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 pres-
sure of having the newest
gadgets; oversharing on
Facebook; problems with
distance learning; the possi-
ble dangers of texting and
driving; relationships hurt by
Facebook; privacy with so-
cial media; texting vs. talk-
ing; having no cell phone; 3D
movies and the pricing of
smart phones. Facebook has re-
connected 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 bet-
ter 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 are
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 col-
lege degree while in the com-
fort 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 avail-
able 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. Poten-
tial employers are reading
your Facebook accounts and
browsing your photos. There
is definitely too much infor-
mation.

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. Re-
sponding this way to a text
message that is so insignifi-
cant can have very serious
consequences like causing an
accident.

Texting is taking over talk-
ing 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 ele-
ment 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 findings. 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: Nick’s
Mom: Where are you?
Austin: Home by 5.
Mom:  Don’t be late
Austin: k
Mom: home by 5.
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Don’t bother leaving the
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The iPad is the most recent form of technology that could hurt more than help

The dark side and the bright
side of technology.
Texting vs. talking

Continued from page 1

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 allowing 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
Centurian Staff

Keying cars, shaving tires, cutting up pictures, throwing away keepakes 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, a case of the above was exemplified, but she had a better idea in mind. “I so deleted him from Facebook. It’s how you 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 him 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 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 overFacebook, and so did my mom. I could here her crying 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 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 college, 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.
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The rise and appeal of smartphones

BY: KEVIN BARR & BILLY KERINS
Centuryun 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 to access the internet, as well as a variety of different applications. Each application provides a specific function which it carries out. For example, the Facebook application allows users to access their Facebook profiles. The same is true with camera applications that can be used to give users directions in real time.

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 come with some cameras that can take high-quality video and pictures.

The main smartphones today are Apple’s iPhone, 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. He explains why he loves his phone. For him, the appeal of having internet access and the ability to use the phone is very important. “I used to feel the need to work on the go, then you you could say that a necessity.”

Lobran went on to say, “Think about the basic needs in life; shelter, food and staying warm. I’m not one of those people who need to work on the go, then you could say that a necessity.”

The smartphone users are great, but it depends on your situation. If you’re someone whose work is very demanding, constantly needs to check email and needs to work on the go, then you could say that a necessity.” Lobran went on to say, “Think about the basic needs in life; shelter, food and staying warm. I’m not one of those people who need to work on the go, then you could say that a necessity.”

Mikhail Puccio, a 19-year-old secondary historical education major from Trevor, 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 of the country and cannot wait to get a smartphone, though he is very fond of the concept.

There is no denying the impact that peers and even the smartphone service providers have on the smartphone craze. CNN 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 world that is filled with constant distractions,” says McGill. However, the smartphones are certainly not necessary for everyone. The data plans for these phones usually are between $30 and $45 per month, which could certainly add up to be an expensive chunk of change to cover the course of a year. However, most smartphone users can justify the cost of it.

Kevin Buffet, a 20-year-old secondary historical education major from Trevore, says, “We sometimes have trouble getting in touch with each other.” Dean said that like Seidle, he never had been in an emergency situation where he needed a cell phone.

“We sometimes have trouble getting in touch with each other,” Dean said. “We need to be able to call when we want to hang out.”

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. The 19-year-old basketball team never learned to leave for an away match in New York, but there are no signs of Seidle being late. He sits in the middle of the bus to the game. The volleyball player is 15 minutes late for the away match in New York.

It seems almost unthinkable to some 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, Seidel 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.” Seidel added that he is saving $30 to $40 a month by not having to pay for a phone plan with minutes, text, and internet—which allows him to save the necessary piece of their budget.

Joel Stein, writer for Bloomberg BusinessWeek, calls these people “phone snobs” and “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 his cellphone without the plan. “I’ll talk to strangers. I love going to Italy, where every one talks to everyone all the time. It would be very difficult for me to learn to love communication when I don’t have a phone.”

