

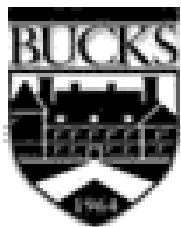
The Centurion

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

The week of December 15, 2008

www.bucks-news.com

Volume: 44 Issue: 8



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WEATHER

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Tuesday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 46. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday Night: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

WEATHER COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

UFO group to meet at Bucks

MUFON investigates UFO sightings and alien encounters. They are coming to Bucks to share their ET stories.

BY JEN GOLDING
Webcast Anchor

Have you seen any little green men lately?

After a recent spike of reports of strange sightings in the skies over Bucks County, the Pennsylvania chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is to hold its next alien hunter conference at Bucks on Jan. 24.

MUFON is an international organization devoted to discovering the mystery behind UFOs by scientifically investigating them, as stated on their website.

On average, there are about 36 reported UFO sightings over a four-month period in Pennsylvania, but over the summer of 2008, there were 138 sightings from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia-Bucks County area accounted for 77 of them, according to John Ventre, the

Pennsylvania State Director of MUFON.

In fact, Bucks County's "alien scene" was put in the national spotlight on the Discovery Channel's new documentary series, "UFO's Over Earth—The Bucks County Flap," which premiered Nov. 24 and will run again on Dec. 13 at 10 p.m.

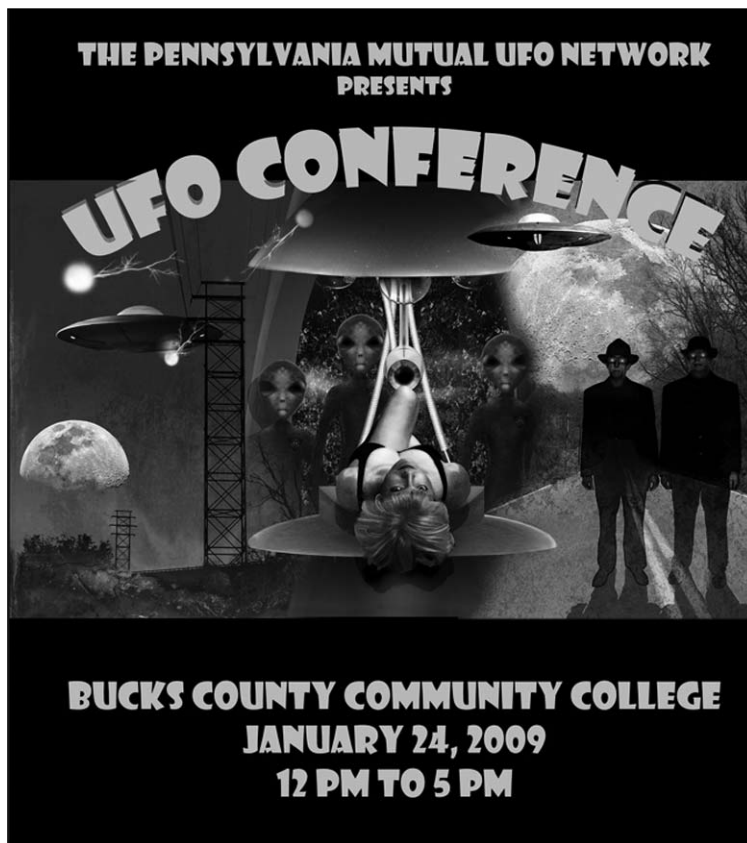
According to Ventre, there are typically two different types of sighting reports.

About 60 percent of reports describe a star-like UFO, usually flying above cloud level.

Ventre himself reported seeing this type of UFO on June 29.

He described the UFO as "much larger than an airplane, covering about one-third of the sky [and traveling at] approximately 2,000 mph."

About 40 percent of reports describe a triangular or boomerang-shaped UFO with



three or four different colored pulsing lights.

Denise Lynch Murter, one of the six Bucks County residents featured on the Discovery Channel's documentary, claims

to have seen this type of UFO.

Murter reported seeing a strange craft emitting a blue fog

Continued on page 2

Business owners on edge over sales

BY DAVID NONINI
Centurion Staff

The ongoing financial crisis across the country might lead people to believe that local, privately owned retail businesses would be feeling a money squeeze.

As some stores have seen sales numbers similar to previous years, some stores are barely meeting quota.

In the borough of Doylestown, many store owners and employees saw large sales numbers and steady business throughout Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving that officially kicks off the Christmas shopping season with slashed prices and shopping madness.

"This year was better than the last two years," said James Frazier, owner of Cyborg One, a store specializing in comics, anime and games. In fact, many stores said that Black Friday sales were comparable to, or even better than, previous years.

"It's stunning," said Blair Elliot, owner of Siren Records, adding that sales were close to matching last year's numbers. However, "People were more reluctant to spend," said Elliot.

He added that music may be important for his customers, but if the choice is between music and food, consumers need to first purchase the necessities.

Nerice Kendter, owner of Busy Bee Toys, also said Black Friday sales were around the same as the previous year.

The store specializes in mostly wooden toys, as well as locally hand-made and organic toys.

Store employees noted that there was a decrease in sales around the month of September, which is when the financial crisis began with the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers.

"There was a definite drop in sales," said Kira Suler of A Special Gift, a specialty store selling jewelry, clothing and other art work. She also stated that the store was not as busy on Black Friday as it was last year.

Shiloh Hopwood, manager of Doylestown Bookshop, noted that it was a slow autumn, but added that September is usually a slow month.

Continued on page 6

Bomb threat is 'not credible'

BY JEN GOLDING AND LAURA IRWIN
Webcast Anchor, Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, a campus-wide e-mail was sent out to notify the Bucks community of a bomb threat received by the college on Monday, Dec. 1.

An anonymous caller claimed a bomb was placed somewhere between Founders and Penn Hall. Immediately on the scene were Safety and Security Director Chris Lloyd, and Mark Moore, assistant director. They checked the area for any suspicious objects.

Vice President of Administrative Affairs Dennis Matthews said that this kind of thing does not happen often, and it's possible the caller was a student attempting to get out of taking an exam.

He said every precaution was taken to make sure the threat was not credible.

The Newtown Township Police Department was notified as soon as the "vague threat" was received.

According to the e-mail, the police investigated and consulted with other police specialists and college administration before determining the threat was not credible.

Lloyd said, "[Bucks] is now checking the telephone numbers of all incoming calls. We asked our guy that runs telecommunications in IT to check to see if he can track down where that call came from."

He added that if a number and suspect were to be identified, the matter would be sent to the police.

If any credible threat is received, the college will use the Target X e-mail and the campus alert system to notify students as quickly as possible.

To receive an emergency text message in the event of an emergency, you must sign up for the e2campus alert system online at e2campus.com/my/bucks/signup. All students should be on alert for suspicious packages on campus and to immediately report such packages to campus security at (215) 968-8395.

Mall does well on 'Black Friday'

BY JANINE HIPPLE
Centurion Staff

The Willow Grove Park Mall transformed into a free-for-all on Black Friday. It seemed as though the economy was never better, countering reality.

Each level of the parking lot was filled to maximum capacity before 10 a.m.

Bargain hunters were forced to park their vehicles in parking lots nearby. Escalators were troublesome to board, as many people pushed their way on trying to get to the next great bargain. It was as though every square inch of the building was packed with nightmarish sale-hungry consumers; a retailer's dream.

Outside the Santa Set, which did not open until 10 a.m., a line of parents and children waiting for Old Saint Nick to arrive had formed. The never-ending

line kept him and his little helpers at a non-stop rate for nearly eight hours straight, the busiest it has been since the season started two weeks prior.

"This is the best turnout we have had this season. It is definitely not as busy as last year, but the line is moving through at a steady rate," said Suzy Rigby, manager of the Santa Set.

The mall continued with its annual sales discounting from 40 percent to 70 percent off retail sales prices. Garage, a new addition to the Willow Grove Mall, advertised all their merchandise as 50 percent off. Hard Tail pants originally priced around \$80 could be purchased for \$30.

The top-selling stores, such as Abercrombie and Fitch, White House Black Market, GAP Inc. and American Eagle also seemed to do well. Even the Food Court benefited from the Black Friday sales as famished families stuffed their faces.



Group to speak on UFOs, ET abductions

continued from page 1

which contained metallic sprinkles. Allegedly, the UFO dropped the sprinkles onto one of the trees in her backyard, and then drew them back up to the ship.

A laboratory tested leaf samples from the "dusted" tree and found that they had been subjected to high heat or radiation.

Although this incident brought new life to local UFO investigations, it allegedly brought death to the robin, which had lived in the affected tree for four months prior to the incident.

After watching the Discovery Channel documentary, a Pittsburgh man reported a sighting to MUFON that happened some 20 years ago.

