Middle class hit hard by rough economy

The closing of a Bristol company is just one example of how thousands of manufacturing jobs have been lost during the protracted downturn in the nation’s economy.

BY: ANTHONY DIMATTA
Centurion Staff

For years the backbone of the American economy has been the strength of the middle class, with the manufacturing industry providing much of the income to those households.

Bristol Tank and Welding Company was no exception, employing 39 employees at its peak during the 1990’s. That number would dwindle down to only two by the time the plant closed in early 2009.

Created in a small warehouse on Monroe Street in Bristol Borough by Daniel Marsiglia in 1949, the company began producing base- metal oil tanks for home heating systems. By 1975 the company had expanded to a seven-acre facility in Middle- town and broadened their outfit to include larger base- ment tanks, reaching cus- tomers from Connecticut to Virginia.

Yet as the new millennium began, the business took a turn for the worse. By 2007 outside competition had swallowed up much of the company’s clients, causing orders to dry up and leaving management no choice, but to layoff employees.

Vito Marsiglia, who took over ownership from his fa- ther in 1976, pointed the blame at what he recognized as failed government policies like the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA, which promoted free trade between the U.S., Canada and Mexico, allowed business- es from outside the U.S. to sell their products without the threat of tariffs to dimin- ish their returns.

This has allowed competi- tion from the north to come into the country and undercut local businesses like Bristol Tank, according to Marsiglia.

“That’s what killed us. We couldn’t compete with the Canadian’s tank companies,”

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Pennsylvania’s role in the upcoming election

With the 2012 presidential election right around the corner, we examine the state’s pivotal role and how it could change the course of the vote.

BY: SETH CANATA
Centurion Staff

While Pennsylvania may not necessarily be considered a swing or battleground state, its 20 electoral votes are im- portant to both candidates come Election Day on Nov. 6.

A swing state is one in which the outcome is perhaps too close to call, and could “swing” either way, for either candidate. Likewise, a batt- leground state is one that will be highly contested right down to the wire.

Several other key states, such as Va, Ohio, N.C. and Fla, could provide President Barack Obama or presiden- tial hopeful Mitt Romney with a much-needed boost to- ward the required 270 elec- toral votes necessary for victory.

Wis., Iowa, N.H, Colo., and Nev. also appear too close to call in current polls, and will likely play a pivotal role in the outcome as well.

William Pezza, a political science professor at Bucks, points to previous elections when analyzing Pennsylva-尼亚’s upcoming role in the 2012 election. “Historically, Pennsylvania has been slightly blue for some time.” In fact, Democrats have car- ried Pa. in the last five presi- dential elections. George H.W. Bush was the last Re- publican to win the state, in 1988.

‘Yet Pennsylvania shows an odd ability to “swing” either way when it comes to may- oral, gubernatorial, or senator- ial elections. Pezza says, “Most recently, there seems to be more of a tendency for a split in the state elections.” Currently, the state has one Democrat and one Republic- an senator.

When asked for whom he intended to vote, Pezza de- clined to comment, and said, “I need to be impartial and unbiased, especially for an important role he has yet to play.”

As the upcoming moderator for the 8th congressional dis- trict debate between Republi- can Mike Fitzpatrick and Demo- crat Kathy Boockvar, Pezza will have a front row seat to the “battleground” quality of the local election pro- cess.

Another Bucks political sci- ence professor, Anthony Wolf, points more to recent polls to determine Pa.’s role in the national election. “Over the past four to five weeks, Pennsylvania has been solidly blue, with Presi- dent Obama holding a lead of up to 10 points.”

Due to Obama’s poor show- ing at the first presidential debate, Professor Wolf con- cedes, “That gap may have closed somewhat since the debate,” but opines, “Obama should carry the state, and likely won’t have to spend too much time here campa-igning to do so.”

Chances are even more un- likely that Mitt Romney spends much time or money on a state that appears, at this time, to be beyond his reach. But here, Wolf also warns, “More likely would be Re- publican super PACs (politi- cal action committees) spending significant amounts of money to ensure wins in the local state elections.”

Were this to occur, victori- ous Republican state repre- sentatives and members of Congress could attempt to thwart what would be Democratic policies suggested by Obama, should he be re-elected.

When interviewed, several Bucks students revealed their moderate to high interest in the upcoming election, and in

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Pennsylvania’s role in the 2012 presidential election

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exercise their ability to vote for the very first time. Penny Pappas, 19, of War- rington, said of her political affiliation, “I am either inde- pendent or leaning towards the Democrats.” She listed some of her concerns as “so- cial issues, political corrup- tion, and foreign policy.” Todd Benziger, 19, of Yard- ley, said this recent de- bate as a bête-noire to his decision to support Obama. “I actually felt that Mitt Romney’s demeanor was too brash, and while Obama was...n’t too aggressive, he appears more level-headed.”

Benziger also said, “Finan- cial aid for school, and over- all, education” were high on his list of concerns for the upcoming election. Jonathan Green, 18, of Levitown, is still undecided. “I am definitely concerned about jobs and the economy.”

His well-known busi- ness acumen, some might give Romney the edge in this category. Supporters of Obama could just as easily point to a recent drop in the unemployment rate, in which it dropped below eight percent for the first time since Jan. 2009. Green has quite a decision to make, saying, “I do like Obama and his [foreign pol- icy] experience, and some- times Romney doesn’t seem to relate to the little guy.”

While the outcome in Pa. is not yet a forgone conclusion, and both candidates will be pressing hard to secure as many electoral votes as pos- sible, chances are that Fla., N.C. Va. and other true swing states will eclipse Pa. in most headlines as we get closer to Election Day.

Less jobs for middle-class

Continued from page 1

he said. Some years after NAFTA was enacted, Marseglia said, there was no money for small business coming from the government. “Our government doesn’t seem to care,” he said, ques- tioning their motivation to limit the influences of outside companies. “All you need is [their] common sense, and the gov- ernment doesn’t have any of it.”

Examples like Bristol Tank are just a microcosm of the struggling manufacturing in- dustry across Bucks County and throughout Pennsylvania. Between 2000 and 2010, the manufacturing industry has witnessed approximately 200 companies close their doors resulting in the loss of almost 12,000 jobs in Bucks, accord- ing to a U.S. Department of Commerce report at cen- stats.census.gov.

