

The Centurion



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Free

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Weather

Monday-Mostly Sunny, with a high near 65.



Tuesday-Rainy with a high near 72.



Wednesday-Chance of rain, with a high near 69.



Thursday-Mostly cloudy, with a high near 77.



Friday-Sunny, with a high near 82.



Saturday-Partly sunny, with a high near 76.



Sunday-Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.



WEATHER COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Tech troubles

Centurion reporters investigate the possible downsides of technology

BY: DIANE DAVIES-DIXON
Centurion Staff

In this week's issue of The Centurion the staff explores technology and the negative effects it can have on our lives.

We have explored the pressure of having the newest gadgets; oversharing on Facebook; problems with distance learning; the possibility of getting fatter and dumber from being online all the time; dangers of texting and driving; relationships hurt by Facebook; privacy with social media; texting vs. talking; having no cell phone; 3D movies and the pricing of smart phones.

Facebook has reconnected friends from the past and families from across the country but it also creates drama. Whether you want to know a person's personal problems or what they had to eat or not, it will be in your face within five minutes of logging onto your Facebook account.

Whether you can afford the new gadget or not, you'd better get one. How else will you be able to keep up to date with your 600 friends status updates? Don't you want to know what they ate



The iPad is the most recent form of technology that could hurt more than help

PHOTO BY TOM MORRIS

for breakfast?

The prices of smartphones may make you think twice about how concerned you are with checking status updates and Internet access through your phone. Are they really a necessity for college students who have student loans to worry about?

Don't bother getting out of bed today. Class will come to you. Whoever would have imagined earning your college degree while in the comfort of your very own home? Some courses are easier than others to take online and the convenience is something to think about. Although you have to be careful because state grants require more than 50 percent of the program of study be completed in a face to face classroom setting.

Don't bother leaving the house to go shopping either. With the click of the mouse you can have anything you want delivered to your door. With all the games and movies and everything available online there is really no motivation to leave your home.

Relationships are falling apart on Facebook for all to see. There is no such thing as privacy anymore. Potential employers are reading your Facebook accounts and browsing your photos. There is definitely too much information.

Eyes that were once focused on the road are now focused on the text message you just received and one of the hands that should be on the wheel are holding your phone. Responding this way to a text message that is so insignificant can have very serious consequences like causing an accident.

Texting is taking over talking and communication is weak. Do we really know the person on the other end of the text message? Can you hear happiness or sadness through a text message, or even love? The human element of a conversation is lost to a keypad.

Enhancements of the 3D movies have been explored. We've investigated this new technology frenzy so many of us are wrapped up in and have come up with some very interesting finds.

The dark side and the bright side of technology.

Texting vs. talking

This generation of kids has grown up with cell phones. Now, there are more kids that are texting each other than talking. Could this pose a problem?

BY: DIANE DAVIES-DIXON
Centurion Staff

Mom: Where are you?

Austin: Nick's

Mom: home by 5.

Austin: k

Mom: Don't be late

Austin: k

This is what a conversation between mother and son has come to.

If that is what one would call it. Nothing more than a few words typed out on a phone. Texting is the main source of communication not only between teenage friends, but it has become popular with parents and their children as well.

Teens 14-17 average 60 texts a day according to Pew Research Center. The messages are usually of little substance. There was a time when parents had an idea about what was going on in their children's social lives because they could hear their child's conversation. Now, there is silence as the fingers punch the messages silently into the phone at all hours of the night.

According to The New York Times, concern of psychologists and other experts has gone from worry about cyber-bullying and texting of sexually explicit messages to

whether this new craze may be changing kid's relationships and friendships. More research is needed to see how widespread the phenomenon has gone and the emotional quality of relationships and friendships that are affected, according to the journal "Writing in the Future of Children."

Jeffrey G Parker, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Alabama, who has been studying children and their friendships since the 1980's said they were just beginning to look at those aspects of texting.

It is not only teens who in-



Two Bucks students demonstrating texting vs. talking

PHOTO BY CHRIS WIRTH

stead of having thoughtful conversations but adults as well. Everywhere you go people are texting. The grocery store, the movies, sporting events and as gross as it is sometimes the pounding of the keys can be heard from the stall next to you in the restroom.

Yet, most of the people interviewed expressed a strong dislike for texting.

"I hate texting" said Helen Golden, 54, of Levittown, "I would much rather communicate face to face or at least by telephone."

Jack Smith, 58, of Levittown, a computer technician, isn't fond of texting either, "It takes away the interaction between people which some of us so desperately need" he

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Texting vs. talking

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said.

According to Pew Research Center, 75 percent of people with cell phones use them to text. The poorest nations, Kenya and Indonesia are also texting.

According to the center, the mobile plans that are now offered for unlimited texting are what started the boom in texting vs. talking. It was alluring for teens to be able to have their secret conversations without being overheard. Teens on average text 2,200 messages per month

and adults 25-34 only text an average of 331 per month.

“I hate that people expect an instant reply or want to have a long conversation through text. Sometimes I don’t want to be bothered” said Pamela Matthews, 37, of Levittown, a learning support teacher at Armstrong Middle School. “I cannot shop, push the cart, keep a list in my head and text all at the same time nor do I want to.”

Cathy Robinson, 47, quality control analyst, of Philadelphia, a homemaker, feels differently. “Texting has made my life easier. I can text a

person when I don’t feel like talking to them. This way I don’t hurt their feelings and say I don’t feel like talking” she said.

“Texting is easier. It is simple and to the point. I never make calls from my phone. I use it for texting and internet/Facebook only. Some people can keep you on the phone forever” said Diane Shelley Hunsinger, 38, data entry operator, from Croydon

Linda Studley, 40 of Levittown, a sales clerk at Sears Hardware said “I text at work and since I work in retail it is more acceptable for me to

text rather than talk on my phone on the sales floor. If I am bored I text friends to pass the time.”

This is a topic with many mixed emotions.

“No one will get to know the real and unique things about you through a text” said Alicia Dixon, 23, of Philadelphia, an art major.

“In some cases texting can be confusing. It restricts you from conveying your mood and personality. It also gets distracting and you get lost in your own little world, not paying attention to what is going on around you. When

it comes to relationships and texting FORGET IT. You’ll drive yourself nuts trying to determine how someone feels about you.”

“I think because humans are inherently introverted. When the opportunity presents itself to maintain that distance they take it. Also, everything present day is concise and emotionless and somewhat faked. From archaic times we have adapted to our surroundings and this is evidenced by this behavior,” said Christopher Daccardi, 39 of Langhorne, chemistry major.

Facebook break-ups

BY: CATHERINE PALMER
Centurion Staff

Keying cars, slashing tires, cutting up pictures, throwing away keepsakes and doing just about anything you can possibly think of to pause the pain you feel after a break up is the normal reaction to have when a broken heart lies cold in your chest.

For Lauren Gural, 22, film major at Temple, none of the above was exemplified, but she had a better idea in mind. “I so deleted him from Facebook. It’s how I know he’ll get the hint that I’m done.”

And so the problem begins.

Facebook, which was launched in the winter of 2004, and has ever since swept the entire world off its feet, is no doubt the number one frequently visited website in the country.

With 845 million active members, Facebook has become the focus point of just about every person through out every age group. Originally created for college kids, a whopping eight years later it found itself in nursing homes. Everybody who is anybody has a Facebook page.

Why get someone’s number when you can just add he or she on Facebook? Why have a face-to-face conversation about something personal when you can message it through Facebook? Why be excited to hear the news of an engagement or a baby on the way when you can read it in a post that one million other people you don’t even know will mostly like read before you?

“Why? Because it’s Facebook,” says Gural, whose bright green eyes darken to a soft gray at the mentioning of her break up. “Everyone I know has Facebook and I know that if I delete him first they’ll all see it, and they’ll know that I was the one who ended it.”

Although a 2006 issue of The New York Times praised Facebook creators for “bringing together broken families,” and “strengthening old bonds,” sometimes the past is meant to be left in the past and not to be looked up and added as a friend.

“I think it’s pretty sad to live in a world where technology is favored over face to face conversations and

personal phone calls. I think Facebook ruined people,” said nursing major Shelby Cucinotta, 20.

“I found out at that my sister was in jail over Facebook, and so did my mom. I could here her crying from down in my basement. She told me to go on Facebook and the first thing I see is a post my brother made about my sister. It’s just ridiculous.”

Ridiculous? Yes, with out a doubt, but uncommon? Not a chance. One of the reasons Facebook is so popular is because people who wouldn’t normally speak their mind, can, and ultimately do.

“It ruins relationships of all kinds,” said music major Lauren Rook, 20. “At first it was pretty neat to see what everyone was up to, then it just got crazy. I had people I didn’t even know starting drama with me. I deactivated my count at least three times this year.”

But, Facebook like most addictions is a hard habit to kick. “I reactivated my account because I was too nosy,” said Rook. “I wanted to know what was going on in the world, and sadly Facebook



is the world.”

When a 2011 issue of The Los Angeles Times reported that one third of European marriages were ending due to Facebook, I don’t think anyone was shocked.

“That doesn’t surprise me at all. Facebook was created so people could reconnect, and there’s reconnecting in good ways but there’s also reconnecting in bad ways,” said Rook.

50 years ago if a marriage was on the rocks the husband and wife felt forced to work at it. Not saying that forcing yourself to be with someone is right, but when most people marry they should marry with the intention to work at it out of love and respect, not just to log onto Facebook and add an old flame in case it doesn’t work out.

Amidst all the bad Facebook has recently been bringing

to our society, it does bring good. Long lost family members, long lost friends, catching up and simply a place to leave your own world and linger in someone else’s, but does the little good it does make up for the bad?