He had only had "one beer" the night that he said he saw about 10 round, bright lights in the sky, appearing to be "performing some type of show."

The man called an investigator after the sighting, whose initial impression was that the man had "witness[ed] a light show."

However, the man has remained unsure of what he saw to this day. "I have even considered being hypnotized, just too accurately recount the event," reported the man on MUFON's

website.

With this local surge of strange reports, Bucks County residents should know what to do in the event that they see a UFO.

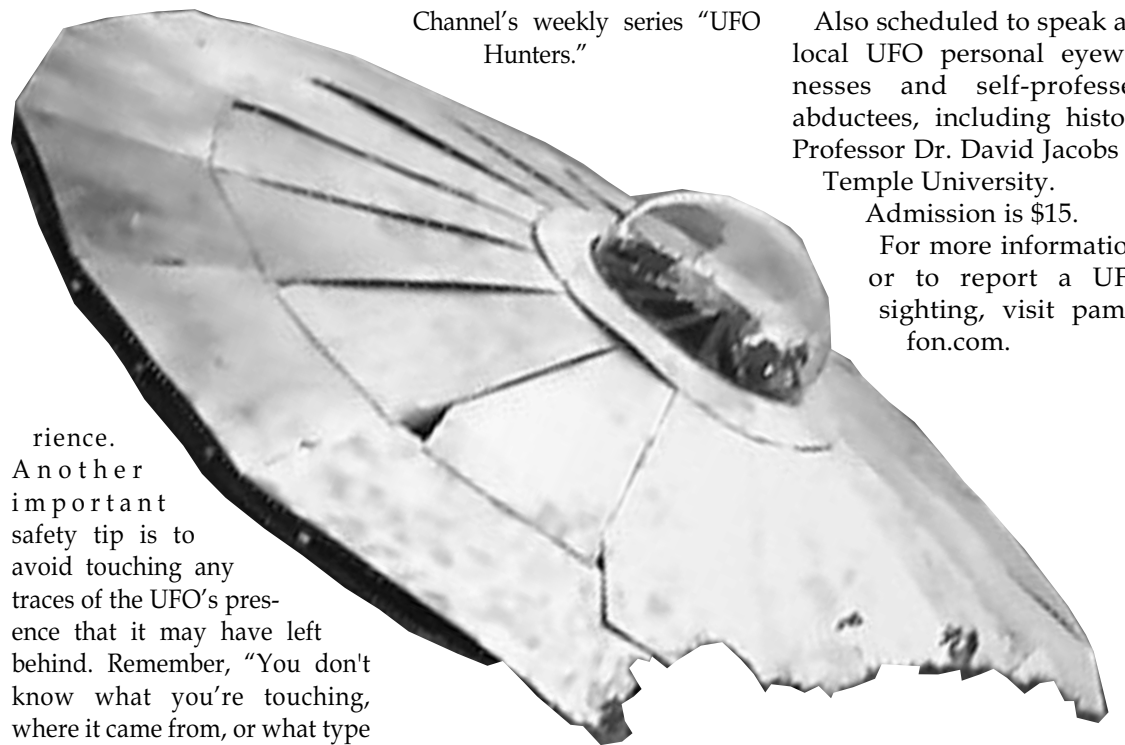
Although nine out of 10 sightings are scientifically explainable, who wants to risk finding themselves in a dangerous extraterrestrial situation unequipped with the right kind of information?

According to the MUFON website, the number one thing to do is remain calm. Bucks residents should remember that, "you might be witnessing the event of a lifetime and will want to remember every detail, and you can't do that if you are hysterical."

However, it's also important to "protect yourself from any hazards—real or perceived. Be prepared to take evasive, but not aggressive, action to get out of [a UFO's] way."

More importantly, if you encounter some type of extraterrestrial being associated with the craft, MUFON advises that you "be prepared to take evasive action to protect yourself."

MUFON recommends concealing yourself at a safe distance and, if you happen to have a camera, camcorder or tape recorder handy, use them to record your personal alien experience.



Channel's weekly series "UFO Hunters."

Also scheduled to speak are local UFO personal eyewitnesses and self-professed abductees, including history Professor Dr. David Jacobs of Temple University.

Admission is \$15.

For more information, or to report a UFO sighting, visit pamu-fon.com.

Centurion Publication Schedule

The Centurion is published weekly on Mondays.

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

Publication dates for the fall 2008 semester are as follows:

(dates may be subject to change)

Happy Holidays!
See you in the spring!

THE CENTURION 

Bucks County Community College's Student Newspaper

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

LETTER POLICY

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

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Official Member
2006-2007



Safely noggin’ this holiday season

BY ASHLEY RAE PIZZI
Centurion Staff

Your checking account is overdrawn by a dangerous amount, the prospect of sitting around with your extended family for more than 20 minutes lingers and the temptation of an open bar is calling.

There are a plethora of valid reasons why the holiday season is synonymous with intoxication to many individuals.

Despite Andy Williams coining this as, "the most wonderful time of the year," the occasional numbing of one's senses is understandable. Regardless, getting into a car in a semi-conscious stupor is selfish and ignorant.

In fact, driving while intoxicated during the holiday time is the best way to ensure that your finances won't be the only problem haunting you as 2009 inevitably rears its change-filled head.

Last April, PennDOT reported that the number of alcohol-related crash deaths in the state dropped from 544 in 2006 to 525 last year.

Organizations such as Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) have taken a stand against driving under the influence.

As a result, the CDC reports that in 2007, 1.4 million people were arrested for driving under the influence in the United States.

With this significant number of arrests, the question begs: how do so many citizens get "caught" in the act?

The change in PA was the result of several factors, but primarily, it serves to take a stand against driving under the influence.

"It's an issue of reciprocity," explained Officer Charles Zeigler of the Doylestown Police Department. "For example, if you are in NJ and you have a suspended license, we honor that sus-

pension in PA. Other states had their BAC at 0.08, so a change was made."

The variances in DUI laws from state-to-state are a product of state sovereignty. If this change in percentage seems inconsequential, guess again.

When the new DUI laws were created in 2004, the Pennsylvania State Police reported a 13 percent increase in DUI arrests. Wine aficionados and beer drinkers everywhere collectively shuttered.

Jeremy Z. Mittman, Esq. has been a defense attorney in the area for 15 years representing clients in the eastern regions of Pennsylvania.

Mittman indicated that special interest groups such as MADD and SADD have been instrumental in convincing legislators to enact stricter DUI legislation to protect the public.

Zeigler does not feel that the 0.08 impairment laws are unfair.

"People become impaired before they reach a BAC of 0.08," Zeigler said. "Whether you realize it or not, the alcohol is affecting you."

Despite Zeigler's fervor, when asked if he believed in a zero tolerance policy for those drinking and driving, the police officer softened. "No. Zero tolerance isn't good," he said. "People just need to be responsible."

And how about DUI quotas?

Without hesitation, Zeigler confirmed that there are no quotas in regards to DUI arrests. Zeigler attested, "It doesn't matter if it is the first day of the month or toward the end of the month."

Mittman says that PA determines DUI sentencing based upon level of intoxication, what substances were being abused, prior criminal (and DUI) record, and several other factors. Was there another vehicle/pedestrian involved in the incident? Did they get injured?



Were there passengers in your vehicle? Did you respond civilly to the officer making the arrest? If there were drugs in your system, were they prescribed and being taken in therapeutic levels?

Since a DUI is public record, the first blow often comes from the realization that the defendant's name can be mentioned in the paper.

Additionally, PA can charge more than \$5,000 in fines, mandate prison time and revoke a driver's license. Also consider restitution, increased insurance rates, and the potential for a permanent criminal record.

This doesn't include potential attorney fees.

Mittman warns motorists to be wary of driving even slightly intoxicated during hours when it is likely that drunk drivers will be heading home.

The police look for vehicles with secondary motorist violations—like busted headlights, expired registrations or tinted windows—to pull a driver over.

Zeigler doesn't deny this practice, but attempts to offer his take on the situation. "I try not to just stop someone because they have a headlight out and it's past 12 a.m.," he said. "I'm looking for the way the vehicle is operating down the roadway. I want as much information as I can. It is only after several factors point towards intoxication that I will stop the car."

So what should a Bucks student do if he is pulled over?

"Don't do anything until the offi-

cer tells you to," said Zeigler. Field sobriety tests are implemented to help an officer determine if a driver is intoxicated.

While Zeigler attests that the field sobriety test is harmless, Mittman disagrees. "Refuse all field sobriety tests," he said. "[The state] has failed to adopt a standard for these tests."

Without a standard, it is impossible to know if the test is being administered correctly or uniformly.

Additionally, PA doesn't recognize field sobriety test certification."

Mittman advises, "Take the breathalyzer if you've had nothing to drink." The attorney adds, "Don't volunteer more information than is necessary."

On a recent Google search, keychain breathalyzers can be purchased for costs around \$14.99.