These numbers are magni- fied throughout the state, as companies have shed over 250,000 jobs and closed shop at nearly 2,600 locations, ac- cording to the report. And the future outlooks don’t look much better. Employment in the Ad- vanced Materials & Diversi- fied Manufacturing industry cluster is expected to de- crease by six percent between 2011 and 2021, according to buckscounty.org.

For a variety of reasons the national outlook for the mid- dle-class gets even more complicated and for many outlooks the outlook even bleaker.

American middle-income workers have taken a beating in recent years, with what the Pew Research Center has re- cently called “the lost decade of the middle class.”

“Since 2000, the middle class has shrunk in size, fallen backward in income and wealth and shed some, but by no means all of its characteristic faith in the future,” according to an Aug. 22 Pew Research Center study. A staggering “85 percent of self-described middle-class adults say it is more difficult now than it was a decade ago for middle-class people to maintain their standard of liv- ing,” according to the Pew survey of 1,287 adults who describe themselves as middle class.

These discouraging figures throughout the nation may be due to a “shift in the corpo- rate culture,” according to Jack Ready, Bucks associate economics professor. This shift began sometime in the 1970’s and has steadily increased, Ready said. In 1970 the total earnings of middle-income aggregate households consisted of 62 percent of all earnings in the U.S., compare that to just 54 percent in 2010. In compari- son, upper-income aggregate household income has raised from 29 percent to 46 percent the same time frame, accord- ing to the Pew study.

Ready correlates this as a redistribution of earnings, with the working class com- ing up short. “It’s not going to the workers like it usually does,” Ready said, referring to the shared revenue that used to allow the middle class to prosper.

In this year alone, the top 20 percent of earners in the U.S. received over 31 percent of the profits, according to Ready.

“People used to be the most valuable asset,” he said, re- ferring to the idolization of the dollar over the employee. Now workers face uncer- tainties as businesses look to cut costs to long-term em- ployees to rid themselves of high salaries, high insurance premiums and benefits.

In the past, businesses would nurture employees, al- lowing them to grow and eventually retire with the company. Ready estimates that workers in the current and future economy will face between eight to eight major job changes in their life time. This has put a dispar propor- tionate amount of stress on middle-income workers, due to the threat of layoffs and underemployment, while wreaking havoc on a con- sumer based economy. The two main culprits: Less job security and wages not keep- ing up with inflation, accord- ing to Ready.

Of the 2,508 people sur-veyed in an Aug. 31 Pew study, nearly four out of five, 86 percent, stated that a se- cure job was a middle class requirement.

Unfortunately, in an econ- omy that has been slow to re- cover from the Great Recession, the number of those considered middle- class may continue to fall.

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Romney and his values

BY: JULIE FLYNN

As the 2012 presidential election nears, one-time governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney, awaits his fate. Willard Mitt Romney was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 12, 1947, into the family of Lenore and George Romney. Mitt Romney followed in his father’s footsteps into the political field after watching his dad become the governor of Michigan from the years of 1963-1969.

In 1966, Romney spent 30 months as a Mormon Missionary in France. In 1969, he and Ann Davies married and had five children. Tagg, Matt, Josh, Ben and Craig. The family was brought up in the Mormon faith.

Olivia Bucci, nursing major at Bucks, said, “I don’t pay attention much to politics, however, I read on the internet about Mitt Romney’s wife stating that women should be stay-at-home-moms and let the men provide everything for them. I disagree entirely.”

Romney grew up living in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He attended the prestigious Cranbrook School and then received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in 1971. He then attended Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School, receiving a law degree and a Master of Business Administration degree in 1975.

Some students do not feel the same way. Osman Tyler, a computer science major at Bucks said, “Romney supports Pro-Life, and I appreciate that because so do I.”

Romney founded the investment firm Bain Capital in 1984, and later ran for a seat in the Massachusetts Senate in 1984, but lost to incumbent Ted Kennedy. In 1999, Romney became president of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee. He participated in helping rescue the 2002 Winter Olympic Games from financial and ethical misfortune, and guided the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

Romney authored the book “Turnaround: Crisis, Leadership, and the Olympic Games” later in 2004. He became governor of Massachusetts in 2003 and ran for the Republican nomination in the 2008 election, but was defeated by John McCain.

In June 2011, Romney made public his bid nomination for the Republican Party and in May 2012 he was named the Republican’s Party’s presumptive nominee. On Aug. 28, 2012, he became the Republican Party’s absolute presidential nominee, receiving 2,061 delegate votes, al most double the amount required.

During the first convention held in Tampa, Florida, Mitt Romney and running mate Paul Ryan received positive feedback from other Republican politicians.

John McCain told the Los Angeles Times the second day, “For four years, we have drifted away. People don’t want less of America, they want more. ‘What they want to know is, whether we still have faith. Mitt Romney has that faith, and I trust him to lead us.”

After the first presidential debate held Oct. 3, 2012, Romney made headlines in newspapers across the world. America’s all over were talking and complimenting Romney’s public speaking and the way he handled himself during the debate. The majority of the population said that Romney won that debate, hands down.

Victor Rodriguez, engineering major at Bucks said, “Mitt set out a press conference and stated that he plans on giving federal grants to students of low income to help pay for school. If he follows through with what he has stated, that will benefit my family and my education. He has my vote!”

So what are Romney’s views on America’s top issues?

Romney wants to rebuild the economy based on free enterprise, hard work and innovation. His plan is to reduce taxes, spending, regulation, and government programs, as well as to increase trade, energy production, human capital, and labor flexibility.

Another big issue is our Foreign Policy. Romney feels that we should safeguard America and secure our country’s interests. His strategy is American strength. He believes it is American power that can provide an international system that ensures the security and prosperity of the United States and our allies.

• Education: He wants to expand parental choice, invest in innovation, and re- ward teachers for their results. He will also ensure that students have diverse affordable options for higher education.

• Healthcare: Will issue an executive order to repeal Obamacare. Will then give each state power to come up with their own Healthcare reform plan that is best for its own state.

• Immigration: He will address the issue of illegal immigration in a civil manner. As well as strengthens our economy, ensures our security, and keeps America’s tradition of legal immigrants.

