

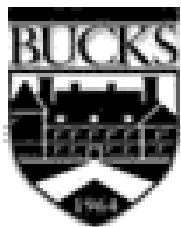
# The Centurion

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

The week of March 2, 2009

www.bucks-news.com

Volume: 44 Issue: 9



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BACK PAGE

## WEATHER

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 35.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 44.

**Friday:** A chance of rain and snow before 8 a.m., then a chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 48.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.

**Saturday Night:** A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

**Sunday Night:** A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28.

WEATHER COURTESY OF THE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

# Smokers just won't quit

*Why should Bucks smokers stop lighting up when the rule isn't enforced?*

BY LAURA IRWIN  
Editor-in-Chief

You see them behind Rollins in the loading dock and in the alcove outside the Hub. They're just over the wall of Tyler and in between the tables outside the library. They are the smokers, who stroll across campus with lit cigarettes, blowing smoke through doorways and tossing butts on the ground.

Despite the rules and signs and threats of fines, smoking continues campus-wide.

Bucks' non-smokers are starting to wonder what the point of enacting designated smoking areas was if the regulations are going to be treated like "just

another stupid rule," as at least one smoker has called them.

What's the deal?

On Oct. 1, 2008, Bucks enacted a rule designating smoking areas, with a goal of eliminating smoking everywhere but the parking lots. At the tail-end of the fall 2008 semester, Bucks laid down the law, citing fines for those caught smoking.

What's at risk if you're caught smoking where you shouldn't be?

For the first offense, a smoker is fined \$25 with a formal reprimand. Get caught again and the fine is doubled to \$50 and the student is placed on probation for a "stipulated time period." A



SMOKERS CONTINUE TO LIGHT UP ON CAMPUS, AT LEAST THEY'RE HAPPY!

PHOTO BY LAURA IRWIN

third offense is \$100 and some college-related community service that will be determined by

Matt Cipriano, director of stu-

*Continued on page 4*

## You are not alone: UFO believers take over Bucks



PHOTO BY LAURA IRWIN

More than 500 people stuffed themselves into the Library Auditorium to hear the tales of UFO sightings and alien abductions on Saturday, Jan. 24. The out-of-this-world troupe calls themselves MUFON and, according to their website they "scientifically investigate UFO sightings for the benefit of humanity."

*For the story and more pictures, see Features page 11*

## No luck for bank robber

BY LAURA IRWIN  
Editor-in-Chief

Talk about your all-time dumbest criminals.

Court records show that part-time Bucks physical plant employee Nathan P. Berry, 33, of Newtown Borough, walked into the TD Bank on the 1100 block of Woodbourne Road in Middletown at about 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, and ordered the teller to fill a white plastic bag with money. He was unarmed.

According to police, Berry could have made a clean getaway. Instead, he allegedly asked for one more stack of crisp bills he saw, stuffed the loot in his pocket and ran out the door, heading uphill toward Maple Avenue.

But it turns out the extra stack of cash was a dye pack. Police said Berry got about 50 yards from the bank before the dye pack exploded, burning a hole in his pants pocket, injuring his hip and turning an entire pant-leg red.

Things went from bad to worse.

*Continued on page 3*

## Tuition keeps going up and up

BY LAURA IRWIN  
Editor-in-Chief

The slow but steady increase in tuition at Bucks is continuing, with the Board of Trustees recently approving a \$4 increase per credit in tuition with a \$3 per credit hike for technology support fees.

The small jumps in tuition have been occurring like clockwork for nearly 10 years, with students hearing varying reasons for paying more and more.

Since the passage of a state legislature funding agreement, Act 46, which altered the way Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges receive funding, Bucks has been facing debt and the students are left to pick up the slack.

In 2003, the Centurion reported a \$4 per credit increase in tuition. From 2004-2006, tuition jumped \$4 per credit. Tuition was upped \$1 in 2007, and last year the board voted to increase tuition by \$2 per credit.

Bucks President Dr. James

Links has said he would rather see small annual increases in tuition rather than loftier increases every few years.

And it doesn't look like the annual tuition hikes are going to stop any time soon. The student population at Bucks continues to grow. Dean of Students Karen Dawkins said enrollment on all three Bucks campuses for full- and part-time students is up. Online learning courses are also seeing increased numbers of students.

New-student enrollment rose 3.5 percent at the Newtown campus, 3.3 percent at the upper county campus and a whopping 18.8 percent at the lower Bucks campus. E-learning has 376 more students this semester compared to the spring 2008 semester.

"These are tough economic times," said Dawkins after the board meeting. "We are not getting the same support from the state and county and, unfortu-

*Continued on page 6*

# Remembering one of Bucks' best

BY KATIE FEILER  
Centurion Staff

Denise P. Gilbert, a beloved Bucks reading instructor passed away Dec. 9, 2008. She was 55.

Gilbert, a resident of Lower Makefield Township, graduated from Little Flower High School, of Philadelphia. Gilbert later received two Master's degrees from Antioch College and the University of Colorado.

Gilbert's teaching career defined her life.

Julie Piotrowicz, a fellow reading instructor, remembers Gilbert's sense of humor and contagious laughter. "She could turn a bad situation into a comedy with her witty remarks," said

Piotrowicz.

And it wasn't just colleagues who admired Gilbert. "Students loved Denise because she was quick to encourage and praise the accomplishments of her students," said Sherry Eichert, assistant professor of Language and Literature.

"Her students loved her because she truly cared about them. Both her students and her teaching were extremely important to her," said Piotrowicz.

Gilbert's dedication for teaching was shown in and out of the classroom. "She would often share materials and successful teaching strategies with her colleagues, who recognized her

talent for curricular design," said Eichert. "Everything she did was driven by her desire to improve the reading skills of her students."

Gilbert showed her true compassion for life through her actions. "She was genuinely interested in other people's lives and listened to their stories with compassion," said Piotrowicz.

Outside of the classroom Gilbert enjoyed visiting craft shows, where she got ideas for a number of projects she pursued. Eichert recalled, "Always generous with her time and talent, she once made my grandson a decorative sweatshirt for Halloween."

Gilbert's office was decorat-

ed with a number of inspirational plaques. Eichert remembers one quote by the late Erma Bombeck, "When I stand before God at the end of my life I would hope that I would have not a single bit of talent left and could say. I used everything you gave me," said Eichert.

"I think Denise fulfilled her wish."

Gilbert is survived by her husband, Robert M. Gilbert, and son.



# Trustees hear plea for equal benefits

BY LAURA IRWIN  
Editor-in-Chief

Is Bucks discriminating against its homosexual employees?

At the latest Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 12, Jim Fillman, coordinator for students at Upper Bucks, pleaded for equal benefits for same-sex couples.

"[I]address you today representing a coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees of the college... We are here to ask the board and our college president to correct an injustice that has been in existence for much too long," said Fillman.

"We ask you to act today to approve domestic partner benefits for same-sex part-

ners."

Fillman said Bucks is the last of any non-religious community college in the Delaware Valley to endorse these benefits.

"This is discrimination and it needs to stop. One would assume that it was the intent of the college when it adopted a non-discrimination policy that included sexual orien-

tation that it seriously intended to not discriminate against its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender employees," said Fillman.

"It is time for the college to act now, not when the County of Bucks decides to get around to treating its employees fairly, to back up its claim, to be congruent with its mission, and put words into action."

"At the very, very least I ask, on behalf of a great num-

ber of people, that if the college does not approve domestic partner benefits for same-sex partners today," said Fillman, "that it form a committee whose purpose will be to move this matter forward into fairness. I ask that you invite me to be a member of that committee."

The trustees did not act immediately, but Chairwoman Elizabeth Graver did say that the issue will be considered.



JIM FILLMAN, SEEN STANDING, ADDRESSES THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ENACT EQUAL BENEFITS FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES  
PHOTO BY LAURA IRWIN

## 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)

3/10	4/21
3/31	4/28
4/7	5/5
4/14	

THE CENTURION 

Bucks County Community College's Student Newspaper

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Register at [www.Bucks-News.com](http://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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2008-2009



# Look both ways!

BY JOSEPH KLAUSA  
Centurion Staff

When walking to class from the parking lots, some students have reported that they have seen others speeding or driving in excess of the posted speed limit of 15 mph.

Motor vehicle accidents are one of the leading contributors to loss of life every year in the U.S.

Bucks' policy on speeding, which is laid out in the motor vehicle and parking regulations, is that students should treat Bucks as a school zone and drive at the posted 15 mph, the standard school-zone speed.

Chris Lloyd, director of safety and security, tries to enforce the speed limit, but said that the security staff does not have radar and cannot use techniques such as traffic stops, which are utilized by law enforcement to enforce speed limits.

Bucks security can only get the license plate of the driver and report that to the Newtown Police Department as well as reporting the act of negligence to student affairs, who could possibly issue a ticket of up to \$15.

In addition, the Newtown Police have been encouraged to patrol the parking lots.

The major traffic concern is at the south gate outside of the cottages where students are apparently ignoring the stop signs.

Student Craig Macintyre said he has witnessed many close calls and that students ignoring the stop signs near the cottages have almost hit him. However, "I think a good amount of people follow the speed limit and drivers overall are responsible on



STUDENTS LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING LINDEN LANE  
PHOTO BY KISHA LOWENTHAL

campus."

On the other hand, student Orlando Green said that he has witnessed several incidents of reckless driving and speeding on campus.

He said it is definitely a problem and that, "People speed because they think it's cool." Green also mentioned that he avoids speeding on campus.

Blake Baker, a transfer student from West Chester University, does not feel that speeding is a problem and admitted, "I speed on cam-

pus." He added that he never hit anybody and was never in an accident on campus.