Lying, cheating, divorce, not getting accepted to colleges, unnecessary picture posting, unnecessary posts in general, finding out about not only what goes on in the lives of people but about what goes on in their secret lives, all become an obsession due to Facebook.

When a 2010 issue of People Magazine released that the last words of Tyler Clementi, 18, Rutgers College student came from a Facebook post, it was then that the world really got the chance to see what a simple Facebook post can really do: Destroy lives.

THE CENTURION


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The rise and appeal of smartphones

BY: KEVIN BARR & BILLY KERINS

Centurion Staff

Smartphones are quite possibly the hottest gadgets available right now - especially among college students - but are they for everyone?

Smartphones are phones with data plans that allow users the ability to access the internet, as well as a variety of different applications. Each application provides a specific task which it carries out. For example, the Facebook application allows users to access their Facebook profiles. Another helpful application that can be used is the GPS to give users directions if they are lost.

The uses of these phones are not limited to internet access and applications only though. Many of these phones have a hard drive with enough space to double as a video/MP3 player. They also usually come with cameras that can take high-quality video and pictures.

The main smartphones today are the Blackberry, Google's Android, Microsoft's Windows Phone and the most popular of the smartphones - Apple's iPhone. Most of these phones are available through different service providers. Most

cellular service providers offer smartphone options.

Daniel Lobran uses a Blackberry during his work as an Econ Analyst at a steel company. He says smartphones are only necessity if you are a "business" professional. "I think we have to look at what we define as necessity. Don't get me wrong, I think smartphones are great, but it depends on your situation. If you're someone who works on deadlines, constantly needs to check email or needs to work on the go, then you could say they are a necessity." Lobran went on to say, "Think about the basic needs in life; shelter, food and staying warm. I'm not ready to put smartphones in that category, but it seems like the rest of country is."

Mike Caro, 19, a liberal arts major from Levittown, enjoys his iPhone. For him, the appeal of having internet access and the ability to use the applications on the smartphones made it a no-brainer. He likes being able to use the phone to "keep boredom away," and the application he enjoys using the most is the GPS, due to how handy it becomes in daily life.

Another smartphone user, Connor McGill, says he "doesn't know how he ever lived without it." McGill, 19,

who is a nursing major from Holland, enjoys the internet accessibility and the applications and claims to have almost become independent on how useful it is. "One of the most convenient things is being able to download applications on the spot," says McGill.

However, the smartphones aren't necessarily for everyone. The data plans for these phones usually are between \$30 and \$40 per month, which can certainly add up to be an expensive chunk of change over the course of a year. However, most smartphone users can justify the cost of it.

Michael Puccio, a 19-year-old secondary historical education major from Trevoze, says the smartphone appeals to him, even though he doesn't have one. "I find the thing that appeals most to me about smartphones is you can go on the internet and have access to useful applications." Puccio is planning to move out and would rather save his money, so he chooses not to get a smartphone, though he is very fond of the concept.

There is no denying the impact that peers and even the cellphone service providers have on the smartphone craze. CNBC reports that close to 40 percent of college



students have a smartphone and the number is rising monthly. Some folks haven't taken too kindly to the idea of being pushed into getting a smartphone.

"We live in a weak minded society; everyone thinks they need a smartphone, but people just want to fit in with what everyone else is doing" says Pat Rogers, 20, a business major from Huntington Valley. "Smartphones are just another example of our society spending money on things we think we need, but really for most people there is no need whatsoever."

"With every major phone company offering their own form of smartphone, temptation certainly can come into play when purchasing a phone," Jason Roth, 20, a marketing major from Warminster says, "When I went to the phone store a couple weeks ago because

my phone broke, the people at the store were pushing me real hard to just get a new smart phone. They made a lot of good arguments and the phones can do some cool stuff, but at the end of the day it was just way to expensive. I can't afford \$100 per month for a phone."

The smartphone appeals to most people. Most users enjoy the convenience of the applications and the ability to access the internet. They seem to be able to justify the cost of the phone and the data plan because the phone has almost become a part of their daily lives.

Whether or not one owns a smartphone yet doesn't quite matter, but it's hard to deny the fact that smartphones are definitely going to continue to rise in popularity.

Living without a cellphone

BY: BEN FULLER
CENTURION STAFF

It's 6:45 a.m., and Nate Seidle is 15 minutes late for the bus to the game. The volleyball team needs to leave for an away match in New York, but there are no signs of Seidle, the middle hitter, and worse yet, he does not own a cell phone.

It seems almost unthinkable for most people in America to go one day without a cell phone. Yet as it turns out, there exists a small group of young people who believe their lives are better without mobile phones.

When asked about the advantages of being cell-free, Seidle said, "There are so many. To start, you can pay attention to the people around you and your mom can't call you every day." Seidle also added that he is saving \$30 to \$100 a month without having to pay for a phone plan with minutes, text, and internet - something your common cellphone user see as a necessary piece of their budget.

Joel Stein, writer for Bloomsburg BusinessWeek, called the cell-free group "America's Most Exclusive

Group." He said, "Not having a cell phone is a way of getting the world to run on your time. A lot of powerful people are already on to this. Warren Buffett doesn't use one, nor does Mikhail Prokhorov, the 45-year-old Russian billionaire who owns the New Jersey Nets."

In the same article, Stein quoted Jonathan Reed, 46, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of La Verne, who explained why he loved traveling without cell phones.

"I'll talk to strangers. I love going to Italy, where everyone talks to everyone all the time. A cell phone signals that my whole world is me and it excludes everyone else," Reed said.

Brian "Bex" Huff, a software architect, wrote an article entitled "Nope, I Don't Own a Cell Phone" on his professional blog. In the post, Huff unashamedly stated, "I



can understand why some people find them useful, but for me a cell phone has absolutely no value. Staying connected? Hardly... Email, instant messaging, and the Internet are connected. Cell phones are leashes."

According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 85 percent of adult Americans have cell phones. However, the same study revealed most of the 15 percent is made up of elderly American's who do not care to learn how to function the new gizmos. The numbers back up this assumption as 94 percent young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 own cell phones.

Yet another small percent-

age of Americans do not have the means to afford a cell phone plan. Therefore with the elderly, the poor, and all other factors considered, Seidle joins an incredibly small percentage (1-3 percent) of young Americans who have the means and wit to own a cell phone, but would rather not.

Why would you not want a cell phone? To answer this question backwards, let's find out why people DO use cell phones. In a one-month study, a group of cell phone users reported this activity:

- 51% had used their phone at least once to get information they needed right away.
- 42% of cell owners used their phone for entertainment when they were bored.
- 13% of cell owners pretended to be using their phone in order to avoid interacting with the people around them.

With these statistics, one might think cell phones are not a necessity after all. However, there is one ques-

tion always lingering in the back of our minds:

"What if I find myself in an emergency situation where my only hope is a cell phone?"

In the same one-month study, 40 percent of the cell owners said they found themselves in an emergency situation in which having their phone with them helped. Seidle dismissed the argument as a valid reason to own a phone.

"That depends on what you call an emergency. Missing a hair appointment because you did not have a cell phone to schedule one is not an emergency for me, but it might be for others."

During the interview with Seidle, another cell-free student - and a friend of Seidle's - joined in.

"Dean!" Nate yelled excitedly, "Get over here!"

Dean said that like Seidle, he had never been in an emergency situation where he needed a cell phone.

"We sometimes have trouble getting in touch with each other" Dean said, "we just need to schedule ahead when we want to hang out."

Privacy on the web

BY: MATT KINSEY
Centurion Staff

Kathi Anton, 52, a business major, sits at her desk. You might expect that, like most people who find themselves stuck in front of a computer monitor, she’s periodically checking her Facebook and updating her status to report her current location, mood, and thoughts to the virtual world.

However, she actually spends little time using the social media powerhouse. Anton originally signed up on the social media website just to reunite with old friends from her past. She seems disgusted though when she signs in and sees some of the vulgar things posted by her younger friends.

“With social media there is no privacy anymore. You can’t hide from someone who wants to do you harm. All they will have to do is Google your name and they will find your Facebook page” Anton says.

Anyone can type in a person’s name through a Yahoo or Google search and their Facebook account. From there they can click on the page and see a limited

amount of the user’s information and with one more click, they can add the person as a friend. And it’s not as uncommon as you may think for users to add “friends” that they don’t actually know.

“People really need to watch what they say on the computer, because once they post it, it is there forever and someone will find it to use it against you at a later date. Look at all the people that put derogatory photos of themselves on the internet and then years later it surfaces only to do them harm and embarrassment” Anton says.

According to privacy expert Jim Harper, social media today is attracting one in every fourteen people on the planet to join. Harper is the director of information policy studies at the Cato Institute and a co-editor.

“Expecting privacy on the internet today is now expecting too much” Harper said. “Facebook has been in trouble already with the privacy issues. Also, in July of 2010, Google got themselves in trouble with the use of its street view function allowing people to view others streets” Harper said.



According to Harper, privacy has hit an extreme today, in terms of allowing others to stalk people using their Facebook.

“We remember the webcam incident involving Rutgers student Tyler Clementi. He committed suicide after his roommate used a hidden webcam to stream a sexual encounter between Clementi and another man online. This is what happens when your privacy is no longer private. Something needs to happen or more stories like this will happen” Harper said.

Today social networks like Facebook and Twitter allow millions of people to see what is going on in a person’s personal life, should they choose to share it.

Cody Connor, 19, a sports management major, has been on Facebook since the day the social media site hit the web. Connor mentioned the new practice of employers asking to see applicant’s Facebook profiles as part of the hiring process.

“I think really that it’s right for now that employers ask for your Facebook password for example. As much of an invasion it is of your privacy

it’s just showing that you’re loyal and honest enough to be respected with what you show online with your peers” Connor said.

Connor said that people looking for work, especially teens seeking their first job, should be weary of what they post on the internet.