• Jobs: He will first retrain American workers to make sure they have the skill and education to keep up with the jobs of our economy. He will then look to attract the best and the brightest from around the world.

• Trade: He wants to promote trade, energy production, human capital, and labor flexibility.

• National Security: He wants to rebuild America’s military and secure our interests in the world. He claims he will address the issue of illegal immigration in a civil manner. As well as strengthens our economy, ensures our security and keeps America’s tradition of legal immigrants.

When it comes to America’s employment issue, he will first retrain American workers to make sure they have the skill and education to keep up with the jobs of our economy. He will then look to attract the best and the brightest from around the world.

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Obama’s vision

BY: VICTORIA O’REILLY
Centurion Staff

Elected as the 44th president of the U.S. in 2008, Barack Obama has already made history by being the country’s first African-American leader.

The unique background of Obama cannot be understated; he was born from a white mother and Kenyan father and raised by his white grandparents.

His presidency has not come without obstacles, as he faced an unprecedented employment crisis as soon as he took office in January 2008. The national debt reached $16 trillion on Sept. 4, 2012. The national debt has increased $5.4 trillion since Obama took office in 2009.

President Obama was born on Aug. 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is the son of Ann Dunham and Barack Obama Sr.

His parents divorced in March of 1964, but his mother soon remarried in 1966. He and his mother moved to Indonesia in 1967 to live with his new stepfather.

Obama lived in Indonesia for four years before moving back to Honolulu in 1971 to live with his maternal grandparents, Madelyn and Stanley Dunham.

He moved to Los Angeles in 1979 to attend Occidental College, and two years later transferred to Columbia University and graduated in 1983 with a degree in political science.

In 1985, Obama was offered to move to Chicago to become the director of the Developing Communities Project, a project in which he helped lower income residents of cities of South Side Chicago such as Roseland and Altgeld Gardens.

He helped set up many programs for these residences such as job training programs, college tutoring programs, and a tenant rights program in Altgeld Gardens.

In 1988, Obama was accepted to Harvard Law School where he became the first African American president of the Harvard Law Review in his second year at Harvard.

After his first year, Obama returned to Chicago for the summer and interned at the law firm of Sidney Austin, where he met his wife, Michelle Robinson.

Michelle was assigned to be his advisor at the law firm and they dated off and on until later that summer when the couple started dating.

Obama graduated Harvard Law in 1991, with a Juris Doctor magna cum laude, or with great honors.

Soon after graduation, he returned to Chicago to practice civil rights law as well as becoming a teacher of law at the University of Chicago Law School, where he taught for 12 years. He also directed Illinois’ Project Vote, which registered unregistered African Americans in the state.

In 1991, Obama proposed to Michelle and they were soon married on Oct. 3, 1992.

Obama was elected into the Republican controlled Illinois Senate in 1996 and served until 2004. He was reelected in 1998 and in 2002.

In 2000, Obama suffered his first and only political loss when running for the U.S. House of Representatives for Illinois’ first congressional district.

In 2004, he resigned from State Senator to become a U.S. Senator.

In July of 2004, while running for the U.S. Senate, Obama delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention.

In November of that same year, Obama won the election with 70 percent of the vote against republican candidate, Alan Keyes.

Obama was sworn into the U.S. Senate on Jan. 3, 2005 until 2008, when he left to focus on his presidential campaign.

Running mate, Alaska Sena-

tor, Sarah Palin.

On Nov. 4, Obama won the election with 365 electoral votes, McCain only had 173. Obama also won 52.9 percent of the popular vote over the Arizona Senator.

Heading into presidency, he inherited the two ongoing foreign wars, a global economic recession and the lowest international favorability rating for the U.S. in history.

In his first 100 days in office, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or the Stimulus bill was passed in order to save and create jobs. It also gave loans to the automobile industry, assisted the unemployed and cut taxes for middle class families, small businesses and first-time home buyers.

He also expanded foreign affairs between the U.S. and countries such as Europe, China, and Russia. He also started to communicate more with Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba.

Ten months after being sworn into office, Obama won the Noble Peace Prize. According to the Nobel Peace Prize press release, he won the prize for his efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.

Throughout Obama’s four years in office, he had some victories as well as some challenges.

In February of 2007, Obama announced he would be running for president.

In the Democratic primary, he went up against Senator Hillary Clinton. The race remained close until Clinton ended her campaign on June 7, 2008 and endorsed Obama as the Democratic candidate.

August of 2007, Obama selected Delaware Senator, Joe Biden as his vice presidential running mate.

The two of them ran against Arizona Senator and presidential candidate, John McCain and his vice presidential running mate, Alaska Senator, Sarah Palin.

In 2010, he initiated the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as “Obamacare.” The main purpose of the act was to decrease the number of uninsured Americans as well as reduce the overall cost of healthcare.

He helped repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” which prevented openly gay troops from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, in Sept. 2011. Obama was also a part of the decision making process of Operation Neptune Spear, the mission that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

If reelected, Obama intends to expand on many of the initiatives he set forth while in office, creating new ways to help grow the economy.

Economy: Plans to create jobs and keep U.S. manufacturing alive by eliminating tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas, and creating incentives for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

Also, he wants to provide tax cuts for the middle and working class Americans, while raising taxes for earnings over $250,000 annually.

He also wants to strategize ways to protect and strengthen Social Security for all Americans.

Foreign Policy: His plan includes a withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by 2014 while strengthening military partnership and alliances.

Also, apply stricter standards for domestic oil exploitation.

Obama’s education strategy consists of investing in community colleges and career training programs.

He plans to expand the post 9/11 GI Bill in order to veterans and service members can get a college education.

He supports the jobs of educators and is calling for incentives to keep the best educators in the classrooms.

Also, he wants the states flexibility to create their own ambitious plans for reform, relieving them of restrictive No Child Left Behind mandates.

Healthcare: He has banned insurance company discrimination of patients by pre-existing conditions through the Affordable Care Act. His goal is to lower healthcare costs and guarantees more choices.

Also, he plans to strengthen Medicare for current and future generations.

Immigration: Obama’s blueprint includes an increase to border security while upholding the DREAM act.

In 2012, Obama speaking at Centurion Energy Systems on January 26, 2011 touting the country’s clean energy initiatives.