When determining a BAC, many counties in the area don't use the hand-held breathalyzer.

If you refuse to allow for blood to be drawn, you will be charged with the highest possible penalty," said Zeigler.

Mittman agrees that it is in the motorist's best interest to allow for blood to be drawn.

Finally, remember that it is the police's job to protect the public, not bully, so co-operation and a pleasant demeanor is always appreciated.

Zeigler said, "I like to believe that every time I arrest someone for DUI that I prevent a potential death or injury from occurring."

The best way to not have to deal with the headache of a DUI is to realize that the benefits of drinking for a night do not outweigh the costs.

If drinking is a must, assign a designated driver, hail a cab or bring a pillow to crash where you are partying.

Gates foundation provides millions in grants for community colleges

By The Associated Press

SEATTLE— The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation would like to encourage more 20-somethings to get a post-high school degree or certificate before starting a family.

To that end, the foundation announced Tuesday an initial round of \$69 million in grants to the nation's 1,200 community colleges and their students.

The foundation is joining a group of charitable organizations that support community colleges and plans to spend up to a half-billion dollars over the next four years on the project, said Hilary Pennington, director of special initiatives in the foundation's United States program.

The grants will compliment the foundation's efforts to reform American high schools, get more kids into preschool, support charter schools and hand out millions of dollars in college scholarships.

"We felt that the biggest and most important thing the foundation could do was keep investing in education," Pennington said, noting that the project is a response to the foundation leaders' desire to do more to reduce inequity in the United States.

The Gates Foundation has always played a role in the U.S., but most of the grants from its \$35.1 billion endowment support programs elsewhere, focusing largely on fighting diseases such as AIDS, malaria and polio, and supporting agriculture and clean water in Africa and Asia.

The foundation's overall higher education goal is to double the number of low-income adults who get a degree or certificate beyond high school by age 26.

It hopes to do that by focusing on college completion, arguing that while college enrollment has grown dramatically in the past 40 years, most students are not graduating with a degree or certificate.

The community college project is intended to provide money for such uses as scholarships for low-income students, research into programs to promote higher education and support for student transportation, child care and housing.



Bucks events and listings

DECEMBER 2008

15	Fall 2008 Classes End
16	Arts Faculty Exhibition 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.
18	Deadline to submit 2008 fall semester tuition appeals to Admissions Office
22	Final grades due by noon on BCCC WebAdvisor
26	Intersession 2009 registration ends. Last day for 100 percent refund
29	Intersession 2008-2009 classes begin
30	2009 Intersession course withdrawal period begins
31	New Year’s Eve--Holiday. No Classes (tentative)

JANUARY 2009

1	New Year’s--Holiday. No Classes
8	2009 Intersession course withdrawal period ends
14	Intersession 2008-2009 classes end
16	2009 Intersession final grades due by noon on BCCC WebAdvisor
20	Last day for 100 percent refund of tuition and fees for the 2009 spring semester
21	Spring 2009 semester begins
24	Spring 2009 Online Orientations
29	Spring 2009 course withdrawal period begins
31	Graduation

Holiday guide

DECEMBER 2008

December Solstice	21
First day of Chanukah	22
Christmas Eve	24
Christmas Day	25
First day of Kwanzaa	26
Last day of Chanukah	29
New Year’s Eve	31

JANUARY 2009

New Year’s Day	1
Last day of Kwanzaa	



Attention Bucks Community

The Bucks designated smoking area policy is to be enforced, those caught smoking where they shouldn’t now face hefty fines and consequences.

Tobacco Use Sanctioning Guidelines
(Students and Visitors)

Persons who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of the College Conduct Code.

Tobacco use in non-designated areas

<u>First Offense:</u>	\$25 fine and a signed formal reprimand
<u>Second Offense:</u>	\$50 fine and placed on probation for a stipulated time period
<u>Third Offense:</u>	\$100 fine and college related community service to be determined by the Director, Student Life Programs
<u>Future Offenses:</u>	\$250 fine and community service to be determined by the Director, Student Life Programs

A student who fails to show identification to a college official will result in an immediate removal from campus by Security and Safety officers and local police may be contacted for assistance.

Visitors:

Violation of College tobacco use rules and regulations by visitors will result in the following action:

<u>First Offense:</u>	Warning
<u>Second Offense:</u>	Removal from campus.

Appeal Process:

Persons who are sanctioned will have an opportunity to appeal. The appeal process is outlined in the College Code of Conduct which can be found at www.buck.edu or in the College Catalog on page 158 under section III.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM SGA AND THE CENTURION



(ABOVE) SGA POSES WITH STUDENT LIFE DIRECTOR "SANTA CLAUS" AT DANCING BACK HUNGER (TOP LEFT) SGA PRESIDENT JOHN SKUDRIS THROWS IT UP WITH SANTA (BOTTOM LEFT) CENTURION EDITOR-IN-CHIEF LAURA IRWIN IS CAUGHT WEARING A DRESS!

PHOTOS BY LAURA IRWIN

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SUDOKU

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CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1- Have a hunch
5- "West Side Story" song
10- Impudence
14- Tough soap
15- Mature
16- What confused people don't have
17- Up and ___!
18- Adlai's running mate
19- Yorkshire river
20- Takes fright
22- Eternal
24- Crackpot
25- Con game
26- Tubular pasta
30- Inner self (Jung)
35- Spring mo.
36- Weep
37- Every sixty minutes
38- Federal crime
41- Subsiding
43- African wader
44- Leb. neighbor
45- Teachers' org.
46- Bed down
47- Pericarp
50- Leave out
53- Song syllable

- 54- A structural gene
58- Noble
62- Minerals
63- Less common
66- Aware of
67- Diamond cover
68- Parsley-family herb, used for flavoring
69- Vichyssoise ingredient
70- Oceans
71- Red Sea land
72- Salinger girl;

Down

- 1- Flutter
2- I could ___ horse!
3- Uniform
4- Thin plate
5- Majestically, musically
6- Commercials
7- Furrow
8- Pertaining to the small intestine
9- Bewildered
10- Scrutinize
11- Et ___ (and other men)
12- Chapter of the Koran
13- Observed
21- Mongrel dog
23- D-Day beach

- 25- Bro or sis
26- Course with pluses and minuses
27- Month of showers
28- Classy pancake
29- Prefix with profit or fiction
31- "As if!"
32- One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
33- Horse locks
34- Pond scum
39- Gibbon, e.g.
40- Deep sleep
41- Affirmative vote
42- Brothers
44- Concorde, e.g.
48- Dr. of rap
49- King of pop
51- Tropical eel
52- Mindlessly stupid
54- Camp beds
55- Dies ___
56- Lab fluids
57- Cookbook amts.
59- Till stack
60- Romantic couple
61- King of pop?
64- Outer edge
65- Nationality suffix

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

CRYPTOGRAM

XMA	STLSAT	NAMBIOLT	BQQ	XMTLCZM	XMA		
MLQOFBW	RABRLH	OR	XL	NA	FTCHJ.	XMOR	
FTCHJAHARR	DCQUOHBXAR	LH	HAE	WABT'R	AIA,		
EMAH	WLC	ZAX	RL	FTCHJ	WLCJORR	XMA	SATRLH
WLC'TA	UBTTOAF	XL.	--S.K.	L'TLCTJA			

LBC awards scholarships

BY SANDY COBLENTZ
Centurion Staff

LOWER BUCKS—What do Lisa Barber and Ansu Salagbi have in common?

Well, other than being students at the Lower Bucks Campus, they are the first students to be awarded the Bristol Rotary Club scholarships for Lower Bucks students.

Barber is studying to be a teacher, but the mother of five also works as a parochial-school volunteer and cheerleader coach, while Salagbi fled from war-torn Liberia, Africa, in 2004, when his father was killed, and wants to be a nurse.

The scholarships, covering two years of tuition and expenses, are worth about \$3,000 a year.

"I am happy for the opportunity and the financial relief," Barber said at the presentation in the campus' student commons. "I wish more students could get the gift I received."

Barber, 33, was an honor student at Holy Cross High School in Delran, N.J. Her financial aid adviser gave her an application for the scholarship, and she was one of 15 candidates. Barber and Salagbi were picked based on financial need and community service.

Salagbi, 19, a graduate of Truman High School, said he would do his best to use "this great opportunity." He has done volunteer

work at a hospital and has helped elderly people in his neighborhood. He has six brothers and two sisters; two brothers graduated from Lower Bucks.

The scholarship winner recently completed Smart Start, a six-week, part-time program to help students become acclimated to college.

When he graduates from Bucks, Salagbi said he wants to continue his nursing studies at Temple University. Barber, who works as a teacher's aide, said she also plans to move on to Temple.

Salagbi and Barber were "the cream of the crop," said Tobi Bruhn, executive director of the Bucks Foundation.