To deter speeding on campus, Bucks could possibly post the speed limit more prominently and add more speed bumps, but at the end of the day it is up to the students who demonstrate negligence to drive more responsibly.

For more information on vehicle regulations and speeding please contact Safety and Security at (215) 968-8395.

# Website upgrade has some glitches

BY ANDY ELY  
Centurion Staff

The Bucks website has had an overhaul.

The new update and remodeling has made searching for information, for both students and faculty much easier. Pictures, videos, contact information and other changes have made the website much more user-friendly.

Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations Marta Kaufmann explained that, "There is a science to the way people read things and with the new website's layout, pictures and even video can now be used to attract potential students to be interested in coming to Bucks." The website's layout is completely updated, with tabbed browsing for better navigation.

"Critics of the old website made it known that there was too much information being displayed and that it was incredibly difficult to find the information that was required for certain tasks," said Steve Bacher, director of e-Marketing. "The new website has six dropdown menus and even a 'contact us' feature that can provide assistance to those that are having difficulty finding a particular item. Navigation was key."

With this new setup, questions can be answered faster and more effectively and finding what you're looking for is less daunting.

Karen Goeller, director of administrative systems, said, "Complexity and size of both the old and new website did cause some trouble during and after release; new technology was being used and there were over 49,000 pages that needed to be done by hand in order for things to work as smoothly as they are now. Within a couple days of release however, any problems or bugs were found and repaired."

However, sources told the Centurion that a number of faculty members had trouble accessing their websites and online course materials following the upgrade, and that a grievance had been filed by the faculty union over the matter.

Student David Howell said, "The enhanced version of the Bucks website is now easier than ever to navigate. Before, I got lost and could never find any of the information or links that I needed. Now, I'm finding my way around the website hassle-free."

Bucks officials also hope the website's new look will help to promote the college more effectively.

# Ex-Bucks employee faces federal prison

*continued from page 1*

Berry allegedly stashed the cash behind the nearby Woodbourne Square Shopping Center, but then forgot where he had parked his getaway vehicle - a brand new pickup truck.

Police said Berry was half-running, half-limping in red-stained pants looking for his truck when he fell right into the path of Middletown Police Officer Michael Lubold.

Lubold chased Berry across Woodbourne Road, and he was arrested in the yard of a defense attorney's office.

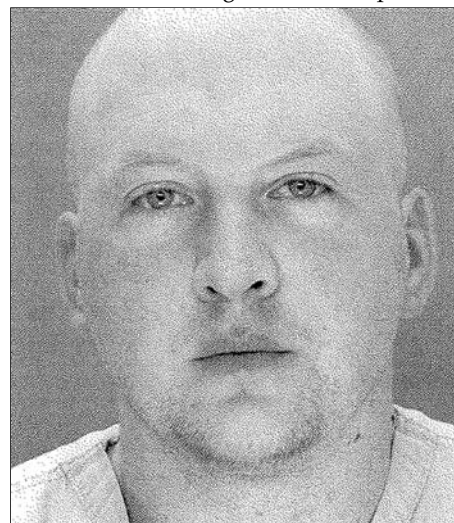
So what prompted Berry's alleged and short-lived criminal career?

Police said Berry bought the pickup truck but didn't tell his girlfriend, the mother of his two young children, that he still owed money on it. He apparently planned to pay it off as soon as he got his income tax return, but then the car dealership began hounding Berry with calls about the money.

That's when Berry thought the end to his problems was to, according to several sources, drink up a little confidence and rob a bank.

Berry was charged with robbery and theft and sent to Bucks County prison on \$100,000 bail. Sources said his girlfriend met bail on Friday, Feb. 20 and he was released into her custody.

Berry was fired from his job at Bucks.



THIS GRAINY MUGSHOT WAS TAKEN BY THE POLICE AFTER BERRY'S ARREST  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Search for NFL stars continue

By The Associated press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The families of two NFL players and a third man lost at sea watched as the search entered its third day Tuesday, with odds stacking against their hope the Coast Guard could still find survivors in a chilly sea.

Bruce Cooper, the father of Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, said the Coast Guard told him privately that officials were losing hope because of the time-frame and possibility of hypothermia. But free-agent lineman Corey Smith's sister, Yolanda Newbill, said they were still hearing otherwise.

"That is not what is being communicated to us," she said, adding that the family is still "definitely optimistic"

about the search.

Coast Guard officials wouldn't publicly speculate, but officials say hypothermia can set in after 18 hours in 64-degree water.

Water temperatures were in the mid- to upper-60s.

"With all of these men being past, present football players, they do have a much larger physique than a lot of people," Petty Officer Robert Simpson had said. "So their odds are going to be definitely in their favor."

The lone survivor so far is Nick Schuyler, who was conscious but appeared weak as he was loaded onto a stretcher after being rescued Monday.

His father, Stuart Schuyler, said the former University of South Florida player was bruised and dehydrated.

A hospital official said Tuesday he was in fair condition.

Schuyler told rescuers the boat flipped as they were pulling up the anchor Saturday evening, Coast Guard Capt. Timothy M. Close said.

None were wearing life vests at the time, but they managed to swim under the boat, grab the vests and put them on, he said.

Close said the men were able to stay together for awhile, but somehow got separated. Schuyler had propped himself on top of the boat and was hanging on to the hull when he was found about 35 miles off Clearwater.

Close said Schuyler provided some information that allowed them to refine their search.



# Free tuition for laid-off residents

BY IAN MCLEAN  
Centurion Staff

So many Bucks County residents are going through financial hardships that Bucks is now offering free tuition for recently laid-off residents.

There are a few requirements needed to qualify for no-cost education. To qualify, you must be a resident of Bucks County. You must also have been laid-off from a full-time job within the last year,

and cannot be using any financial aid or tuition reimbursement programs from your previous employer.

While the program covers tuition costs, the student will have to pay for their own books and supplies. Students who have paid full tuition will have first priority in registering for classes. Those who are approved for the free tuition will have to wait until those students are finished.

The program launched at the start of this semester.

"On Jan. 16, we had long lines through the Gallagher room as people waited to register," said Monica Flint, coordinator of experiential learning.

It was not a stressful atmosphere, Flint added. "Everybody was good humored and patient, and the college registration staff and advisers worked long hours to make sure each unemployed student received the service they needed."

The program will continue through January 2010.

Students who enroll in this program will be able to continue their studies until August 2010.

About 800 students applied the first time around. "Every one of the people I met who are interested in the program were extremely grateful to the college, and were a pleasure to work with," Flint said when asked about the applicants.

The unemployment rate in Bucks County is the highest in 16 years—as of December

the rate was at 5.7 percent.

The country is in an economic struggle, and this program helps many people attend college even if they cannot afford it. The program allows students to earn up to 30 credits in an academic year, saving them almost \$3,000 a year in tuition.

For more information on this program, you can visit the Bucks website at [bucks.edu/careerservices](http://bucks.edu/careerservices). Inquiries can also be sent by email at [careers@bucks.edu](mailto:careers@bucks.edu).

# Are smoking rules being ignored?

continued from page 1

dent life. Anything after a third offense is gruesome—a \$250 fine on top of some more community service.

But it appears that these fines are just out to scare smokers into taking the extra steps to the nearest parking lot. According to Cipriano, "four or five" people have been cited for smoking by Safety and Security, with 17 students being fined in total.

For non-smokers, this seems like a pretty puny number of fines and citations on a campus where – according to a Bucks

study –37 percent of students smoke.

The Board of Trustees says the college needs to follow through with the regulations they laid out, developed from Pennsylvania state mandates and an earlier SGA proposal.

Student Life says that Safety and Security needs to do more enforcement. But Safety and Security says they are not the "smoke police," and enforcement is up to the entire Bucks community.

Bucks smokers don't care about any of it.

"It's a stupid rule and I'm not going to follow it," said Chalfont

resident Melissa Cirba. She feels that Safety and Security has trouble talking with smokers because it requires them to deal with students face-to-face, rather than leaving a ticket under a student's windshield.

Is she right?

When walking about campus, students and faculty alike say they do not usually see security officers talking to smokers. And the few that do patrol campus from time to



THE ATTITUDE OF SOME SMOKERS ON CAMPUS IS THAT THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE BAN  
PHOTO BY LAURA IRWIN

Course	Grade	Credits	Grade	Credits
033 Basic Mathematics	A	4.0	3.5	3.0
034 Basic Algebra	B	3.0	3.0	4.0
101 Intro Psychology	A	3.0	3.5	3.0
R104 Fund of Acting	A	3.0	3.0	3.0
DC102 Marriage + Family	A	3.0	3.0	3.0
IS106 US History	B	3.0	20.0	3.0
Term Totals			39.0	

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time, like Cipriano, don't see patrolling officers at all while touring the quad.

"They need to help with enforcing [Bucks] policies, especially brand-new policies that need that extra level of attention in order to change the current mentality of the population," said Cipriano.

Safety and Security Director Chris Lloyd says that smoking enforcement is "everybody's issue" and it's just not up to the officers to snuff out smoking.

An internal memo released within Safety and Security states it is "easier for non-uniformed community members to gain compli-

ance from a violating smoker than it is for a uniformed officer as this brings a whole new level of 'controversy.'"

Lloyd also said his officers have too much on their hands to be the only ones responsible for enforcing the smoking ban. He added, however, that it is an officer's duty to support the ban and if the buck is being passed, "shame on them."

So the following seems to be clear: Bucks doesn't want smoking on campus. Bucks is having trouble enforcing a non-smoking campus. Bucks smokers don't want to be restricted to designated smoking areas. And non-smokers are frustrated by the false-hope of a non-smoking campus.

How can this issue be solved? The Board of Trustees thought fines were the answer.