So what is the difference? A soft- ware architect, wrote an article entitled “Nope, I Don’t Own a Cell Phone” on his blog earlier this year. In the post, Huff unashamedly stated, “I can understand why some people find them useful, but for me a cell phone has ab solutely 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 adults have cell phones. However, the same study reveals that only 15 percent of adults have a smartphone. Considering that most adult cell users reported this activity: 51% has 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 preferred 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 for many people. 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 where they had to use a cell phone. Seidel dismissed the smartphone as a valid reason to own a phone. “That depends on what you call an emergency. Missing a hair appointment because you didn’t 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—a friend of Seidle’s—joined in. “Dean” Nate yelled excited-ly. “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 need a cell phone when we want to hang out.”
Texting and driving law

Texting and driving has become a significant problem in recent years, as the popularity of smartphones and other wireless communication devices has increased. Texting while driving is a primary offense in many jurisdictions, and the use of interactive wireless communication devices (IWCD) while driving is prohibited.

BY: TOM SOFIELD
Centurion Staff

Horsman police Lt. John Clark sits in his unmarked Crown Vic police vehi-
cle just off the road - watch-
ing for drivers who have their eyes off the road and peeled their minds from 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 - carry-
ing a $50 fine.

Clark said before the law was enacted he had stopped several drivers for swerving all over the road while looking at their cell phones and GPS devices. Those drivers were ticketed for distracted driving, but the law makes it so people 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 Horsman offi-
cer said text-based commu-
nication while driving is wides-
aped and has lead to dozens accidents in Horsman 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 na-
tionwide between 2001 and 2007 due to accidents deter-
mined to be caused by tex-
ting or talking and driving. In 2010 in Pennsylvania, nearly 14,000 wrecks involv-
ing distracted drivers were reported, with nearly 70% of the crashes resulting in deaths, according to Pen-
NDOT data.

In recent years, the number of pedestrians struck by vehicles state - usually at

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

“People really need to take

"It's just showing that you're lo-

loy and honest enough to be re-

spected with what you show online with your peers” Connor said.

Conner 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 you up. Unless you release information like your passwords, numbers, and etc." Connor said.

Computer Science Informa-
tion 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. "Every-
things that have they will be posted on there are 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 sim-
ple information, like vacation

while driving.

Almost all the students we spoke with agreed with Mun-
shaw. "I never do it anymore," said Paige Cooper, 19, educa-
tion major of Upper

Southampton. She added the new law was her main deter-
rent.

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

• Makes 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 device. The device is defined as any device used for texting, instant mes-

sage as a text message, in-

stant message, email or a similar devices that can be used for texting, instant mes-
aging, emailing or browsing the Internet.

• 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.

• Defines the law and enforcement by police will "encourage people not to drive distracted."
The week of April 30, 2012

Is online learning effective?

BY: KELSEY FOREMAN
Contemporary Staff

Brianna Weiss, 24, an accounting major from Warren, Ohio, 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 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 said 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 mentioned the lack of communication in online learning proved to be the no. 1 factor that lead many students to opt out of online courses.

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

As journalist Tony Rogers said, “Distance learning, even with all the cool teaching tools available, is a substitute for just sitting 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 Sessions 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, that certain courses just ‘can’t 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 “can’t 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 online courses,” said Weiss as well.

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 Lindquist Library area and must videotape their speeches in a setting outside their home, in order to keep the “realness” 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 make 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 proved to be more suitable for a number of students due to the following reason.

Sweeney said research has shown that students who have a moderate to high level of speech anxiety, while typically accounts for 75 percent of the class, tend to do better in face-to-face courses than online courses. Many students interviewed said the lack of communication in online classes is actually 15-20 percent higher than traditional courses nationally, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Colin Rockwell, 22, a liberal arts major from Trevose, 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 technical 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 Blackboard’s “Software and/or equipment malfunction” that deleted all students’ work for an entire week. The crash was due to a disc-drive failure, and the back-up mecha

nisim 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 “Ade-

cacies - Online Learning.”
Career Services
Your path to career success begins here
www.bucks.edu/careerservices

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Thursday, May 10 • 12 to 3 pm
275 Swamp Road • Newtown, PA 18940
(For health professionals only.)
Is the internet making us lazier and dumber?

