GET A TICKET FOR THAT! A SAFETY AND SECURITY CAR IS DRIVING AROUND WITH A BROKEN TAILLIGHT, VANDALISM OR ACCIDENT?

PHOTO BY LAURA IRWIN

the best deterrent is for students to keep their personal belongings on them at all times and not leave them somewhere where they might be stolen.

Fortunately, there has only been one case of robbery in the last three years, occurring in 2006. By definition, robbery is

the act of taking something from one's person by use of threat or force.

There have also been 10 cases of burglary in three years. According to the FBI's Uniform

*Continued on page 2*

# Are gas prices down for good?

BY JEN GOLDING  
Webcast Anchor

As the price at the pump continues to drop, Bucks students weighed in with mixed reactions. "Thank God!" said Jamie West, a 20-year-old nursing major.

As of press time, the average price of gasoline was \$2.17 per gallon, compared to \$3.14 just one month ago, according to gas-buddy.com. The good news is that Bucks students are feeling a lot less pressure on their wallets. The bad news, however, is that the global economy is headed for trouble as economic growth continues to slow.

"I like that gas prices are down, but not the reason that they went down," said 21-year-old business administration major Ben Schablin. "[Oil companies] were sitting on oil they weren't selling, and now they're trying to sell it so the prices will go back up. I heard an interview with Barack Obama and he said energy costs would have to rise under his plan. That won't be such a good thing."

According to Obama's website, his energy plan includes "providing short-term relief to American families facing pain at the pump, helping to create 5



ON SYCAMORE STREET, NEWTOWN, GAS STATIONS SHOW LOWERED PRICES THAN PREVIOUS WEEKS.

PHOTO BY LAURA IRWIN

million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next 10 years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future, and within 10 years save more oil than we currently import from the Middle East and Venezuela combined."

According to Time Magazine, the U.S. consumes 25 percent of the world's crude oil, so for now, America's economic slump is the key factor driving down oil prices. It remains to be seen whether Obama's plan will be efficient or not, but in the inter-

im, Bucks students are generally happy about the lower gas prices. "It's helped me out a lot because I drive back and forth between Bucks and Chalfont every day," said 19-year-old communications major Mike Putz.

According to Time Magazine, 60 percent of gas consumption is associated with driving to work. "I'm very happy because I can actually afford to go places," said Kyle Dixon, a 22-year-old secondary education/history major. "For students it's a good

thing," said 23-year-old chef apprentice William Fedder. "But from an economic standpoint it's a bad thing. Buying power is not at a good rate."

"The whole thing almost seems weird. I'm worried [gas prices] will go down really low then shoot back up again," said 20-year-old business administration major Pat Malone. Every \$1 decline in the price of oil saves U.S. consumers \$1 billion, according to economy.com.

Just last month, the Energy Information Administration forecasted the average price of gasoline in 2009 to be \$3.56 a gallon. Within one month's time frame, that number has been revised to \$2.37 for 2009.

Although some energy analysts believe that lower gas prices will spark demand and drive energy prices back up, most people believe that the weak economy will continue to weigh on consumers and businesses and keep gas prices relatively low.

If the economy improves, gas prices will most likely go up, but until then, Bucks students are enjoying the savings. Nicole Guth, 19, psychology major said, "I'd like to see them go even lower."

# Lower Bucks grows

BY VINCENT LOMBARDO  
*Centurion Staff*

LOWER BUCKS—When discussing the design of the Lower Bucks Campus, Executive Director James Sell doesn't like to use the word "classroom."

"It's no longer a classroom, it's a learning space," he said.

Sell was gushing recently when he reported that enrollment at Lower Bucks jumped 40.5 percent this semester from last fall, when its new building opened. This fall, 1,075 students are attending classes, up from 765 students just one year ago. This breaks down to 654 day students and 421 evening students, which has all "learning spaces" in use each night.

Sell attributes the enrollment spike to the campus' cutting-edge technology and engaging curriculum.

The number of full-time students increased 76.4 percent, to 464 students from 63 students last fall. The number of day students increased 51 percent— to 654 students from 433 students.

The 20 "learning spaces" are equipped with whiteboards, Smartboard technology, a ceiling-mounted projector and an instructor's podium outfitted with a personal computer and a DVD player. WiFi is available throughout the building, and Internet2 is coming soon, said Sell.

Students can complete associate degree programs in business administration, criminal justice, communications, education, and liberal arts, as well as certificate programs in phlebotomy and management.

"You just need food, and that's coming," Sell said. "The cafeteria is under construction and Slack's Hoagie House of Fairless Hills will operate it as Slack's Café starting in January."

Sell acknowledges that some students face scheduling challenges, so Lower Bucks is trying to accommo-



date them. "We realize students have jobs so the campus offers evening and online classes and the SatTWOdays program, in which students take two courses each Saturday for 15 weeks and earn six credits. Accessibility is really key."

Sell also is reaching out to area high schools. "We want to make sure that our community knows about us, and we know about them." That also means increasing the campus' commitment to providing employees to area businesses.

"The second phase of the campus is dedicated to workforce development," he said.

Sell is also vice president of the Bristol Rotary Club and wants to foster a synergy between local businesses and the campus. Partnerships with some businesses have already been forged, including Wachovia Bank.

"They didn't want to commit to bricks and mortar. They said, 'Tell us what programs are needed.'"

Another corporate partner is Rohm and Haas, a subsidiary of Dow Chemical, whose \$100,000 contribution built two conference centers. Sell said there are plans to extend that relationship, with chemistry students set to attend classes at the company's Bristol facility.

Sell, who returned to his

alma mater to get the campus' new building ready for last year's opening, is proud to be a part of the college.

"I love this place. [It has] always been home to me," said Sell, who previously worked for Bucks in admissions, transfer services and continuing education, before a two-year stint at La Salle University. "We built this from the ground up, and it really shines."

The campus has come a long way since 1989, when it opened in a suite at the Bucks County Office Center. Over the years, enrollment grew, and with it, the need for more space increased.

According to Sell, from the layout of desks to the furniture in the lounge, everything in the building was carefully researched to enhance the comfort level. "Keeping people on this campus is important to us."

If enrollment trends continue, a campus expansion could be on the horizon. "We will add more as demand requires it."

But because of the Delhaas Woods behind the building, any construction would have to be in the front, along Veterans' Highway.

With the expansion of Upper Bucks and work here at Bucks, an addition at Lower Bucks is probably at least five-to-seven years off.

# Bye to 'TRL'

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Carson Daly chatted with Eminem, Beyonce gave a show-stopping performance, girls shrieked at the sight of Justin Timberlake and hundreds of fans lined up outside in Times Square for a glimpse at superstars.

For few hours, it seemed like old times at MTV's "Total Request Live" — back when the show was not only music's most powerful force but a dominant part of pop culture.

MTV pulled the plug on its most influential franchise Sunday night following years of declining ratings, but not before marking the occasion with celebration and nostalgia, as some of pop's biggest stars paid respects to the show that helped launch their careers.

"I feel like they're kinda tearin' down my home," Eminem said via phone as he and Daly, "TRL's" first and most famous host, commiserated during the live, three-hour broadcast from the show's headquarters.

"It's a bittersweet moment," Diddy, the show's most frequent guest, said as he cried mock tears and gave one of the final waves to the Times Square audience from "TRL's" glass-encased studios above.

While its concept of a video countdown show wasn't new, its model — which included a live show, an audience full of

enthusiastic kids and viewer feedback — helped energize the teen fan base and made them music's tastemakers.

Soon, "TRL" would become an integral part of boosting the careers of superstars like Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync, Eminem and Christina Aguilera.

It's no coincidence that their biggest sales, and pop's huge sales boom in the new millennium, came during the show's most potent era.

In its prime, "TRL" had "American Idol"-like power to influence sales on the pop charts, and became a required stop, not only for those on the road to pop stardom, but those in TV, movies and even sports superstars.