Bucks President James Links added, "Your community college wants to be the very best. We like continued feedback. They [Bristol Rotary] partner with other businesses and work to return that support."

The Bristol Rotary is a service organization of professionals, businessmen and women that organizes community projects.

It's one of the oldest Rotary Clubs in the country, founded more than 90 years ago, and is one of the largest in the area, according to its website.

Lower Bucks Executive Director James Sell presented the scholarships during a luncheon catered by Slack's Hoagie Shack, of Fairless Hills.

Will the economy affect Xmas sales?

continued from page 1

"All retailers experienced that drop," said Kendter, adding that there was a significant change in October.

However, some stores didn't notice much of a change in sales. Frazier said that Cyborg One didn't experience any more than the normal seasonal decrease, adding that there was no more than a 10 percent difference.

While Siren Records did see a drop, Elliot wasn't sure exactly what the cause was.

He said the store's recent location move may be a factor.

Kendter said that one of the reasons that people choose to shop locally is to avoid the large crowds and chaotic scenes at malls.

She also pointed to local residents as a reason for high sales at the holidays. "We have a local customer base that is committed to Doylestown shops," she stated.

This may also be attributed to the use of the Shop Local, Dine Local cards that people can sign up for.

Provided by the Doylestown Business and Community Alliance, these cards are aimed at supporting small, local businesses by providing discounts and incentives when presented at participating establishments.

In addition, a large portion of the money raised by the sale of the cards is donated to charities like CB Cares and Habitat for Humanity.

Larissa Hopwood, manager of Siren Records, also acknowledged the support of the local community.

"College students home from school come in, people who grew up with the store," she said.

According to Elliot, Siren's sales grow as Christmas gets closer.

Many shop owners felt confident that sales would continue strong until Christmas.

Some said that they usually experience greater numbers of sales after Black Friday.

"Adults cut out things for themselves, but in the holiday season, our sales increase because of families," said Kendter of Busy Bee toys.

For some stores, the busiest shopping day has yet to come. "Christmas Eve is usually our busiest night," said Hopwood, adding that the bookstore usually sees increasing sales up until Christmas.

If you're looking to find original gifts and support the local economy, consider avoiding the crowded malls and heading to the local, privately-owned shops this season.

Did you know that we're on the web?

View a pdf version of the paper on the Centurion website at www.bucks-news.com.

We also have archives, slideshows and the top news from around the world!

While you're there, check out our weekly webcast at bucks.edu/journalism
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Union argues over refunds

BY LAURA IRWIN
Editor-in-Chief

Some members of the union that represents Bucks faculty are in a stand-off over whether some professors should be reimbursed for sightseeing activities they enjoyed while at an educational convention.

In an interview, Union Treasurer Tom O’Keefe discussed how the faculty union operates, as the student interest is not involved in any role or function of the union.

The Bucks Faculty Union accepts full-or-part-time professors who choose to contribute .85 percent of their gross salary as dues. “A fair estimate is that 90 percent of full-time Bucks Professors choose to join the union,” said O’Keefe. “Unlike other colleges, we offer faculty the option of being a part of the union.” He added that union dues are to be spent and allotted as the union sees fit.

Then why are certain reimbursements to union members from their dues a subject of controversy? This is where it gets sticky.

A group of union members, Business Professor and Union President Blaine Greenfield, and Language and Literature Professors Jim Freeman and Michael Hennessey, each with their wives or girlfriends as guests, travelled to Chicago for an educational convention.

While there, they enjoyed additional sightseeing activities, including a riverboat cruise, dinners and three trips to the theater.

Upon their return, it was alleged that they were improperly reimbursed for funds unrelated to the educational purposes the dues were meant for, specifically the sightseeing activities for themselves and their guests.

The Union Executive Board approved the additional reimbursements 7-0. But

some, including Language and Literature Professor Steve O’Neill, questioned whether the additional reimbursements should have been allowed.

“I did vote [for reimbursement]. But, hindsight is always 20/20 and looking back, seeing these reactions, [voting for reimbursement] was probably not the greatest idea.

-Tom O’Keefe,
union treasurer

O’Keefe said Greenfield submitted a log of expenses from the trip for which he expected to be reimbursed. Freeman did the same, though “Freeman reimbursed the union for his guest’s costs. Mr. Hennessey did not submit a request for guest reimbursement,” O’Keefe said in an e-mail.

Greenfield defended receiving a reimbursement and said that it was “common practice” for union dues to sometimes pay for non-union members at things like end-of-the-year parties.

“Ever since the days when Dean [Annette] Conn was a union leader, union dues have been used to cover the costs of non-members [including administrators] at end-of-year parties and other social events,” Greenfield wrote in an e-mail. “In addition, the union has occasionally paid to cover certain expenses of spouses or guests of union leaders at night, weekend and summer conferences. This has been done because union leaders don’t

get paid for any of this extra work and to allow them to bring somebody makes attendance more likely.”

But Conn vehemently denied that these were common union practices. She responded in an e-mail, noting that, “I was a union officer for 17 years and during my tenure union dues were never spent on spouses, significant others etc. to accompany union delegates to social events, conventions or other meetings.”

Conn continued, saying that, “When the union had a celebration, non-union members, including partners, were sometimes invited as a gesture of good will, but travel, meals, entertainment, tickets and like perks for non-union members were never even contemplated. Even union officers had limitations on reimbursements similar to what the college practice is for all faculty travel.”

Conn added, “I find it offensive that the current union newsletter uses my name in such a cavalier and dishonest way.”

Greenfield asserted repeatedly that no union regulations had been violated. But when asked whether he thought accepting the reimbursement was “extravagant,” he would not answer.

Each professor involved in the trip said they thought their actions were legitimate. Freeman emphasized that, “Periodic reviews of the constitution and bylaws help ensure membership concerns are addressed. The faculty union leadership encourages all members to contact us directly about any concerns.”

O’Keefe noted that he voted for the reimbursements, but added: “I did vote [for reimbursement]. But, hindsight is always 20/20 and looking back, seeing these reactions, [voting for reimbursement] was probably not the greatest idea.”

Lower Bucks to get Slack’s Hoagie Shack as new cafe

BY DEBRA HENRY
Centurion Staff

LOWER BUCKS—Slack’s Hoagie Shack is officially coming to Lower Bucks in January, said LBC Executive Director James Sell, and if things go well, Slack’s may offer partial food service in December.

“Hopefully by the end of this month we’ll have all the equipment in, and approval from the board of health, and we can get Slack’s in and start serving food,” said Sell.

The café will be named Slack’s Café and will be operated by Melissa Cruz, owner of the Slack’s in Fairless Hills.

“I’d like to get in before the end of this semester,” Cruz said, “maybe three days a week, and get my feet wet, work out the kinks, before starting full service.”

Rudy Richard, liberal arts major, said she is looking forward to the café opening.

“I drive here straight from work twice a week, and when I get here I want real food, not chips.”

The café will be open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday.

Saturday hours have not been determined.

Judy Byrnes, an accounting major, is more concerned about caffeine, which she says helps her stay awake during class. “It will be nice to get coffee at break time!”

The food will be similar to what Cruz offers at her store, but with smaller portions to keep prices down.

“In my store an Italian hoagie costs \$5.79, but in the café, it will be less.”

Exact prices aren’t available, however, because the menu hasn’t been finalized.

“There will be something for everyone, from the weight-conscious girl to the hungry jock,” Cruz said.

There will be hamburgers, made-to-order deli sandwiches, fresh salad, regular and low-calorie wraps, and French fries.

Non-meat fare such as cheese sandwiches and vegetable hoagies will also be available, as will Slack’s award-winning traditional hoagie.

Slack’s was voted “best hoagie” last year in an online viewer’s poll conducted by Fox 29 News.

In addition, breakfast foods such as bagels, muffins and egg sandwiches will be sold.

Beverages will include coffee, soda, fruit juice and water.

Cruz said she strives to make food healthy and uses only transfat-free oil.

She is also responsible for filling the six vending machines on campus and adds “smart snacks” such as popcorn, pretzels and breakfast bars to the usual candy selections.

When Lower Bucks opened in August 2007, there were no plans for a cafeteria. “We intended to be a strictly vending-food facility,” said Sell.

But as students asked about having a cafeteria like the Newtown campus, plans changed.

There will be seating for about 50 students, with five tables, two large booths and a big TV.

Nursing major Johanny Perez said the café will be a welcome addition. “I have classes all day and it’ll be nice to have actual food instead of soda and chips.”

Mother faces jail in baby’s death

By The Associated Press

MEDIA— A suburban Philadelphia woman who apparently stashed her newborn son's body in the trunk of a car for three weeks pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter Tuesday.

Mia Sardella, 20, of Drexel Hill, faces up to 10 years in prison in the newborn's death. Family members have said they did not know she was pregnant.

