

The Centurion



The Award-Winning, Student-Run Newspaper of Bucks County Community College

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Free

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Weather

Thursday- High near 45.



Friday - High near 46.



Saturday- High near 47.



Sunday- High near 48. Chance of rain 40 percent.



Monday- High near 43.



Tuesday - High near 40.



Wednesday- High near 40. Chance of rain/snow 60 percent.



WEATHER COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Drag show fallout

A drag show at Bucks held by the Open Door Club has sparked controversy following criticism from Bucks County Courier Times columnist J.D. Mullane

BY: KELLY ARMSTRONG
Centurion Staff

Bucks' LGBT club has called foul on the Bucks County Courier Times for a column criticizing the group's role in a recent drag show held at the Newtown campus.

Published Nov. 20, "At Bucks County Community College, a celebration of cross-dressing," questioned the validity of "War of the Wigs," the 2012 drag show competition on Nov. 16 inside the Newtown auditorium to help raise funds for the Bucks Villa, a housing facility for HIV and AIDS patients.

Columnist J.D. Mullane's emphasized the "geniuses running the gate" for allowing children into the event and the "risqué" acts that were incorporated into the show rather than the motivation for the event.

A letter written to the editor of the Courier on Nov. 23 was also critical of the event and the school for allowing it to take place inside its doors. The editorial asked the college to "close the door on future drag shows" and claimed the event was "not educational" for students.

The article went further by implying that tax money



A group of contestants pose during the "War of the Wigs" competition

PHOTO BY BUCKS' OPEN DOOR CLUB FACEBOOK

went into the show, which was not the case, according to Barbara Yetman, dean of students and vice president for student affairs. "No public money funded the event," she said. "In fact, its cost was covered by student fees."

This isn't the first time Mullane has found fault with school's Open Door Club. "The facts of life, explained," published by the Courier on April 26 was written in response to the club's Sex Education Day, an April 25 event at the Newtown campus that distributed condoms and safe sex tips to students. In the column Mullane described Sex Education Day as having

"plenty of knowledge, but no truth" and saying that "it is tough for me (Mullane) to believe anyone over, say, 15, needs to be educated about sex in America."

Both of the articles can be found on phillyburbs.com and on Bucks' Open Door Club's Facebook page. Both J.D. Mullane and the Courier Times could not be reached for comment on the issue.

The club expressed their displeasure with what they feel is negative exposure from the local media outlet. "There was not one nice thing said in the articles," said Shannon Hoppe, 32, social work major and the pres-

ident of the Open Door Club at Bucks "All of the attention was on the negative."

Hoppe became aware of the columns through her own research and through a family member of an editor at the Courier.

"Most of us were really upset when we heard about the articles," said Jordan Lloyd, 20, liberal arts major and member of the Open Door Club.

However, the club seems rather upbeat about its future regardless of what others are saying about them. "I think it's going to make us (The

Continued on page 3

Promenade site to revitalize Newtown

The Promenade will replace the Acme site on Sycamore Street in Newtown after being an eyesore for nearly a decade

BY: CRAIG MILLER
Centurion Staff

For several years now, it's been impossible to drive down Sycamore Street in Newtown without noticing the eyesore that was the former Acme grocery store.

Yet a group of contractors purchased the lot in 2006 promising residential condos and places to shop named "The Promenade" in the heart of a town that prides itself on being a colonial shopping district. "It is our understanding that the building will be completed and ready for oc-

cupancy in late 2013," said Shawn Ward, president of the Sycamore Street Community Association.

With the demolition of the run-down building on Sept. 22, residents could finally see progress after over a decade of inactivity at the old Acme sight.

In 2001 the Acme store was relocated to the shopping center next to Durham Road and the Newtown Bypass due to competition from Genuardi's, which has since been bought out by McCaffrey's, according to Ward.

"I am glad that the old Acme building has been taken down. It was both an eyesore and a hazard to the community. I look forward to all development on Sycamore Street which will expand the business district," said Dennis O'Brien, mayor of Newtown Borough.

The Promenade plans to feature multiple luxury apartments also headlined by a business named Anthropologie, which specializes in women's clothing and accessories.



Signs of life at the old Acme location on Sycamore Street

PHOTO BY CRAIG MILLER

"The second and third floors will offer carefree and luxury condo living to discerning residents who will benefit from an elegant lifestyle in an extraordinary location – with the best shopping, restaurants and cafes all within walking distance within beautiful and downtown Newtown Borough," according to The Promenade's website,

<http://www.newtownpromenade.com>.