“Social media and privacy issues will bite you in the long run though especially with some people out there in the world. As I said earlier if you are careful with what you do, privacy issues won’t catch up to you. Unless you release information like your passwords, numbers, and etc.” Connor said.

Computer Information Science Professor John Crowley had his own opinions about the privacy issues with social media.

“People post too much information for the public to view” Crowley said. “Everything now that they have posted will be there forever and there is no taking any of it back. It is there for good. I don’t trust any of these social medias” he said.

Crowley also suggested that posting even seemingly simple information, like vacation

plans, on the internet could leave users vulnerable to crime.

“Today, teenagers are obsessed with the social medias. In general they post too much private information. Say you tell a friend that your family is going on vacation for the next two weeks. Just by posting that on Facebook to them they now know that your house is unoccupied.” Crowley said.

“With my skill set and my studies in computer information science has allowed me to see a lot. You would be amazed about what I could dig up about anyone. People today should be very careful with what they post on the internet” Crowley said.

Christie King, 22, a computer science major, has a very strong opinion about privacy issues.

“I view it as the Fourth Amendment of The Constitution. In other words, if our privacy isn’t protected it will eventually be a violation that will be argued in the U.S. Supreme Court. Today people who publicly display their information, they’re freely giving up their privacy” King said.

Texting and driving law

BY: TOM SOFIELD
Centurion Staff

Horsham police Lt. John Clark sits in his unmarked Crown Victoria police vehicle just off the road - watching for drivers who have their eyes off the road and peeled to the screens of their mobile device. Starting in early March, police officers like Clark across Pennsylvania have been enforcing a new law prohibiting text-based communication while operating a motor vehicle.

The new law makes text-based communications while driving a primary offense – meaning police can stop and ticket a motorist if a violation of the law is observed - carrying a \$50 fine.

Clark said before the law was enacted he had stopped several drivers for swerving all over the road while looking at cell phones and GPS devices. Those drivers were ticketed for distracted driving, but the new law makes it so police can stop anyone drive while using a text-

based device.

“This law is one of those things that can prevent a tragedy,” Clark said recently. Clark added he thinks the law is necessary.

The veteran Horsham officer said text-based communication while driving is widespread and has lead to dozens accidents in Horsham and around the state over the past several years.

The problem is so serious that a study conducted by the University of North Texas Health Science Center found as many as 16,000 people were killed on highways nationwide between 2001 and 2007 due to accidents determined to be caused by texting or talking and driving.

In 2010 in Pennsylvania, nearly 14,000 wrecks involving distracted drivers were reported, with nearly 70 of the crashes resulting in deaths, according to PennDOT data.

Also, in recent years, the number of pedestrians struck by vehicles state – usually at-

tributed to distracted drivers – across the has increased, Upper Moreland police Chief Thomas Nestel said.

While pedestrian verse vehicle accidents only account for less than 4% of traffic incidents, on average, they make up nearly 11 percent of deaths related to car accidents, according to data provided by PennDOT.

"Your most important job when behind the wheel is to focus only on driving. Most people would never close their eyes for five seconds while driving, but that's how long you take your eyes of the road, or even longer, every time you send or read a text message," PennDOT Secretary Barry J. Schoch said in a recent statement.

Local law enforcement officers will be enforcing the law “proactively,” but police officer’s would have the discretion to decide whether a person should receive a ticket or a warning, Clark and several other chiefs said.

Bryan Munshaw, 21, Bucks student, said the new law has deterred him from texting

while driving.

Almost all the students we spoke with agreed with Munshaw.

“I never do it anymore,” said Paige Cooper, 19, education major of Upper Southampton. She added the new law was her main deterrent.

The new law, according to PennDOT, specifically does the following:

- Makes it a primary offense to use an Interactive Wireless Communication Device (IWCD) to send, read or write a text-based message.
- Defines an IWCD as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, smartphone, portable or mobile computer

or similar devices that can be used for texting, instant messaging, emailing or browsing the Internet.

- Defines a text-based message as a text message, instant message, email or other written communication composed or received on an IWCD.
- Institutes a \$50 fine for convictions.
- Makes clear that this law supersedes and preempts any local ordinances restricting the use of interactive wireless devices by drivers.

Clark said he hopes the law and enforcement by police will “encourage people not to drive distracted.”



Is online learning effective?

BY: KELSEY FOREMAN
Centurion Staff

Brianna Weiss, 24, an accounting major from Warington, decided to take online courses last fall as “an easy alternative for classroom sessions.” Unfortunately for Weiss, two out of three of her online classes did not prove to be an equivalent alternative for in-class sessions.

“It seemed that my professors thought of their online classes as a side project to their regular classes,” Weiss said. “It was nearly impossible to communicate with them in a timely manner, and my grades ended up suffering because of it.”

While online learning offers tremendous educational opportunities for students who can’t always get to campus, many students agree that it is not yet a perfect system, and that online courses are not for everyone.

There are many reasons people choose to enroll in online courses, such as full-time jobs, children and a lack of transportation. While online learning offers an education to people who are unable to get one otherwise, many of those interviewed say that online learning is sometimes not as effective as face-to-face learning.

“Communication was way cut off,” said Amanda Patricella, 22, of Fairless Hills. “Many things I needed help with I could not get because communicating through e-mail is so non-personable.”

A number of Bucks students interviewed said the lack of communication in online learning proved to be the no. 1 factor that lead many students to opt out of it.

Many said online learning works well for some students, but not others.

As journalism professor Tony Rogers said, “Distance learning, even with all the cool teaching tools available, is not a substitute for being in class for younger students who often lack self-discipline.” Rogers said students who are motivated and have self-discipline can do well in online learning. Those are typically older, more mature students.

Tara Meikelle, 23, a computer science major from Northeast Philadelphia, said that students who take online courses their freshman year

of college are “Taking on too much independence too suddenly. Many younger students do not yet have the time-management skills required for completing online courses and are not able to prioritize them as they would for regular classes.”

Communication Studies Professor Shawn Queeney, who teaches the online course Effective Speaking, feels that “online students must be disciplined and able to structure their time effectively. In face-to-face classes, you build your schedule when you register and follow it for the semester. In an online class, if you are not setting aside time to be ‘in class’ and time to complete all of the required work, you will have a difficult time passing that class.”

Rogers said that if students lacking self-discipline “don’t have a professor breathing down their necks every day to get the work done, they often don’t do it.”

“As one of my students once told me,” Rogers said, “there’s nothing like a 200-some-pound journalism professor standing in front of you asking where the heck your news story is to focus the mind.”

One common misconception among Bucks students regarding distance learning is that certain courses just “cannot be completed online,” as Weiss put it. Professor Queeney and other professors have even been able to transition a public speaking course, which is based around interaction with others, into an effective online learning course. “My goal (and the college’s) is to replicate the classroom, live audience experience for the online students as well,” Sweeney said.

To do so, students must videotape their speeches in front of a live audience consisting of at least six adults. Students taking this course online have access to the mindspace/library area and must videotape their speeches in a setting outside their home, in order to keep “the ‘public’ in public speaking,” as Professor Sweeney put it.

Sweeney said that students who work hard to establish a relationship with the instructor and classmates, and who manage their time sufficiently to get work done, have the ability to do very

well in this course.

According to Professor Sweeney, while there are many students who are capable of doing well in the online course, the face-to-face course proves to be more suitable for a number of students due to the following reasons. Sweeney said research has shown that students who have a moderate to high level of speech anxiety, which typically accounts for 75 percent of the class, tend to do better in face-to-face courses than online courses.

From a communication studies point of view, “If you are in a face to face class and have a positive relationship with your peers and instructor, you will probably be more comfortable when you deliver your speech,” Sweeney explained. Professor Sweeney also gave advice to his prospective students, saying, “So if there are any readers out there with moderate to high speech anxiety, fight the urge to sign up for an online class! Take the effective speaking class face to face!”

Many students interviewed, such as Charlotte Grasier, 20, an anthropology major from Buckingham, feel that “The quality of an online class is totally dependent upon the professor.” Grasier has taken online courses in which the professor was very helpful and quick to respond, and ones in which the professor was out of touch, making the course very difficult.

To ensure that an online instructor will be reliable, and involved with the course, there are many helpful websites such as ratemyprofessors.com that include student reviews, feedback, and opinions of professors. It is also indicated on the website which reviews came from students that took online courses for that professor.

“My grades definitely suffered in the classes where it was hard to get a hold of the teacher,” stated Grasier. Many other students such as Patricella and Weiss also reported lower grades in online courses as opposed to regular courses.

In fact, a report by the Community College Research Center stated that students are more likely to fail or withdraw from online courses than traditional ones. The dropout rate for online courses is actually 15-20 per-



Students learning via computer.

PHOTO BY PICTURE MAN

cent higher than traditional courses nationally, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Colin Rockwell, 22, a liberal arts major from Trevoze, said the lack of an interpersonal relationship with his professor and peers was a factor in his choice to withdraw from his online English Composition class last spring.

Rockwell, who suffers from ADHD, felt that “there were too many distractions at the click of a mouse.” Rockwell also said that “Without the human interaction aspect of learning, it is very difficult to stay on task and focused.”

According to Dr. Christian Grandzol of Bloomsburg University, “cognitive theory suggests more interaction in learning environments leads to improved learning outcomes and increased student satisfaction.”

Many students report a feeling of isolation when not getting their education in a classroom of peers. Students have also reported a lack of confidence when unable to compare their work with other students.

Also, there are many technological issues that come into play in online learning. “Technology is not as reliable as we would like to think,” Weiss stated. The Internet can go down, causing interruptions which restrict one from learning. This can also cause a big problem when it comes to deadlines.