Tom Cruise and Will Smith made stops before a new movie; all-star athletes like Derek Jeter mingled with the teens; even legends like Madonna and Michael Jackson made sure they got "TRL" face-time.

The moments weren't always cheery, though. The Backstreet Boys broke news of member A.J. McLean's drug and alcohol rehab on the show; Mariah Carey's bizarre moment involving a striptease and ice cream defined her time of emotional instability.

"This show obviously launched the careers of so many people," said Daly, the now late-night talk show host who could include himself in that category.

"This is a sad moment."

## Centurion Publication Schedule

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Deadline for advertising is **noon** on the **Wednesday** before publication.

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(dates may be subject to change)

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# Theft, burglary and vandalism

*continued from page 1*

Crime Reporting Program, burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure for the purposes of committing larceny or theft and any attempts at those actions.

From six cases in 2005, there has been a decrease to only two cases each in 2006 and 2007. Recently, Bucks saw a case of burglary when unlocked cars in the parking lot were opened and the perpetrator took as many items as they could. The person responsible was caught.

A positive statistic that the report shows is the lack of violent crime on the Bucks campus. "The number one reason that there is no violent crime is that there is no residency on the campus," Lloyd stated. He pointed out that at schools where students live on campus; the rates of violent crime are much larger. "People come here, go to class, then leave," he continued.

The only violent crime on the list was a few cases of assault. Lloyd said that those incidents were just fights, nothing that was life threatening.

He added that an assault is anything that involves physical contact, which can range from spitting on someone to a fist fight.

Another high-ranking offense was vandalism, which saw a

sharp increase in 2007 from previous years. Relatively low in 2005 and 2006 with a total of 23 incidents, last year saw a startling 61 incidents of vandalism. An example of a case is where a student was arrested by the police for 12-13 counts of vandalism.

Lloyd said that most of the vandalism was graffiti in the restrooms, often done using a magic marker.

"It's hard to monitor," he stated, adding that the bathrooms can't be monitored because of privacy.

"The best thing we can do is to remove it as quickly as possible," Lloyd said. He said that most people vandalize for notoriety, and by removing it quickly, it negates the purpose that they set out to accomplish.

Lloyd said that vandalism actually hurts everyone on campus because of the cost to remove it.

The money used to clean up the vandalism comes from student's tuition, and the more that they have to spend, the higher students may have to pay.

Other offenses include disorderly conduct, of which there have been 28 cases, eight in both 2005 and 2007, and 12 in 2006.

In three years, there has only been one case of a drug-related violation. According to the

school's drug policy, such violations would include illegal possession, manufacture, distribution or use of drugs or narcotics by students. In this case, the authorities were not involved because of the miniscule amount of marijuana that was involved.

The policy details a 1972 Pennsylvania law that dictates if one possesses or distributes 30 grams of marijuana but does not sell it, they are guilty of a misdemeanor which can be punishable with a maximum of 30 days in jail, a \$500 fine, or both.

On the Bucks campus, these kinds of violations are taken very seriously, and those who are in violation are referred to the Judicial Affairs Office for disciplinary action. Punishments can range from a written warning to the extreme act of expulsion.

Over the last six-to-nine months, Bucks has put in place many procedures to make the campus a safer environment.

There is a campus-wide alert system that includes external and interior horns to alert people to emergencies. In addition, there is a text messaging system that students can sign up for, where they can arrange for two cell phones and two e-mail addresses to be contacted in the event of an emergency.

Each classroom should have a flyer in it that lists all of the shel-



ter-in-place locations on the campus as well as information about how to receive emergency information.

Faculty members have also undergone emergency training. Upper administrators have undergone National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) training to prepare them for any emergency that may arise. According to the FEMA website, this program was developed so that people from different jurisdictions can work together better in responding to natural disasters and emergencies, including terrorist acts.

The program provides a unified approach to incident management, command and management structures, and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid, and resource management.

Active shooter protocols have been updated as well, which helps students and fac-

ulty know what to do in the event of a gunman on campus.

The emergency preparedness manual has also been revamped.

In addition, the Digital Signage project, which involved the installation of flat-screen monitors on campus to provide students with information, is also to be used to notify personnel about emergency situations on campus.

In addition, television and radio stations are alerted as well if there is an emergency.

The Office of Safety and Security operates 24-hours a day, staffed by 14 full-time and 13 part-time officers who patrol the campus and are responsible for security and emergency response on campus.

The officers supplement the communications center operations and operate special events on campus.

The campus also coordinates with the police if necessary.

Students can pick up a copy of the 2008 Annual Security Report at the Safety and Security on campus.

In case of an emergency call Safety and Security at (215) 968-8395.

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**We're funny, we're Bucks  
news in brief.**

# Senate control is still up for grabs

BY JOHN SKUDRIS  
Managing Editor

Despite the lack of repetitious TV ads and nail-biting attack lines, the 2008 election is not quite over yet.

Yes, we have decided on a president. But three key Senate races remain to be decided.

The Democrats have wrapped up a sizable majority (57), but would undoubtedly like to gain the three more seats it would take to reach the magic number of 60. Once one party has 60 seats in the Senate, the minority party is unable to filibuster, leaving the majority party to control the Senate.

In Minnesota, Democratic candidate Al Franken trails Republican Sen. Norm Coleman by 206 votes. This is far less than the half of 1 percentage point necessary to trigger a statewide recount.

Alaska is a state that was in the news a lot this election season, with their governor on the GOP presidential ticket and their longtime GOP Senator being convicted of a felony. Ted Stevens, who has been a member of the Senate almost since Alaska became a state, was found guilty a week before the election of failing to properly report gifts, a felony. Despite this, Alaskan voters showed their support for Stevens, as he trails Democratic candidate Mark Begich by just 814 votes.

Finally, in Georgia, incumbent GOP Sen. Saxby Chambliss defeated former State Rep. Jim Martin 49.9 percent to 47 percent. However, thanks to the magic of Georgia election law, if any candidate doesn't have more than 50 percent of the vote, there is a mandatory runoff election between the top two candidates no more than one month later.

Franken, a former comedian, wasn't given much of a chance when he announced his candidacy for the Senate seat from Minnesota in February 2007. However, he showed that he was more than just a funnyman as he defeated University of St. Thomas professor Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer for the nomination.

Coleman, who was first elected in 2002 after his opponent Paul Wellstone died in a plane crash, was hampered by his conservative social stances in a blue state. President George W. Bush's unpopularity and President-elect Barack Obama's large victory in the state didn't help either. All of these factors translated into a close race. In the end, Coleman

came out with 1,211,565 votes. Franken sat just a couple hundred back at 1,211,359 votes. With both candidates finishing with just about 41.9 percent of the vote, a mandatory statewide recount will be necessary to decide the winner. The recount will begin on Nov. 19 and will be carried out at 120 locations across the state.

In Alaska, most pundits counted Stevens out when it was announced that he was convicted of a felony. Nobody thought a criminal could win reelection just a week after being found guilty. But there's a reason that this state has sent Stevens to Washington every year since 1968. Despite mounting odds, Stevens has limited Begich's lead to just

814 votes with 90,000 early and absentee votes remaining to be counted. Begich, the former Democratic Mayor of Anchorage, ran a good campaign and has to be shocked he's even in this position against Stevens.

Should the longtime Senator win reelection, he would almost immediately be expelled from the Senate for his crimes. A special election would then be held to replace him. Many experts are already proclaiming Palin as the frontrunner for the seat should Stevens top Begich. Going from losing VP nominee to U.S. Senator is a great way for Palin to boost her credentials for a potential 2012 presidential run.

Finally, the most interesting race is going on in Georgia,

where incumbent Chambliss got more votes, but didn't win the election because he didn't receive a majority of the votes. He and Martin will be the only two candidates on a special election ballot taking place on Dec. 2. This is a huge election because it could mean the difference between the Democrats getting 60 seats in the Senate or not.