BY: MELISSA FLEISHMAN
Continent 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 an-
swer. They both whirled out their cell phones. When someone is asked a question or needs to know in-
formation, 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 en-
gines are everywhere. From
desktop computers, to port-
table laptops, to cell phones
in pockets, anyone can access the internet at any time.

The internet contains infor-
mation from almost every-
where in the world and
allows average people access to information they would not normally be able to ac-
cess; however, is that affect-
ing 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 sur-
gery 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 in-
formation, 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 per-
fomed by the IPSOS, the world’s third ranked research company, for Wolters Kluver 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
treat and care for patients.

Scary, isn’t it?

An experiment performed by scientists led by Dr. Betsy Sparrow, assistant professor of psychology at Columbia 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 trivial statement they had read,” the scientists stated.

Of course, society does not use the internet solely for re-
search. Many Americans use

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 be-
gins to sound, the movie has an unexpected disappoint-
ment.

“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 later.

This has been a reoccurring theme for many movie goers. The overall popularity of these types of movies can be argued, but the 2011 Theatri-
cal Market Statistics Report from the Motion Picture Asso-
ciation of America re-
vealed a 4 percent decrease in the overall population orig-
inally 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 im-
ages 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 feel-
ing of, “What did I just pay for?”

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

Too many studios have tried to make 3D movies by shoot-
ing them in 2D and then try-
ing to make it look good afterwards.

While 3D movies can be en-
joyable, many filmgoers complain of negative side ef-
facts. Dave Lindennan a Ben-
salem student at Bucks is a ticket taker on his home team, but said, “I don’t really like 3D movies, because they give me motion sickness.”


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

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, and reformating old favorites from the past into 3D such as “Star Wars,” “The Lion King” and “Beauty and the Beast.”

Alyssa McKenzie, a cin-
ema video major from War-
nington 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 suicid-
al. It adds nothing essential to the movie going experi-
ence. For some, it is an an-
noying 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

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

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

In the Chicago Sun-Times, video editor Walter Murch calls 3D technology “dark, small, stoby, headache in-
cucing, alienating, and ex-
pensive.”

Murch then asks the question, “How long will it take people to realize and get fed up?”

The 3D glasses that are used to fully enjoy the 3D technology.
Southwestern Advantage recruits on campus

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

By: Greg Probst
the Centurion Staff

A corporate recruiter for a major company has been soliciting and interviewing Newtoun 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 internship 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 13 hour days visiting around 130-150 households a day, according to Demp. The Southwestern recruiter mentioned their “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 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.

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

“This wouldn’t happen,” she said. “We would send them home before they would lose money on any thing.”

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

“There are no starter kits to purchase,” she said.

When asked about a statistic that they scam workers were located 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,” Dwanye’s testimonial said.

After claiming that he just wanted to leave and go home, Dwanye 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 old 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 recruiting 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.

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When asked about a statistic from a website stating that nearly a third of interns leave the program before completion, Demp confirmed that about 50 percent of them leave before completing the 12-week program.

“When you think about college we have a better rate than 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.
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 department currently has are over 40 years old.

“They 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, 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 Temperature 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 is 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 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 of 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 Mitchuga. “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**

The Bucks Department of the Arts was proud to present the Sherman Sergel adaptation of 12 Angry Jurors, the 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 ways the case in our court until proven guilty is not always the case in our court system. Originally taken from the Reginald Rose play of the same name, 12 Angry Men, the play's main focus theme is one juror stands alone in young and under privileged boys, one juror stands alone in an attempt to prove reason- able doubt. As the play evolves it becomes distinctly evident to the audience that each characters bias in one way or another has masked their decision 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 con- flicted 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 particu- lar play was chosen by the group.