Obama speaking at Orion Energy Systems on January 26, 2011 touting the country’s clean energy initiatives.
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Another conflict was when the debate turned to how the candidates would deal with terrorist attacks like the assassination in Libya. Ryan stated that he and Romney would deal with terrorists in foreign countries discussed.

In a different perspective, Ryan replied to this statement by saying, “We don’t want to broadcast to the American public that we will bring back all of the soldiers by 2014. He stated there would be ‘no exceptions’ in this.

The week of October 23, 2012

ELECTION 2012

BY: KELLY ARMSTRONG
Centurion Staff

Vice-President Joe Biden and his Republican challenger Paul Ryan went on the offensive in the Vice Presidential debate at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. Moderator Martha Raddatz kept a much tighter control on both candidates as they went all out on explaining both their domestic and foreign policy to the United States.

The heated issue of bringing back soldiers from foreign countries was discussed. Biden has set the date to bring back all of the soldiers by 2014. He stated there would be “no exceptions” in this.

Ryan replied to this statement that he and Romney both want to do the same and ideally bring back soldiers by 2014. However, they do not want to confine themselves to a set time. Ryan explains this by saying, “We don’t want to broadcast to our enemies ‘put a date on your calendar, wait and see, and then come back.’”

Another conflict was when the debate turned to how the candidates would deal with terrorist attacks like the assassination in Libya. Ryan stated that he and Romney would deal with terrorists in foreign countries discussed.

“Ours an ambassador in Paris has a Marine detachment guarding him. Shouldn’t we have a Marine detachment guarding our ambassador in Benghazi, a place where we knew that there was an Al Qaeda cell with arms?” Ryan stated.

Overall the foreign policies of both tickets described a desire to get soldiers out of warring countries. However, while Biden claims that he will get soldiers home by 2014, the Romney-Ryan ticket is not as willing to set an exact date.

“Ryan explained this 2014. However, they do not mention that he and Romney have a Marine detachment back soldiers from foreign countries discussed.

States. Ryan followed up this point by saying, “I plan on voting both the American public, because whatever mistakes were made will not be made again.”

Ryan also deemed the assassination a great loss to the American people. His response to combating terrorist attacks, especially in foreign countries was gain speed in acknowledging a ‘terrorist attack’ and to provide more armed forces to protect American ambassadors.

“Our ambassador in Paris has a Marine detachment guarding him. Shouldn’t we have a Marine detachment guarding our ambassador in Benghazi, a place where we knew that there was an Al Qaeda cell with arms?” Ryan stated.

Biden established that the assassination was a grave loss to the community and he decreed to make two promises to the public if he and Obama were to be re-elected.

“One, we will find and bring to justice the man who did this. And secondly, we will get to the bottom of it and whatever -- wherever the facts lead us, wherever they lead us, we will make clear to the American public, because whatever mistakes were made will not be made again.”

Ryan and Biden argued about the candidates’ views on the last topics of discussion. Those ages only made up 21 percent of the voter population. This is a result of younger people not making the effort to get out and make it to the polls.

In a different perspective, 21 million people under the age of 30 did not vote in the previous presidential election that took place in 2008. In Nov. 2008, fewer than half of the Americans, who were 18-years-old were not registered. This number is significant because not everyone who is registered to vote attends the polls, and this number does not include those people, according to projectvote.org. Project Vote advocate what everyone should exercise their right to vote should re-think their decision not to.

People ages 18-29 make up 21 percent of the voter population. Those ages only made up 17 percent of the actual voting population. This is a result of younger people not making the effort to get out and make it to the polls. In a different perspective, 21 million people under the age of 30 did not vote in the previous presidential election that took place in 2008. In Nov. 2008, fewer than half of the Americans, who were 18-years-old were not registered. This number is significant because not everyone who is registered to vote attends the polls, and this number does not include those people, according to projectvote.org. Project Vote advocate what everyone should exercise their right to vote should re-think their decision not to.

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Joe Biden's tumultuous life

BY: EMELIA SELLECHIA
Centurion Staff

Joe Biden was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on Nov. 20, 1942. He was the first of four children. His family moved to Claymont, Delaware in 1953. Biden eventually became senator for Delaware. He served in the Senate for 36 years, with 17 years serving as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He married his first wife, Neilia, in 1966 while attend- ing law school.

He also served on the New Castle County Council from 1970 to 1972. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972 at the young age of 29. In Dec. of 1972, shortly after his election to the Senate, Biden's wife Neilia and daughter Naomi were killed in a car accident. His sons Hunter and Beau survived the accident, but were severely injured. It was the moment when then-Vice President Joe Biden decided to keep his Vice Presidential duties while being heavily involved with his family.

In Aug. of 2008, Biden announced that his running mate would be Senator Barack Obama, the then-Wisconsin Senator for the 2008 Democratic nomination for President of the United States. In November of 2008, Obama won the election, and Biden was swore in as Vice President of the United States.

Since 2010 letter to The Heritage Foundation, Ryan stated that the problem we face today is the federal debt and deficit issue. With the national debt at around $20 trillion, Ryan believes that a cap on total government spending at 19 percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is key to reducing the federal debt. If we exceed this limit, Ryan believes that the government will be forced to raise taxes or cut spending.

When it comes to immigration issues, Ryan takes a hard stance on it, supporting the Border Tunnel Prevention Act, which aims to reduce the traffic of drugs and human smuggling across the Southwest border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels, "We need to do a better job enforcing our borders, if we are serious about national security," said Ryan.

Ryan describes himself as a pro-life, and is in favor of removing funds from Planned Parenthood. In a 2010 letter to The Heritage Foundation, Ryan went on the record stating each person has rights to live, and that those rights cannot be separated from the Constitution, government’s job is to guar- antee the universal human rights of its citizens. By virtue of its mission in this social contract, government cannot possess unlimited power," Ryan writes.