In the internal memo, Lloyd writes out exactly what officers are to do if they encounter a violating smoker. This procedure

involves several "polite" requests for a smoker to extinguish their cigarette and only upon blatant disregard for authority is a fine to be issued.

"I don't want to flood students with fines," said Lloyd in an interview.

Cipriano, Lloyd and other Bucks administration say they hope smokers would be mature enough to follow the rules and that it is their responsibility to abide by the regulations. It's clear that this isn't happening.

Those interviewed agree that everyone –aside from students– should be pitching in to help snuff out smoking.

But so far, that doesn't seem to be happening.

So until Bucks gets on the same page about how to enforce the guidelines they set out, smoking will continue everywhere, and non-smokers who were hopeful they weren't going to have to inhale cigarette fumes will have to keep hoping.

## Attention: Bucks County Community College Students

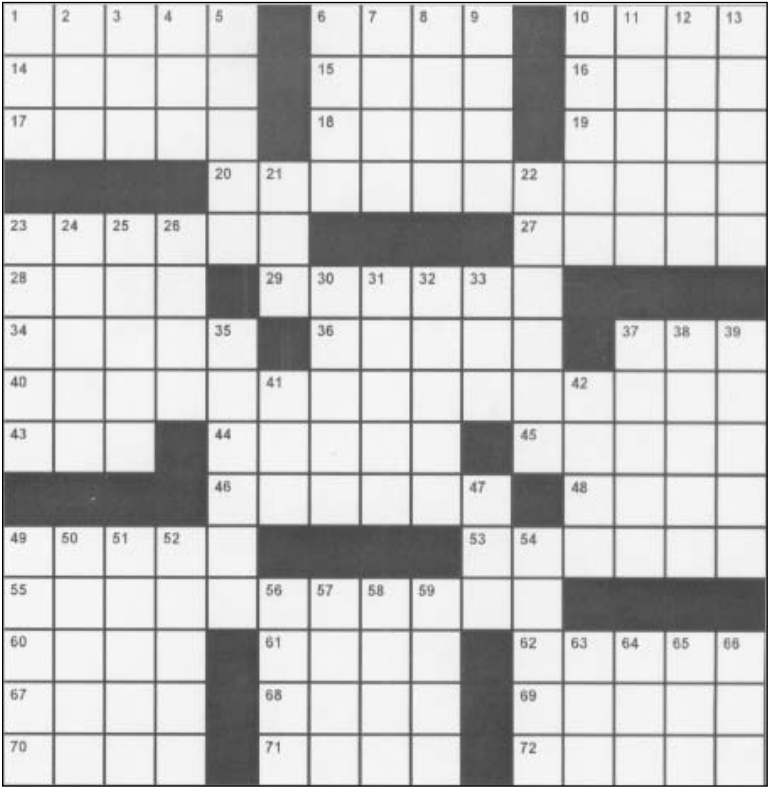
- \* Flexible Schedules
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- \* Gain Valuable Resume Experience
- \* 100 National Scholarships Awarded Annually
- \* Some Conditions Apply
- \* Customer Sales / Service
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- \* Part Time Work and Advancement Available

For more information and to apply please call our Bucks County office at: 215-297-4440  
[www.WorkForStudents.com](http://www.WorkForStudents.com)

MARCH

Bucks events and listings In the county, in the city

Celebrate Women's History Month with eyewitnesses to historical events and sharing their experiences the Women's Liberation Movement. Rollins 112-4. 11-12 p.m.	2	76ers v. New Orleans. Wachovia Center. 7 p.m.
Lower Bucks Campus General Job Fair. 12-2 p.m..	3	Hoobastank. Chameleon Club, Lancaster, PA. 6 p.m.
Lower Bucks Campus Transfer Fair. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	4	Philadelphia Flower Show. PA Convention Center. March 1-8.
Ski club trip toHunter Mountain.	5	Flyers v. Calgary. Wachovia Center. 7 pm.
Work on that paper and study for the midterms.	6	Rockstar Taste of Chaos feat. Thursday, Four Year Strong. Electric Factory. 7 p.m.
Equestrian team meets at Washington Western.	7	Cheech & Chong Light Up America. Sovereign Performing Arts Center. 7 p.m.
Music as Muse featuring art that was inspired music styles. Hicks Art Center. Runs until March 11.	8	Motley Crue with Hinder & Theory of a Deadman. GIANT Center, Hershey, PA. 6:30 p.m.
Eye Witness to History - The Holocaust. Tyler 142. 11 a.m.-12 p.m.	9	Nickelback with Seether and Saving Abel. Wachovia Center. 7 p.m.
Newtown Campus General Job Fair. 12-2 p.m.	10	Flyers v. Buffalo. Wachovia Center. 7 p.m.



SUDOKU

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7		4	1		3			
				6		3		

Across

- 1- Passover feast  
6- Purina competitor  
10- River to the Moselle  
14- Pack leader  
15- San Francisco's \_\_\_\_ Tower  
16- Mayberry moppet  
17- Icy  
18- Baum barker  
19- Gammy  
20- Concerning the appreciation of beauty  
23- Tell positively  
27- "Awake and Sing!" playwright  
28- Jamaican exports  
29- Country  
34- Attempts  
36- Portals  
37- Fellow  
40- High-speed separator  
43- Cereal grass  
44- Longest river in Europe  
45- Lawful  
46- Potemkin setting  
48- Egypt's river  
49- Yellowish brown  
53- Climbing device

CROSSWORD CLUES

- 55- Milk cows  
60- Projecting columns at end of wall  
61- Butter alternative  
62- Manifest  
67- Departs  
68- Now \_\_\_\_ me down...  
69- Titled  
70- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland  
71- Metallica drummer Ulrich  
72- Halts;
- 22- Bodily organ  
23- Pianist Rubinstein  
24- Bad-tempered  
25- Strike hard  
26- Manipulator  
30- Fred Astaire's sister  
31- Forceps  
32- Tiny amounts  
33- Eight-time Norris Trophy winner  
35- Piquant  
37- Clear  
38- Quick and nimble  
39- Prevent  
41- Atlantic food fish  
42- Discover  
47- Everything  
49- Proverb  
50- Feudal estate  
51- Seizes with teeth  
52- Get the lead out?  
54- Ages  
56- Loop  
57- \_\_\_\_ breve  
58- Eye drop  
59- Playthings  
63- Large container  
64- Funnyman Philips  
65- Weightlifter's unit  
66- NFL scores

Down

- 1- Droop  
2- Barely make, with "out"  
3- Singer Shannon  
4- Samuel's teacher  
5- Radiolocation  
6- Makes a move  
7- Spoils  
8- Old German helmet  
9- Siouan speaker  
10- Not hollow  
11- With speed  
12- Shoot for  
13- Staggers  
21- Still, in poetry

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RQL ASBXWBRSPX RQSPXB RQSPXB DSBQ

AN SP SR.

-C. M. DSLEAB



# How to know about the snow Tuition is going up

BY TAJ CARR  
Centurion Staff

The Bucks mass communication system alerts students of school closings and other emergency information.

The online notification on the Bucks homepage alerts students of school closings or delays due to inclement weather. A message appears as a red, scrolling alert at the top of the page. Students can also call the college's main phone line to find out about any potential closings.

"For the college, the first and best way to alert students is the college website," said Chris Lloyd, director of safety and security.

Lloyd wakes up as early as 4 a.m. to review weather conditions and accident reports from various sources like Penn Dot and the PA state police.

If he finds it necessary to delay opening or close Bucks, Lloyd makes the recommendation to Karen Dawkins, dean of student affairs, who then relays her opinion to the final decision-maker, Bucks president Dr. James Links.

If Links decides to cancel or delay classes, Lloyd then moves to alert students.

Students can also tune into other local broadcasting stations to find out if it's a snow day, for example, radio stations like KYW-AM 1060, 97.5 WPST and TV news stations like CBS 3, Fox 29, 69News, NBC 10 and MyPHL 17.

Students should be advised not to tune into 6 ABC, because they only



SCHOOL WAS CLOSED MONDAY AND DELAYED TUESDAY DUE TO HEAVY SNOWFALL  
PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

cover K-12 schools.

Shortly after the Virginia Tech shootings two years ago, college campuses established emergency alert systems. Bucks' system is called e2Campus. Through this free system, students can be notified by e-mail or text of any potential dangers or school closings.

Immediately, 1,500 students signed up. According to security officials, the current count is just above 2,000.

"I received a text last time [school was closed]," said Vlad Ayzenberg, 18, a psychology major from Newtown.

Not every student is aware of e2Campus. Lindsay Degorski, 19, a

nursing major from Levittown, said, "I did not know there were any options." But, Degorski agreed it would be beneficial to sign up.

"I go to the internet and look for that scroll," said Kelly Gredone, associate professor of business.

"It's always late," said Jessica Bond, 20, a communication major from Morrisville. She uses other websites like MSNBC.com to find out about school closings.

To find out more information about e2Campus, visit [bucks.edu/life/security/](http://bucks.edu/life/security/) or sign-up for text alerts at [e2campus.com/my/bucks/signup](http://e2campus.com/my/bucks/signup).

*continued from page 1*

nately, the burden falls on the students to make that up until the government makes it possible for [Bucks to receive] additional funding."