Sardella delivered the boy at her parents' home on New Year's Day 2007 while she was home on break from her freshman year at Drexel University.

Her mother, Stephanie Leone, found the body Jan. 22 in a duffel bag in the trunk of her car. Sardella later told family member she did not feel a heartbeat and presumed the newborn had died.

Authorities have said the baby died of

asphyxiation about a minute after Sardella gave birth.

Sardella is the granddaughter of Albert Piscopo, the chief executive of the Glenmede Trust Co. investment firm.

She left the courthouse with family members after the brief plea hearing and remains on electronic home monitoring. Her sentencing was set for Jan. 22 — two years to the day after the decaying corpse was found.

Delaware County Judge Patricia Jenkins did not lift a gag order issued earlier in the case, and Deputy District Attorney Michael Galantino and defense lawyer Arthur Donato did not comment afterward. Donato previously said his client suffered from "denial-of-pregnancy syndrome."

Sardella also pleaded no contest Tuesday to abuse of a corpse and concealing the death of a child. A third-degree murder count was dismissed.

PSU puts limit on owning poultry

By The Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE— State College will allow residents to keep chickens, though no more than four may roost at a home.

Mayor Bill Welch said Monday he doesn't personally like chickens, but doesn't believe the risks support a veto.

Though he doesn't plan a veto, Welch says he also won't sign the ordinances, allowing them to become law

without his signature in two weeks.

The mayor says Borough Council can repeal the ordinances if chicken-keeping proves "an intolerable nuisance."

Council narrowly approved ordinances last week to allow single-family homes to keep up to four hens.

The chicken coops must be at least 30 feet from surrounding homes and the birds' outdoor runs must be fully enclosed.

‘Prince of Persia’ is easy, but delivers

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Interactive Media Editor

The prince is back and this time with a stylish cell-shaded view of the world. “Prince of Persia” is a revamp of the Prince of Persia that came out for the GameCube not so long ago. You play, of course, the Prince of Persia whose sole goal is to, again, defeat evil and restore the land to its rightful glory. Unfortunately, this prince is not so likable as his predecessors. He’s more concerned about cracking wise and talking about the vast amount of money his donkey carries. His companion Elika is a princess but the story revolves more about her and her quest to get rid of the god her father accidentally unleashed. The relationship between Elika and the prince is different than that of any other game that requires you to use an NPC companion. As it turns out Elika is not helpless, in fact quite the opposite. While performing some acrobatic feat that requires the

both of them to be present Elika will grab onto your back should you decide to wall run or gracefully move out of the way when crossing a narrow beam. The fact that she is so interactive comparatively to other NPC characters is fantastic. She actually will save you constantly. Say you fall off a ledge; she will gracefully leap to grab your wrist and save you from certain doom. This saving grace will whisk you immediately back to the last checkpoint you crossed. That said, the game will not try to kill you period. You will never see a game over or need to save before a boss battle or anything like that. If you’re confused on how to proceed across a certain obstacle, Elika will fire off a magical orb that will show you the way. The fact that the game is so lax on the difficult maneuvers and the easy-button pressing makes this one of the, well, easiest games to play ever. Since the controls are so simple, performing what should be a difficult move proves to be easy. That’s probably less rewarding than if the game



required a more difficult series of button presses. The graphics in this game are phenomenal. The cell - shaded characters and the artfully depicted levels create a great-looking game that makes you feel like you’re watching a piece of art in motion. The fluidity of moves being strung together as you pretty much float across a level is rewarding in that you feel as though you are one with the prince. The further you get in the levels the more you find

these colored orbs which are needed to move across them. The collecting of these different colored orbs allows you to move across various surfaces with the same color surfaces, basically turning you into a temporary Spiderman-like player. The combat in this game is also different from that of past. You only fight one enemy at a time, unlike the “Sands of Time,” which pitted you against multiple enemies at once. The bosses you face will come at you at least

four separate times before you defeat them. The lack of major fight sequences might turn off players who are more familiar with the “Sands of Time” combat system. However, all of these things strung together make a beautiful looking game that holds your attention just so you can see what you have to climb across or on next to get to your goal. This game is definitely a great pickup for anyone who enjoys platform games.

Tecmo Bowl gets updated

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Interactive Media Editor

Football is one of the most-watched sports in the United States. It takes up whole afternoons that get fiddled away due to your screaming at the TV and pouting for 35 minutes after what you think was a bum call by the ref. Well, perhaps you can take out some of that aggression on an old console classic that’s been updated for the new millennium’s handhelds. Take a look at “Tecmo Bowl Kickoff.” Those familiar with the Tecmo football series will have a sense of nostalgia while playing but will also be surprised at the new features in the game. The controls are simple. That cannot be emphasized enough. One button controls the breaking tackles button and selecting a receiver while you’re on offense, the other button throws the ball. The gameplay is fast-paced and fun. The game is completely unhindered by stat tracking and drafting players. It’s easy to play but difficult to master so anyone who is familiar with the series will love it and anyone new to the series won’t feel like they’re missing something. This game requires some skill to play but since the controls are easy it should be no problem for anyone to pick



up. Unlike the older version of Tecmo Bowl, you can fully customize your team down to the jersey color and player names. If you want to make a team with pink and yellow uniforms—go right ahead. Another great new feature is the ability to change stats on players so you can beef up your offensive line or your cornerback’s abilities. However each player has a set number of attributes so use them wisely. When playing single player, after completing a season you can divvy out the stats to better your players and their special abilities, like accuracy for QBs and interceptions for DBs. Multiplayer is also a great feature for this game. However because it’s played on the Nintendo DS you can not only play over a local net-

work but you can go online using the Nintendo Wi-Fi network and play anyone all over the world. With all of these great things about the game there are some glaring problems also. Sometimes when you’re editing a player and changing stats around, you might accidentally lose those stats forever. Another problem with the game is that you can’t quit and save in the middle of a game. The lack of a quick-save feature is a great big problem for the game and can cause some undue frustration. Overall “Tecmo Bowl Kickoff” for the Nintendo DS is a solid game with simple controls, fast gameplay and great customizable abilities. Anyone who is a fan of football and owns a DS should go out and pick up this title.

Here’s what to give the gamers and film junkies for the holidays:

Games

- We Ski (Wii)
- Animal Crossing: City Folk (Wii)
- Left 4 Dead (Any System)
- Gears of War 2 (Xbox 360)
- Rock Band 2 (Any System)
- Little Big Planet (PS3)
- Resistance 2 (PS3)
- Guitar Hero World Tour (Any System)
- Mario Kart (Wii)

Movies

- The Dark Knight
- Horton Hears a Who
- Wanted
- Tropic Thunder
- Wall-E
- Hellboy 2
- The Incredible Hulk

Music

- Rise Against:
- Alkaline Trio
- All-American Rejects
- Dave Matthews Band
- AC/DC
- Fall Out Boy
- Coldplay
- Death Cab for Cutie
- Eagles

‘Dexter’ is the killer you want on your side

BY BRITTANY KENVIN
Centurion Staff

Currently in its third season, Showtime’s break-out hit show “Dexter” has all the makings of a fantastic legal drama like “Law & Order” or “CSI” with a fantastic spin.

The twist? The show’s main character, played by Michael C. Hall, has a very dark and twisted secret.

A serial killer, Dexter kills those who, in his eyes, deserve death in order to restore justice. He can’t help but kill, so using a set of guidelines keeps him in a worldly balance.

During the day, we see a mild-mannered Dexter diligently working as a blood spatter analyst for the Miami Police Department.