Chambliss already has plans for Sen. John McCain and Gov. Mike Huckabee to visit the state in support of him prior to the election. Martin has offered an invite to Obama, but he has yet to confirm an arrangement to visit.

It's unlikely that Martin will be able to upend Chambliss, given that Obama's place on the presidential ticket brought out a tremendous number of Democratic-voting African-Americans to the polls. They will be less likely to vote without Obama on the ballot. There are only three races yet to be decided and they could decide whether or not the Democrats have the 60 seat supermajority they were hoping for. With these three tilts the sun sets on the most expensive election in U.S. history.

This was a year of underdogs and a mandate on change. Will the final three races to be decided go with this mantra, or will the late breakers buck the trend? Washington is awaiting the answers.



## EDITORIAL

### *SGA President John Skudris says the GOP is planning for 2012*

With the 2008 presidential election over, it's time to look ahead to 2012 and analyze who Republicans could possibly run for the nomination to oppose Barack Obama. After four years out of power, the Republicans will undoubtedly be foaming at the mouth for another shot to knock the Democrats out of the White House.

The Republicans will have a tough decision to make in who to nominate. Do they go with a classic conservative to appeal to their base, or do they once again go with someone who fancies themselves a maverick to appeal to independents? Their decision could ultimately determine which path the GOP takes in the future.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee has been all over TV lately despite losing the 2008 Republican nomination. He has his own talk show on FOX News and has started a book tour in Iowa, where the first nominating contest will take place in

January 2012. He's the classic social conservative with some independent views on economic issues.

But the odds are against him. He will have not been in any type of political office for six years by the time 2012 comes around.

Next on the list is former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Despite losing the nomination, Romney has been piling up the political capital thanks to his stalwart support of Sen. John McCain and from his raising money for congressional Republicans. However, Romney's longtime adviser, Charley Manning, does not think that Romney will run. "I'd be surprised if Mitt ever ran again for president...I sure don't think it was the best experience of his life," Manning said on the Hank Morse Show on 96.9 FM in Boston. "There are other things he can do." It's going to be interesting to see if Romney does indeed bow out, and if it's because of

American prejudice against Mormonism.

How can we even discuss the 2012 election without mentioning 2008 Vice Presidential nominee Gov. Sarah Palin? The governor of Alaska has already been all over the airwaves talking about how she "might run" in 2012. The interesting thing is her run could all depend on whether or not Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens wins reelection and is ousted from the Senate for his crimes. In this situation, a special election would be held where Palin is expected to run and win a term as a U.S. Senator.

This would, no doubt, be enough experience and credentials to propel her to a presidential run.

The first of the real dark horses is Louisiana Gov. Piyush "Bobby" Jindal. Having only been elected to the governor's mansion this year, Jindal will certainly have plenty of time to establish himself as one of the better young governors in the

country. He's extremely conservative and fits the Republican mold as a compassionate conservative. He would also be the first Indian-American to run for president of a major political party. Imagine, the first African-American president facing off against the first Indian-American Republican nominee.

Finally, we reach two potential candidates that are unlikely, but possible. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush would have been a strong candidate this year if it weren't for his brother's failures.

Should the country forget about their hatred for President George W. Bush, Jeb could have a fine shot at the nomination. Let's also not forget that 29 percent of people still like Bush, though that's mostly Republican primary voters.

Finally, we reach the most unlikely of them all - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The Secretary of State said she was "proud" to see

Obama win the presidency, but that doesn't mean she'll be changing her party anytime soon. Rice, who is well respected by conservatives, would be the first African-American to have a realistic shot at the Republican nomination if she were to run (I apologize to Alan Keyes, but come on).

A Rice vs. Obama matchup would be one to remember and it would be interesting to see how the African-American and female vote would split in that situation.

As of Nov. 17, there are only 1,448 days until Election Day 2012. That's just under four years to decide who will take the Republican Party by the horns—or the tusks—and lead them on to a new decade. Will it be the stalwart political veterans like Huckabee, Bush or Romney?

Or will the younger, more diverse Republicans like Jindal and Rice take the reins?

One thing is for sure, the Republican Party is in a fit of Obama-like change.

## Bucks events and listings In the county, in the city

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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		9	4					2
		8		9		4		1
		1					5	3
	9			2			7	8

- 11- Way out
- 12- Sicilian volcano
- 15- Began
- 21- Depend
- 23- Japanese drama
- 24- Receipts
- 25- Period of the year
- 26- Highly seasoned stew
- 27- Intensely ardent
- 29- Resounding blow
- 30- Lasso
- 31- Violinist Mischa
- 32- Divinity
- 34- Ages between 13 and 19
- 37- Square doughnut
- 40- Phantom
- 42- Caliginous
- 43- Endless
- 45- Dove's sound
- 46- Lake in W Scotland
- 48- Christmas song
- 49- Bohemian
- 50- Lab fluids
- 51- Small dam
- 52- Where heroes are made
- 54- Able was \_\_\_\_...
- 55- "\_\_\_ She Lovely?"
- 56- Keep it, to an editor
- 59- Pester

# CRYPTOGRAM

LAI BTW ZUMAB MP, BU XMOW WOWCNBTMAF.  
XMOW BTW DEWPBMUAP AUH, ZWCTLZP BTWA,  
PUGWILN RLC MA BTW REBECW, NUE HMXX  
FCLIELXXN HMBTUEB WOWA AUBMSMAF MB, XMOW  
NUEC HLN MABU BTW LAPHWC.  
-CLMAWC GLCML CMXVW



# Bucks prof wins poet laureate competition

BY DANIELLE EMERY  
Centurion Staff

Paula Raimondo of Newtown won the 32nd annual Poet Laureate competition, which is now the longest running competition of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Judges Gregory Djanikian, director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Pennsylvania, and Nancy Thompson, professor at Clark College, were more than delighted to award Raimondo with this honor. Both being established poets themselves, they said they could not ignore her undeniable talent.

They stated that, "The poet plays beautifully with language, but with purpose and clarity. The structure of the poems is well thought out, and the strength of the poems is consistent throughout the entry."

Such a statement was to be expected as Raimondo beat out 70 other entries to win the competition. Each of the 70 contestants was to submit 10 authentic poems, and soon after doing so the 70 turned into 20 finalists.

The finalists were determined by Dr. Allen Hoey, Bucks professor and director of the Poet Laureate program.

Out of the 20 finalists, Raimondo came out on top. However this is not the first time Raimondo's poems have received recognition. Many of her poems have appeared in the "Sarah Lawrence Review" as well as the "Beloit Poetry Journal."



Her hard work helped her achieve this goal.

She she attended Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY as well as Oxford University in England. After this she received her master's degree from Arcadia University in Glenside, PA. Once graduated, she taught poetry workshops in the Philadelphia schools, and today she teaches here at Bucks while residing in Newtown with her husband, sculptor Elijah Kaufman, and their daughter, with another on the way.

Raimondo was scheduled to read her poems at Bucks on Nov. 16, along with the 2007

Laureate Marsha Kroll.

The runners up from this year's competition were also scheduled to read. The runners up were Sandra Becker, James Freeman, Laura Holloway, Camille Norvaisas, Laura Gaydos and Elizabeth Esris.

On Oct. 16, Raimondo gave her inaugural reading as the new Bucks County Poet Laureate and also received a proclamation from the Bucks County Commissioners, as well as a \$500 prize.

## FTO discussion

BY ERIC NOCITO  
Features Editor

On Oct. 12, 35 attendants of the Future Teacher's Organization (FTO) meeting were informed of the state requirements to pursue their goal to become teachers.

The main topic was the requirements involved in taking the Praxis test and upcoming events for the FTO.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Professor George Haiduck, instructor of non-credit math and reading courses at Bucks. He spoke to prepare education majors for the Praxis test.

The Praxis test, offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), is the aptitude test required of all future educators in the United States. Each state's requirements for the testing varies.