The colorful cast included Bucks students Ally O’Roarke-Barrett, Kayleigh Liggitt, Kevin Christian, Teri Maxwell, Brendan Tuthill, Karl Schooeler, Dustin Chun, Tim Schumann, Kerri Donahy, David Piccinetti, 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 al- leged murderer. Christian was able to bring the unre- lenting character to life with his physically and emotional presence. Countering Christian’s character was Juror 8 played by Tim Schumann, who be- comes the first dissenter who vehemently opposes convict- ing the alleged killer. Schu- mann’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 perfor- mances included outspoken Juror 7 played flawlessly by Dustin Chun, who seemed as if the character came as sec- ond nature to him. Also Lip- sack, a late edition to the cast who was performing in his first play since high school, “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 ful- filling 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 mem- bers was somewhat unhappy with their Friday night perfor- mance. 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.

"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 highest-selling novel 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 Adair 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!
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 possesses 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.

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?

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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Choose the KU Bachelor’s Degree
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 elementary 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 Ma-hony’s first time in a musical, as she 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 preparing 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 Mah-ony is Dave Piccinetti, 22, psychology major, playing the part of Ron Weasley. Piccinetti had this role practi-cally fall in his lap.

“I was walking by the auditorium, and people asked me to audition so I did. And I got they part, which was not ex-pected,” 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 com-edy 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 advi-sor. “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.

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.

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 beau-tiful ponds and skimming rocks through the dramatiza-tion of her poems. Cleveland Wall had her poems memo-ralized as if their owners had been cured. As if their owners had been cured of perambulation forever and evermore would roll along friction-free and bootless.

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Cleveland Wall.

Photo from http://clevelandwall.iamas.com/pj_photo.jpg

Alchemy to work, the mes-sage 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 March 30 was held in the Or-angery 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 win-dow to window with stu-dents, 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.

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“I usually don’t know what the poem is about until after I’ve written it.” Wall said.

As far as her favorite famous 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
The Bucks baseball team lost again to Montgomery County Community College on April 24, allowing the Mustangs’ 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 Jonathan 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 had the ball in a 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 a Kevin Lindquist hit, the fifth and sixth runs of the game scored. Unangst, who highlighted the Centurions slow start as a factor in the outcome, says the Mustangs 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 umpire’s large strike zone, especially after a debatable third strike call against shortstop Matthew Creevey in the fourth.

“We could have played better, but we let it get away from us a little early,” said center fielder and leadoff man Jonathan Unangst, who shined in his return to the lineup after being ejected in the previous matchup between the Mustangs.

By: Anthony DiMatta
Centurion Staff

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 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 struck a good curveball early and often to keep the Centurions hitters off balanced, totaling eight strikeouts on the day. “He had a great curveball and a sharp slider that put their total over the mercy rule and ended the game two innings early.”

The Centurions bats were kept quiet most of the afternoon by Colt starter Jonathan Duenweg, 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 inning of the game today, they (Middlesex) kept finding the hole on the left side, it was like an open gate,” said coach Donald Perry. “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 Cease 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.

All photos from Bucks County Community College Athletics Facebook page.

Mustangs overpower Centurions

BY: ANTHONY DI MATTIA
Centurion Staff

The Centurions (3-18) in a Lower Moreland. After spurs 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. Unangst 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, capping 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 highlighted 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 umpire’s large strike zone, especially after a debatable third strike call against shortstop Matthew Creevey in the fourth.

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Montgomery’s heart of the order gave the Centurions pitching staff fits all afternoon, as their 3-6 hitters had the ball in a 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.

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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. Centrioan 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 other player's family and friends.

Berrios is only 22, but boasts a title game appearance 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 things same 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 too 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 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 years old. 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 school 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.

Berrios has given them a record of 9-18 this year and was able to guide them to the championship game, but lost in overtime to Fair winds Christian School. the championship game was a bit of a struggle as the team rebuilt itself. That offseason, 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 works is usually done at normal everyday places, but he has got to work on the 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 on 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.