However, no liquor will be sold on the property, due to township regulations. It will rest right next to the Goodnoe's Corner which features restaurants like The Green Parrot as well as the titular Goodnoe Farm Dairy Bar.

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Visit us at Bucks Newtown Campus Rollins Building Room 127

Letter to the editor

Bucks faculty unite in support of the Open Door Club and its event

In a submission to the Centurion, the Bucks County Community College Federation of Teachers gave this response to recent Bucks County Courier Times columns on the school's Open Door Club.

On Friday, November 16, the Open Door Club (BCCC's Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, and Ally student group) hosted a benefit drag show competition to raise money for Bucks Villa, a group home for people living with HIV/AIDS. With over 120 people in attendance, the event was highly successful, as the students raised over \$800.

The Bucks County Community College Federation of Teachers, as faculty committed to the education of our students, is disappointed and concerned by the set of articles in the Courier Times on November 20 and 23 bashing the Open Door Club and this event.

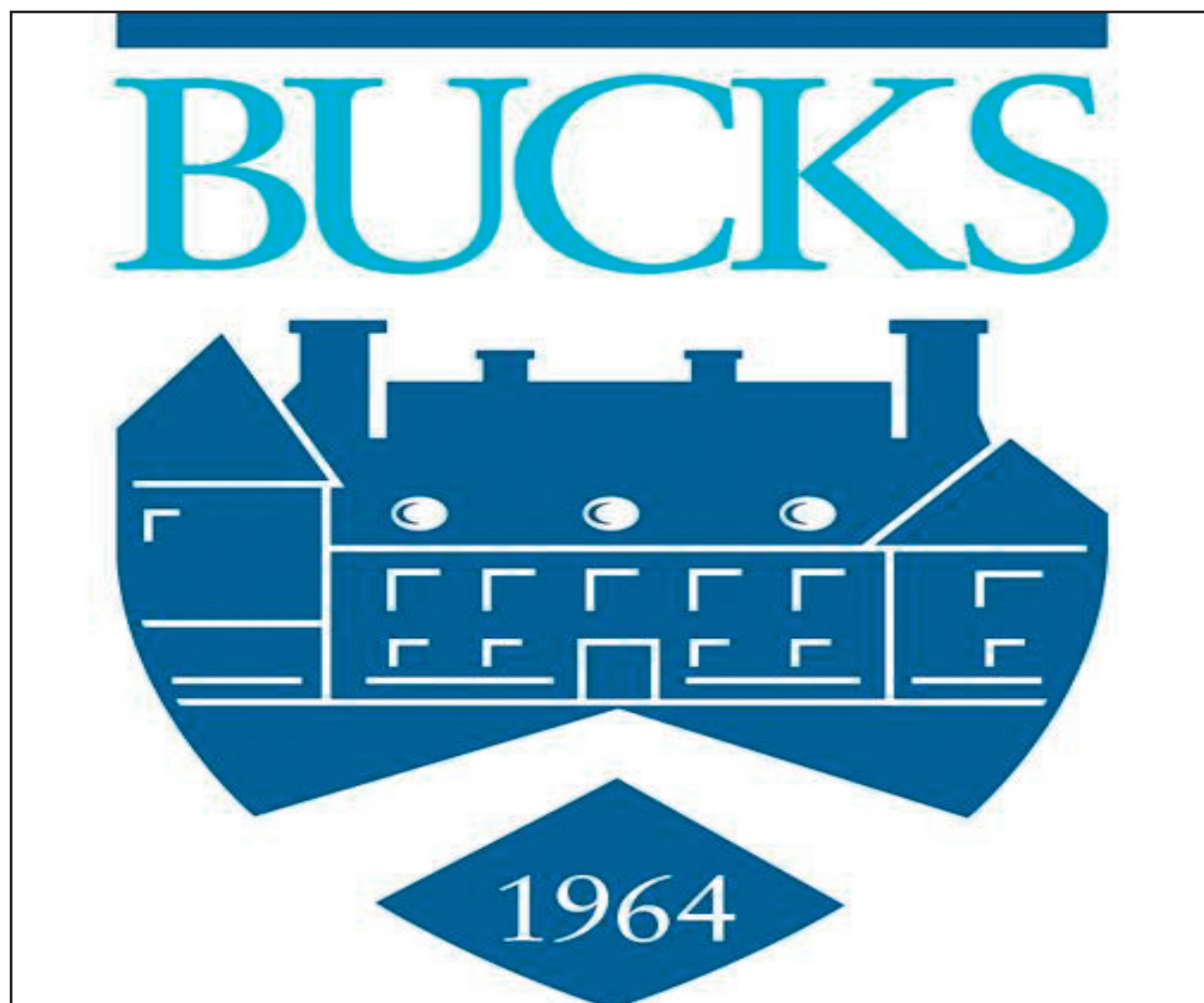
On Tuesday, November 20, JD Mullane of the Courier Times published a report ("At Bucks County Community College, a celebration of cross-dressing") that focused only on parts of the show that would evoke negative response—e.g., an act including a student performing to Rihanna's song "S&M" and the winning performer's act that included jumping off the stage and dancing with the crowd. He left out the straight veteran who performed in drag to support the Open Door Club (even though he was interviewed at length). While the participants consisted of females in male attire and males in female attire, the article focused almost exclusively on the drag queens. These selective details seem designed to depict the show as perverted and some kind of attack on children, with the mention of a child, brought by a parent, in the audience in both articles. The club was clear in its advertising that the show was meant for mature audiences—not because of the gender-bending, but because of the adult language spoken