"In Pennsylvania, you have to pass the basic writing, reading and math portions before you can transfer to a four-year university," said Alison Montemarano, president of the FTO.

There are two different versions of taking the Praxis test. Pen and paper exams can be taken several times a year, or a computerized version of the test can be taken at certain testing centers.

"You need to get a certain grade to pass on the test," said Montemarano. "If you don't pass, you only need to take the certain portion of the test that wasn't passing. You don't need to take the test all over again."

For more information on Praxis testing, visit [ets.org/praxis](http://ets.org/praxis).

One topic that was scheduled to be discussed at the Nov. 13 meeting was the new state legislation for new educators. Bucks is encouraging education majors to finish their educational program before January 2013, when the new laws take effect.

The guest speaker scheduled for that meeting was Kevin King from Newtown Elementary School, and the topic for discussion was "What it's like to be a teacher?"

Also, a service project will be taking place in December, in collaboration with the radio station B101. They are looking for people to donate filled holiday stockings for less fortunate children in the area.

For more information about the Future Teacher's Organization, visit [bucks.edu/~fto](http://bucks.edu/~fto) or call Alison Montemarano at (215) 321-0582.

## Low attendance for film

BY KISHA LOWENTHAL  
Staff Photographer

On Monday, Oct. 13, the Department of Language and Literature hosted the first film in the annual foreign film series.

There are four films to be shown during the school year, in Spanish, French, German, and Italian. Students faculty, staff and members of the community are all welcome to come.

The Mexican drama "La Misma Luna," which translates to "under the same moon" in English, was the first movie of the school year.

This movie is about the problems of immigration in the U.S. and Latin America. Professor Arlene Toro, Spanish professor said, "I loved the movie. It shed a light into a very hopeless situation."

It's different from most American films dealing with immigration because it focuses on the struggles of broken homes. The film conveys what Latin American families will go through to stay together—whether it means crossing the border or rowing a boat across the Pacific. They risk the chance of getting caught and being put back into the same horrible situation, or fleeing to a land where they can be free. It is a chance for the families to be together in peace.

Although the movie had a great concept, Language Profesor Caren Smolen said she feared it was too "G-rated." Her family and a few teachers gathered around to watch the movie that day. She said "it was the smallest turnout ever."

But those who did join the fun got to enjoy Spanish Professor Joe Nissly's cookies. He contributes homemade refreshments for each screening.

The next film, "Moliere," will be shown on Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

The French film is set in 1658 and its synopsis reads as follows: "Playwright/actor Moliere, having been given a theater in the capital by the King, is back in Paris after touring the kingdom of France with his company of players." For more information on the series, call 215-968-8150.

Course	A	B	4.0	3.5
033 Basic Mathematics			4.0	3.0
034 Basic Algebra	A		3.0	4.0
101 Intro Psychology	A		3.0	3.5
R104 Fund of Acting	A		3.0	3.0
OC102 Marriage + Family	B		3.0	3.0
IS106 US History			20.0	3.0
Term Totals			39.0	

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# Eeeeeew, the stink bugs are back!

BY ELIZABETH MESSINA  
Student Life Editor

They're back! Stink bugs have returned to Bucks for the winter.

The brown marmorated stink bug (Latin name: *Halymorpha halys*) was first documented in Allentown in September 1998, but reports have been made a few years prior.

Stink bugs are believed to be stowaways from packing crates coming from China and Japan and were accidentally introduced to the U.S. By February 2008, 24 counties in

Pennsylvania have recorded stink bugs. "We got a lot of calls earlier in the fall," said Nadine Smith from Newtown Termite and Pest Control, "but we're not getting many calls anymore."

Most stink bugs have already found their way into the cracks of walls to hibernate. They slide their shield-shaped bodies through door frames, in window cracks, and even under roof shingles to seek warmth.

Often mistaken for other species of insects, the brown marmorated

stink bug can be distinguished by the white bands around its antennae and legs.

These harmless little critters survive the winter by seeking warmth in buildings, such as the portable classrooms, where the stink bug population is abundant. They crawl across desks and fly around the room, disrupting class.

RJ Hari, 19, a computer science major from Springtown, had what he

described as a "Kamikaze stink bug" fly into his neck during a lecture in a portable

classroom, interrupting students and the professor. "It must have been from Japan," Hari said.

During winter months, stink bugs are supposed to go into a state of hibernation, but the indoor warmth causes some to remain active throughout the winter months. Adult stink bugs can live for several years.

The "stink" comes from glands located on the underside, between the first and second pair of legs. It is to fend off predators, which are usually other insects or birds. If squashed, the odor will also be released. The odor is believed to dou-

ble as a signal to let other stink bugs know a good spot has been found, thus attracting more.

"People in the tropical part of South Africa eat them!" said Smith.

"Apparently they are a good source of protein and amino acids."

The most effective way to eliminate stink bugs is to seal the cracks around doors and windows with high-quality caulk.

As for having class in the portables, Hari offered a bit of advice: "Suffer or skip class."

## SGA offers services

BY KENNETH MCCAFFREY  
Centurion Staff

The Student Government Association (SGA) offers students the opportunity to change their educational environment for the better, as well as manage student life programs.

SGA is a student-run organization that represents the student body in the Board of Trustees, said Student Life Director Matt Cipriano.

"The SGA's basic function is to oversee all student clubs and organizations.

They approve them, as well as allocate the funding through the use of the student activities fee. They also appoint students to various committees on campus where needed."

While the SGA serves this purpose, its most important role is its ability to represent the students within the college and bring about change in the student's favor.

"They basically will address issues on campus; if there is a concern or problem that needs to be brought up, the SGA will represent the students and make corrections, and in the long run, make sure that change happens. They also look for ways to improve the college," said Cipriano.

The SGA appoints 10 staff members to run the organization, each with their own jobs to take care of; the executive board consisting of President John Skudris, Vice President Ravi Patel, Councilor at Large Seth Gansman, Vice President of Activities Ellen Bronckarts, Executive Treasurer Justin Derry, and other members specializing in student involvement, public relations, student advocacy and clubs and organiza-

tions.

"When issues need to be voted on, we usually handle it as a majority vote. All students can get involved with SGA," said Cipriano.

"Each year the SGA has to have a different staff, so the effectiveness of the SGA can vary from year to year, but typically the SGA represents the student body very well. They might not be able to make immediate changes, but sometimes it's more about planting the seed in the minds of the members. Sometimes projects are carried over from term to term. It typically happens with students that get reelected," commented Cipriano.

However, one does not have to be a student in order to participate in the activities of the SGA or bring up an issue.

The easiest and most convenient

way is to go to the Bucks website and into the Issues and Concerns tab of the Student Government section.

Another way is to e-mail the president or any member.

As well, stop by the Student Life Office and present your issue. Meetings take place on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Rollins, room 112.

The SGA has made a lot of changes over the time they've been in existence.

"The biggest change as of late would probably be the smoking policy. The initial proposal went through two different student governments. It worked its way up to the Board of Trustees for approval, at which point it was passed. Thanks to this, having the policy reversed at this point would be a quite a feat," said Cipriano.



## Toys for tots revs up

BY ELLÉ CREEDON  
Arts Editor



Another Christmas and Hanukkah season is upon us and Toys for Tots is once again collecting gifts for less-fortunate children.

The collection drive is now underway, and this year's donations are more critical than ever before, given the downturn in the economy.

There is a rumor being passed through the grapevine that Toys for Tots will not be collecting goods this year due to record low retail sales.

However, that is not the case.

The foundation is committed to making another merry Christmas for children, but sadly, news of the largest contributor—yet to be announced—backing out recently surfaced.

This information came as a shock, and is troublesome for the foundation. The U.S. Marine Corps will be placing collection boxes in various locations, although in fewer spots this year due to the economy.

"Companies just don't have enough this year to donate," said volunteer Kristen Long. "It's a shame, but not everyone can afford to donate at all, let alone in mass quantities."