Throughout the program, we get a peek inside Dexter’s warped mind through his continual voice-over narration. This insight into the head of a modern-day killer gives us reason to fall in love with the character, despite

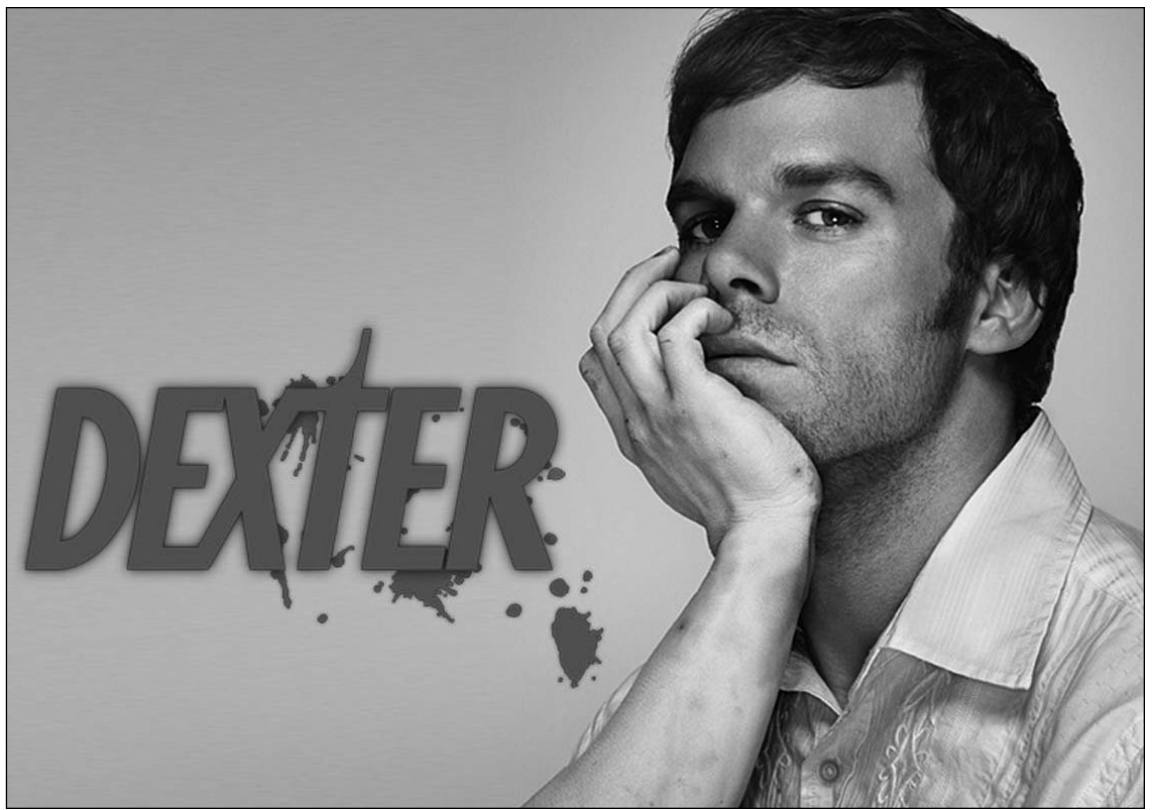
the blood on his hands.

Not only does this self-narration help viewers get to know and love the character more, it also provides much of the comedic aspect that the show possesses, which pulls the show farther away from one of those ever-so-serious legal dramas that dominates television programming.

Dexter’s atrocious acts are the result of the teachings of his father, a former hero cop who recognized Dexter’s homicidal tendencies early in his life and taught him the skills he would need to not get caught and also continue a façade of a normal life.

After his father’s death, before the story ever began, he used the skills he was taught to dispense his own form of justice. From time to time, his narration will speak to or about his deceased father, and he will often get flashbacks of himself from child to young adult.

These flashbacks tell us one very important thing about Dexter: he is constantly seek-



ing his father’s approval and always believes he is failing him. This longing to become something or someone that would bring pride to his father is a lot of what motivates him to do what he does,

but then again, after completing the act, he often feels as if it would have shamed him.

Love him or hate him, Dexter provides a fantastic and interesting insight into the mind of a self-justified

serial killer, and although it may create some form of internal conflict for viewers, the show is highly addictive and wonderfully captivating for anyone who loves mystery and suspense.

‘24’ back for another day

BY DAVID NONINI
Centurion Staff

The wait is finally over, for fans of Fox's hit thriller "24."

The last time we saw tormented super-agent Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) was nearly 18 months ago.

The show's sixth season, which ended in 2007, was probably the weakest, in that it recycled elements that had been used in previous seasons. Compared to the stellar fifth season, which in my opinion was arguably the best next to the inaugural first year, it was definitely lacking in many areas.

Here's the basic story: "Redemption" finds Jack Bauer in the fictional African nation of Sangala doing missionary work at a school run by his ex-special forces buddy played by Robert Carlyle (The World Is Not Enough) and dodging a subpoena to return to the United States to answer questions about the treatment of people in his custody as a CTU agent. The school comes under attack by forces that are part of a coup that is threatening to take over the country; these forces are backed by a group of people in the U.S. government with Jon Voight as their ring-leader.

Jack then decides to help the children get to the U.S. embassy in order to keep them from being recruited into the rebel army. Meanwhile, the first female president Allison Taylor (Cherry Jones) is about to



take the oath of office in Washington. She learns about the coup and is angered that she was left out of the loop by exiting-president Noah Daniels (Powers Boothe). In addition, her son is alerted by a friend to the possible conspiracy led by Voight, but her son is skeptical because of his friend's past.

Now, for the analysis: Did "24: Redemption" live up to the high expectations that I had given it? Answer: yes, and no. It was good to have Sutherland back doing what Jack Bauer does best after a long absence. There were also some great action sequences that rival some of the show's best moments thus far. I also liked the fact that he had to do everything by himself this time, unable to rely on any satellite images or support from CTU. The movie did a good job of introducing many of the characters that we will see in the seventh season.

But with all the mystery and shocking elements missing, which made the show great in the first place, viewers are left hanging.

In season one when Agent Nina was shockingly

revealed as the traitor at the end of the year, or in season five when it turned out the seemingly weak President Logan turned out to be running the entire conspiracy. Those kind of shocking moments that are a main feature of "24" were missing from this movie.

Everything that may have been meant to be those moments were easy for this "24" fan to see coming. It didn't help that most of those moments were included in the trailer for the show. Now, I know it's only a TV movie, and they only had two hours to work with, but that doesn't mean you have to take the mystery out of it.

This was only a precursor to season seven, and I won't make any immediate judgments about the upcoming season.

I liked "Redemption," but I felt that it could have had better moments. Hopefully, season seven will return to the ways of "Day One" and "Day Five" and give us the thrill rides, emotional reactions and shocking plot twists that made this show so great to begin with.

Actor’s brother killed self; woman cleared, released

By The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS— Police cleared a woman arrested in the shooting death of actor Mark Ruffalo's younger brother after being shown evidence that the wound was self-inflicted, the result of playing with a gun, her attorney said Wednesday.

Police records confirmed that Shaha Mishaal Adham, 26, left the Beverly Hills jail, where she'd been held without bail since surrendering Monday afternoon on an attempted murder arrest warrant.

Attorney Ronald Richards said he presented evidence to detectives during a five-hour meeting Tuesday night that proved Adham did not shoot Scott Ruffalo early Dec. 1. He said Ruffalo's gunshot wound to the head was self-inflicted — that Adham was essentially a witness to a game of Russian Roulette.

"This was an accidental shooting by someone that plays with guns," Richards said. He credited police with being "more than impartial with the facts."

Richards said Adham, a friend of Scott Ruffalo's, had gone to the hairdresser's condo to retrieve keys to her sport utility vehicle, then fled the scene.

"A series of wrong decisions starting with her not staying at the scene of the shooting caused an incredible chain reaction of stupidity and bad luck," Richards said. He said she received poor legal advice from other attorneys before her surrender.

Richards said no charges would be pursued against Adham. A police sergeant said more information would be released Wednesday.

Another man wanted for questioning, Brian B. Scofield, was released after turning himself in for questioning Monday.

Scott Ruffalo, 39, died late Monday after being removed from life support at a Los Angeles hospital, police said Tuesday.

His family thanked supporters and announced the creation of a fund in his honor.

"Mark Ruffalo and his family deeply appreciate the outpouring of prayers and support during this most difficult time of the passing of Scott Ruffalo, beloved son, brother and husband," the statement read.

The family said the funeral service would be private.

Mark Ruffalo, 41, has appeared in films such as "Zodiac," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," and this year's "Blindness."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Laura,

I just wanted to let you know how much your latest editorial touched and impressed me. It was a beautiful piece of writing and I was just so very touched by your story. You do write very well. Such talent is a gift. Thanks so much for sharing such important thoughts with all of us here at Bucks. You are what makes this College a special place. If you need any help from a teacher here at Bucks let me know. I'm an adjunct professor. I teach Chem 101 A and am a long time resident of Bucks County. That's a nice way of letting you know I'm older than most everyone here. However I do enjoy the students and I've always read the Centurion. Have a wonderful holiday.

Sincerely,
Mary Evangelisto



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.

Course	A	4.0	3.5
33 Basic Mathematics	B	3.0	3.0
034 Basic Algebra	A	3.0	4.0
101 Intro Psychology	A	3.0	3.5
104 Fund of Acting	A	3.0	3
C102 Marriage + Family	B	3.0	3
S106 US History		20.0	3
Term Totals		39.0	

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A Modern Hypocrisy

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



I keep my
headphones on.

It was last Sunday when a few co-workers asked me if I was joining them at the bar that coming Thursday for post-work drinks.

I asked, "Wait, what day is Thanksgiving?"

They responded, "Thanksgiving was last Thursday."

I am not exactly in tune with the holidays. It's not something I look forward to, nor ignore.

I accept its presence and benefit from traditional aspects of "the season." I reciprocate to the best of my ability. I just try to remain on the outskirts of holiday bliss.