In the spring semester of 2008, an online course management program called CE6 experienced a “severe hardware malfunction” that deleted all students’ work for

an entire week. The crash was due to a disc-drive failure, and the back-up mechanism failed to work as well. All coursework students submitted through the program throughout the week was erased and never recovered.

Software and/or equipment are also often required to complete an online course, which not all students have easy access to. Such programs can cost extra money that the school does not factor in at the beginning of the semester. Some of these items can be used at or rented from the library, but it cannot always be guaranteed that the library will have every item in stock, so it is helpful to ensure you will have access to any software or items you may need before taking an online course.

“A computer won’t ever be able to replicate a classroom, no matter what,” Meikelle said. “It is important for people getting an education to have relationships with their peers and teachers; it increases the value of that education.”

Before taking an online course, prospective students can verify whether or not an online course is suitable for them by going to the Bucks website, and visiting the many helpful links on the Virtual Campus under “Academics > Online Learning.”



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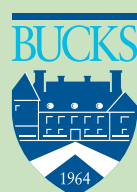
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Is the internet making us lazier and dumber?

BY: MELISSA FLEISHMAN
Centurion Staff

Sitting in a mall food court, two teenagers were having a discussion on music. One of them questioned when Kurt Cobain killed himself. The other did not know the answer. They both whipped out their cell phones.

When someone is asked a question or needs to know information, the most common answer or solution these days is, “Hold on, I will Google it.”

“You do not have to retain information because if you don’t know something you can look it up on your phone real fast,” said Steven Southrey, 33 of Philadelphia.

Google and other search engines are everywhere. From desktop computers, to portable laptops, to cell phones in pockets, anyone can access the internet at any time.

The internet contains information from almost everywhere in the world and

allows average people access to information they would not normally be able to access; however, is that affecting a person’s need to have a fully functioning brain?

“You don’t have to learn things, you can Google search everything. Obviously you can’t perform heart surgery from watching a video on YouTube, but you can watch a doctor do it and take notes,” says Southrey.

Before the internet and search engines came into play, schools taught simple lessons on spelling, grammar, history, science, etc. Now, students might learn this information, but there is no need whatsoever to retain the information as it is available at the click of a mouse.

All of these advances in technology and the internet cause people to become lazy. Why read something when you can Google it?

Apparently, doctors find Google just as helpful instead of flipping through thousands of pages in a medical diction-

ary.

According to a survey performed by the IPSOS, the world’s third ranked research company, for Wolters Kluwer Health in 2011, 46 percent of doctors use Google, Yahoo, or another web browser as a frequent source to diagnose, treat and care for patients. Another statistic is that 42 percent of doctors frequently use WebMD or MayoClinic to diagnose, treat and care for patients.

Scary, isn’t it?

An experiment performed by scientists led by Dr. Betsy Sparrow, assistant professor of psychology at Colombia University, let participants read statements and test them to find if internet use affects memory.

“Participants did not make the effort to remember when they thought they could later look up the trivia statement they had read,” the scientists stated.

Of course, society does not use the internet solely for research. Many Americans use



More and more people are turning to Google and Bing as primary sources for information.

the internet as consumers.

During the 2011 holiday season, half of all consumers in a survey conducted by ClickIQ said they purchased at least some of their gifts online.

How does this technology effect the way society runs and how do Americans cope?

“The internet is not going away, nor is social media. As a society, we will really have no choice but to adapt over time in terms of what we put out there, how we view what is out there, how we interact with that is out there, and how we let what is out there affect us,” said 23 year old, Chase Kramer of Philadel-

phia.

Instead of making decisive conclusions on how the internet is effecting society and making people dumb and lazy, maybe waiting to see the future of the technological advances is best.

After all, every generation has its technological advances.

“A hundred years ago, someone who paid to have a telegram sent instead of the cheaper, more traditional option of riding across town to deliver it by hand might have seemed lazy and wasteful to those who did not have that technology growing up,” said Kramer.

3D movies not too popular at Bucks

Bucks students discuss whether or not they like the 3D technology that is starting to be used everywhere, and why or why not they like it.

BY: STEPHEN GODWIN JR.
Centurion Staff

It is Friday night and Drew Purcell and his friends are heading to Neshaminy Mall Movie Theatre to watch “Priest” in 3D.

After Purcell and his friends gather into the theatre and the clicking of the projector begins to sound, the movie has an unexpected disappointment.

“The movie was all hyped up, but when we got there it turned out to be in post 3D mode and it hurt everyone’s eyes,” Purcell said. Post 3D mode is when film makers make a movie and then try to throw the 3D effects in late.

This has been a reoccurring theme for many movie goers.

The overall popularity of these types of movies can be argued, but the 2011 Theatrical Market Statistics Report from the Motion Picture Association of America revealed a 4 percent decrease in ticket sales. Studios originally implemented 3D in order to boost the box office, but that tactic has seemingly backfired and audiences are seemingly fighting back.

Matthew Schuler, business administration major from Levittown said, “I feel like 3D movies are ruining the film industry. I think it’s great that Hollywood is bringing back old favorites

for a new audience, but doing it in 3D is saying the old way of showing a movie was not good enough.”

The most popular thing about 3D movies is that images on the screen seem to come out at you and make you feel like you are a part of the action. This works well for some movies, but others you are often left with a feeling of, “What did I just pay for?”

Brendan Kerr, a liberal arts major from Hilltown, was asked about 3D movies and said, “I don’t really like them, because I feel Hollywood is just trying to sell cheap thrills.”

Too many studios have tried to make 3D movies by shooting them in 2D and then trying to make it look good afterwards.

While 3D movies can be enjoyable, many filmgoers complain of negative side effects. Dave Lindennan a Bensalem student at Bucks is undecided on his major, but said, “I don’t really like 3D movies, because they give me motion sickness.”

A report on found in the “Journal of Vision” on CNN.com, stated, “Certain kinds of 3D displays cause extra eye fatigue.”

3D movies are extremely expensive to make and that in turn means that the ticket prices rise dramatically. The



The 3D glasses that are used to fully enjoy the 3D technology.

average cost is around \$13 and could increase with last year’s box office revenue dropping four percent. This is not obviously good news for college students.

One also has to wonder if Hollywood is running out of ideas as it is reformatting old favorites from the past into 3D such as "Star Wars," "The Lion King" and "Beauty and the Beast."

Alyssa McKendrick, a cinema video major from Warington said, “I think originally when it was used, it was used it was good, but now I think it is overused with just remaking some old movies.”

American film critic and screenwriter Roger Ebert’s distaste for 3D movies has been well documented. In a 2010 edition of Newsweek he wrote, “3D is a waste of a perfectly good dimension. Hollywood’s current crazy stampede toward it is suicidal. It adds nothing essential to the movie going experience. For some, it is an annoying distraction. For others, it creates nausea and headaches,” Ebert says.

3D movies are not without their supporters. Dan Wilks, a business administration major from Levittown, said, “I just like how the stuff pops out at you. They are pretty

expensive so I cannot afford to go all the time, but I have seen Jaws and Jackass in 3D that was pretty awesome.”

Even Purcell had positive things to say about 3D movies, despite his bad experience. “I do like 3D movies because it makes the movies more interactive and adds a different component to the movie,” Purcell said.

In the Chicago Sun-Times, film editor Walter Murch calls 3D technology "dark, small, stroby, headache inducing, alienating, and expensive.” Murch then asks the question, “How long will it take people to realize and get fed up?”

Southwestern Advantage recruits on campus

The company solicits students at Bucks, even though Security officials say they shouldn't.

BY: GREG PROBST
Centurion Staff

A corporate recruiter for a major company has been soliciting and interviewing Newtown campus students for the chance to be selected for a summer internship.

Rachel Demp, a communications degree holder from Michigan and current Bucks marketing student, is recruiting for Southwestern Advantage; a company comprised of 21 sister businesses ranging in products from music production, insurance, real estate and publishing.

Southwestern was founded in 1855 and has worked with colleges for 155 years.

"Southwestern is the nation's oldest and largest intern company," said Demp.

But how do they select their candidates for the program and is the venture beneficial to Bucks students?

Southwestern Advantage takes 30,000 applications for their internship and only 3,000 are selected for the program. The program consists of selling SAT prep books from door to door for 12 weeks out of the summer break.

Those selected and the recruiters all caravan together down to Nashville, TN for a training course during the week after finals in the middle of May. After that they relocate to either Minnesota or Wisconsin where you stay

with a host family and are expected to work around 80 hours a week, spending your 13 hour days visiting around 30-35 households a day, according to Demp.

The Southwestern recruiter mentioned her "Superstar Book" which lists the top sellers from last summer's internship. It has pictures of students and how much money they've earned. The top girl made \$35,000 during one summer.

"This is the farthest thing from a get rich quick scheme," said Demp. "There are no guarantees but there are no limits."

She added that the average student makes around \$8,000 a summer from sales. For every book sold the workers makes a 40% commission. The SAT prep books sell for \$150, so the salesperson would get \$60 of that price.

The \$8,000 does not deduct your personal expenses for the trip. Southwestern employs students as an independent contractor, so your rent, groceries and living expenses must be paid for by the individual.

And after six days of work, Sunday is the only day off.

"Everyone gets together and participates in some kind of social activity," Demp said. "We kind of become like a hardcore unit."

A quick Google search turned up links to pages detailing opponents of South-

western Advantages practices. Pages titled "Southwestern Advantage complaints" and accusations that they scam workers were rife.

I found one website called www.southwesterncompanytruth.com dedicated completely to giving testimonies from previous interns, usually with negative experiences.

In another testimonial, a man named Dwayne from Colorado explains how for five days he did not have a place to stay when he was relocated by Southwestern to a different state during his time working with the program.

"We were in touch with management the whole time and they 'encouraged' us to just keep trying," Dwayne's testimonial said.