As the foundation deals with a huge loss, they are trying to prepare. They say about 100,000 kids in the Philadelphia area alone may not be able to celebrate Christmas this year.

The Marines, who sponsor the drive, say that any donation helps, including toys or even money.

Every little bit counts.

The Toys for Tots program wishes to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable natural resources — our children.

The program is a national effort administered locally; the community in which toys will be distributed is the same community in which they were collected.

The success of the program relies on volunteer support and community involvement. This is part of the mission statement of the Toys for Tots campaign.

"Although a huge contributor backed out, that is not stopping others from helping," said Long.

If you visit the Toys for Tots website for the Philadelphia area, you will find many local shop owners and others holding events in the area to benefit this annual Christmas tradition dedicated to supporting children.

If you would like to participate in the Toys for Tots foundation, you can visit their website at [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org) or [toysfortotsphila.org](http://toysfortotsphila.org) to find out more information about getting involved.



# Zombie game offers fewer escapes

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
*Interactive Media Editor*

When the game developer Valve is mentioned, people have one of two thoughts, either “Half-Life” or “The Orange Box,” which is a perfectly normal reaction to those who know who the company is and what they’ve done.

Since the announcement of a new project, Valve has been center stage for most of the conventions with its highly anticipated first person zombie survival game “Left 4 Dead.”

Unlike the other zombie-apocalypse-type-scenario games, this game doesn’t give you a whole bunch of options

in order to escape the zombie infested hellhole. You have one option, to become very close to the three other people who haven’t been infected and want to survive.

Unlike the other games in this genre, you can play with either three other human players or you can rely on the game’s AI, which according to some videos of the gameplay, is not in any way dumb or sluggish.

The game’s storytelling style is also very different as it is set up in mini-campaigns that can only be described as sections or chapters of a movie. Each chapter takes place in a different location as you and your fellow survivors make your way to your final destination, which

is revealed as an airport. Little pieces of the story make their way into each chapter as you fight your way through each movie and get hints as to the climax of the “film.”

As far as your enemies go, they don’t appear to be regular shambling zombies with little-to-no thought other than who’s left to eat. They’re more like the zombies from “28 Days Later,” not slowly shambling along, but full-out sprinting to kill and eat you. The interesting part about this is the fact that as you go along, zombies won’t just walk out of doors or climb through windows; they’ll spawn in places you’d never think to look like in the rafters of a building or on the roof.

Along with the co-op gameplay that allows you to use either AI or other players, the fun takes place in versus mode. Why should you always play as human fighting hordes of the undead? Thankfully versus mode allows for some fun as one of the undead or one of the survivors.

The gameplay as a survivor in each mode is similar to that of the campaign, where you use your teammates and survive the map. As far as strategy goes, the only way to win is to stick together and help each other out. If one of your teammates becomes debilitated, you have to go over and resuscitate them, which only takes a few seconds, while your teammates deal with the hordes of zombies.

The flip side is being one of the undead whose versus mode experience is completely different from that of the survivors. The whole point of being a zombie is com-

pletely decimating the survivors with superior numbers. However, being one of the undead has a disadvantage in that they all have very low health and can easily be killed. But if you do die, just find a sneaky place to respawn and attack again.

With its release date only a few weeks away, it looks as though Valve will have another hit on its hands as this zombie survival game is completely different from that of any other in the genre. The different ways to play the game certainly is original and unconventional.

Those who want to use the Xbox 360 will have an advantage to playing on Xbox Live over the PC.

The flip side is that PC will have far superior graphics and sound to the Xbox. If you own either of these formats you should definitely pick up this game for the simple reason that killing zombies is a lot of fun.



# NBA game gets better

BY CARL WAXMONSKY  
*Centurion Staff*

LOWER BUCKS— The NBA 2K series has always been a series aimed to please the mind and thumbs of basketball enthusiasts. It’s important to the game’s developers to better the yearly title, so every penny of the consumer’s \$60 will count.

While this year’s changes are not drastic, its additions advance game play and competition, said game analyst Nate Ahearn. The game has focused its revamping of the game on the virtual court.

The big changes that come in 2K9 take place in the game’s play modes such as NBA Blacktop, the Association and Dunk School. “2K8 had many issues,” Ahearn points out, “the game was too slow because of flawed mechanics in the creation of the game’s defensive setting. The defense has been improved to keep consumers playing without frustration.”

PlayStation 3 and Xbox buyers can no longer simply slam the left trigger expecting to form a help defense. The gamer must now use the right trigger to see the ball and the left to move the players in the



right area for defensive transition. Bucks nursing student Chris Miller rarely plays NBA 2K games because he felt the game’s defense was too slow, but after playing 2K9 his outlook has changed. “I hate pounding the right and left controls and nothing happens. At least now I can use both controls; one to see the ball and the other to move my defender.”

The lockdown stick is much better than last year’s because it allows gamers to pick out tendencies of opposing players and exploit their moves. The new Living Rosters mode allows PS3 and Xbox consumers to have up-to-date rosters, which is a new aspect to the yearly title. The 2K9 insider is a feature that allows updates and access to current NBA rosters.

Bucks Business major

Edwin Maldonado has played all 2K titles since 2000. He finds 2K9 to be the best. “I enjoy playing 2K9 because the game brings out every player’s signature movements,” Maldonado said. “I love playing the improvements to the on-line gaming; now 10 players can challenge each other for an unbelievable multiplayer experience.”

The game’s on-line improvements help players compete across the country. Another improvement is the shot-stick, which now lets gamers change shot direction in mid-air. It may look different, but the new shot-stick can get off the last-second shot even in the tight quarters of the virtual court.

As in all NBA 2K games, the realistic animations are great to watch. 2K9 also offers a high-definition experience that displays all the expressions of the players, coaches and fans. The physical reactions are when players get knocked down and help each other up are so realistic. It’s these details that keep gamers playing NBA 2K season after season.

## Top movies, games and shows to give or get

### Films:

- The Dark Knight
- Hellboy II: The Golden Army
- Kung Fu Panda
- Hancock
- Wall-E
- Get Smart
- Tropic Thunder
- Wanted
- Command and Conquer: Red Alert 3
- Left 4 Dead
- World of Warcraft: Wrath of the Lich King
- Fallout 3
- Little Big Planet
- Gears of War II
- Dead Space
- Call of Duty: World at War
- Shaun White Snowboarding
- Warhammer Online: Age of Reckoning

## Here’s a list of some cool websites to visit...

- **freeonlinegames.com**  
Visit this site for all sorts of fun games, puzzles and weird things if you have some free time to kill.
- **amiwasted.com**  
Upload your own photos and rate other people on how wasted you look.
- **break.com**  
A website chock full of crazy videos and other sorts of entertaining things to prevent you from being constructive.
- **dirty sounding.com**  
This website has many tests which are designed to measure stupidity. The members of this site have an IQ of less than 78.2 and can share point less hobbies.
- **dumbentia.net**  
What is Dumbentia? Well, to start, it's a combination of a couple of words: dumb and dementia. That pretty much describes this place -- a showcase of humor.



BETTER JUDGMENT

Jamie and Elle know fashion, and they are ready to tear your closet to pieces

ELLÉ CREEDON AND  
JAMIE MELGOZA  
*Arts Editors*

Some say fashion does not matter, but it has the potential to reflect who you are. Some have all the right elements to putting an outfit together but need some help in sprucing it up.

In each of the pictures you will see some outfits that have great potential, but need a little boost.

One tip to making any outfit make a bold statement is dark denim, whether you are dressing up or down.

In the first picture (A) this guy can certainly use a tune up. Although his classic yellow-hooded sweat shirt may be a staple in his closet, it can certainly use more to be an “outfit.” He could start by adding something underneath.

Layering is a great tip to give anyone a more put together look without too much effort. A white button down or long white Henley will provide this look easily. Lastly, his denim would match better if it were dark to help the yellow pop.