I like certain things, mostly traditions I learned from my family. I find other aspects of the season to be in poor taste.

I'll explain this further on, but let's begin on a positive note.

I love to give out Christmas cards. I travel each year to King of Prussia Mall and head straight to Urban Outfitters and buy my cards...and a cool t-shirt and some inexpensive (but expensive looking) gifts.

I go home and I write out my cards and stamp them and, in some cases write a little something.

For the months of December and January, my apartment's main source of lighting is multi-colored twinkle lights.

They make me happy.

I love watching the munchkin, my former roommate's son, enjoy opening his gifts from family and Santa. The best part of giving gifts, for me, is to give a child something and watch them open it.

Then there are the negatives I feel about Christmas.

Yep, twinkle lights are fun. I love going through the light show. But now, to drive through Shady Brook Farm, I have to pay somewhere around \$20 and see light-design advertising.

Are you kidding me?

From Peco to local establishments and radio stations, I am mid-"12 Days of Christmas" and "Two turtle doves have been brought to you courtesy of Rosebank Winery."

Ugh, expletive.

And watching a child open that gift is so cool! I don't get the same feeling when I watch my mom open her present. I am anxious and hope she likes it.

I study her face and ponder, "Will I be seen a caring and appreciative daughter for the year to come?"

The pressure!

Like most things religious, what began as a guide to being a kind person transformed into a retailer's wet dream. Because three wise men gave gold, frankincense and myrrh to little baby-of-God, I need to get stuff because I am special too, and people I know should get stuff because they are as equally rad.

Who doesn't like a gift?

But, this was Jesus' (unofficial) birthday. He should get the presents and I should then get hooked-up with that sweet Nikon D40 SLR digital camera I want so bad for my birthday.

But even the prospect of gifts does not bring unyielding joy to all the boys and girls of the world.

If you ask me, people are stressed out and edgy. I work retail, I know.

So to celebrate the holidays, I would rather sit fireside with those closest to me and discuss His message.

I would like to share opinions on religion and move into subject matters less agnostic, Christian or Catholic as the spiked-whatever-we're-drinking kicks in.

My religion is humanism with a minor in Peace on Earth.

I believe Jesus was a pretty cool dude with a nice message that he got out there with the best PR available to him at the time.

I respect that and it's what I'm into—good vibes and morality.

I am not a Grinch. I'm treading along the outskirts of the approaching day and acknowledging others' cheer.

I'm no "downer."

But this is for sure: One—I will enter no mall and walk around looking to buy.

Two—my iPod is at the ready to zone out any Christmas music.

And Three—I will pick and choose my charities and will not feel bad turning down a cause I have little investment in.

Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men.

Centurion staff reviews ‘Twilight’

It’s all you hear about among throngs of teenage girls. Bella and Edward. Jacob? Vampires and love. But how about reaching beyond the demographic and seeing what a college-aged guy and 26-year-old gal have to say.

THE GUY

BY ERIC NOCITO
Features Editor

The novel-turned-movie “Twilight” became a blockbuster at the box office in its opening weekend, captivating a diverse audience and creating a fan base too large to count.

After securing over \$70 million in its first weekend in theaters, “Twilight” reawakened an eternally popular subject: vampires. The film introduces a romantic storyline, while evolving the perception of vampires into a modern day pop culture.

“Twilight” takes place in a rural and quite dreary town of Forks, Washington, the town with the highest annual rainfall in the United States.

Kristen Stewart plays the role of Isabella “Bella” Swan, an average girl who recently moved from Arizona to live with her father. Robert Pattinson assumes the role of Edward Cullen, the pale and seemingly different high school student—oh wait, he’s the vampire.



It’s the story of the forbidden love between a human and a vampire and how they try to overcome the obstacles in the way how a star-crossed love. Edward thirsts for Bella’s blood and he is never quite sure how to have the self control to not drink it. That complicates things.

The casting works well because both actors manage to emulate the characters of the novel effectively.

A mega-fan of any topic would be disappointed with a silver screen counterpart.

“Twilight” does in fact relate well to the novel. It is well-made and the main plot keeps true to the novel.

One major section of dialogue that differs from the book is when Bella confronts Edward about being a vampire.

In the film, the conversation lacks emotion and seems to be forgettable, while in the novel this is much more of a pivotal event in the plot.

The scene might be the fault of the writers or of the actors’ delivery, but it really doesn’t catch the attention of the moviegoer.

Things, however, make up for themselves in the scenes involving the chemistry between Edward and Bella. That is one thing that the novel can’t show and they are powerful scenes in the film.

Laying that to rest, the film is entertaining and keeps you wanting to see more. The final scene of the high school prom leaves a hook, making the viewer want to see what, in fact, happens next.

THE GAL

BY LAURA IRWIN
Editor-in-Chief

A group of girls I work with took off Friday, Nov. 21, to see “Twilight.” We read the books, and fell in love with Edward Cullen, the vampire with a heart of gold and a sex appeal equivalent to Adonis himself.

It’s not just the tween-craze anymore.

Women, mostly, of all ages, are breezing through the four-book series—with a fifth in the works.

As these books are flying off the shelves, Stephanie Meyer, a simple Mormon, stay-at-home mom, is reaping the benefits of an intense love story she dreamed up one night.

What I got out of this book was another fictional character to swoon over. He was developed so well as an ideal mate that you can’t help but adore every character trait that Meyer delineates in extensive detail.

But let’s talk about the movie.

Thank you to Robert Pattinson (Edward Cullen) who said in an interview with E!, “When I read it, I was convinced Stephanie [Meyer] was convinced that she was Bella, and it was like a book that wasn’t supposed to be published. It was like reading her sexual fantasy, especially when she said it was based on a dream and it was like, ‘Oh I’ve had this dream about this really sexy guy,’ and she just writes this book about it. Like some things about Edward are so specific, I was just convinced, like, ‘This woman is mad. She’s completely mad and she’s in love with her own fictional creation.’ And sometimes you would feel uncomfortable reading this thing. It’s kind of a sick pleasure in a lot of ways.”

Exactly.

But, this isn’t the first time I heard about Pattinson’s theory on the book. A possible sexually-repressed mom fantasizes of a “Romeo and Juliet” love story. Talk about a grand slam of what women want. He’s the bad guy, he’s the good guy and he’s the epitome of sex and desire.

Fantastically, Meyer creates frustration to those absorbed in yearning for hot and heavy young love. The absence of sexual content is easily explained away by the difficulties of a vampire being lip-to-lip with a human. How precarious.

I am a fan of the books—to a point. I obsess just as much as the next girl over the animalistic desire to be with someone like Edward. I have written in the past however, that there is a dark quality in fictional, male characters I find irresistible; ‘V’ from “V for Vendetta,” Dexter (Michael C. Hall) from the self-titled television show on Showtime and Detective Bobby Goren (Vincent D’Onofrio) of “Law and Order: Criminal Intent.”

But when it comes to the phenomenon that is the “Twilight” series, the movie lacks some of what drives the book.

I know that this is typical. There are few books-to-movies that I feel can hold a candle to the book.

The problem with “Twilight” is that it lacks the movie-style action to transcend to the big screen.

As with any book-to-movie, it plucks the highlights from the book and rolls it together.

But what drives a “Twilight” reader through the book isn’t what appears on screen. The moments of intensity for readers either aren’t in the movie or just lack a certain punch. The film lacks action and the interesting scene-to-scene continuity found in the book.

The book has its moments of tension and action, but I feel as though this is a novel that never should have hit the big screen. I’m not saying that I wasn’t satisfied in seeing the movie—I saw a “real-guy” face to the imaginary vampire I grew to love.

The craze that is “Twilight” was the reason the book fell into the marketing world; publishers and agents and the like turned the book into posters, additional movie and book guides and any other merchandise that could be sold to the dedicated fan and impulse purchaser. It didn’t matter that the book was not written to be a movie. It became one anyway. It entered the machine and came out a money-maker.

Pattinson said he is signed on for the saga as a trilogy; the next two movies will put the fourth novel “Breaking Dawn” in the balance. This book was not as widely appreciated by readers. Like the other sequels, it gratifies the reader, but this time Meyers enters in drawn-out and obnoxious subplots.

At least the girls get more face time with Edward.

The girly screaming and cooing was heard during any scene with Pattinson, but if I saw the movie and hadn’t read the book, I’d be like a movie-goer at the first Harry Potter film without having read “The Sorcerer’s Stone.”

Lost and disappointed.

I assert I am a big reader. I am able to get lost into a book and transform words into a world unlike my own. I did not get this from the movie. I feel as if I saw it again, I’d be lackadaisical.

However, not seeing it would eat away at me. I wanted—needed—a release, achieved only by seeing the sly half-smile of a “vegetarian vampire.”

Thanks for the books Steph.