In A ug. of 2008, Obama announced that Biden would be running mate. He has taught a seminar on Constitutional Law at Widener University School of Law since 1991. Biden became Vice President of the U.S. on Jan. 20, 2009. He assumed the role of an important behind-the-scenes counselor. One of his topics was to calm disputes between Obama’s team of ri- vals. He’s made several trips to Afghanistan to meet with their leaders and discuss problems. He was in charge of the spending from the Obama stimulus package to help counteract the recession.
BY: SOPHIA MIGLIORINI
Centurion Staff

It is an issue in the upcoming 2012 election that we as college students can all relate to, and that’s the issue of student loans. The candidates differ drastically in this category of where they stand in the fight against an affordable higher education. A major aspect in the fight against student loans is where each president stands on the issuing and funding of Pell Grants. A Pell Grant is “a program that awards money to eligible undergraduate students.” The difference between Pell Grants and standard forms of financial aid is that Pell Grants do not require repayment. They are needs-based grants that are intended to provide low-income students access to post-secondary education. Obama’s party promotes Pell Grants and intends on continuing to fund more and more money to the program. In fact according to Fastweb.com, Barack Obama has increased the number of Pell Grant recipients from 6 to 9 million. He also believes that the eligibility in order to apply for a Pell Grant should not reduce any further. Currently, the maximum amount of a Pell Grant is $5,500, and Obama would like to see that number increase. He claims that since he has been in office, he has “more than doubled the total amount of funding available for Pell Grants.” Mitt Romney has a different view on Pell Grants. Although Romney doesn’t see Pell Grants as a bad thing his running mate, Paul Ryan, is not in any struggling college student’s favor. Ryan’s budget, Paul Ryan’s 2013 budget resolution, would do nothing but destroy the system of Pell Grants. Ryan wants to put more limitations of Pell Grants in order to make them harder to retain. Romney called for a “roll-back of the student loan reform” in order to funnel money back through private banks. He wants to refocus Pell Grant dollars on the students that need them most. The Obama administration changed the loan system so that all federal loans will originate directly with the federal government, rather than through private banks. This essentially means cutting out the middle man, and by cutting out that middle man this plan is expected to save about $60 billion dollars within the next 10 years. It’s not about the quickness of the situation but how it is happening, it’s about the importance and the significance of the events that pass by. Good things take time, and Obama’s main goal is to have the world’s highest population of college graduates by 2020. He also wants to use our very own community colleges to his favor by creating the Community College Care Fund. This will put more and more community colleges in secure partnerships with job aid and internships with private businesses, giving students a college they can afford with benefits that they thought they couldn’t. Mitt Romney’s plan for education is “A Chance for Every Child” Mitt Romney’s Plan for Restoring the Problems of American Education isn’t as straight-to-the-point as Obama’s. In fact the plan is very unclear. At one end Romney believes that education should be “available and affordable to all students.” On the other hand, Romney is encouraging college students to “think big” and look at different schools, while also insinuating students should be able to borrow money from their parents in order to fund their college experience. These ideas and plans have a lot to do with Romney’s “special relationship” with for-profit colleges. Barack Obama said, “Over the next 10 years, nearly half of all new jobs will require education that goes beyond a high school degree” and as we as college students are beginning to see, 10 years is approaching seemingly quickly as we scramble to attempt to find a secure job after college.

BY: CAITLIN FEENEY
Centurion Staff

Before the elections, Bucks students weighed in on the reputations of presidential candidates Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. For voters, when it comes to presidential candidates, personality is everything. The persona of a candidate should be one that voters can relate to. According to most Bucks students, Mitt Romney is not that candidate. Quinn Thibault, a 20-year-old liberal arts major says, “Romney needs to lighten up.” Students explained that because Romney comes from money, he doesn’t understand the middle class. “Romney came from money. He’s a self-indulgent idiot from the 80s,” said Tony Stoto, a 42-year-old history major. Ben Ryan-Yankovky, a 18-year-old film/video major says, “Mitt Romney comes from a wealthy background and, in some respects, is a generally good guy. However, he’s a person with his own biased viewpoints, which stem from his life growing up.” Others are simply up-in-the-air about Romney. Taylor Yacker, a 20-year-old secondary education biology major says, “I don’t really know him. Romney might try to help education a bit more, but so does Obama. I might have to do some more research.” Some students just aren’t sure. Chris Cornwell, 19, journalism major, says, “I don’t like Obama, but I’m not too crazy about the other one either. I don’t think Romney is a great public speaker, but personality-wise I think he puts on a smile.” Cornwell’s choice is still undecided, but is sure of one when he said, “Romney won the debate. Obama let Romney walk all over him.” Even students that don’t pay much attention to politics have some sort of opinion. Christina Kukawski, a 20-year-old biology major said, “I’m not really into politics,” but she continued, “Obama’s pretty bad, much more. He’s trying to fix things rather than start new problems.” As for Obama, he sort of has support from Bucks students. Mike Pellegrino, nursing major, 26, says “Obama’s cool. I think he has people’s interests at heart, but he’s also a liar. He’s a generally good person, he’s good with his family, but he also has his own interests in mind.” Danielle Succi, nursing major, 22, says, “Obama is a lot more social. He listens more. He wants to know more about people.” Considering Obama’s stance on women’s right to choose, Yacker says, “I’ve heard that Obama was a Christian and I don’t really see him living that way.” As for Stoto, he says, “Obama is a self-made man. He rose, not only politically, but also by helping out his community. I could have a beer with Obama.” Students aren’t the only ones with opinions. Bucks Political-Science Professor Peter Wisniewski explains that when choosing a candidate, “Students need to be educated on the upon graduation they will be able to find a job and fulfill both their personal as well as career goals. Those a bit older focus on a broader picture. They need to be inspired that the economy will rebound and that resolutions to international conflicts will be achieved, and that their children will be able to prosper.” Essentially, students will vote for a candidate that inspires them to reach all their goals. Thibault disagrees: “I’m going to be voting for whoever calls me the least.” A funny look on a very serious decision.
Surviving a serial killer

As Joe Lozito boarded a New York City subway, he didn’t realize that he would be attacked by a serial killer. Now almost two years later, he reveals how he is doing and how his life has changed since the incident.

BY: VICTORIA O'REILLY
Centurion Staff

For many, Joseph Lozito is just your average loving husband and father, but to some he is a hero after being attacked on the New York City subway by serial killer, Maksim Gelman on Feb. 12, 2011. The attack happened early that Saturday morning as Lozito hopped onto the subway to head to work. “When I arrived at New York Penn Station, there were postings that track work was being done on the tracks of the train I normally take,” said Lozito. “Basically, the one train would now mimic the route of the express two and three trains.”