In the second picture (B), this girl had the right idea. With her ability to layer and add accessories, it just needs some help and a push in the right direction. Her blue button down cardigan makes a bold statement with her gold buttons.

The hardware on clothing can always help to pull an



outfit together. With such a dark color, the best option for underneath is a solid neutral such as a cream or sand, even a white long sleeve tee underneath. When it comes to her denim, she should also try a dark wash to pair with this ensemble.

Her ability to accessorize stands out and makes a statement about her outfit. This scarf definitely helps pull everything together, keeping it unique, while keeping her warm.

In this next picture (C) this boy seems more concerned with keeping warm than



what he’s wearing. His Nike sweat shirt could be traded in for a plain thermal long sleeve tee shirt, keeping him warm and comfy. A plain shirt paired with dark denim is a good way for men to accessorize and look hot without a lot of effort.

This subtle combination leaves room for accessorizing with anything from a leather belt to nice boots, even a hat. Lastly, his coat is a great wool mix that will keep him warm in the winter, but the color is a bit dull and won’t do much for the rest of his outfit.

He should try and pair it



with a chocolate brown, black, or red suede or leather coat. This will amp up his look, while keeping him toasty.

In the last picture (D), this girl started out well with her sweater vest.

The colors, however, do not do much for her. When picking a staple like a sweater vest, try and look for a solid color like black or blue, etc.

This solid vest paired with a corresponding color underneath will completely transform her look from boring to chic.

She should try a dark vest



and a light, white long sleeve tee to complete her look.

Her jeans should be a darker, giving a more sophisticated look.

Everyone has their own style.

That is what makes fashion fun.

When shopping and getting dressed, find a look best suits your style, and represents you as a person, and adult.

With that said, please leave your pajamas and slippers at home and try on some boots and a pair of denim.

You can still be comfy in cool clothes.

‘Desperate Housewives’ jumps in time

BY BRITTANY KENVIN  
*Centurion Staff*

Now in its fifth season, ABC’s longtime hit show “Desperate Housewives” has a whole slew of new storylines in the works this year largely due to its five-year time jump into the future.

The season premiere, launched on Sept. 28, picked up exactly where the season four finale left off—only five years later.

The question still remains: will this aid the writers in creating new and interesting storylines for the inhabitants of Wisteria Lane or will it leave us reminiscing about the “good old days?”

So what has happened over the past five years?

Well, Bree (Marcia Cross) has established her role as the Martha Stewart of suburbia by publishing her own cookbook, igniting competitive tension between her and Katherine (Dana Delaney),

especially since Bree failed to give proper credit to Katherine for a bulk of the recipes in her cook book.

Possibly the most noticeable change is Gabbie’s (Eva Longoria Parker) appearance.

She is now the mother of two and still married to Carlos (Ricardo Antonio Chavira,) who is also still blind.

Apparently motherhood has taken a toll on our beloved glam Gabbie because she is looking as disheveled and frumpy as we’ve ever seen her.

With a choppy new haircut and baggy unflattering clothing, she is a far cry from the glitzy ex-model we knew and loved.

The sass that this gal exhibits is unquestionable. Fortunately, she’s still Gabbie, bringing viewers that quick wit and humor that she we’ve seen in her countless times before.

Edie (Nicollette Sheridan) is



back in town with a new husband to keep her occupied, although she’s still the same shrill, trouble-making woman we’ve come to know in the past, especially when commenting on Gabbie’s new and less-than-fabulous look.

Her new man seems to have a sneaky background that should prove for some interesting plot lines as well, but we all know Wisteria Lane is not new to neighbors with ominous pasts.

Susan (Terry Hatcher) and Mike (James Denton) are no

longer together, although Mike has now moved into a house across the street.

Susan has a new love in her life, Jackson (Gale Harold,) however she is not acting too serious about their relationship so far. It should be interesting to see how that holds up and if she ends up returning to Mike, who is, after all, the father of her son.

Tom (Doug Savant) and Lynette (Felicity Huffman) are dealing with troublesome 16-year-old twins, which will definitely be a fun story to see

played out now that they are old enough to start getting into some real trouble.

With all the changes, it’s comforting to see that the basic storyline is still true to its roots.

Just as it has always been, “Desperate Housewives” will remain the charming comedy and drama hybrid that we have come to know and love over the past five years, just with some new storylines and a strong emphasis on the show’s originally established main characters.

# A Modern Hypocrisy: A special edition column



*'Baby steps into the elevator.'*

*A weekly column by Centurion Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin*

This isn't going to be a happy story. There are parts that will be depressing and sad. There are parts I hope to be motivational and inspiring. I want to share my story to alert others who were once on my path or ever went through what I have gone through. I want to tell others how I changed. And here we go...

Nine years ago I was on the honor roll and a competitive swimmer at Penn State.

Then, I realized I was somewhat free—from home, my parents and any "rules." Basically, I made a ton of bad decisions that affected the real reasons I was at college. So I went from being an honors student to someone who lived everyday on one illegal drug or another. I slept nearly 16 hours a day, or none at all. I dropped out of Penn State weighing 90 pounds; I was so high, depressed or manic I would forget to eat.

Then, I changed again. It happened in an instant. I don't know what spawned it, but in one flash—an epiphany—I woke up. Either I got scared, or the antidepressants I'd been taking finally kicked in. Whatever the reason, I stopped throwing my life away.

In that epiphany I realized I was getting older and I was too old to remain a loser. If I did all that for any longer, I'd never amount to anything. So I started to look for something I was good at. I left my

comfort zone and paid attention to the world around me. I had no idea what was going to happen, but I started with a waitressing job and one day I found a woman who wrote for the Newtown Advance. She said I could be a stringer, or freelance reporter. Sure, I liked to write. I might be able to do something like that.

I didn't think about living life to the fullest all the time. I just found a reason to get up in the morning. I hadn't experienced that feeling in years. It was wonderful.

Finally, my manic episodes were under control. I wanted to go back to school, attend Bucks part-time, work and get a degree in journalism. I gave myself a timeline; I found that maintaining a schedule helped me function "normally." I would work through the fall of 2005 and save for spring semester tuition.

I look back on those days now and feel bittersweet. I had a boyfriend I lived with, flawless peaches and cream skin and platinum blonde hair. I was 105 pounds and my eyes were baby blue. But, I also had cancer. I write this column this week because my diagnosis of stage 3B Hodgkin's Lymphoma occurred at 1 a.m. on Nov. 23, 2005.

Three years ago, I was dying. I entered St. Mary's Hospital via ambulance from my job at Goodnoe's and I left with a 60 percent chance of

survival. To those who never saw their life in percentages, those are the kinds of odds that keep you awake at night.

On steroids I gained nearly 60 pounds.

I vomited dozens of times a day.

Chemotherapy makes you an insomniac. Chemotherapy causes your hair to fall out. It hurt all the time—physically and mentally. All of a sudden my friends were gone, family members gone. Most everyone was too scared to see me or talk to me, I guess. At first I didn't think I was different, nothing about the person I am had changed. But the more I felt isolated, the more numb I became.

My boyfriend broke up with me. I was a "burden" and "responsibility." The sad part—I felt like I was. I couldn't have done any better though, I believe that. I did what I was told to do and what I had to do.

I hated everyone who said how well I was doing. I lived inside my frenzied bald head and suffered the abuse I put on myself. I couldn't go out that Christmas without a wheelchair or sterile mask, so I never left home. I watched these brown marks appear on my skin where I itched. You get so itchy. My nails were yellow and my eyes were dull. The scars hurt. My body hurt and I was so tired all the time and couldn't sleep for days on end.

After the surgeries and chemotherapy, the worst part happened: the waiting and the acceptance. I didn't have time to think about my future, if there was one. My brain was too caught up in getting by, one day at a time, one inch at a time.

I realized the daily grind of the big "C" was over and I had five years to fear its return and cope with how I was a different person than before. After eight months, my oncologist said it was

working. Could I have the life I dreamed of? Kind of.