Covering all Philly bases, balls and pucks

KEVIN YORKE
Sports Editor

This is probably my last article here at the old Centurion, and among the festive cheers and celebration for my departure, I would like to leave you with what each Philadelphia team would need to win their sports respective championships, along with what it would take for the Phillies to repeat as World Series Champions.

Philadelphia Eagles: As of press time, the Birds are 7-5-1, and somehow are only a half game out of the playoffs. They play the moribund Cleveland Browns next, whose franchise is currently as pathetic as Charlie Brown trying to kick a football. McNabb and Company should win against the Browns and their depleted squad of outcasts and miscreants, and are then forced to end the season with two divisional rivals, travelling to the nation's capital to face the Washington Redskins, and then ending the season with a somehow-meaningful and epic matchup against the Dallas Cowboys, quite possibly the most hated team to come into Philadelphia since the Russians were turned aside by the Cup-winning Flyers in the mid 70's. The Eagles need to win out and suddenly, this team could make the NFL playoffs for the first time since the Jeff Garcia-led squad made it in 2006. The offense needs to play as well and as consistently as they did against the Giants to have a shot, and with Westbrook finally healthy and basically carrying this team on his 5-foot-8 back, anything can happen. The

Eagles would then probably play the 3rd best division winner on the road. Keeping in mind that the Giants have almost already wrapped the first-round bye up, you can count them out of that first-round matchup. The NFC South has two teams that have won nine games or more, so again, you can count them out of it. That leaves the matchups of Minnesota and Arizona. Arizona might belong to the most pathetically terrible division in all of the history of the NFL, and have feasted on their divisional foes like a roasted and stuffed Cornish game hen by going 5-0 in their division. The Eagles laid that squad to waste in their first matchup, so if you are an Eagles fan, you like that possibility. The Vikings, with a defense that is one of the premier run-stoppers in the league, should worry you more. So, if the Eagles make the playoffs as the last wild card team, look for a matchup with either the Cardinals or the Vikings, which should turn into an easy Eagles victory. Then, it would be off to New York again to face the Giants, which, of course, would be no easy task, but a possible Eagles victory if Dec. 7 showed us anything. If we continue with that NFC South scenario, that would lead the Tampa Bay Bucs or the Carolina Panthers headed to the Conference Championship game as well, and although I like Jeff Garcia and his tenacious demeanor, I don't see the Bucs winning against this tough, ball hawking defense that makes its home in Philadelphia. So given that the Eagles will then probably face the NFC South team if (and that's a big if) they make it to the Conference game, they

have a good shot to win and go to the Super Bowl. Who do I like to come out of the AFC? I would lean toward the New York Jets. You have to love Brett Favre and his squad, but again, you have to like the Eagles' chances in that Super Bowl showdown.

All of this is an assumption, and I do not think it is going to happen, by any means, but it's rather what would likely happen IF the Eagles get in the playoffs and win the Super Bowl. So if you are an Eagles fan and start to see the playoffs align like the way I just described, don't put all of your Eagles eggs in one championship basket. The Eagles have a tendency to collapse under the pressure of big games.

Philadelphia 76ers: The Sixers are not looking like the team many people had envisioned to at least make a run at going far in the 2009 NBA playoffs. What is hurting this team is not Elton Brand or any other player, but a lack of a 3-point scorer who can stretch the opposing defense and give other players open looks. The Sixers rely on out-jumping and out-dunking the other team on fast breaks, and while this might work against the Oklahoma City Thunder it won't against the Celtics. What they have to do is give more looks for Brand to get easy baskets, and take the shots that Andre Iguodala is airballing and give them to a more competent and efficient shooter, like possibly Thaddeus Young or Lou Williams. Iguodala just cannot shoot and it is killing the team's half-court efficiency. What also hurts is wasted shots by Willie Green. He cannot shoot as well as he needs to be an accomplished shooting guard.

Simply put, the Sixers are hurt from having a lack of good shooters and not enough shooting defense, as you saw by squads draining three after three in the faces of Sixer defenders. Right now, this title isn't looking good or possible, although it should get a lot better than what we have seen.

Philadelphia Flyers: The Flyers started slowly but lately have picked up a steamboat load of steam in the last month. The emergence of center Jeff Carter has helped tremendously, if his 19 goals are any indication. Simon Gagne, returning this year after sitting most of last season with a severe head injury, has led the team in assists, points, and plus minus. Mike Richards has shown leadership and grit to a team that sorely needed it, as he has garnered a reputation as never taking a shift off. He and Gagne have also turned short-



PHAN-TASTIC!

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

handed opportunities into a benefit, each scoring 4 shorthanded goals already this season.

What has to improve on the offense is the play of skilled wingers Scottie Upshall and Joffrey Lupul. They have a history of not showing up from time to time, and the team expects more out of both if they are going to go anywhere in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

What has also hurt is the puck handling of Marty Biron. Earlier in the year, playing against the cellar-dwelling Tampa Bay Lightning, the Flyers' goalie had a 3-2 lead with 5 minutes remaining in the third period.

Apparently, Biron prefers the game tied, because after a slow dribbling puck that a blind man could handle was haphazardly coughed up in front of his net, the newly acquired Lightning player Steve Downie was able to tie it up easily with his first goal of the season. The Flyers would still go on to win this game in overtime, but nonetheless, it is plays like these that must be stopped if they are to hoist a Cup in June.

Philadelphia Phillies: The Phillies are still trying to sign Jamie Moyer and Pat Burrell to keep intact the squad that was the best in the baseball world in 2008.

They have a great starting rotation and a top 5 starting pitcher in Cole Hamels, but keeping Jamie Moyer will be important to solidify the back end of the rotation. If Moyer and Burrell don't

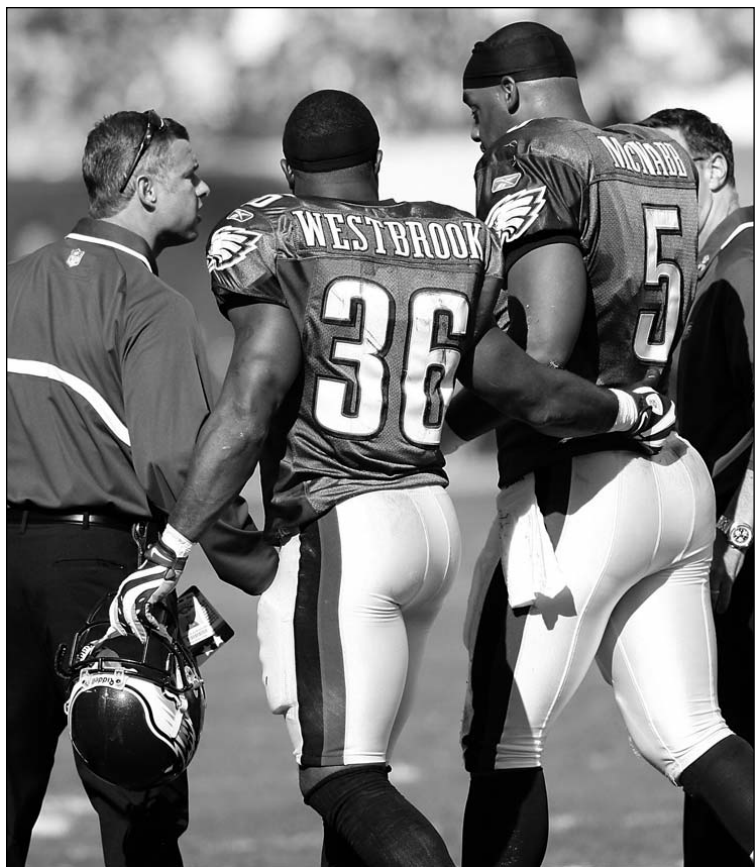
sign, the Phillies would need some help elsewhere or pay the consequences of not making the playoffs. They have contacted Derek Lowe and A.J. Burnett, but with cash-burning franchises like the Yankees and Red Sox out there, there is almost no possible way of the Phillies landing either one of them. There have been talks about signing Raul Ibanez as a Burrell replacement as well, but even though the left-hander hits left-handed pitching well, the team would still be smart to look into more right-handed hitters to fill the power hitter's spiked shoes.

What should negatively effect the Phils is whether or not the New York Mets acquire some competent relief pitching, which it looks like they will, as talks are being finalized that would bring Francisco Rodriguez to the Mets' much maligned bullpen.

What Happens In Reality: The Eagles make the playoffs, but don't get past the Giants in the divisional round of the playoffs. The Sixers get in the playoffs but lose to the Celtics in the Conference finals.

The Flyers make the playoffs and march to the Stanley Cup Finals, only to be decimated by an absolutely stacked Detroit Red Wings team in four games.

The Phillies, if they find adequate replacements for both Moyer and Burrell, repeat and give Philadelphia another reason to celebrate. That would put yet another Cole in a New York Mets' fan stocking.



C'MON GUYS!

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