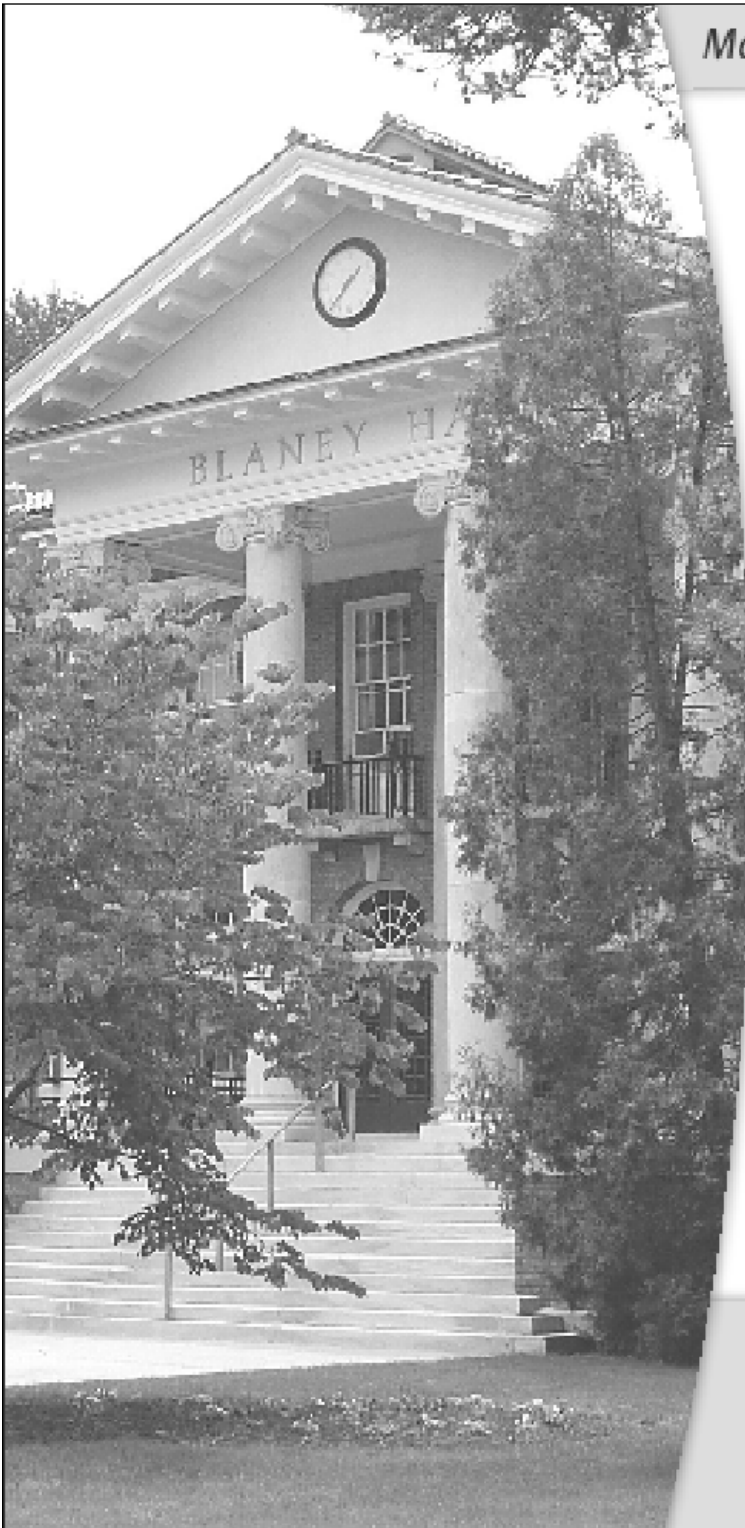
With such a dramatic rise in student population, the expansion of Bucks satellite campuses and ongoing construction at the Newtown campus, it's no surprise that increased funding is necessary.

But these are tough economic times. Can Bucks students keep shelling out more and more money each year?

Sports management major Luke Dabrowski, 19, said, "I think that's messed up and ridiculous because it's hard for people like me who pay for college themselves."

Chris Shaffer, 21, of Chalfont is also a sports management major at Bucks and is returning in the fall 2009 semester. "It's a lot of money to pay back," he said of students who take out loans in order to go to college.

"It's a community college and a lot of people that come here don't know what their major is," said 23-year-old Mike Spacola. "People come who are still finding their way."



*Make the Bucks County Community College to Cedar Crest Connection*

## Transfer your Associate's Degree to Cedar Crest College

### Upcoming Spring 2009 Information Sessions

#### Nursing

Tuesday, March 3 • 6:00 p.m.

Learn more about our B.S. in Nursing; RN to B.S. in Nursing and School Nurse Certification programs.

#### Nutrition

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 • 6:00 p.m.

Prepare for a career in a vital, growing field that is open to creativity and opportunity for those who wish to discover how food affects the body and how to promote wellness.

#### Business, Marketing & Accounting

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Gain a competitive edge! Prepare for the many career opportunities available in industry, government, health, social services, and education as successful auditors, public and tax accountants, marketing managers, human resource professionals, bankers, and financial analysts, among others.

#### Education

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Cedar Crest College offers elementary and secondary certification and add-on certification in special education.

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**CEDAR  
CREST  
COLLEGE**



# Grainger offers five scholarships

BY PAUL WEIDMAN  
Centurion Staff

The Grainger Foundation has filled a void in scholarships for fire science academic majors with a generous donation.

The foundation donated \$11,000 toward the fire and science academic majors. The donation totals "five scholarships for \$2,200 each, one each for five of our fire science and emergency management programs," said John Petito, assistant academic dean of the department of Behavior and Social Sciences. Two of the programs are AA degrees transferable to other institutions; the remaining

three programs are certificate programs.

The headquarters of Grainger are located in Atlanta, Ga., where they allocate funds toward the store branches to donate toward the community. In this case the Grainger store in Warminster made the donation.

Grainger is heavily involved with emergency response in Bucks County and, "Bucks did not have any scholarships for the fire science and emergency management programs. Grainger came through and filled the void," said Tobi Bruhn, executive director of the Bucks foundation.

Grainger has been a vendor for Bucks since 1965 for small construction supplies to large construction materials. This is Grainger's first scholarship donation.

The scholarships are designed to cover the costs of tuition and books. The programs are to prepare students with leadership qualities and provide local communities with critical public service duties. Bucks is among the top five accredited organizations in the U.S. in the number of certification programs the school offers for fire science and emergency management, as well as in the number of certification programs offered to emergency respon-

ders.

The scholarship is intended for students who are currently involved in one of the five programs that are in the fire science and safety program. The five programs in the fire science are the Emergency Management and Public Safety Transfer program, the Emergency Management and Public Safety certificate program, the Fire Investigation certificate program, the Fire Science certificate program and the Fire Science transfer program.

Students should have a 2.0 GPA, be currently enrolled in six credits for this semester and have completed six credits in their area of study.

Grainger first moved outside of its Chicago headquarters in 1933 when the company moved outside of Philadelphia.

The Warminster branch has been providing services for local businesses since 1988.

Students can apply for the scholarship through bucks.edu/foundation or can stop into the Financial Aid office, located in the Hub. Students can also go to the Social Behavior office and ask for information about the scholarship. The Social Science office is located in Penn Hall room 301.

You can also contact the Social Science office at (215) 968-8270.

## Prof. lectures on Youtube

BY ALLISON GOLDMAN  
Centurion Staff

Dr. Stephen doCarmo, an English professor at Bucks, began recording lectures on a study tool called Writing To Learn in Oct. 2007, then posted the recordings on youtube.com.

WTL is an educational theory that was coined in the '80s.

It states that the more students write about classroom lectures, the more they understand the material.

This type of writing is informal and can come in the form of journal entries, free-writing or whatever students feel most comfortable with.

Three years ago, Annette Conn, dean of academic affairs, became aware of WTL and thought it would increase student engagement, as opposed to writing endless notes on lectures.

Between 2005 and 2007, a team of faculty members taught other Bucks professors various ways to add WTL to their curriculum.

Last fall,

doCarmo began using youtube.com to preach the benefits of WTL.

"WTL exercises don't take much time or effort, but can improve understanding of any subject matter," said doCarmo.

He believes WTL helps students by teaching low-stress study skills that can improve comprehension.

Not many students have seen the videos, and doCarmo believes that most of the viewers are faculty members.

"The more often students

use their own language to frame and think about the knowledge they are getting in class, the better their grasp on their knowledge will be," doCarmo said. "WTL just wants to maximize the number of chances students get to use their own language to get the stuff they are learning in class."

The videos can be found by searching "Bucks WTL" on youtube.com.

For any questions, doCarmo can be found in Penn Hall 103 or e-mail him at docarmos@bucks.edu.

## Student health insurance here

BY TAJ CARR  
Centurion Staff

Sick of being sick? Medical bills piling up? Bucks offers affordable health insurance for students.

Through the Student Life Office, Bucks gives students the option of signing up for health insurance. It's a low coverage, cost-effective plan available for only full-time students. The program is called Student Accident and Sickness insurance and is offered by Bollinger Insurance Solutions.

The insurance covers basic medical expenses like doctor visits, dental exams and hospital admissions. However, the percentage of coverage may vary greatly from other premium health services.

Students are covered for a year's time.

For example, full-time students' coverage begins either Aug. 27, 2008 and will be covered till Aug. 27, 2009, or whenever the premium payment is made. The cost for this premium payment is \$280.

Spring semester students are also covered under this insurance program. They too have to be full-time students and their coverage begins Jan. 1, 2009 and lasts until Aug. 27 of the same year. The premium due for this period is \$187.

"It's insurance that will hopefully get them by," said Director of Student Life Matt Cipriano. Many students are being dropped from their parent's plans due to age restrictions or are unemployed and can't afford insurance.

"This insurance plan is beneficial for foreign students who are required by law to be

insured," said Cipriano.

Fortunately, this program comes at a time when many students nationwide are left uninsured.

According to a 2002 study funded by the Heinz Family Philanthropies and the Chickering Group, 30 percent of college students don't have any type of health insurance. That's more than 4 million students who pay for all of their health care needs out-of-pocket.