“I went on the platform for the two and three trains, since double the trains stop on that track, I figured I’d get to work quicker. That was probably the third or fourth time that had happened and I wouldn’t ever go to the other platform,” he said. “That was the first and the last time I’d do that.”

When boarding the train, he noticed that there were two other people badly injured.” Lozito told ABC News, “I kept an eye on him and it looked like everyone else was watching him too.”

When denied access to the conductor’s quarters, Gelman attacked before police reached him. “Basically, he was about two or three feet away from me. He took out a giant knife and just looked at me and said, ‘You’re going to die, you’re going to die,’ and then he lunged at me,” Lozito told ABC News.

Lozito was stabbed several times by the cooking knife in the back of the head, face, left hand and arm before taking down Gelman with a moved called a “single-leg”, a move that he learned watching the UFC.

“I’m a rabid fan of all MMA,” Lozito said after taking down the serial killer, police soon took action to help Lozito and finally arrest Gelman. It has been a little over a year and a half since the incident and Lozito goes on to live a normal life with his wife and two sons.

Q: In multiple interviews, police officers also abound and he started to become suspicious. Working in New York at the Lincoln Center, but living in Philadelphia at the time of the incident, Lozito had no idea of what happened in New York the previous night.

ABC News reported that “What Gelman had done, according to police, was kill four people and leave four others badly injured.”

His face had been splashed with mace. Gelman got on the train or while you were fighting him?

A: One officer started to come out before the attack, but testified that he thought Gelman had a gun, so he closed the door and stayed inside.

Everyone is lucky he didn’t have a gun, or multiple people would have died because of the police’s hesitation to act on a man they were on the train to apprehend. The police only acted after I took Gelman down and disarmed him.

Q: How long did it take you to return back to work? A: I don’t remember how much time I missed, but it was probably around 3-4 weeks.

Q: Did you continue to take the same commute to work after the attack? A: I did, until a little over a year ago when I relocated back home to Long Island. Q: Were you scared to ride the subway? And if so, are you still scared? A: I was never scared to ride the subway, even after the incident. I ride the subway twice a day, five times a week and see hundreds of people. One idiot with a knife having a bad day isn’t going to change that.

Q: How old were your kids at the time of the incident? Do they know what happened? A: My sons were 10 & 8 respectively at the time and they absolutely know the full story.

Q: Are you still really into the UFC? Do you actually train for the UFC or are you just a fan? A: I recently started taking private kickboxing lessons at Bellsmore Kickboxing & MMA under the tutelage of the best striking coach around, the great Keith Trimble. I wish I had started earlier.

Q: Is everything back to normal? Are you mentally and physically better? A: Mentally it is a process and it is something I monitor on a daily basis. And physically? Well, the scars have healed for the most part, but they will never go away. I still don’t have full use of my left thumb and I probably never will. I get headaches frequently as well.

Q: You were honored at such events like a Flyers game. How was that? What did they do for you and your family? A: The Flyers and Eagles are first class organizations. The Flyers made up a jersey with my name and the number 18 on it and had the great Bob “Hound” Kelly present it to me during a stoppage in play. After the game, they had us down in the locker room which was a thrill, especially for my son Joey who bleeds orange and black.

Q: You also met Dana White, president of the UFC. He offered you to sit with him at his table at a fight. How was it meeting him? A: Dana White & the UFC as a whole are amazing! We did watch UFC 128 in Newark cage side with Dana and it was a moment of a lifetime! It’s something you can’t imagine. The whole weekend was simply amazing and I will be forever grateful.

Q: What ever happened to Maksim Gelman? A: That sorry sack of shit will now rot in jail on the dime of New York taxpayers until the day he takes his final breath, which will hopefully be sooner rather than later. He received 200 years for the four murders and an additional 25 years for his attempted murder of me.

Q: When one hears about your story and your bravery, what is the message you want people to get? A: The message would be that anyone can do what I did. We all have courage and we should never let anyone try to bully us or get the better of us. Nobody has a right to put their hands on you. Most bullies don’t like being stood up to, so stand up for yourself, for your family, and for your friends.

I especially want to get that message across to children. No matter how old you are, no matter how big or small you are, stand up for yourself and don’t tolerate being bullied.

The other message is, be alert in public places. They are like breeding grounds for scum like Gelman and endless criminals looking to take shortcuts at the expense of the innocent.
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BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Lower Bucks Campus - 1304 Veterans Highway, Bristol, PA
At the time of the explosion inside an army base building in Hiroshima, she credits being ionized that leveled much of 1.8 miles away from the epicenter. Thurlow escaped from what we gave us dried bread, milk, and raisins. Grateful for any sustenance at all, even this rough fare must have seemed like manna from heaven. "I was so young. I didn’t have any animosity at all towards the American GIs," Yamashita said. Thurlow was much older and cognizant than the youthful Yamashita and had a differing view. "It wasn’t until many years later, when I was in college, but yes, I felt it was my moral responsibility to question the use of such weapons against the Japanese people," she said. From a much different perspective, another, Clifton Truman Daniel joins the survivors in a campaign to spread awareness of past events in hopes of preventing future nuclear conflicts. As the grandson of then-President Harry Truman, Clifton Truman Daniel has a curious position among the survivors. "I am grateful to have been asked about it, the more he got his back up over the issue, and defended his decision more forcefully," Daniel said. To be sure, arguments about whether or not atomic weaponry should have been dropped to bring about an end to the war, not looking back. Daniel maintains that while his initial reaction was to defend his grandfather’s decision, that the purpose of the use of such weapons is to work for the future. To remember Hiroshima is to work for peace.” Presently, nine countries worldwide have nuclear Nagasaki. As a 6-year-old boy, he admits that at times he did not understand what was happening during the bombing. But what he does realize is at times, horrifying. "We turned around after a blinding flash, and saw that our house had no windows, no doors, and no roof. Initially, we expected an attack, perhaps some sort of chemical weapon," Yamashita explained. Many of the victims not killed in the initial explosion had no idea of the true extent of the attack. They did not know the unseen danger that was just as deadly as the blast, which was the radiation that remained. The initial explosion was said to have reached nearly 4,000 degrees Celsius. But the radiation left behind continues to harm, and kill, inhabitants of the area even 67 years later.