by the comedian who emceed the event.

On November 23, the Courier editorial staff also wrote about the event ("Close the Door"), blatantly suggesting that the Open Door Club "close the door on future drag shows." Several of the claims were that taxpayers' money should not be spent on this type of event, that it was not educational, and that a child should not have been in the audience. Clearly, both articles were written to scare the community college away from supporting sexual and gender diversity.

As an institution of higher learning, we have the responsibility to expose students to the new and unfamiliar, to open their eyes to the fact that the world is bigger than what they have experienced and, hopefully, to help them realize that just because an idea or attitude may seem different to them, it is not bad or dangerous. In fact, among the College's Core Values are "respect for the individual"; "responsiveness and open-mindedness"; and "diversity and an understanding of world cultures." While we would agree with Matt Cipriano's published comment that producing the show was educational, the major educational component was in its addressing those core values—an opening, not a narrowing, of the mind. And that is the reason that it was on campus, not at some more isolated place, which would have told the students that what they had to say and were presenting was inappropriate.

In addition, college is a place where students should feel safe to explore new ideas, one that not only protects them from homophobic and other bigotry but provides them a safe place within which to develop strategies for addressing such societal ills. Ironically, the story here is that in attempting to help care for community members suffering from physical illness, our students uncovered a social illness just as serious, if not more so: homophobia.



A further educational function of the event was students learning how to make a selfless contribution to those in need, which they willingly did. In a time when young people are being accused of being self-absorbed and callous, we applaud the Open Door Club and other participants for stepping up to help others who need assistance.

While the editorial made a point of saying that "we have nothing against the Open Door Club or cross dressing for that matter," the ridicule implied in Mullane's stories about Rachel Wood, who discussed with him the societal determination of what is appropriate gender appearance and behavior, and Brendan, whose parents supported his cross-dressed participation, clearly suggests otherwise. And the editorial cited a male performer who "accepted tips stuffed in his cleavage." Is a man's "cleavage," if there is such a thing, something off-limits or risqué? It added that the performance would have been "more at home in a strip bar." Actually, that is not true: there was no nudity, no realistic intent to titillate. In fact, language aside—and this was advertised as for mature audiences—one can see "more offensive" things on TV, particularly in violence and

objectification of women.

There is also a disconcerting attack on the college, as "Close the Door" made a number of references to the College's use of public money: when arguing that "some campus activities can severely stretch our standards," it referred to "institutions of higher learning that annually consume a significant pile of public money" and then discussed the College's budget and how much of that is from state and county money. Later, it mentioned that College officials are "all on the public payroll, by the way," though that has nothing to do with the presentation. While it later acknowledged that "no public money funded the event," it left in these hints of inappropriate use of public dollars, planting a seed so that readers will associate their tax money with the event.