After claiming that he just wanted to leave and go home, Dwayne said only then did Southwestern happen to find a home for him to stay in.

When asked about these issues Demp responded by saying they are non-issues.

"We've been around since 1855 so obviously we didn't always set things up in the olden times," states Demp. "I personally set up everything beforehand for interns. There's no chance that our interns won't have a place to stay."

While on the topic of host families, I ask Demp how Southwestern goes about re-

cruiting the homes for students.

Demp mentioned the door-to-door solicitation the company employs is how Southwestern has operated since their inception over a century ago.

Wikipedia states that a summer can cost the intern between \$1,500 and \$3,000 for expenses and as a result of this, some interns return in debt without any profit.

"This wouldn't happen," she said. "We would send them home before they would lose money on anything."

Demp also said that all of the students interns receive \$2,500 worth of sales training and supplies for free.

"There are no starter kits to purchase," she said.

When asked about a statistic from a website stating that nearly a third of interns leave the program before completion Demp confirmed that about 70 percent of them leave before completing the 12-week program.

"When you think about colleges we have a better rate then some college dropout rates," she said.

Demp is adamant about her cause. She said she's a firm believer in Southwestern's values and is a living example of the positive outcome available, having spent five summers with the company herself.

"My goal is to have the best interest of the student at

heart," said Demp. "That's why I've been doing this for 5 years."

The company's Wikipedia page also claims that Southwestern Advantage has been banned from soliciting at the University of Birmingham and the University of Idaho.

According to the office of Security and Safety at the Bucks Newtown campus and the school's Student Life department, the company is not permitted to solicit at the community college.

Director of Security and Safety, Dennis Macauley, said companies and organizations are not allowed to solicit without permission at Bucks.

"If Southwestern was granted permission to survey students they would have to go through the Student Life office," he said.

Matthew Cipriano, the director of student life, said Bucks has a policy barring solicitation on its campuses.

"There's a no solicitation policy on campus," said Cipriano. "Everyone has to check-in and any floaters will be removed from the campus."

Cipriano said he had previously never heard of Southwestern Advantage and confirmed that their solicitation is in violation of Bucks rules.



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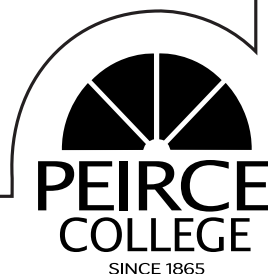
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Bucks receives anonymous donation for music program to buy pianos

The college's music program receives a \$72,000 gift to buy much-needed new Steinway pianos

BY: CRYSTAL GOULDEY
Centurion Staff

Walking into the Multimedia Center on the Bucks County Community College's main campus, it's apparent that the approximately 100 students enrolled in the music program are lacking the support they need. Students are sprawled on the floor, crammed in corners and practicing their instrument of choice wherever they can; there's not enough practice rooms to go around. And while the performance room in the building has good acoustics, the students don't even have a stage.

So it was a welcome surprise when an anonymous donor gave the program \$72,000 and recognized the students and teachers for doing a great job.

Assistant Professor of Music, Edward Ferdinand, says the money will purchase two new Steinway pianos. Most of the pianos the de-

partment currently has are over 40 years old.

"The pianos are used every day, all day," he said. "They are vital to the Music Program. They are used for all classes, many lessons and rehearsals, and of course, concerts. They are not only used by our faculty and students, but by visiting artists as well. One example is the Eroica Trio that will be giving a Master Class and Concert on April 25th. They are Steinway Artists, and only play a Steinway."

Founded in 1853, Steinway pianos are the top choice for many performers. This is why Ferdinand started the "Steinway Acquisition Project" in hopes to turn Bucks into an all Steinway school. Other all Steinway schools include Yale University's music program and the Juilliard School in New York. Before this recent donation, the Presser Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Bucks Music Program,



Photo Caption: Music and Multimedia Center at Bucks

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER WIRTH

enabling the purchase of the 7-foot Steinway Grand Piano.

You can show support for the music program by attending the open jam session every Wednesday night at the Temperance House restaurant in Newtown. The spring concert series is in full swing as well. Thursday, April 26, the percussion ensemble performs, Monday, April 30, the

classical chamber ensembles, Wednesday, May 2, the concert choir and Thursday, May 3, the jazz orchestra. All concerts start at 7:30 p.m. and are held in the Presser Room in the Multimedia Center.

Some students are hoping to be able to play other places on campus as well.

"It would be great to have musicians playing on the

beautiful new stages built in the cafeteria during the hour that no one in the college as class between 12:30 and 1:30 in the afternoon," said Virginia Corsello, a jazz vocalist in the music program.

Bucks County Community College is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

Summer classes offer Bucks students a chance to get ahead in coursework

Summer classes are offered at all Bucks campuses, and are much shorter than the fall and spring classes

BY: CENTURION STAFF

For many students, the idea of taking classes in the summer is not a particularly pleasing idea as the time of year is traditionally seen as a time to take a break from the rigors of education. But for those students who want to be the exception, Bucks has a tradition of offering options for current students as well as students from other colleges.

Two years ago Bucks went from four day a week courses to longer two day a week courses to cut costs, and summer course availability and enrollment has increased in those past two years, particularly for online students. Travel distance and rising transportation costs seem to be the biggest reasons for this.

Courses involving math (and especially statistics) are the summer courses that tend to increase the most, and Bucks Director of Registration Robert Maley says it has to do with student confidence.

"Students seem to think that they will have problems with math courses if they take it with other courses in the

spring and fall semester, so they like to take them in the summer as a lone course," Maley said.

The summer semester is split into two bi-semesters lasting six weeks each, and each course is taught in the same amount of time that it would be if it were being taught during the spring or fall. But those students who feel that the six week period would be too much of a crunch; they do have options with some 12 week courses that overlap both bi-semesters. Crunching the material can be a problem for some students though.

"While there isn't anything particularly remarkable about how good or bad the grades are in the summer relative to the spring and fall, it isn't uncommon to see some students try to crunch their work in six week courses and suffer because of it," said Maley. "Therefore, I encourage students to think hard about crunching college work in a six week time span."

However, some students seem to think that there is actually less work in summer courses even though the total time in the classroom is the



Photo Caption: Bucks County Community College Newtown Campus

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER WIRTH

same as in the fall or spring.

"I took summer courses before and I loved them," said Bucks student Amy Griffith. "The professors are more lenient in the summer classes and there is less work to do."

There are many courses that require a prerequisite course, and the summer is a great time to take prerequisite courses. But it should be noted that if there isn't enough student demand for a

summer course then the course will ultimately not be offered. Demand for this upcoming summer semester seemed to be lower than average, but just this past week there was an unexpected spike in student enrollment.

Summer courses offer the chance to get college credits and check off courses on the student degree audit, and some students even see the summer as the opportunity

for a second chance.

"I dropped a course that I had to take and felt like I would regret it," said Bucks student Jonathan Mutchiga. "But after seeing that the course would be offered in the upcoming summer semester, I will consider playing carpe diem and take advantage of the opportunity."

12 Angry Jurors playing at Bucks

BY: ANTHONY DIMATTIA
Centurion Staff

The Bucks Department of the Arts was proud to present the Sherman Sergel adaptation of 12 Angry Jurors in the Gateway auditorium from April 26 to 28.

Directed by Shelli Pentimall Bookler, associate professor of the arts at Bucks, and consisting of a group of young and talented Bucks students, the play proved that innocent until proven guilty is not always the case in our court system. Originally taken from the Reginald Rose Emmy award-winning drama 12 Angry Men, the plays main theme focuses on the inadequacies of our justice system and the prejudices that affect those accused of crimes.

In it, a panel of 12 men and women passionately debated the fate of a 16 year old boy who has been accused of stabbing his father to death. Initially challenged by the 11 other jurors to convict the young and under privileged boy, one juror stands alone in an attempt to prove reasonable doubt.

As the play evolves it be-

comes distinctively evident to the audience that each characters bias in one way or another has masked their sense to decipher the actually facts of the case.

“The play is about prejudice and justice,” said Richard Lipsack, who played Juror 11, a Russian immigrant conflicted with the choice of sending a boy to his death bed. “We thought that the play could still be relatable to today’s society,” said Lipsack when asked why this particular play was chosen by the group.

The colorful cast included Bucks students Ally O’Rourke-Barrett, Kayleigh Liggitt, Kevin Christian, Teri Maxwell, Brendan Tuthill, Karl Schoeler, Dustin Chun, Tim Schumann, Kerri Donaghy, David Piccinetti, Richard Lipsack, Jenniveve Sadowski, Mark Revotskie, and Steve Dillon.

The play was highlighted by stirring performances by Kevin Christian, who played the self-righteous third juror determined to convict the alleged murderer. Christian was able to bring the unrelenting character to life with his physically and emotional

presence.