The physical changes I saw in the mirror hurt the most. On the inside I was torn apart, but rebuilding. The outside part of me was forever changed. I spent so many hours crying in front of the mirror. What happened to my body? I always thought I was pretty and then boys would remark, "What a dyke" or "Is that a man?" They didn't know what I had gone through, but it reinforced the feeling that everything I ever knew about my image had died, even though I lived.

Eventually I connected with other young people who got sick like this and watched their youth die before them. We learned together to accept that in order to continue, you have to let go of everything you were before your brush with death.

Just move forward.

Now two years in remission, I am doing most everything I wanted to, but more importantly working toward what I want. I had other plans and dreams for my life, and this did change that. But I feel a reason to be on this planet. It gives me a reason to be with someone else—I'm alive and I am still me inside. I'm still dealing with the "outside" issues. "Everything I have ever learned in life can be summed up in three words: it goes on."

Dear friends, whether you know where your life is headed or not, I offer you advice based on my experience.

One: Get a college degree. I don't care if you major in Liberal Arts or Underwater Basket Weaving. But someday soon or distant, you'll find something you love to do. Therefore, the time you waste skipping class, blowing off working toward something because you don't know what that "something" is, well, it does you no justice. You're hurting the future

you. Tomorrow is not a guarantee. You will never, ever be able to do it later, to figure it out later. You only have today.

Two: Waiting for more money, more of anything is not an excuse. You will always be in debt. You will always have bills to pay. Just set a goal for yourself—it's scary and stressful and overwhelming—but in doing so you can balance your life. There is no reason for a life off-kilter. I learned the hard way.

Three: It's going to suck. I have failed and accomplished. I have been embarrassed and disgraced and overjoyed. I try to live life without thinking about how mine nearly ended. I don't want to think about death, my wasted years, but I do. I am affected, but not damaged. Sometimes I fall to my knees in tears in my shower at the sight of lost strands of hair. I beg god to make the cardio and crunches and skin treatments and hair dye erase the physical elements left over from my illness. People say how strong I am, how strong I must have been. I hate them, because it's not true.

I'm just me.

Whether I am or am not less beautiful, less of something or more of something, I can't do anything about it, as I couldn't do anything about being sick. All I can do is accept it. All I can do is keep moving forward and finding a reason to make survival worth it.

Yoda said, "Do, or do not. There is no try." I said the whole time that how you survive defines you as a person. After everything, I did find me. I learned to like me, for the most part. I'll move into self-actualization one step at a time.

But move forward in your life, because it keeps going no matter what.



modeling the latest fashions? Sure it's great to feel good and look good, but this is school—not a runway show! I, for one, am not here to impress anyone and couldn't give a Sugar Honey Ice Tea about what anyone else thinks. I'm here to attend my classes, write my papers, etc. Honestly, what gives Jamie and Elle the right to tell me, or anyone else, how to dress? I'll look like a scrub if I want to. It's of no concern to them, and in my opinion they should stop caring so much what everyone else is doing and be more concerned with what kind of attitude they're putting out. From this article alone, I know I would walk past them and roll my eyes. Who really cares what anyone else is wearing? To Jamie and Elle, all I have to say is shut up. Nobody cares.

-Maggie Driscoll

Dear Laura,

I'm pleased to report that I'm writing this while wearing my mismatched sweats, with my loyal and worn UGGs only inches away. Better judgment? Hardly. At 6:30 a.m., the last thing on my mind is looking fashionable. Why should I, or any other student, care about

**If you or someone you know has been affected by cancer, these are some websites i recommend checking out:**



**chemoangels.com**  
**livestrong.org**  
**chemotherapy.com**  
**cancercare.org**  
**fccc.edu**



**Got an opinion?**  
**Agree or disagree?**

**Tell us in a letter to the editor.**

E-mail Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin at  
 centurion@bucks.edu.



# Meteorologist followed her dream

BY KRISTEN WALSH  
Centurion Staff

On Saturday, Nov. 1 Bucks held the 26th Annual Day for All Women with a special appearance by Michelle Grossman of NBC-10.

The developmental conference featured workshops focusing on health issues and personal and professional development.

The event was co-hosted by Bucks and the Bucks County Commissioner's Advisory Council for Women.

"In direct response to evaluations from past participants, the theme of the conference this year will be women's health issues," said conference coordinator Marian Cello. "We've invited St. Mary Medical Center as our 'gold' sponsor, and have included workshops ranging from belly dancing to cardiovascular health."

About 400 women attended the event and chose from three different workshops and five dozen offerings ranging from career management and family issues.



Free health screenings were also offered.

In addition to the selected workshops, Michelle Grossman, meteorologist of NBC-10, was the keynote speaker of the day. She talked about balancing the stresses of work and home, all the while maintaining a confi-

dent well-being.

She also wanted to get the message across to never give up on dreams and goals no matter how old one is, and that hard times only teaches determination.

Grossman, a Doylestown native, began the conference by telling the audience it was her life-long dream to become a meteorolo-

gist. Growing up she recorded the weather to learn everything about it.

Grossman grew up in a large family where money was tight, but it made her self-reliant.

"I had the Barbie, but not the jeep," said Grossman,

insinuating that life wasn't horrible.

Through her parents' hard work ethic, she developed her own sense of self-reliance and learned to work hard for "the life your Barbie deserves."

Grossman moved on to Penn State University and thought, being from a small town, she couldn't make it out on her own, but decided to continue with her goal of becoming successful.

She graduated from Penn State with a bachelor's degree and worked eight years in sales. However, Grossman still had the "weather bug."

By this time, Grossman was 28 and realized the risk wasn't that bad, so she decided to quit her job in sales and take an unpaid internship at news station. At the internship, she learned she was the oldest one there, but she didn't let this bust her confidence.

"I had more confidence than I did when I was 18," said Grossman as she felt she was in the right place at the right time.

After her internship was over, Grossman stayed at the

news station and they gave her a job preparing the weather graphics for the meteorologists.

The station eventually promoted her to the weekend weather woman and on her first day on camera, she told viewers there was a chance of tomatoes instead of a chance of tornadoes.

With her new job, Grossman found herself thrust into the public eye and experienced some nasty feedback with viewers, with one e-mail complaining her suit was too tight.

The newly appointed weather woman found herself wanting to stay home, but she was presented with a challenge and "with dreams comes the realities."

"I am here because it was my dream," said Grossman.

Grossman closed her address with a comforting message.

"To be healthy and develop yourself, you have to want to change and when you get to that dream remember who you are, don't forget yourself."

## Essay contest offers \$\$ and Nevada trip

BY JEN GOLDING  
Webcast Anchor

Are you interested in winning \$1,000 and an all-expense paid trip to Nevada?

The Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA) is currently accepting essays that address the topic, "Why obtaining a four year degree on my community college campus would be important to me."

Any student who is currently enrolled in a community college is eligible to enter. The winner will attend the CCBA's annual conference in Reno-Tahoe, Nevada from March 13-15.

The idea of community colleges offering baccalaureate degree programs is becoming increasingly popular. Baccalaureate degrees are currently offered on community college campuses in 14 states and three Canadian provinces. The CCBA is conducting the contest to determine what students think about community colleges offering four-year degrees.

According to its website, the CCBA's philosophy revolves around the idea that, "The baccalaureate degree is an important entry requirement for the better jobs and a better lifestyle. Therefore, every person should have an

opportunity to pursue the b a c -



calau-reate degree at a place that is convenient, accessible and affordable." The option of obtaining a baccalaureate degree from community college is attractive to many students for numerous reasons. Community college offers significantly lower tuition than most four year schools. It also allows students to save on campus housing costs, as most community college students commute from home. Community college also provides opportunities for all students to receive an education by not adhering to strict admissions requirements.

Community colleges also offer flexible schedules by offering classes in the day, evening or even weekends to accommodate many students who work either full- or part-time.

Never having to worry about credit transfer issues is another benefit to receiving a baccalaureate degree from a community college.