Mullane's article ended with a manipulatively contemplative moment: "Walking alone across the deserted college campus, as I had done many times as a student, I recalled the words of Beat Generation poet Allen Ginsberg, who howled at traditional middle America: 'We'll get you through your children.'" Who is this "we"? Who is this "you"? How are "we" going to "get you"? Such words in-

flame the fear and suspicion of that other—named or unnamed—who is out to destroy our way of life, threatening our very existence because we do not understand or agree with it. Overcoming such fear and ignorance is one of the major goals of education.

There is an up side to the whole flap, though: people across the College are standing up for the Open Door Club and our institutional commitment to diversity. Students are supporting each other. The administration, faculty, and staff continuously voice their support. Whoever attended the event can testify that both articles were extremely skewed and taken out of context. Luckily, our students have excellent support from each other and from our faculty and staff, but why should they have to be exposed to such animosity? Rather than close the door, as the Courier suggests, let us stand together, students, faculty, administration, and staff, and work together to see that the door remains open. Our students and the community deserve as much.

(At its December meeting, the Federation's membership unanimously endorsed this statement.)



THE CENTURION

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To receive the Centurion's Email Edition:

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Letter Policy

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

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ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

War of the wigs

Continued on page 1

Open Door Club) stronger, Hoppe said. "The negativity will give us strength." The faculty has responded

to the articles written by Mullane and the editorial staff by sending a letter to the Courier in support of the Open Door Club. The faculty had this to say

as one of their many main points in the letter: "As an institution of higher learning, we have the responsibility to expose students to the new and unfamiliar, to

open their eyes to the fact that the world is bigger than what they have experienced and, hopefully, to help them realize that just because an idea or attitude may seem dif-

ferent to them, it is not bad or dangerous." The letter is published in full in this issue of the Centurion.



Members of the drag competition line up after the show PHOTO BY BUCKS' OPEN DOOR CLUB FACEBOOK



A performer kneeling on stage during the Nov. 16 show PHOTO BY BUCKS' OPEN DOOR CLUB FACEBOOK

Promenade construction finally underway

Continued on page 1

Newtown Township supervisor Jay Sensibaugh and Ward expect an increase in consumers and traffic. "High-end retail users such as Anthropologie are expected to occupy the retail space and will attract a solid consumer base (with the help of) The Promenade in addition to Goodnoe's Corner and the development of the former Stockburger Chrysler," Ward said.

Keeping up with the colonial style of Newtown was a necessity, and Sensibaugh believes, "good community planning tries to anticipate the needs of the community."

On Sept. 16, 2002, Newtown township supervisors began discussing a redevelopment plan for the property, which featured public input and designs for the site, termed the "Acme Visioning Committee."

The committee ultimately came up with a 9-point recommendation to be followed by the board of supervisors and subsequent contractors:

- Demolish the existing building
 - Clean up the site
 - The south should protect the Historic Newtown Presbyterian Church
 - Future development of the site should be of a mixed use
 - The commercial, office and residential uses should be accomplished in a blend of architectural styles typical of the late 18th and 19th centuries
 - The developer should include a signature-type attraction of a commercial, recreational or architectural nature which will bring to the site a unique identity
 - The supervisors should encourage the development of a multilevel structure or structures and grant relief from the maximum 30-foot height requirement
 - Create a street-scape by placing the building to the forward edge of the property with parking in the rear
 - Construct the site in a pedestrian-friendly manner in keeping with the Sycamore Street Project
- Sensibaugh explained that



A sign hanging from the fence at the sight displays the future landscape of Sycamore Street PHOTO BY CRAIG MILLER

supervisors presented their idea for the property in 2003, after it was acquired by the County and Township Redevelopment Authority.

The authority sold the property to developer Elliot Building Group, yet the group presented the supervisors with a plan "that had not incorporated all visioning the committee wanted and did not meet zoning for the site," Sensibaugh said.

Despite the resistance from township supervisors the group proceeded with construction.

Unfortunately the 2008 recession hit the construction industry hard, which led to the Elliot Group filing for bankruptcy.

The property was eventually acquired by McGrath Homes Inc. that year, after the group met with supervisors to discuss their plan for the property. Yet, due to the recession the township was unable to loan funds to McGrath for the project. Also, the lot itself lost value as leasers were wary to the idea of placing a business there.

"Potential leasers of the spaces either backed away from the project or delayed their desire to proceed immediately. Financially, this investor group (McGrath) had to reorganize with some changes in the investors," Sensibaugh said.

Reorganizing by recruiting more investors, including Newtown Athletic Club owner Jim Worthington, they

revised their plan to include 20,000 feet of retail space along with 26 residential apartments. The Promenade was finally born.