"Out-of-pocket expenses are insane," said Aaron Brown, a 32-year-old music major from Morrisville. He believes America has "an obligation as a developed nation to be able to provide healthcare for people who can't afford it."

Bucks is not the only school in the nation that is offering health services to their students.

Temple University offers a program that covers physical examinations, allergy shots and other varied medical services through their health centers for a fee upon enrollment.

On a national level America's current health care system is highly criticized for being expensive.

President Barack Obama has some plans for national health care reform.

According to his website, some of his plans are to provide "affordable, accessible health care for all Americans, build on the existing health care system, and use existing providers, doctors, and plans to implement the plan."

Students interested in this program should contact Student Life by stopping in the office next to the cafeteria in Rollins or by calling (215) 968-8257.



STEPHEN DOCARMO SPEAKS OUT ON YOUTUBE.COM

## Fed money to go to schools

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvania education officials say federal stimulus money will translate into a larger basic education subsidy from the state government for local schools.

The Education Department

said Tuesday the influx of federal money will allow the state to pump \$418 million into the subsidy. That's instead of a lower, \$300 million figure Gov. Ed Rendell had outlined in his budget address last month.

The higher figure means Pennsylvania will remain on

the schedule called for in a six-year funding plan that began in the current fiscal year.

Education Secretary Gerald Zahorchak answered questions Tuesday about the coming year's budget from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

# HAWX is flying high

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
*Interactive Media Editor*

Flight simulators were among the first games to be introduced to computer users. The introduction of these games molded the imaginations of those who wanted to learn how to fly, but were too afraid.

In recent years flight simulators have been appearing more often on consoles rather than traditional PCs. The games are often combat flight simulators, reenacting some of history’s greatest dog-fights.

But what about the aerial battles of the future? What will those be like and where will they happen? Well thanks to developer Ubisoft and the creative mind of acclaimed writer Tom Clancy, we all get a glimpse in Tom Clancy’s H.A.W.X.

The demo that was recently released on Xbox Live allowed players a glimpse into the high flying, missile firing, dogfighting future that Tom Clancy envisions.

The demo allows players to take control of U.S. Air Force pilot David Crenshaw, who also appeared in another of Tom Clancy’s games, Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter 2. Apparently sometime after the events of GRAW2, Crenshaw left the U.S. Airforce and began working for a private military company (PMC) known as Artemis, which is working out of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the



Brazilian government.

The only actual mission in the demo is to protect the capital city from invading forces, however only when you actually take control of the plane does this game truly shine.

The combat is spectacular in this game. The smoke trails of the missiles to the anti-aircraft fire from the ground to the gentle ripples of the ocean as you tear by give you a sense of realism, especially from the first-person perspective.

Now like all other games in this genre, you snap in and out of first-person and third-person perspective. The difference in this game is that these views are the ones that will give you assistance in fighting. If you really want a combat experience, you need to play the game with assistance off.

The assistance off mode takes you not only to the third-person perspective but an outside third-person per-

spective. This makes finding targets and engaging them far more difficult but at the same time adds a whole new viewpoint to the game. It also probably makes the game a whole lot more fun.

To top off the whole experience, the game also lets you make use of your online headset. You can actually issue commands to your two wingmen to do various actions. This could be anything from having them both attack targets to having one fly defense and the other attacking. You can even issue commands to your plane. For example, the command “DOUBLE” makes the plane fire two missiles in rapid succession.

Overall, the presentation and the graphics coupled with the vast array of aircraft that will be made available plus the inclusion of an online mode, which could not be accessed in the demo, probably could make this game a real winner.

## Xbox Live community events

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

- 3/5 - Call of Duty: World at War
- 3/6 - Halo 3
- 3/7 to 3/8 – Halo Wars Weekend
- 3/9 – DanceDance Revolution UNI-VERSE 3
- 3/10 – Family night: Sonic’s Ultimate Genesis Collection
- 3/11 – Ladies night: Midnight Club Los Angeles
- 3/12 – Co-op night: Burnout Paradise
- 3/13 – Gears of War 2
- 3/14 to 3/15 – Community Playdate: Team Fortress 2 and Xbox All Nighter: Resident Evil 5

### *That’s a cool website:*

**hulu.com**

Not only is Alec Baldwin hilarious, so are the full-length TV shows available for free!

**woot.com**

One ridiculously low-cost electronic every day. Woot!

**journalism.about.com**

Bucks Journalism Professor Tony Rogers knows the biz!

## Playstation community events

The special event for the playstation network for the first two weeks of March is a chance to win a replica Helghast weapon. The criteria for winner selection is as follows:

- Day 1: Max number of Helghast killed by a single grenade
- Day 2: Total Number of helmets popped
- Day 3: Least time taken to kill Radec
- Day 4: Total amount of Boltgun Kills
- Day 5: Most Assassinations
- Day 6: Highest Kill ratio
- Day 7: Most revives performed
- Day 8: Highest All Weapon Accuracy
- Day 9: Most spawn deploys
- Day 10: Best sniper Accuracy
- Day 11: Highest killingspree
- Day 12: Most headshots
- Day 13: Most Games Lost
- Day 14: Most games played as ISA

Good luck to all Killzone 2 players.

# HALO continues on, in new direction

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
*Interactive media Editor*

Love it or hate it, at some point anyone who has owned an Xbox has played a Halo game.

Since the end of Halo 3 many fans were questioning if that was the end of the franchise itself. Well, developer Bungie answered with an announcement back in 2006 that the game that would continue the Halo universe would be Halo Wars, a real-time strategy game, which would be released for the Xbox 360 and the PC.

Halo Wars takes place roughly 20 years before the events of the first Halo. While this is definitely a departure from the usual first-person perspective, Halo Wars offers a ton of entertainment that both Halo fans and RTS fans can both enjoy.

The demo that was released on Xbox Live gives a not so quick glance into both the campaign and skirmish

modes, both of which will offer hours of fun to any player.

The campaign mode that was available was pretty straightforward. The Covenant and the UNSC have been fighting for several years now, with the Covenant gaining ground in every battle. However the Covenant seems very keen on keeping one particular system in their control when they uncover something important.

Basically the game is about who can build the most combat units in the fastest time and destroy the other player. It’s a pretty simple concept but it requires an amount of tact and ingenuity in order to win.

The game’s simple premise aside, the reality is that for the first time, you will be able to control the armies of both the UNSC and the Covenant. You can build dozens of tough-skinned Marines, agile Warthogs, and of course the all-important SPARTAN super soldiers.

As the story in the campaign mode progresses it will no doubt unlock some of the secrets as to the war before the events of Halo.

As far as an RTS on a console goes, Halo Wars is pretty impressive. The controls aren’t as complicated as on a PC so anyone can learn how to play. The maps feature some familiar terrain that players from the other Halo games will appreciate like Blood Gulch.

The game is really fast paced too; if given 15 minutes you can pretty much create an army from nothing. The battles, like the rest of the game are really fast too. If you have 30 soldiers and you



go against your AI counterpart, you may end up with five limping soldiers by the end of it.

Another great part about this game is that it’s really pretty to look at. Not just the art direction but everything from the maps to the battles to the individual soldiers looks like they were painstakingly drawn to be different from the rest of the units.

Overall, the demo of the game played really well, in spite of it being for a console.

The whole game will be released in a few weeks and hopefully will live up to the lore and the expectations set before it by the previous games.



# Habitat for humanity plans trip

BY PAUL WEIDMAN  
Centurion Staff

Instead of partying in Cancun, the Bucks Habitat for Humanity group is headed to Cleveland, Ohio during this year's spring break.

"This means that our students give up the traditional spring break and travel outside our area to assist Habitat to build or rehabilitate housing in another area," said Sandra McLaughlin, administrative support assistant at Bucks. The objective of the group is to build houses for qualified families that are in need of low-income housing.

The group is currently fundraising for the trip. "We fundraise year-round to be able to pay for our transportation and food for the week," said President Leah Brown, a 22-year-old nursing major from Ottsville. "We fundraise a lot but we also do fun activities for the campus such as a soccer tournament, a hot dog eating contest and



bingo."

Last year the group went to Valdosta, Ga., for an "alternative spring break challenge." Members who went on the trip last year were able to meet the families who would be purchasing the newly-built homes. On the trip they were able to hear the families'

stories and received thanks for their help. The group also enjoyed dinner at a church every night where they spent time with other youth groups.

Not only is helping needy families morally uplifting, but group members can include their participation in

the group on transfer applications. Another benefit is that through their trips, Habitat volunteers meet builders who are employed full-time by Habitat for Humanity. "They show us what needs to be done. If you have never been introduced to construction before, they can teach you so

much," Brown said.

Now in their seventh year, there are currently eight-to-10 members of the Bucks group and two faculty advisers.

"The only requirement to join is a commitment to Habitat's mission to provide affordable housing," said McLaughlin. "The purpose of the group is to support the local Habitat affiliate to build clean, affordable housing for lower income families that are eligible for the program."

Brown is now in her second year with the group. "I started working with Habitat last year when a friend in a class told me about it," said Brown. "Group members not only are doing a great thing for the community, but you can make a lot of new friends and have fun as well!"

The group meets every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. at Upper Bucks. If students would like to join the group they can contact McLaughlin at (215)-258-7751 or e-mail mclaughl@bucks.edu

## Jazz group needs players

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON  
Centurion Staff

Bucks' jazz orchestra is seeking new musicians to join for the spring semester to play in a concert at the end of April.

Professionals, semi-professionals, college students and even high school students are all welcome to attend rehearsals and instruments are welcome, but the orchestra could especially use two more trombones, said Director Mike Hoffman.