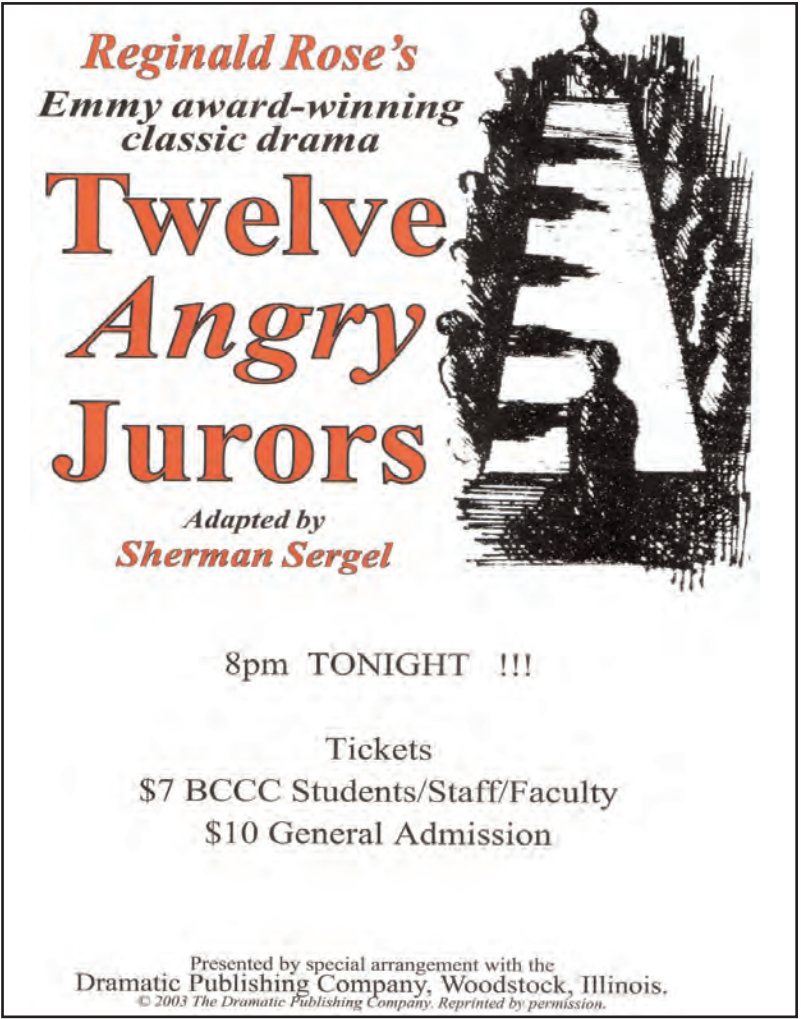
Countering Christian’s character was Juror 8 played by Tim Schumann, who becomes the first dissenter who vehemently opposes convicting the alleged killer. Schumann’s effortless portrayal of the soft spoken juror was vital to the plays integrity, as it acts as the counter balance to the boorish and stubborn third juror.

Other exceptional performances included outspoken Juror 7 played flawlessly by Dustin Chun, who seemed as if the character came as second nature to him. Also Lipsack, a late edition to the cast who was performing in his first play since high school, nailed the Russian accent of Juror 11.

The cast and crew involved in the production had been at it since late February trying to hone their skills and produce the best play possible.

In all, the entire cast was successful in their attempt to recreate the timeless masterpiece.

“We had such a good project, with everyone all flowing together,” stated Christian after the show, describing how the cast and crew pulled together



to pull off the classic drama. The head of the stellar cast, Christian emphasized that “We had 12 good people working together.” The challenges of performing a play of such serious nature were obvious to the cast, as the effort required to convey the characters true emotions on a nightly basis could be physically exhausting but fulfilling in the end.

“You have to get used to it, although it definitely drains you,” said Christian. “It’s our job to bring it every night,” replied Christian, who like

some of the other cast members was somewhat unhappy with their Friday night performance. It has been stated that the opening and closing shows are almost always the best ones to attend.

“The third ones a redemption show,” said Chun jokingly, highlighting the shows third and final showing of the spring.

If Friday nights showing was any indication of what the other performances were like, then the audience members were sure to have gotten their money’s worth.

THE WEEK IN TV/MOVIES/MUSIC/BOOKS

TV

Monday 4/30
Dancing With the Stars - ABC - 8:00
The Voice - NBC - 9:00
Hawaii Five-0 - CBS - 10:00

Tuesday 5/1
Glee - FOX- 8:00
NCIS: Los Angeles - CBS - 9:00
Fashion Star - NBC - 10:00

Wednesday 5/2
American Idol - FOX - 8:00
Modern Family - ABC - 9:00
CSI - CBS - 10:00

Thursday 5/3
The Big Bang Theory - CBS - 8:00
30 Rock - NBC - 8:30

Friday 5/4
Shark Tank - ABC - 8:00
Grimm - NBC - 9:00
Dateline - NBC - 10:00

Sunday 5/5
Once Upon A Time - ABC - 8:00
Family Guy - FOX - 9:00
Breakout Kings - A&E - 10:00

MOVIES


THEATER

The Avengers (PG-13)
Marvel Studios presents 'Marvel's The Avengers'--the Super Hero team up of a lifetime, featuring iconic Marvel Super Heroes Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow.
Directed by: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey, Jr. , Chris Evans , Chris Hemsworth , Samuel L. Jackson , Don Cheadle
Release Date: May 4

DVD

Haywire (R)
Former MMA fighter Gina Carano makes her debut as a lead actress in this action-thriller about a freelance black-ops agent who seeks revenge against the forces who have conspired against her.
Directed by: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Antonio Banderas, Channing Tatum, Bill Paxton, and Michael Fassbender
Release Date: May 1

MUSIC



Rufus Wainwright
New Album "Out of the Game"
May 1

Keane
New Album "Strangeland"
May 8

Squarepusher
New Album "Ufabulum"
May 15

BOOKS

"I Am a Pole (And So Can You!)"
Written By: Stephen Colbert**Release Date:** May 7

"The perfect gift to give a child or grandchild for their high school or college graduation. Also Father's Day. Also, other times."
- Stephen Colbert

"The Accused"
Written by: John Grisham
Release Date: May 14

Filled with the intrigue and page-turning suspense that made John Grisham a #1 international bestseller and the undisputed master of the legal thriller, Theodore Boone's adventures will keep readers enthralled until the very last page.

"The Walking Dead, Volume 1"
Written by: Robert Kirkman and Charlie Adlard
Release Date: May 21

This deluxe hardcover features the first 24 issues of the hit series (complete with covers) all in one massive, oversized slip-cased volume. Perfect for longtime fans, new readers, and anyone needing a heavy object with which to fend off The Walking Dead!

"Are we all avatars?"

...Humanity has become separate from the world.

-Adrian Ivakhiv

BY: MICHAEL CATHCART

Centurion Staff

Adrian Ivakhiv, a professor at the University of Vermont, came to the Newtown Campus Tuesday April 17 to give a speech in the Gateway Auditorium. The title of Adrian's speech was "Are we all Avatars Now? Living in the age of the World Motion Picture."

Adrian describes the World Motion Picture, or Empire of the Eye, as "something more complicated than a movie." Where a movie is a predetermined perspective of a controlled scene, the World Motion Picture is infinite and ever changing perspectives of the motion picture called the world.

His speech focused on how technology has affected our perspective of the world. "Technology has given us an objective picture of the universe." His main focus, however, was visual and televisual technology which Adrian says "is at the core of information sharing." He describes the role of images in human history "humans have always told stories and used visual representation to help portray them."

But Adrian argued the "rapid advancement of technologies has caused humans to view the world and universe objectively as an outsider." He continued to say "Humanity has become separate from the world." We just watch it go by, "brought on," according to Professor Ivakhiv, "by the use of fossil fuels," speeding up human lives and this disengaging them from their surroundings.

At this point in the speech, Adrian introduced James Cameron's epic blockbuster "Avatar," the most watched film worldwide. Adrian equated the humans mining for "unobtainium" on the planet Pandora to us on Earth not connected to the beauty of the world surrounding them, unlike the Na'vi.

Professor Ivakhiv described the vastly successful film as "Pocahontas meets Bambi and a high tech Dances with wolves." "Avatar" is filled with many allegories which Adrian outlined including the destruction of "Home tree" to the attacks of September 11, and the quest for the rare mineral as "the military-industrial-complex" exploiting the lands of the native people.

Many people saw their own message in the film and as Professor Ivakhiv described, the film "set in motion emotional currents throughout the world." He continued the "film lead to global activism and a change in human perspective in the world."

An "Avatar" is "the body or character a person takes on to accomplish something and then returned physically unchanged." This is the Na'vi body the main character consciously possess to accomplish their mission. Adrian argues that humans today, through the avatars of mass media such as the internet and television. "The camera allows the 'seer' to remain hidden, something never possible before."

Professor Adrian Ivakhiv's lecture on "Avatar" and its effect on society were very interesting; despite some minor technological difficulties it was a smooth and interesting talk.



Adrian Ivakhiv, University of Vermont

Who is Adrian Ivakhiv?

Ivakhiv has been generating a lot of buzz around campus recently, but who is he exactly and what brought him all the way from Vermont?

BY: DAN SULON

Centurion Staff

Adrian Ivakhiv visited Bucks this past week to discuss the similarities between movies and our everyday lives, and how the line between the two is blurring, but who is he?

Dr. Adrian Ivakhiv is a teacher of environmental thought at the University of Vermont, and a friend of the Bucks philosophy teacher Dr. Brahinsky.

When asked what motivated him to give this presentation his answer was simple. Ivakhiv repeated what he said in his presentation "Movies unite the world in a way that only a few things can". The cult like followings movies such as

Avatar, Star Wars and Star Trek "Shows the effect and obsession Hollywood holds over us".

It is important to note that many of the movies that have held an impact on our society have been of the science fiction genre. This is not to take anything away from blockbuster of other genres, but Forest Gump, Titanic and Lord of the Rings never led to dramatic social and scientific changes. Ivakhiv believes that this is because "Science Fiction raises questions about the future".

Ivakhiv delivered his message to Bucks students at the behest of his friend Dr. Brahinsky, who teaches classes on philosophy, religion, and existentialism here at Bucks. "I made all the students in my classes attend because I thought his message

was important" he said.

Both Brahinsky and Ivakhiv agreed that while movies are probably the best example, others areas of Pop Culture such as Music and Literature can impact the world in great ways.

"Bob Dylan was what motivated me" Brahinsky said when asked what influenced him on the course he would take with his life, and Ivakhiv came to become interested in his career on the basis of ideas that came to light in the 60's during the environmental movement.