This was all approved in August 2011, with the township finally having money to borrow for construction on The Promenade.

Some of the changes that didn't make the cut included an underground parking lot, as well as reducing the overall size of the property itself. Other ideas included an ice rink similar to that of the Rockefeller Center in New York City, as well as a chain bookstore, according to Ward.

"The issue is a complicated one which has as many twists and turns as the Schuylkill River," Sensibaugh said. But finally after years of waiting residents and consumers now have another reason to come to Newtown.

For renting information please contact 267-972-3637. Business inquiries can be reached at 610-834-8000.



The empty lot is a sign of progress after the demolition of the old Acme PHOTO BY CRAIG MILLER

Centurion staff says farewell to its leader

BY: VICTORIA O'REILLY
Centurion Staff

As another semester at Bucks comes to an end the staff of the Centurion said goodbye to its longest running editor-in-chief in the newspaper's history, Michael Berchem.

Berchem, 22, journalism major from Levittown, has been the brains of the Centurion operation for the last two and a half years and sadly, will be stepping down from the position to continue his studies at Temple University.

This Pennsbury High School alumnus started his college career at Bucks in the fall semester of 2008 as a sports management major. He remained here studying sports management until the spring of 2009 before leaving to attend York College.

Berchem studied at York for only two semesters, leaving behind sports management and trying criminal justice for a change.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do," Berchem said. "I sat down with my father to try and figure out what would be good for me."

After finishing at York, Berchem returned to Bucks in the fall of 2010, once again switching his major to journalism after realizing how much he loved to write. Journalism major are encouraged to become staff members of the Centurion and thanks to journalism professor, Tony Rogers, that's exactly where Berchem began.

"I started out not knowing what I was doing at all,"



PHOTO BY TONY ROGERS

Mike Berchem holds up one of the papers the Centurion group layed out while celebrating with pizza.

Berchem said. "Tony told everyone that it was a great way to bring your skills up and learn new ones."

In his first semester as a writer, he had 22 articles published in the paper, which is about double to what is required for the a student's first journalism class. He also started attending the staff meetings on Thursday afternoons and spent his weekends working on the paper.

Berchem would write about anything he could think of, but he has a love for writing

sport stories. He is a very passionate football fan and would love to one day work for ESPN or the NFL Network, which he knows is a very hard goal to reach.

With a lot of hard work he believes that he could reach this goal, with all the writing for the Centurion giving him a step ahead of the competition in his career field.

Former editor-in-chief and fellow writer at the time, Dan Perez, worked with Berchem as managing editors. About eight weeks after that, Perez

and Berchem were promoted due to the lack of work from the former editor.

"I don't know if I had deserved it yet, but I worked my ass off and my hard work paid off very quickly," Berchem said.

Perez has since left to study journalism at Ryder University, but had only good things to say about Berchem.

"I had a really good time working on the paper with Mike and it gave us a chance to really get to know each other," Perez said. "He is a really hard worker and I think he is a big reason why we won so many awards during our time together."

Since then, Berchem has been running the paper and with that said, the paper has definitely benefitted with him as editor.

During Berchem's tenure as editor-in-chief the centurion newspaper has done a complete overhaul from past versions of the paper. The paper went from a tabloid to broadsheet format and switched from black and white to color,

The printing company, Maclearie printing company in Quakertown, also threw a wrench into the mix last spring when they surprised the Centurion staff and announced their email that they had filed for bankruptcy.

After a brief hiatus, the Bucks County Courier times agreed to take over the printing duties, but it would take

some adjustments from Berchem and company. The paper would grow in size and had to have a completely different look, which Berchem designed.

Berchem doesn't write much anymore, but still attends every meeting on Thursday and comes in every weekend to make sure the students have their newspaper every week.

"It is a student run newspaper and I do my best to run it and let the newer people write for the paper."

After this semester Berchem will be leaving Bucks to head into Philadelphia to continue writing for the newspaper at Temple University, but as a media studies major. He plans on getting a doctorate degree, but he is still not certain what he wants to do with it just yet.

The two men that will be taking over for Berchem are Stephen Godwin Jr. and Anthony DiMattia.

"I learned a lot from Mike and I credit him for helping me become more polished in all aspects of the newsroom," Godwin said. "The thing I admire him most for is his work ethic that inspires me to do the same."