"The classic jazz orchestra sound is a nearly extinct but important piece of American culture," said Doug Bell, a musician and private music tutor.

Bell currently plays trumpet for the orchestra. "Playing in the orchestra has turned me on to many great pieces and composers that were big in the 40s and 50s, but nearly forgotten today. Most of today's generations will say these sounds are like 'elevator music,' and that shows how little a part jazz plays in American culture today."

Bell who joined the orchestra while a student at Bucks, returned to the group after graduating.

"I've taken what I've learned from playing in the orchestra to my other musical endeavors like my jazz guitar playing," said Bell. He also said that playing in the jazz orchestra improved his improvisational skills.

"I love playing challenging music and improvising solos

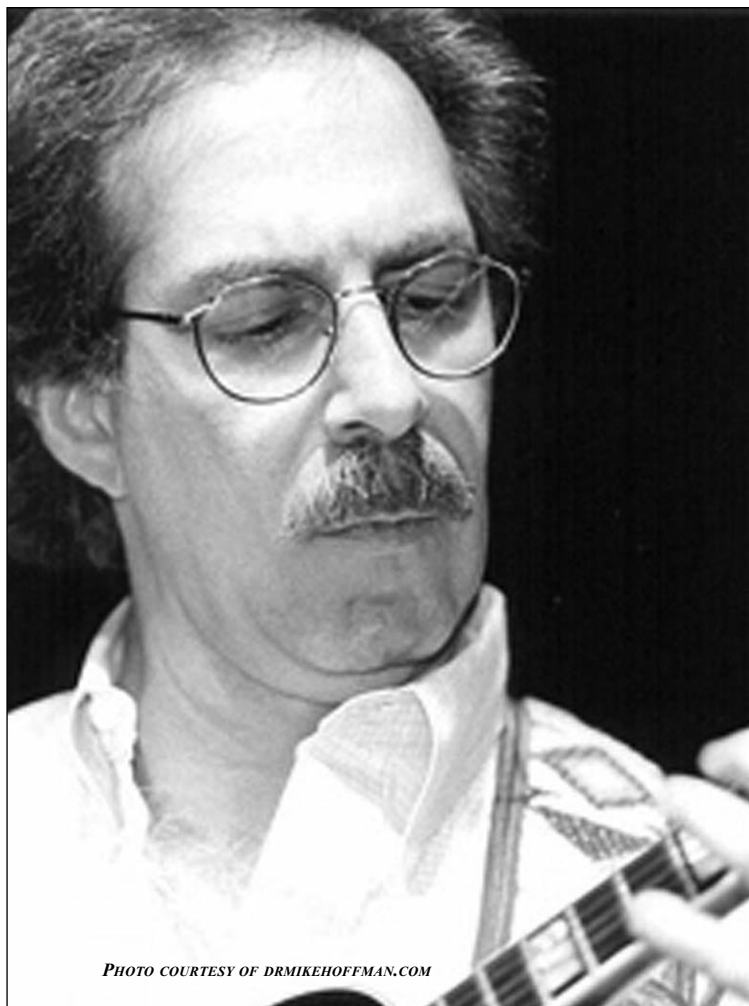


PHOTO COURTESY OF DRMIKEHOFFMAN.COM

in a large ensemble. Dr. Hoffman runs a very cool and relaxed rehearsal every Tuesday where everyone is comfortable and not afraid to play a wrong note or two," said Bell.

Hoffman has been directing the jazz orchestra since spring of 2006.

Outside of Bucks, Hoffman has accomplished a lot in the world of jazz.

In addition to being a full-time faculty member at Bucks, he also works as a free-lance guitarist, arranger,

music lithographer, composer and copyist. More information about Hoffman can be found at his website, drmikehoffman.com.

Rehearsals have already started, occurring every Tuesday from 7- 9:30 p.m. in the Music and Multimedia Building, room 001.

The concert will be performed April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the same location.

Interested musicians can contact Hoffman at hoffmanm@bucks.edu or call (215) 504-8595.

## PHEAA CEO fired

By The Associated Press

HARRISBURG — The head of the fundraising arm of Pennsylvania's student aid agency has been fired in a dispute over his travel expenses.

The board of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation voted unanimously Monday to terminate Michael Hershock from his \$150,000-a-year job as its president and chief executive officer, citing a "willful breach of the president's fiduciary duty involving personal profits."

Hershock's lawyer, Walter Cohen, accused the board of "totally disregarding" the terms of his client's contract, but said he was unsure whether they would pursue legal action challenging the firing.

The foundation is a nonprofit operated by the PHEAA, which itself has come under fire in recent years for its spending on lavish retreats for members of its legislator-dominated board.

The foundation board began questioning his travel expenses when it reviewed records that The Patriot-News of Harrisburg had requested under the state Right-to-Know Law.

Among the expenses were a \$1,032 bill in 2007 from the Four Seasons Hotel in New York City, where he met with potential donors, and \$1,360 for a 2005 presentation to the Pennsylvania Community Bankers Association in Alberta, Canada.

Legislators who head the

PHEAA board said Hershock's expenses undercut their efforts to rein in spending.

The records show Hershock "didn't get it," said Sen. Sean Logan, D-Allegheny, vice chairman of the PHEAA board. "He missed the memo."

Cohen said the \$14,000 in expenses over eight years is a small amount.

"But I think the legislative members are very sensitive to any amount, even though his contract sets out certain responsibilities he has to carry out, and he had to travel to do that," he said.

PHEAA waged an unsuccessful 19-month fight against various news outlets in Pittsburgh to gain access to records showing its lawmaker-dominated board spent hundreds of thousands of dollars at posh resorts between 2000 and 2005, including on luxuries such as alcohol, golf fees and spa treatments.

The foundation has raised and disbursed tens of millions of dollars, much of it contributed by PHEAA, to nursing schools around the state in the form of block grants. The schools use the money for scholarships and other incentives to attract students in response to a shortage of nurses and nurse educators, PHEAA spokesman Keith New said Tuesday.

But PHEAA's financial problems prompted the agency to suspend its \$10 million annual contribution to the foundation for the past two years, and Logan said its days are probably numbered.

# ‘JenEric’ Food

*Managing Editors Jen Golding and Eric Nocito like to eat CulinArt specials...maybe a little too much.*

Thursday, Feb. 26: The Chicken Cordon Bleu Sandwich

This week’s CulinArt special was the much-anticipated chicken cordon bleu sandwich, a tongue-twisting blend of chicken breast, ham and Swiss cheese on a melt-in-your-mouth Kaiser roll. As our eager eyes watched the ham and cheese melt together on the grill, we wrung our hands in excited anticipation. The aroma of the chicken deep frying next to the grill put our excitement levels off the charts! After what seemed like an eternity, our sandwiches were finally handed to us over the counter. Anxious for the nourishment that these sandwiches would be providing, our shaking hands nearly dropped our plates but thankfully, we managed to get ourselves under control. The cashier eyed our sandwiches jealously as she rung them up for \$4.95 each. In this tough economy, many of us cannot afford such luxuries as the chicken cordon bleu sandwich at Bucks, but we saved our hard-earned money for a week so we could sample this unique delicacy.

Finally it was time to sink our teeth into this fierce castle of flavor. The rough breaded chicken breast was extremely juicy and satisfying as it contrasted with the softer, more subtle textures of the lettuce and tomato in the most delicate of ways. Each bite was a morsel of utopian delight as it meshed against our taste buds in an explosion of wild elation.

Three hours later, our stomachs were still yearning for more. Eric, in a haze of satisfaction, became almost completely incapacitated as he tried to relate the consumption of the sandwich to another hungry student. Foaming at the mouth, he began to stumble around the room screaming for more. The hungry student rushed to the cafeteria in hopes that the sandwich was not sold out.

Jen was jittery from a blue-flavored Monster and was pounding out pages of copy describing in the most sensual of ways how to properly eat such a sandwich. Then, in a blur, she erased all of her Times New Roman text and beat out a single word: subjugate.

This kind of means to conquer and really didn’t make much sense so we finally put aside our intense emotions and began the hardest thing we ever had to do in our lives, describing something that makes you want to subjugate.

Don’t sell out your taste buds. Next time you find yourself hankering for a sandwich that will absolutely blow your mind and leave you lusting for more, head on over to the Bucks cafeteria and ask for the experience of a lifetime: the chicken cordon bleu sandwich.

## Dear John, Dear Jane

*An open letter to those people who bother  
Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin somehow*

Dear “Pee-buddy,”

First, let’s just take a moment and reflect on that introduction: “pee-buddy.”

Yep, ok.

I think I have to take a moment and explain to the good readers out there why on God’s green Earth I am writing a letter to a pee buddy.

Well, it starts as I am innocently walking into a public restroom and you, kind lady, walked in simultaneously. Maybe it’s because I held the door for you, maybe it’s because I have a nice smile—I don’t know the reason, but here’s where you exclaim in near-giddy hysterics, “Looks like you’re going to be my pee buddy!”

Oh, okay, because we are both going to be peeing, good call.

So here I am praying that there are 50 other people in the restroom so that I don’t have to be your pee buddy. Maybe someone else can be your pee buddy. Alas, it’s just you and me, pee buddy.

I think it’s over, the random

awkwardness created out of nowhere by a woman that probably wears a sweatshirt with multiple kittens on it...in public.

But it’s not. It’s not like you crept me out to the point of turning around and holding it in, I just had no idea what it means to be someone’s pee buddy. I had never been one before. So let me explain once more to the public what you have to do when you’re someone’s pee buddy, because they could be as ignorant as I was.

When you are a pee buddy, you need to carry a constant conversation while peeing with the complete stranger who is overly elated to be peeing in harmony with you.