The radioactive elements used in the construction of "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" – the bombs dropped on Nagasaki, were plutonium and uranium, respectively. The radioactive particles released into the atmosphere around these cities have a half-life estimated at nearly 24,000 years. Suffice it to say that the ill effects of these attacks will continue for generations.

Yamashita said, "We sometimes saw children with purple spots on their skin days, even weeks later. We knew the signs that they would soon die." Yet in the face of enormous devastation, fire, and radiation, Yamashita and his family faced a more immediate concern following the attack. "We were starving, moving through the city, unaware of the danger, looking for shelter, or other family who might have food," he recalls. "I’ll never forget that wonderful meal we received from the first American soldiers. They gave us dried bread, powdered milk, and raisins." Grateful for any sustenance at all, even this rough fare must have seemed like manna from heaven. "I was so young. I didn’t have any animosity at all towards the American GIs," Yamashita said.

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But Daniel does recognize that many will question Truman’s fateful decision, and states, "He was just as horrified as everyone else when initial reports of the devastation reached him." "That slowly changed over time, and I imagine the more times he was asked about it," Daniel said. As a final message to the students present at the lecture, Yamashita, Daniel and Thurlow urged greater awareness, and hoped to prompt the younger generation to become more politically active through voting.
discussed in the debate. The candidates rapidly
condoned one another over issues on employment,
outsourcing and immigration.

The debate was held at Hofst
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Crowley kept both Obama and Romney in check as they
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“The president’s policies have been exercised over
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“We’re going to go after
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skills that we need. People
around the world with ac-
credited degrees in science
and math get a green card
stapled to their diploma,
come to the U.S. of A,” he
dated. As for how Romney will
stop illegal immigration, he
wishes to put in an employ-
ment verification system,
which will have people, more
specifically employers, check
if immigrants are here legally.
“So for instance, I
would not give driver’s li-
censes to those that have
come here illegally as the
president would,” he said.

BY: KELLY ARMSTRONG
Caribou Staff

President Barack Obama
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because they’re trying to fig-
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Romney also wishes for the immigration system to be
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Puck restaurant is a hit in Doylestown

Puck Restaurant is the perfect example of a business that went from nothing to something and has been a favorite hotspot to the residents of Doylestown.

BY: CHARLIE PATTON

There are several clubs in Bucks and Montgomery County, but very few, if any, are like Puck Live in Doylestown. Lynn Goldman and her husband, Bill Goldman, Jr., who have been residents of Doylestown Borough for more than 30 years, purchased a former bank building right across the street from the Bucks County Courthouse in 2005.

Goldman had the following to say about her beloved club. “It’s the closest thing to a city club that you will find outside of Philadelphia. The quality is ten and we’re very serious about our sound system. The well-deserved slogan for the club is “Studio Quality Music Live.”

Goldman has prior experience in owning and running clubs. She used to own two adjacent venues named Blue S2 and Roosevelt’s Blue Star, respectively. When Goldman purchased the old bank, she said that she recognized a need for live original music in Doylestown.

The “Puck Van”, owned by club owner Lynn Goldman, parked outside the entrance to the venue on Printer’s Alley.

The “Live” in Puck Live is also what you would call a mixologist, capable of making just about any drink you want. Recently, the club began having the weekly Puck Pint Night every Thursday night.

Patrons can purchase an office Puck pint glass for $10 and their first pint of draft beer is free. After the first pint, you can have an unlimited number of pints for half of the normal price.

Lightkep also had this to say. “It’s an easier environment for the artists.”

While every staff member at Puck is the place for you. Puck has great food and a nice selection of drinks, great entertainment, and a friendly staff who are looking forward to your visit. Puck Live is open seven days a week from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. It’s an easier environment for the artists.”

Puck is an integral part of America’s banks at the time.

The “Puck Van”, owned by club owner Lynn Goldman, parked outside the entrance to the venue on Printer’s Alley.
Transfer Fairs
Fall 2012

Schedule

Newtown Campus
Wednesday, October 3
9:30 am – 12:30 pm • Cafeteria

Tuesday, October 30
4:30 – 7 pm • Founders Hall Lobby

Monday, November 12
Featuring Nursing & Allied Health Baccalaureate Programs
12 – 2 pm • Cafeteria

Upper Bucks Campus
Tuesday, November 6
10 am – 1 pm • Student Commons

Lower Bucks Campus
Wednesday, November 14
10 am – 1 pm • Student Commons

For a list of Colleges attending go to www.bucks.edu/transfer

Bucks County Community College
Newtown • Bristol • Perkasie • www.bucks.edu/transfer
Transfer Services • 215-968-8031
transfer@bucks.edu
BY: ROBERT KNUCKLES

The firing of Eagles defensive coordinator Juan Castillo begs the question; are Eagles fans happy where their team stands?

It seems like the Eagles’ luck—or lack thereof—has reached a tipping point, blowing a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter to the Detroit Lions, losing 26-23 in OT. Michael Vick threw two interceptions and lost one fumble; the Eagles rank 31st in points and turnovers.

Andy Reid was the scapegoat, fired two days after Sunday’s loss. Coach Andy Reid stated how hard it was to let go of a friend, but that it was necessary. Secondary Coach Todd Bowles will take over as the team’s defensive coordinator.

“I think this move was beneficial. Fans have wanted him fired since the beginning of last season, but even with Juan gone the whole team still needs to be fired. I’m hoping they wait until the firing will bring a spark back in the team and maybe we’ll see them play with purpose,” said Brittnay Marcella, 20, communications major. Eagles Cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha might be the prime example Marcella speaks about; Asomugha believes a shift in defensive philosophy was necessary.

“The most of the blame goes to defense giving up seven 4th quarter leads. Juan shouldn’t have been hired in the first place because he only coached high school, and the NFL is completely different. Arizona needed to fire him, he just had to make a move by firing Juan,” offered Kyle Stephan, 20, communications major.

Among NFL circles, it is believed that this was a “panic” move by Andy Reid, as Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie stated anything less than a postseason berth would result in Reid’s firing. Currently, the Eagles are 2-3 and welcome the undefeated Atlanta Falcons, led by Matt Ryan, to Philadelphia following Philly’s by week.