"For as hard as Mike has worked on the paper I know he will be successful in his future endeavors," DiMattia said.

Berchem, even though his staff may not show it, will be missed in the newsroom.



Besides being Editor-in-chief of the paper, Mike is also a father to his step-son Mason.

PHOTO BY AMANDA MINNES

Sign up for text alerts

BY: EMILIA SELLECCHIA
Centurion Staff

Time is a valuable commodity to Bucks students and to people in general, which is why Bucks has installed the new state of the art notification system that makes sure students do not let it go to waste.

With winter fast approaching, the campus text alerts could not be more timely for students.

An interview with Dennis McCauley, who is the director of security and safety at Bucks, rendered some answers about the new text notifications for students.

"It is important because if there is an emergency on campus students can get this instantaneously," said McCauley when asked why it is important for students to sign up for these alerts. "It is the primary tool we use. I encourage all students to sign up for it whether through text or email."

McCauley emphasized the importance of the alerts to students especially this time

of year because "you don't want to drive up to school to find out if the college is closed."

"We do send alerts to news stations and post it on the college website, but the fastest and easiest way is to send these text messages and emails to the students," McCauley said.

With the campus text alerts to cell phones, Blackberry's, wireless PDAs and smart phones, people can avoid all the hassle and receive a text well in advance.

Most recently, the campus text alert system was used when Hurricane Sandy hit. The campus ended up being closed for the whole week of Oct. 29 through Nov. 2.

This was the first time the college has closed for this long of a period since 1995. The college lost power so classes could not operate as usual. Bucks sent out texts the night before to let students know whether or not campus was closed.

"I am signed up for the campus text alerts and love it. I find it very helpful because I

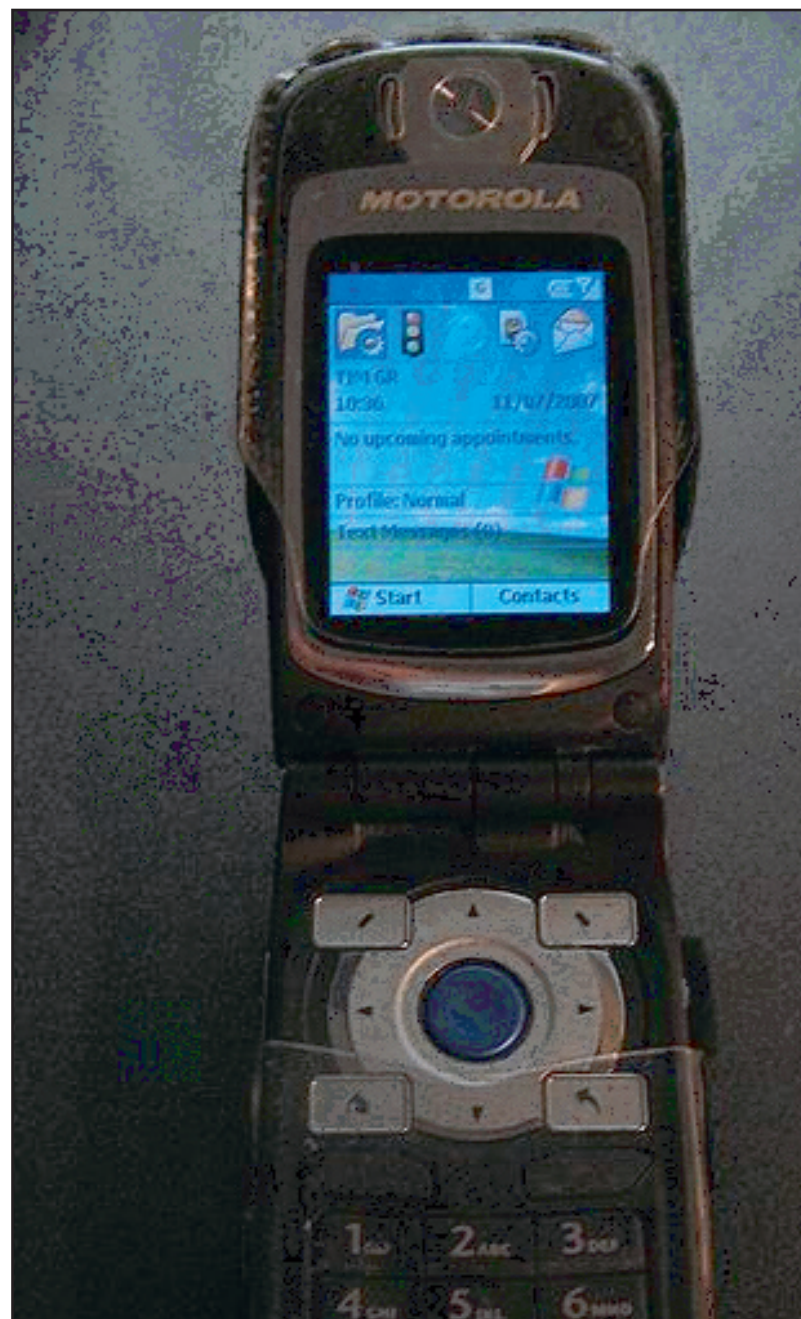
know when my classes are cancelled," said Lori De-Sanctis, 18, liberal arts major at Bucks.