I’m sorry I can’t recall what it was you were saying to me, but I do remember what I said to you. I did what any person would do when faced with a completely bizarre situation they were otherwise stuck in: I talked about the weather. It was rainy.

I also mouthed, “Are you for real?” the second I closed the stall door and double-

checked if it was locked.

Sometimes, some people are less comfortable with things than you are. Sometimes things like mouth-kissing people hello or talking while standing really close to another person is going to come as an awkward and painful situation for someone, even though it could be completely normal and second nature to you.

Being your pee buddy was a first for me, and lady, I gotta tell you, I was really disturbed.

Do you now see where that sounds a little off—being a “pee buddy?”

I just hope in the future you pose a question like, “Hey, looks like we’re both going to be urinating here today, let’s talk about it as we relieve ourselves.”

I think a little warning is needed, and then when your next pee buddy knows what they’re in for, they can make an informed decision about going or holding it in.

Thanks,  
Laura

## A Modern Hypocrisy

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



*News, bells and  
chapters 11-13*

Ivan Pavlov was a Russian psychologist most famous for classical conditioning. I’m sure you’ve heard of Pavlov and his dogs, but for those of you that haven’t, here’s a little about how he got dogs to salivate to the sound of a bell:

Pavlov was always on time and a meticulous, scheduled man. He found that he worked best if his hours were planned out and he generally lived each day like the one before. Also a doctor, Pavlov was investigating something about the chemical consistency of dog saliva after they ate certain foods.

When a dog is hungry, they see the food, salivate and eat the food. So you would be sure that Pavlov was completely bewildered when he started to bring the dogs their food and they were already salivating. How did they know food was coming? Well, the town bell struck, let’s say 6 p.m., and Pavlov knew it was time to feed the dogs. So he walked to the barn and fed them. And he did this over and over again because dogs need to eat every day. And eventually, the dogs started to respond to the sound of the bell, knowing that food was coming. Pavlov conditioned his dogs to behave differently. This is why he was so important, because it gives hope to people everywhere that they can condition behavior modification in others.

It’s true, you can.

I started thinking about this experiment because I wanted to know what made the newspaper business become so obsolete, as compared to news online. And I realized it’s because we have conditioned our behavior in that our gadgets bring us instant reward. Don’t believe me? Is it a stretch?

When texting was new, I didn’t really use it, but then I made the switch and I think it’s because I started responding to the sound of a bell. I hear my little tune and I drop everything I am doing, whether it’s sitting in class, operating a motor vehicle or sleeping, and respond to the bell.

Hearing it means I have to read something and respond. My behavior has been modified. So, I say to myself, this could be at least part of the reason why the newspaper company for which I work as a freelance writer, along with hundreds of other companies in the news business, is filing for Chapter 11, or, gulp, Chapter 13.

I blame websites for having “bells.”

Now, if you want to know something, you search for the topic and within a few seconds, thousands of hits come up. If you want to know something you don’t “New-York-Times it,” you “Google it.” The world is different and we have conditioned our culture appropriately.

And here is where newspapers die. When breaking news happens, I know about it almost a day before it’s printed in the paper. Imagine what it would have been like to find out about 9/11 in the next day’s paper—nearly 24 hours later! The point is that important current events are not broken in the papers anymore. And with the internet making this obsolete, people are turning elsewhere to find out about what newspapers are best used for, example town government—just visit their website!

Companies are left floundering and not knowing what to do, their business model is failing, but it seems pretty obvious to a soon-to-graduate journalism major—classical conditioning. Get your customers to respond by altering their behavior. In an era where brand names rule the world, this shouldn’t be too hard. Apple went from nothing to something huge by altering their public image and showing how desirable their product was over the dozens of other options in mp3 players or laptop computers. They made their business model work in a changing world. News sites need to get paid and to help do that they got to shut down other so-called news sites, the free ones—rise up and diss any non-credible news source. It needs to be clear what is and is not real reporting. As well, you’ve got to move this audience from paper to touch-screen and monitor.

That doesn’t seem like it would be hard to do.

So when people start to see the NY Times logo online, they can associate it with credible news they have got to have, and pay for. And anyone not going to, for instance, this site is not getting good information.

Ding! Behavior modified!

But, one other thing needs to happen first before this business is saved. Papers must bring in the young, multi-talented journalists out there who can envision a changing and evolving business, and leave the single-minded editors of yesterday on the cutting room floor.



**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.

# UFO convention beams down

BY JEN GOLDING  
Managing Editor

They took us to their leader.

On Jan. 24, one day before the one-year anniversary of what has been dubbed Bucks County's "UFO wave," fervent believers packed the Gateway Auditorium for the annual alien hunter conference hosted by the Pennsylvania chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

In 2007, there were 97 reported UFO sightings in Pennsylvania. In 2008, however, that number more than tripled to 312, according to John Ventre, the Pennsylvania state director of MUFON.

Bill Birnes, host of the History Channel's weekly series "UFO Hunters," offered two reasons for the increase in sightings.

First of all, there are just simply more UFO's.

Secondly, more "ethnic minorities" are beginning to trust the police and media more than ever before, so they are more likely to report sightings. "The media used to say, 'If it bleeds, it leads.' But after [news outlets] began covering UFO sightings it's, 'If it hovers, we cover.'"

The first report in the area came last year from a police officer in Falls Township who refused to identify himself because it "wasn't good for his career." He reported a silently soaring object near Lincoln Highway that "looked like an octopus in the sky."

That "octopus" began to shutter as if it were vibrating, then disappeared. This sighting was later "confirmed" by two 12-year-olds hanging out near the Oxford Valley Mall.

Although some people are hesitant to call themselves believers, others are outraged that this phenomenon is being ignored.

These tough economic times and the debate in Washington over President Obama's stimulus package are, to some, no excuse for congress's failure to acknowledge the dramatic spike in



(ABOVE) DR. DAVID JACOBS DISCUSSES HOW ALIENS EXTRACT FEMALE OVA. (BOTTOM LEFT) A MAP IS DISPLAYED THAT PINPOINTS EVERY PA UFO SIGHTING. (BOTTOM RIGHT) THE TITLE SAYS IT ALL, A DEPICTION BY JACOBS OF A HYBRID BABY.

PHOTOS BY LAURA IRWIN

sightings.

When Birnes opened the floor to questions, one seemingly exasperated man spoke up. "When will Congress pass a law about the truth of UFO's?" he yelled.

Birnes seemed confident in the Obama administration. "Now that Obama has reversed some Bush policies, we may see more UFO coverage by default," said Birnes.

During a break that allowed time for a cast of Bigfoot's foot to be raffled off, Bucks residents expanded on the proceedings. "Our government knows about [UFO's]," said Bryan Segal of Bensalem. "The absence of proof isn't proof of non-existence, and [the government] has millions of dollars at their disposal. It's ignorant for us to think we're alone."

Segal was also concerned about "non-efficient" alien energy usage. "Why would [aliens] send out large ships when they could send out quarter-sized probes. You have to assume their level of technology is absolutely ridiculous," said Segal. "It's just not efficient, it's too Hollywood...unless the aliens are just tourists."

Although the auditorium was filled, with attendants in the aisles and along the walls, the room seemed to expand in number when Professor David Jacobs of Temple University came to the podium to share his vast knowledge of alien abductions.

Jacobs, a self-proclaimed abductee, has been doing "nothing but abduc-

tion research" since 1982, which was around the same time he began practicing hypnosis.

Jacobs explained that human memory is retrieved through hypnosis, therefore allowing abduction victims to recall their experiences.

"How rare can [abduction] be if a couple million people all believe? They can't all be psychotic," said Blue Bell resident Ray Ovelman.

According to Jacobs, there are a few tell-tale signs that a human has been abducted.

After abduction occurs, a human will come back naked, with their clothes on differently or in an entire new outfit.

It is also not uncommon for an abductee to come back with unusual scars and marks "all over the place."

Readers should also know that abductions are genetic. "If your mother or father was abducted, it isn't probable you'd be abducted, it's certain," said Jacobs.

Jacobs showed the audience an intriguing slide show of the growth process of

"hybrids," a half-human, half-alien species. Hybrids are created because the aliens are making an attempt to assimilate into our human world.

Aliens create hybrids and send them to earth to teach them how to perform human tasks, such as moving into an apartment building or buying groceries.

Jacobs explained that these hybrid beings are created by sperm extraction with neural engagement.

"All communication is telepathic," said Jacobs. The benefit of this is that communication is instant. However, the downside is that an abductee's own thoughts can often be confused with what the aliens told them.

One problem that hybrids encounter is that their toddlers are often affected by "confabulation," a disorder in which their heads are often twice as large as their bodies. In further slides shown by Jacobs, abducted human chil-

dren were shown playing happily with these hybrid toddlers.