“We have to make some drastic changes to make it to the Super Bowl. First thing is that Vick needs to control the ball better. Second thing is that the defense needs to be more confident in their blitzing,” said Vick Kinney, 20, communications major.

In three games, Michael Vick has eight interceptions and three fumbles. He only has a 58.9% completion percentage, and some writers have even started calling for backup QB Nick Foles to take Vick’s starting job.

“I love it [the firing]. It’s a big move by Reid. I think the Eagles can still make it. The offensive line needs to protect Vick and special teams need to stop letting the other teams get so much yards on them,” said Ryan Werner, 20, elementary education major.

“This move really surprised me. I thought defense was doing okay but just not great. I’m surprised to see Marty (Mornhinweg, Eagles Assis tant Head Coach) still around. I hope he’s the next one to go. The Eagles usually do well after the bye week so hopefully we’ll see some improvement,” said Steve Swigum, 20, business major.

With the Eagles at a 1.500 record, students could again be weighing in on another coach’s firing reaction sooner rather than later.
Women join men in soccer playoffs for the first time ever

BY: STEPHEN GODWIN JR.
Centurion Staff

The Men and Lady Centurion soccer teams are headed for the first time in the same season ever. It is a bigger deal for the Lady Centurions, who have clinched a playoff berth for the first time in the team's three-year existence.

THE WOMEN'S TEAM

The Women's team (7-1) clinched their playoff berth back on Oct, 6 in a hard-fought victory over the Raritan Valley Golden Lions. The women's team started in 2008 as a club team, meaning they could not compete for national titles and such, but then branched off in 2009 to become a regular women's team that were poised to shake lose those limitations.

Coach Justin Burroughs coached the club team in the first year until 2009 when a former player, Brett Pierson from Burroughs 2005, took over the coaching duties.

"I was lucky enough to convince him to come back and take over the women's program," Burroughs said.

Pierson is in his 3rd year of coaching the women's team and seems optimistic about his team's playoff chances.

"I am happy with the way the team has played this year and there is no reason we can't make a run to win the title," said Pierson. 'I have a team this year with very good talent...a strong defense and key players who have been finishing on goal.'

A few key players to watch on this team are defender Sam Kilkirk, midfielder Cait Kelley, striker Jessica Williams, and goaler Morgan D'Apollito.

Kilkirk is the team's captain and lockdown defender that has kept opposing team's offenses at bay. Kilkirk, who is affectionately known as "Dash," for her speed helps her coach keep the team in line.

"I believe in positive, constructive criticism," said Kilkirk. "I tell the team where we have room for improvement, not just picking out one player and telling them they did something wrong."

First year player Kelley has good touch on the ball and is essentially the distributor on the team. Her keys to the team's success are their possession and crisp passing.

"Williams is among the league leaders in scoring and established herself as a leader," D’Apollito said. "We’ve really been maintaining a lot of the (ball) possession, with very good finishing.

Pierson knows his team’s future is bright, but said that the playoff picture is still cloudy.

"I do not know yet who we will play, however, if we do finish in second we will have a bye the first round which will leave us with the task of only having to win two matches instead of three. So I like the position we are in," said Pierson.

"If we improve or hold the second spot which we currently have now, we will gain home field advantage for the semi-final and the final is being held at ocean county college this season."

THE MEN'S TEAM

The Men's team (7-1-2) entered the season with a chip on their shoulder because of missing the playoffs by one game last year. The Men's team clinched their playoff spot on Oct. 4 in a 4-0 beat down on Delaware.

Last year proved to be frustrating for Burroughs as he dealt with a rash of injuries and some unfortunate bounces that kept his 2011 squad home during the playoffs, but notes that this season has been the reverse.

"It's definitely satisfying, our first game ever is to make the playoffs so it was more disappointing last year when we did not make it. This year I am expecting a little more than just make the playoffs this year I am expecting to make some noise," said Burroughs.

The turning point for the Centurions came in the middle of the season when they returned home from a brutal six game road trip. Once they got a break they went on a winning streak that has propelled them into the playoffs.

After the season last year Burroughs received insult to injury in a sense by losing his leading scorer in Dan Foley, starting goaltender in Damon Custer, and a good player in Brandon Milan. Burroughs has taken it in stride though as he confesses that this year’s team has been a team effort.

"Everybody has really stepped up this year; this group has really bonded quickly. They became focused and everyone has filled in roles and stepped up when they have needed to so we have a good identity," said Burroughs.

"This year has been very happy even though we missed our starting goalkeeper for a couple games, someone else stepped in, and different people have scored at different times so we are not depending on one guy to score. People on defense have also stepped up without complaining."

A major strength of the team has been the goalkeeping that lead the league in shutouts with seven. Starting goalie Mike Klimonot is the leading goaltender in the nation in shuts and is tenth in save percentage and fourth in saves.

"He is doing a great job with the help of our defense," said Burroughs. "We have had numerous guys fill in back there so they have had all contributed."

Klimonot’s teammate Kevin Hilton is no slouch either as he has 11 shuts and ranks in the nation. This playoff berth is extra special for Hilton, who said, "I think it’s awesome because I have never been to the playoffs in high school or college, except as a bench player.

Ball possession was another thing that Burroughs keyed in on as one of the team’s strengths.

"Our ball possession has just been excellent, if you have the ball longer than the other team than chances are you are going to win and we are so it’s showing," Burroughs revealed that the success year is not by chance, but hopefully a sign of things to come.

"We are here to prove our selves every single year so that we do not just have a good team for one season, but we want to be known as a good program. Some teams make the playoffs and their happy about it, but if they don’t make for three or four years then they are gonna be known as fluke," Burroughs said.

"It helps our recruiting and it helps our players get recruited so the colleges that do recruit them know what kind of players they are getting."

The four years schools know our players will be disciplined and that the references they get from us will be legit and they will be able to come in and contribute right away.”

The Women’s team will play against Bergen County College, but the game came out before the game was played. The Men’s team is going to play against Ocean County College today at 3p.m.

PRO SCORES

NFL
Oct. 21
Giants 27 - 23 Redskins
Steelers 24 - 17 Bengals
Cowboys 19 - 14 Panthers

MLB
NLC Game 6 Oct. 21
Giants 6 - 1 Cardinals

MLS
Houston 3 - 1 Union