"Yes, I am signed up for the campus text alerts. I think it is the easiest way to find out if school is closed or not. I don't have to move from my bed and drive to school when it's already closed," Alicia Heller, 21, another student at Bucks.

McCauley said "we have recently added a capability in which the student texts the word BUCKS to 79516 and they are signed up for the text alerts. With the email you still have to sign up from the computer. Most students prefer the texts because they are the easiest."

"There are posters in production which contain explanations on how to sign up and they should be out soon," McCauley said.

It's a simple and easy way to sign up. Just go to <http://www.e2campus.com/my/bucks/signup.htm>, put in your personal information and create an account. Then an email to verify will follow.



School closing alerts through cell phones can save Bucks students time

Bucks Poet Laureate is selected

BY: CAITLIN FEENEY
Centurion Staff

The 2012 Bucks County Poet Laureate will be bringing a West Coast perspective to poetry this fall.

Chalfont resident Lara Adams Gaydos was named the 36th Bucks County Poet Laureate by Bucks officials on Oct. 15. Gaydos' presented her prize-winning poem, "She Forgives, She Always Forgives," to a crowd inside The Orangery at the Bucks Newtown Campus on Dec. 1.

Closely embracing the title of 2012 Poet Laureate, Gaydos is now in charge of writing poems for special occasions inside the county. Gaydos is excited to promote poetry in the Bucks County community and is currently devising projects to work on throughout the year. A poetry

work shop with young students in Bucks County is her current passion.

After graduating from Rutgers's University, the New Jersey native packed up her belongings and headed for Colorado for a job as a graphic designer.

"It was a great adventure," Gaydos said of the move.

Her award winning poem captures the essence of Colorado's landscape. The region's natural sounds, scents, mountains and landscape inspire much of her poetry, along with the people she met there.

Her poems tell the truth in a raw and poignant way.

Gaydos explained her motivation: honesty is what a reader will be able to connect with. When a reader shares the same emotional moment depicted in a poem, that's when the work really res-

onates with them.

She collaborated with many poets during her time in Colorado before returning to her family in Pennsylvania. Gaydos still sticks to her roots, but stays in contact with her friends from Colorado to work on poetry together.

After winning the prize, Gaydos was quick to contact poet Lois Beebe Hayna, a 99-year-old woman who leads a Colorado poetry group, according to a Bucks press release. "She's (Hayna) the pillar of the writing community in Colorado Springs," Gaydos said.

After her return to the region Gaydos began entering contests in the hopes of meeting other poets and connecting with those in her community. Gaydos placed sixth in the 2008 Bucks County Poet Laureate contest.



PHOTO CREDIT: BUCKS WEBSITE

Lara Gaydos' hard work finally paid off by getting the Poet Laureate prize. When she submitted her poems for 2012, she was not expecting a win. She explained that the poet laureate does not pick the best one, but whose poem was a hit that year.

"I'm still the same poet and I'm still learning," Gaydos said. "I've had dreadful poems. I have a few that irritate me. I think what a poem really needs is an honest moment."

According to Gaydos, the key for students looking to write is to follow your interests and not worry so much. Exploring the world and gaining experiences is what makes writing the richest.

"Get out. Get off the internet. Travel. Enjoy. Keep a journal, write it down," she said.

The Bucks County Poet Laureate program, reaching back to 1977, is the longest poet laureate program in the state. For over three decades of history, the Commissioners of Bucks County have supported the program, which is funded by the BCCC Foundation, according to bucks.edu.