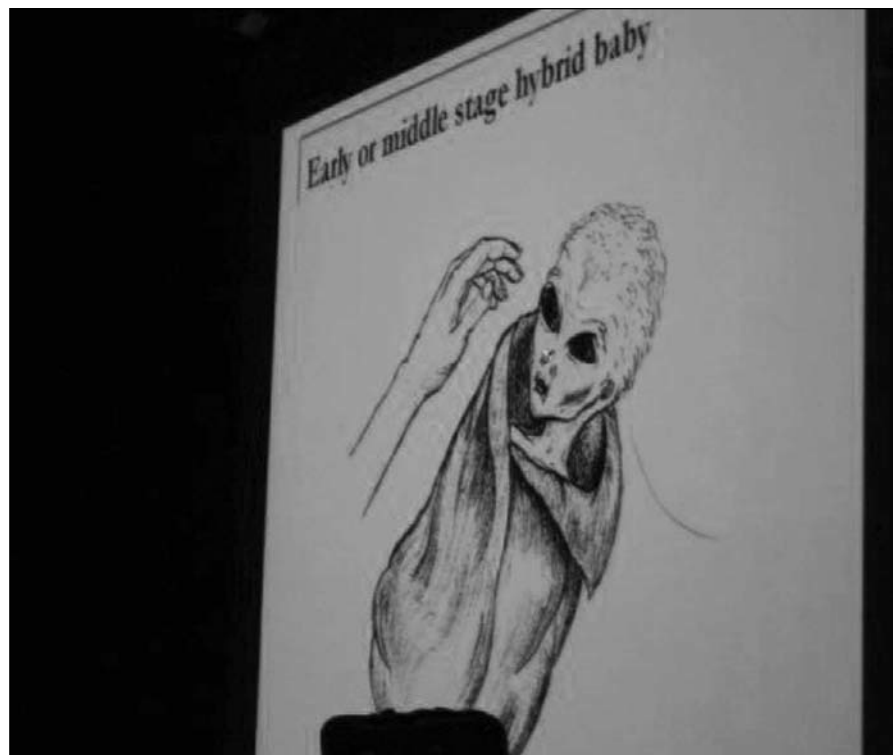
"Hybrid children have an interest in learning to play with dolls," said Jacobs.

In fact, Jacobs claims to have witnessed this seemingly "biological impossibility" himself. One day a friend called him and asked him to come see a "strange-looking" baby. Upon seeing the baby, Jacobs immediately deemed it a hybrid. The mother was hesitant to breast-feed.

When asked what the ultimate objective is for the aliens in abducting humans, Jacobs shrugged. "That's not for the press to know."

Although most of his alien talk seemed perfectly logical, Jacobs remained modest. "I understand that I'm living in crazy-land," he said.

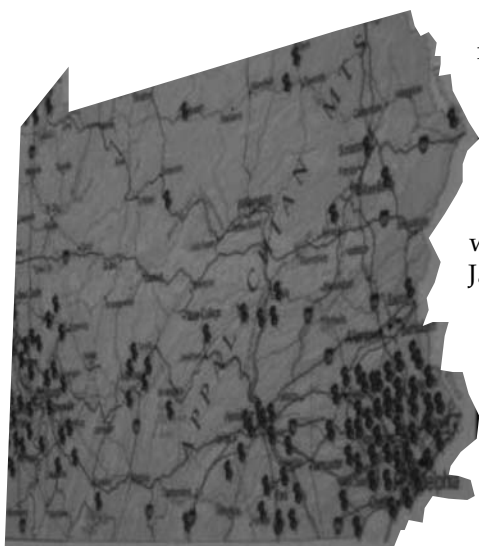
For those that had the misfortune of missing this enlightening conference, pamufon.com has all the latest details on this strange phenomenon.



*Featured photo: 'The cat did it'*  
By Laura Irwin



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







## Women's basketball is back

**BY COLIN GERRITY**  
*Centurion Staff*

The Bucks women's basketball team has roared back from a nine-year absence to claim their stake in the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference.

The Centurions finished the season with a 4-1 record, in their first year of play as a club team.

Led under the direction of first-year coach Cherrissa Gibson and Assistant Coach Justin Burroughs, the team was very competitive throughout their five-game schedule.

Gibson has a coaching background at the high school level in the Lancaster County School District, and is a graduate and former player at Elizabethtown College.

"Basically this is the first step to creating a competitive team that will join the EPCC league," said Gibson. "The main goal is to be sure you have enough players interested to form a full team for the following season of league



play."

The Centurions fought a fierce game, with the only defeat being their last game, an away game against Lehigh-Carbon.

"We made some poor decisions in the last 2 minutes. We turned the ball over and suffered at the foul line.

We shot below 50 percent from the free-throw line that game. It was a tough loss, but also a

learning experience," she said.

The season was highlighted by a terrific defensive performance against MontCo at their gym. "We played great team defense and created offense through our defensive intensity. We won the game by 37 points."

Gibson cited some positive areas of strengths for the team this year. The main areas were defensive intensity, pressing full

for next season.

Even though they may not have had a full complement of players, the Centurions stayed focused and competitive throughout the season.

The team operates as a unit collectively, but the team's captains shined, Gibson explains.

"Our standout player offensively was Jen Owens. She was strong offensively, and could

court and conditioning. While there were many positive areas with the team, there are always areas that can be improved upon.

Gibson cited such areas as the team's nine-player roster, getting started late in the season and foul shooting.

These are the areas that the team will look to improve upon

create on offense. On defense, Diana Altobelli was a standout defender. Our press defense functioned much better with her at the top of the press. She had great court awareness and played with intensity. Both of those girls were team captains."

For next season the Centurions look to make a competitive return to the EPCC. The 2009-10 season will be their first full varsity season in the league.

With the distinction of a club team being lifted, Gibson will look to draw upon this year's experiences, in an effort to field a highly motivated and competitive team.

Judging by their successful 4-1 record and the guidance and direction of Gibson, that expectation does not seem to be too far out of reach.

If you are interested in information about Bucks women's basketball team, or possibly trying out for next year's team, please contact Gibson at cherrissa5@gmail.com or contact Dr. Priscilla Rice at (215) 968-8450.

## Baseball team is gearing up

**BY COLIN GERRITY**  
*Centurion Staff*

The Bucks baseball team is gearing up and preparing to defend their championship title.

Last season, the men's team enjoyed an exhilarating late season run highlighted by three straight victories that helped propel Bucks into the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference playoff tournament.

Their winning streak continued through the tournament, as Bucks defeated Lehigh-Carbon in the semi-final match 11-5, and eventually defeating Luzerne in the championship game 9-5, to win the EPCC tournament.

Bucks Coach Mark Bohling understands the increased expectations on the upcoming season and title defense. "Our goal is to continue with the success we had at the end of last season. It is not very often that teams go back-to-back; the expectation is obviously to shoot for it. Last year's success was a total team effort, and the players coming back want that championship feeling again," he said.

How will the players respond this year? "We are a very confident group, not cocky. We will not be waving the championship in people's faces; it's more motivating than anything."

Last season was Bohling's first year coaching the Bucks squad. Bohling wanted to install an offensive mindset into his players in order to be competitive. "Last year was a big hitting basis; we needed to put up a lot of runs in order to be competitive."

Versatility and coaching were major components to last year's success.

This offensive approach paired with



Bohling's coaching style paid the necessary dividends. "I wanted to make the game as simple as it could be for the players, to get back to the purest form of baseball. I wanted to get back to the basics."

Out of the 12 total players on last year's team, seven will be returning this season. With the team having only 12 players, each player was asked to play multiple positions, and often times pitch.

"The seven players coming back can play anywhere on the field. They are always looking to get better in a new position," Bohling said. This flexibility was welcomed last year; having options makes a baseball team's success much more attainable.

For this year, Bohling wants his team to concentrate on increasing the overall

speed, offensively and defensively. "I want a fast team. I find that our basic fundamentals are there, we will look to increase our base stealing and our ability to track down balls in the field."

Bohling is expecting as many as 24 players total, 17 of them being new players. "The majority of our infield is returning, and we have great cohesion there. The core of our infield will not be changed. We welcome the competition for all positions. Competition will only help to make us better as a team."

The team will also be welcoming back its top pitcher from last year, Craig Kieffer. Kieffer is a 6-foot 3-inch, left-handed pitcher. According to Bohling, Kieffer has been really working on his game and has recently been clocked throwing at speeds as high as 90 mph. "In our league pitching is huge; it's a big step to being successful."

With the team in its second year under the direction of Bohling, and the increased overall talent level of the players, Bucks looks again to challenge for the National Junior College Athletic Association crown, and ultimately the EPCC championship.

"I am seeing a lot of size and a lot of speed in this year's team in the early stages here," he said.

The team will be a lot of fun to watch this year as it gears up and prepares for the 2009 season. Come on out and help support the Bucks championship baseball team. The schedule is available on the Bucks website at [bucks.edu/life/athletics/baseball](http://bucks.edu/life/athletics/baseball).

If you are interested in information about the team, you can also contact Bohling in Gym 107 or at (215) 968-8443 or e-mail [bohlingm@bucks.edu](mailto:bohlingm@bucks.edu).

## A-Rod's steroid saga

**BY ALEX GROSSMAN**  
*Centurion Staff*

On Saturday, Feb. 7, Sports Illustrated reported that New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez was on a list with 103 other players who had tested positive for performing enhancing drugs in 2003.

According to a statement by Rodriguez made on Feb. 16, he confirmed that between 2001 and 2003, he was injected at least 30 times with testosterone and an anabolic steroid, Primobolan—drugs that are banned in Major League Baseball. This revelation came as a great shock to Rodriguez's teammates, friends, family, fans and the entire baseball community.

Perhaps the biggest surprise, though, is how little people care. They seem indifferent, already jaded by baseball's performance-enhancing drug scandals.

When asked to comment on the steroids saga, several Bucks students simply rolled their eyes. "People have bigger things to worry about right now," said Nicole Storer, 22, a criminal justice major from Warminster. "That's baseball, and this is real life."

Even more surprisingly, many students were completely unaware of the A-Rod steroids scandal. "I'm not really sure I have any opinion," said Dan Kinsley, a 20-year-old student from Lahaska. "I haven't been following it and I don't really watch baseball."

Kinsley's comments were echoed throughout the Bucks campus. "I think he shouldn't have used them," said Rob DiChristofaro, a 19-year-old student from Yardley. "But I don't really follow baseball, so I don't know what really happened."

Maybe it is not that important after all.

Like Jason Gomba, a 19-year-old student said, "Eh, it's just baseball."