If you wish to take influence on the ideas taught by Ivakhiv and Brahinsky, consider a major in Philosophy or Anthropology, and mix it in with some environmental science for good measure.

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the
perfect
fit.

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Bucks glee club presents “A Very Potter Musical”

BY: CRYSTAL GOULDEY
Centurion Staff

If you are a “Glee” and “Harry Potter” fan, you'll love “A Very Potter Musical,” which is what Bucks' Glee Club will be performing on campus May 10 through May 12.

Kyle Bound, director and playing the role of Harry Potter, hopes it will help bring attention to the fledgling club. “It's always been a personal favorite of mine and we are a new club so we needed a good musical to get our name out there,” said Bound.

The musical is a parody of J.K. Rowling's series, based on the book by Matt Lang, Nick Lang and Brian Holden, with music and lyrics by “Glee” cast member Darren Criss and A.J. Holmes. The first production was on April 9, 2009 at the University of Michigan. After its run there, it became a hit on YouTube.

Sarah Mahony, 20, an ele-

mentary and special education major at Bucks, is playing the female lead Hermione Granger. “Hermione is an awesome role and I fell in love with playing her,” said Mahony.

Mahony describes herself as a huge Harry Potter fan, having read all the books, attended all the preview book opening and waited to see every midnight showing. She enjoys working with the cast of the Potter musical, calling them a “great group of people.”

“We definitely have great chemistry and I really love being a part of an awesome show with them,” said Mahony. This won't be Mahony's first time in a musical, she's played Aldonza in “Man of La Mancha,” Brenda in “The Pajama Game” and Cora Apple in “You Could Die Laughing,” to name a few.

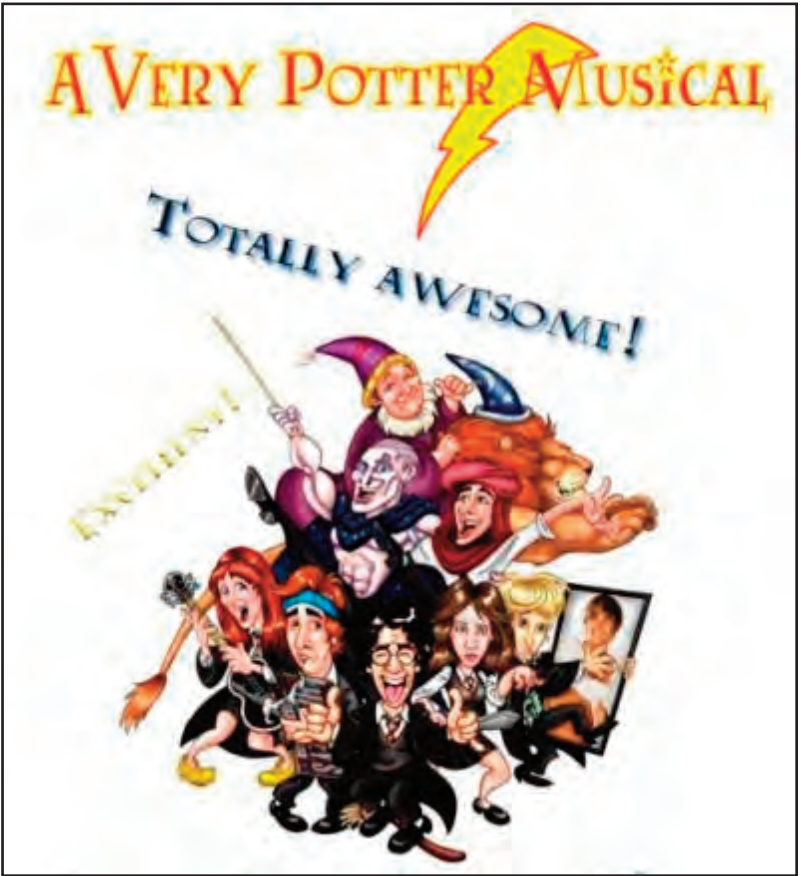
Cast members agree the most stressful part of prepar-

ing for show time is juggling memorizing all their lines along with their heavy course loads. The spring rehearsal schedule required giving up Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. But they also agree it's worth it.

Opposite of Bound and Mahony is Dave Piccinetti, 22, psychology major, playing the part of Ron Weasley. Piccinetti had this role practically fall in his lap.

“I was walking by the auditions, and people asked me to audition so I did. And I got they part, which was not expected,” said Piccinetti. “I've never done a musical before, and it's been quite a ride thus far. Excited about the future.”

Although musicals are new territory for Piccinetti, he's no stranger to the stage. He's played Malcolm in “Macbeth,” Dogberry in “Much Ado About Nothing” and tons of improvisation comedy shows in Philadelphia,



Chicago and New York. He's even part of an improvisation group called “Deleted Scenes,” which is composed of Bucks' Alumni.

There are currently 30 members of Bucks' Glee club, with sociology and criminal justice instructor Sarah Jakub acting as advisor. “A Very Potter Musical” will be performed at 7:00 p.m. on Thur., May 10 and Fri., May 11, and 2:00 p.m.

on Sat., May 12. All performance will be held in the Gallagher Room on Newtown's campus, and admission is free to the public.

Painting pictures with poems

Cleveland Wall read her poems and dramatically recited them to the audience. Cleveland was one of the runners-up from the recent Robert Fraser open poetry competition.

BY: DIANE DAVIES-DIXON
Centurion Staff

She painted pictures of beautiful ponds and skimming rocks through the dramatization of her poems. Cleveland Wall had her poems memorized as she dramatically recited them to the audience. Cleveland was one of the runner's up from the Robert Fraser open poetry competition. “Cleveland was my favorite. She was dramatic,” said Eileen Flor, of Richboro, a workshop student of Dr. Christopher Bursk's. “Her poetry is inspiring and at times it made me want to write myself.” Cleveland has been writing poetry since she was eight-years old. Although, she has never won a poetry competition, she did win a worst-sen-

tence contest at a writer's conference in Fresno, CA. Her prize was a bottle of Chardonnay. This competition is the closest she has ever come to winning a poetry competition. “I am pretty tickled to be runner up for this one, as there were so many good poets vying for the prize,” Wall said. “I felt like I connected to her poetry” said Kate McCafferty, 23, of Bristol, fine arts major. “The way that she uses her voice is artsy and she adds humor.” Christopher Bursk is a constant inspiration for Cleveland. “As a poet and a teacher and a mind (He will hate that I said that, but it is true).” Wall said. “The great community of poets in Bucks County is also inspiring.” “I usually don't know what the poem is about until after

I've written it.” Wall said. As far as her famous favorite poets, she admires Rilke, Poe, Sylvia Plath, Elizabeth Bishop and so many others there isn't enough room to list. “Mostly my train of thought will be rattling down the tracks and somehow settle into a poetry groove.” said Wall. That is how she gets motivated to write. Her poetry is mostly written in freestyle and she casually uses rhyme but she also likes to play with visual poetry. This is evident in the way she had her poems memorized and used hand gestures to paint the picture of the story she was telling in her poems. She doesn't try to send a message through her poetry because “when I try to do that I tend to write very bad poems.” Wall said. “For the



Cleveland Wall. PHOTO FROM HTTP://CLEVELANDWALL.AIRSET.COM/#_p.HOME

Cured

*Shoes are strung
on the telephone wire
outside the skate shop
like crutches at Lourdes,
as if their owners had been cured
of perambulation forever
and evermore would roll along
friction-free and bootless.*

alchemy to work, the message has to put itself in the bottle.” “I have been to four or five readings so far. I liked Cleveland's performance.” said Kyle Knoblauch, 22, of Bristol. The Wordsmiths series on March30 was held in the Orangery where the runners up Laura Holloway, Bernadette McBride and Cleveland Wall read their poetry along with the winner of the 2012 Robert Fraser Poetry Compe-

tition, Janet Poland and April Lindner the Robert Fraser Distinguished Visiting Poet who was the judge of the competition. The Orangery was filled window to window with students, faculty and staff. Some of them are aspiring poets themselves. Advice from Janet Poland “Living alert and attentive, poems will come to you.” What she means is to see things for what they really are. It will bring out the poet in you.

Mustangs overpower Centurions

BY: ANTHONY DIMATTIA
Centurion Staff

The Bucks baseball team lost again to Montgomery County Community College on April 24, allowing the Mustang’s potent lineup to dominate to the tune of 11-5. The game got off to a rocky start for the Centurions and starting pitcher Zach Stuebing, who, after retiring the first two batters allowed four runs in the first inning. After a scoreless second, the Mustangs added another three runs off Stuebing in the third to break the score wide open. “We could have played better, but we let it get away from us a little early,” said center fielder and leadoff man Jonathon Unangst, who shined in his return to the lineup after being ejected in the previous matchup between the Mustangs. Montgomery’s heart of the order gave the Centurions pitching staff fits all afternoon, as their 3-6 hitters combined for eight hits, nine runs and six RBI. Unfortunately, Bucks was stymied by Montgomery right hander

Justin Cunnane whose complete game helped seal the victory for the Mustangs. Cunnane used his deceptive curveball early and often to keep the Centurion hitters off balanced, totaling eight strikeouts on the day. “He had a good curve with late break,” said Unangst, who struck out twice against Cunnane but chipped in three hits while also scoring twice. Second basemen Dustin Singer also went 2-4 with a pair of runs batted in, who along with Unangst were the lone bright spots of an otherwise bleak offensive output. “We started out badly which put us in a big hole,” said head coach Donald Perry, stating that this characteristic has been a recurring theme throughout the season. After finding themselves down 9-3 after six innings the Centurions turned to left handed reliever Joseph Rybicki, who worked around trouble in the seventh to help stop the bleeding. “Joe came to us midway through the season and established himself in many ways as a pitcher and in the field,” said Perry of the freshman from