Although most community college credits transfer easily to four-year schools, it can often be a hassle, especially if a student decides to change majors.

Many community college campuses that offer baccalaureate degree programs have found success by teaming up with four year schools and using university centers, 2+2 programs, and distance learning to help confer degrees.

Florida is a leading state in offering baccalaureate degree programs from many of its community college campuses.

According to its Department of Education, Florida is facing a "significant challenge" because it is ranked no. 46 out of the 50 states in producing baccalaureate

degrees.

This ranking has made the need and benefits of community college baccalaureate degree programs clear to many of Florida's education officials. On its website, Florida's Department of Education states, "Community college partnerships with state and private universities provide cost-efficient options to improved baccalaureate degree access, especially to place bound students."

Although many community colleges in Pennsylvania offer dual admissions agreements with four-year schools, there is currently no Pennsylvania community college that confers baccalaureate degrees from its campus.

Enter the CCBA's essay contest by Feb. 5, 2009. The winner will be notified no later than Feb. 10. All of the essay rules and entry information can be found online at [accbd.org](http://accbd.org).

*Featured photo: 'Bee'*  
*By Laura Irwin*



*contribute your photos by e-mailing a jpeg or pdf to [centurion@bucks.edu](mailto:centurion@bucks.edu)*



Monday, November 17, 2008

## Eagles don't get anywhere against Bengals

By The Associated Press

CINCINNATI— Trick plays went backward. Punts barely went forward. Chances to take the lead got frittered away with numbing ineptitude.

If ever a game deserved to end without a winner, this was it.

After 3 hours and 46 minutes of ugly and unsettling play, the Eagles and Bengals walked away with the NFL's first tied game in six years Sunday. It ended 13-13 after Cincinnati's Shayne Graham missed a 47-yard field-goal attempt with 7 seconds left in overtime.

For the first time since the Falcons and Steelers played to a 34-34 tie on Nov. 10, 2002, the NFL had a game that went 75 minutes with neither team coming out ahead.

Basically, it was a waste of an afternoon.

"I don't believe in ties," said defensive end Trent Cole, who had two of Philadelphia's eight sacks. "I'm used to playing football until the end, until someone scores. That should decide the game. Taking a tie is a bad feeling."

Players on both teams were unsure of the rules, thinking the game would continue until someone scored. It was only in



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the closing seconds of overtime that they all knew they were headed for a rarity — an NFL game that ends with no one ahead.

They earned the ignominy.

The Eagles (5-4-1) came to town knowing they needed a win to stay in the middle of the playoff chase. Not only that, they needed to start looking like a playoff team. They have one of the league's top defenses, but quarterback Donovan McNabb has struggled without a running game to help on short-yardage

downs.

Philadelphia's solution? Just throw it.

The Eagles had 18 third-down plays, and tried to throw on every one of them — even the three times they needed only one more yard for a first down. They went 0-for-3 on those short-yardage tries, and were 3-of-18 overall on third downs.

"Today we tried a couple of different things, and we weren't successful," said Brian Westbrook, ran for 60 yards in his third straight subpar game.

The play calling is going to come under scrutiny after the Eagles settled for their first tie since 1997. They tried a flea-flicker that fell incomplete. They lined up rookie receiver DeSean Jackson in a shotgun formation during the overtime, and he flipped the ball to Westbrook for a 3-yard loss.

McNabb set the game on course for its unsatisfying finish by losing a fumble and throwing three interceptions, matching his career high. He set up 10 of the Bengals' points with his turnovers. Then, the 10th-year quarterback showed he needs some help with the rules, too.

He and several teammates thought they would keep going until someone pulled ahead. They weren't aware that an NFL game could end tied.

"I guess we're aware of that now," said McNabb, who was 28-of-58 for 339 yards. "In college, there are multiple overtimes, and in high school and Pop Warner. I never knew in the professional ranks it would end that way. I hate to see what would happen in the Super Bowl and the playoffs."

Uh, Donovan? They play those until someone wins.

Moving on to the Bengals ...

Cincinnati (1-8-1) was coming

off two good weeks — its first win of the season, followed by its bye week. The Bengals were trying to match their longest winning streak of the last two seasons by winning two in a row. They had their chance at the end, despite giving up eight sacks and failing to get into the end zone after a first-and-goal from inside the 1-yard line.

Sav Rocca's third poor punt — this one went 37 yards — and Sheldon Brown's 15-yard penalty for roughing quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick put the Bengals in range for one of the NFL's most accurate kickers of all time. Graham was 6-for-6 on tries between 40-49 yards this season, and had missed only one attempt all season.

His kick from 47 yards away was long enough, but drifted inches wide of the right upright with 7 seconds left.

"There's not much to say," Graham said. "Just a lot of disappointment."

The Bengals have long been out of contention, so this was just another bad afternoon in a series of them. The Eagles had a lot at stake.

"We were treating this like a playoff game," Cole said.

Not really. Those don't end in ties.

## Solo Jazz Guitar Recital

Dr. Michael Hoffman



- Dr. Michael Hoffman, a member of the Music Faculty here at BCCC, has worked primarily in the world of Jazz.
- He has written musical arrangements for his own group as well as large ensembles. He has also written for soloists, chamber and percussion ensembles as well as dance and theater groups.
- Dr. Hoffman received a BA in Music Education from C.W.Post College, a MA, and Ph.D. in Composition from New York University.

**Monday, November 24, 2008  
4:30 pm  
In the Orangery  
Free and Open to the Public**

Free copies of Dr. Hoffman's CD *A Guitar is Like a Woman* will be available to attendees. This recital is in partial fulfillment of a Cultural Incentive Grant.

Bucks County Community College  
Newtown Bristol Perkasi  
www.bucks.edu  
Where to Learn. Where to Return.



## Sixers are winning despite empty seats

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers expended quite a bit of energy in overcoming a 26-point deficit in their victory at Indiana.

Yet they still had plenty of pep one night later.

Thaddeus Young scored 23 points, Elton Brand and Andre Iguodala added 15 apiece, and the 76ers cruised past the struggling Oklahoma City Thunder, 110-85 on Saturday.

"We got some energy after halftime and built on it," Iguodala said. "It was a good win for us."

Samuel Dalembert contributed 13 points and 16 rebounds for the Sixers, who won their third straight game to even their record at 5-5.

One night after staging a furious rally to win 94-92 at Indiana, Philadelphia had little trouble dispatching of the Thunder. Young shot 10-of-15 from the field and all 12 Sixers players scored.

"That's the NBA," Brand said. "Coming off an emotional win where we expended a lot of energy, we had to play with intensity."

Jeff Green scored 21 points and Kevin Durant added 13 for Oklahoma City, which fell to 1-9 and dropped its seventh in a row. Durant, who was the Rookie of the Year last season, shot just 6-of-18. Russell Westbrook also had 13 points

and Johan Petro grabbed 12 rebounds.

The Thunder are 0-5 on the road after finishing 7-34 last season for Seattle before relocating.

It was their worst loss of the season, surpassing a 109-92 home defeat against Orlando last Wednesday.

"We played like a team playing its fifth game in seven nights," Thunder coach P.J. Carlesimo said. "We dug a hole, then lost our intensity."

The Sixers went on a 23-8 run in the third quarter and led 69-50 on a tip by Dalembert with 4:36 remaining. Philadelphia's lead swelled to as many as 27.

"I thought our defense was a major part of it," Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks said.

Despite pockets of empty seats at the Wachovia Center — announced attendance was 13,385 — the fans showed their appreciation as the Sixers continued building their huge lead.

"I thought our ball movement was good," Iguodala said. "Everyone got involved."

The Sixers led 46-42 at halftime, then got a number of easy baskets and were never threatened in the second half. Oklahoma City committed 19 turnovers en route to its ninth loss in 10 games.

"There's been too many of those nights this year, about nine of them," Thunder forward Nick Collison said.