Lower Moreland. After spurts of offense, the Centurions finally responded in the bottom half of the seventh with two runs thanks in part to three Mustang errors. However, the Bucks rally was short lived as Montgomery came right back to score two more runs in the eighth to stretch their lead to six. After settling down in the eighth, Cunnane was able to help his own cause by snagging a screaming line drive off the bat of Rybicki to retire the side. The freshman right hander retired the Centurions with ease in the ninth, striking out the final batter to cap off the game for the Mustangs. “It took us a few at-bats to get going, we didn’t really hit the ball until the fourth inning,” said Unangst, who highlight the Centurions slow start as a factor in the outcome. The Montgomery players weren’t the only problem facing the Centurions, as questionable calls seemed to plague the team throughout the game. Many of the Centurions voiced their displeasure with the home plate



Bucks player sliding into third base.

umpire’s large strike zone, especially after a debatable third strike call against short-stop Matthew Creevey in the fourth. “How can you call that a strike,” exclaimed Unangst, who argued that the ball was well below the batter’s knees. The first base umpire also missed an apparent interference call on Montgomery first basemen Tim Sugalski that eventually resulted in Stuebing being thrown out at third after trying to stretch a double into a triple in the sixth inning. “You just gotta play through it,” said

Unangst, showing poise for a high school kid out of Penn Ridge. The loss drops the Centurions record to 3-22 on the season with only two games remaining on the schedule. The Bucks players will look to end on a high note with a doubleheader against Camden County College, with team captain Ryan Calabro and Unangst scheduled to take the mound. Hopefully the Centurions can use the final two games to help build momentum towards next season.



Bucks Tennis defeated Harrisburg Area Community College by a score of 4-1 on April 21, 2012. The doubles were split with neither team gaining an advantage. Bucks were in control of the singles matches winning four of the five matches played. Derek Mindler, Dave Kostenbauder, Ed Packer all won their men's singles matches while Emily Roynan won on the women's side. Kostenbauder and Packer also won in the men's doubles



All photos from Bucks County Community College Athletics Facebook page.

Big inning not enough for Centurions

BY: PETE KROSZNER
Centurion Staff

The last time the Bucks Centurions and the Middlesex Colts squared off the result was a tightly fought 3-2 Colt victory. The rematch at Bucks County Community College had a pregame thought that it would be of type of game. Nothing could have been further from the truth as the Colts (10-13) trounced the Centurions (3-18) in a

dominating 25-6 performance on April 19. Bucks starter Blake Cohen struggled through four innings, as he gave up eleven runs on seven hits. The Colts biggest inning came in the seventh inning that put their total over the mercy rule and ended the game two innings early. The Centurion bats were kept quiet most of the afternoon by Colt starter Jonathon Domingez, who went five innings and gave four runs and

struck out three. In the sixth inning the Bucks Centurions exploded for six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning in their Thursday afternoon matchup against Middlesex. “We struggled in every area of the game today, they (Middlesex) kept finding the hole on the left side, it was like an open gate,” Coach Donald Perry explained, “We are going to take the six run inning as something positive moving forward”. In that inning, freshman

outfielder Jon Unangst had an RBI triple that put Bucks on the board, while he scored on the play because of an errant throw. Ryan Calabro added an RBI double, and scored on a throwing error after a Kevin Lindquist hit. David McCoach hit a two RBI single that gave Bucks the fifth and six runs of the inning. Middlesex coach Michael Lapore praised a total team effort for their win “Everybody contributed in some

way, even our subs played a great game. It was our best game all year; it’s really rare when you score 25 runs in a game”. Middlesex sophomore first baseman Matt Cesare led the way by going four for six at the plate while driving in five RBIs. “Matt has been our best hitter all year.” Coach Lapore added.

Mario Berrios is an up-and-coming coach in Philadelphia

Mario Berrios is coaching Philadelphia’s Gospel of Grace Christian High School Saints despite being not much older than the players themselves

BY: STEPHEN GODWIN JR.
Centurion Staff

Beyond the speeding cars of Roosevelt Boulevard in Northeast Philadelphia, a high school basketball game is happening at the Houseman Recreational Center between the Gospel of Grace Christian High Saints and the New Beginnings Academy Warriors. The Houseman Rec Center is not the nicest place you will find, but it is good enough for head coach Mario Berrios and the team he coaches, the Saints. The roof reminds you of a warehouse, but the floors are freshly re-finished and fit for a king. On this chilly Tuesday night the gym is not crowded, but does have a handful of people consisting of the plaer’s family and friends.

Berrios is only 22, but boasts two title game appearances in three years in the Delaware Athletic Conference to prove he belongs with the coaches twice his age. Berrios is also a married man and somehow manages to juggle that responsibility with his flooring job and coaching basketball.

His professional looks can be misinterpreted, because while he knows when to be serious, he is almost part of the team. He listens to the same music, watches the same TV shows, and goes through the same things young men do in life. Even though he does have all these similarities, the team gives him the due respect.

In a crammed weight room he gets his team’s adrenaline flowing by leading them in pregame shouting. “This is called our loud room” he chuckles.

Once the game gets underway, the gym is filled with cheering fans and the coaches barking out plays for their team. When the other team has the ball, Berrios is consistently heard yelling, “No

fouls’ because he knows that fouls lead to easy points. The game remains close up till halftime and Berrios brings his team into the “Loud room” again to discuss half-time adjustments. From a knee he begins by listening to different players express their thoughts, before adding his own. “We are playing good so far, but let’s get out there and finish” he yells adamantly.

Berrio’s demeanor usually stays calm during a game and sets an example for his team about not getting too high or low. This kind of demeanor is important because getting too high may lead to his team getting overconfident and making them vulnerable to the other team coming back to win. If Berrios gets too low when his team is losing his team will sense that and not have the drive it takes to mount their comeback. By doing this he bangs home the idea that the game is not over till it’s over.

The Saints ended up losing the game in the end, but fought hard to the end losing by only four. I wandered back postgame to the “Loud room” to find the team looking kind of glum, but the coach seemed unaffected by the loss as he wished me a hardy goodbye after some small talk.

Berrios also serves as a mentor for his players who might need the voice of reason spoken to them from time to time. The ability to receive that voice from someone in a young man’s life could be the difference between a good career and a life of crime. “I usually try to stay pretty open with my players because talking with them can make a difference, especially with ones who have broken families. Berrios teaches lessons of mental toughness, sportsmanship, passion, perspective and humility that can also serve

his players off the court. If we fast-forward a few days to Sunday I made my usual trip to “Gospel of Grace” church and conversed with the people after the church service till Mario was ready for his interview. Once we agreed to start we made the trip down the narrow stair way to the large cafeteria room so we would not be bothered. We sat in metal chairs in front of a long plastic table and began our interview. His demeanor is laid back and sets a calming effect about the conversation that could otherwise be awkward.

Berrios begins by telling of his early childhood and growing up in Northeast Philly with a mom and dad that separated when he was only two. He relates that the divorce was not too hard on him, because he was so young and the two sides have never been enemies.

Berrios bounced between schools in his early schools years before finally landing at Gospel of Grace Christian High school. In high school he starred on the basketball team as point guard and met his future wife. He had to ride the bench his first two years on the basketball team, but hard work at basketball summer camps finally got him the starting job. In his senior year, new head coach Dale Croy guided his team to the championship round, but Berrio’s team lost by 4.

After graduation, Berrios went to Baptist Bible College for a semester, but then soon discovered college was not for him. He then took a union flooring job under his dad, His specialty is putting in hardwood, but he now can do tile, ceramic, and linoleum. “I like working on hardwood the best because it reminds me of basketball” Berrios said. He work is usually done at normal everyday places, but he has got to work on the



Picture of the Gospel Grace Christian High Saints basketball team.

PHOTO BY: TAE CHIN

basketball courts of the Drexel Dragons.

Berrios still had the love of basketball though and wanted to be involved in it somehow, so he took an assistant coach position for his old coach for a year. At the end of the season Berrios agreed to take over the coaching position for his old coach, who quit for family reasons. Berrios took on this challenge even though he was only 19.

Berrios had a good group of players in his first year, mostly left over from the previous year and was able to guide them to the championship game, but lost in a blowout to Fair winds Christian High school. The following year was a bit of a struggle as the team rebuilt itself. That offseason, Berrios went out and recruited 4 new players. Equipped with this and the rest of his team a year older, Berrios again returned to the championship game only to lose to Concord High school.

I asked Berrios how he handled losing those championships and how he would get his team up to play the next year. Berrios referred to his faith by saying, “I just tell them there is more to life

than basketball, we just try to learn from our mistakes and get better” he said. This year Berrio’s team is switching conferences from the Delaware Athletic Conference to the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Conference in search of state wide titles and recognition. “I just figured we needed to prove ourselves against tougher opponents, because blowing lesser teams out by forty wasn’t proving anything” Berrios said. In its first season in the conference the team has struggled to adapt and has also fallen victim to some bad breaks that have given them a record of 3-10.

The basketball championship trophy has eluded Berrios so far in both his playing and coaching career, but success in life has not. That is because his success is not based on trophies and high paying salaries, but by impacting the lives of young men through sports and life. He has not forgotten where he has come from and for this he has no fouls.

BUCKS SCORES

Baseball

April 28

Bucks 1 - 22 Camden

Bucks 1 - 20 Camden

Golf

April 26

Bucks Placed first at Five Ponds

Tennis

April 28

Bucks placed second in EPCC Championships



Coach Berrios sitting at home.

PHOTO BY ALYSON KELLEY

PRO SCORES

Baseball

April 29

Phillies 1 - 5 Cubs

Hockey

April 29

Flyers 4 - 3 Devils

Basketball

April 28

Sixers 91 - 103 Bulls