For more information about poet Laureate or other writing contests, contact the college's Department of Language and Literature at 215-968-8150.



Colorado inspired Gaydos' poetry.

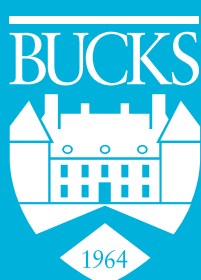
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Where to learn. Where to return.

New C4 program can help Bucks students

BY: CAITLIN FEENEY
Centurion Staff

Community College Completion Corp is lending a hand to any student that may need it so they have every chance to succeed no matter their situation.

C4 is a massive coalition rocketing through Bucks in the hopes of drastically increasing graduation rates of students without compromising the quality of education. The group explains that many students fail to complete their community college degree because they are overwhelmed, overextended, underfunded and underprepared.

C4 is essentially an awareness campaign to get students and faculty to connect and work together through improvements in advising, study skills and more to help more students obtain their degrees.

Roughly one in four students drops out before completing their degrees at a community college. Of those who do not drop out, only 20 percent complete their credentials in three years- not two, according to C4.

The group is dedicated to supporting students and knocking out drop-out rates on a national scale.

Phi Theta Kappa, the largest international honor society in the world, is a direct advo-

cate to the movement. C4 is looking to increase student's success even before students decide what to do after high school.

"There is another choice to high school juniors and seniors besides that four-year college," said Matt Kutch, a business administration major and president of Buck's PTK chapter.

The PTK international officers explain that attending a community college and obtaining an associate's degree before transferring will ultimately save a student money and time. Otherwise students are more likely to spend their time and money taking and retaking courses that a degree would have made unnecessary.

C4 also wants to educate students about FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. According to the U.S. Department of Education, millions of community college students are eligible for financial aid, but do not apply.

The Call to Action is a pledge to increase student completion rates by 50 percent over the next decade. "As organizations representing America's community colleges, we mutually commit and pledge to promote the development and implementation of policies, practices, and institutional



Hard working students like these inside the Bucks library can take advantage of C4's many offerings

cultures that will produce 50 percent more students with high quality degrees and certificates by 2020, while increasing access and quality," the Call to Action states.

Barriers such as work, family and cost hold many students back from obtaining their degree. C4 wants to conduct workshops to discuss these barriers and come up with solutions to overcome them.

And there's no catch. C4 exists purely to boost the number of students who graduate, and hopefully in only two years.

PTK and other advocates of C4 want students to keep an eye out for essay contests (with a monetary prize that goes toward tuition for the winner), flyers with information posted, and rallies to support the movement.

"What is it we can do to

make our students more successful," asks Denise May, an associate professor of language and literature and the academic success coordinator at Bucks

C4 is a collaborative effort, entrusted in both students and faculty members. To join the distribution list, give suggestions and get involved in the C4 movement, contact Professor May at mayd@bucks.edu.

Students offer tech advice

BY: DALLAS LUCE
Centurion Staff

The Computer Science Club at Bucks helped out people this holiday season by fixing and restoring computers on Nov. 29

Anyone who wanted help could stop in and get the kind of technical advice you find at Geek Squad.

The event was set up in an attempt to get donations for the club. Even though the total amount of donations was under \$20, the event was still a success, according to organizers.

All six people who stopped by were not disappointed with the service. Many of which were Windows users who were experienced some of the more common issues.

Marianne Klicka, mathematics professor at Bucks, was one of the customers and said that she was "thrilled to death that this service was available on campus."

While waiting in line some

of the people that were there were worried that they might get a virus causing their information would get stolen. They had nothing to fear as everything went smoothly afterwards.

Klicka had first started using computers with IBM back in the 1980's. "That was back when everything was simpler, now I don't even know how to open up a calculator program," Klicka said.

The Computer Science Club holds regular meetings in Founders Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The room is filled with nerds, awesome nerds with diverse backgrounds, according to the group.

The sharing of ideas is eclectic and incredible. The conversations might shift from data compression to the election, to the "ethics of film," according to organizers.

Since the event turned out to be a success and everyone

involved saw it as a positive learning experience, the club plans to hold events like this in the future.

Of course if you don't feel like waiting for another event you can always stop in and get a think-tank style diag-

nostic by any club members present.



The Computer Science Club can help solve tech problems Bucks students may face

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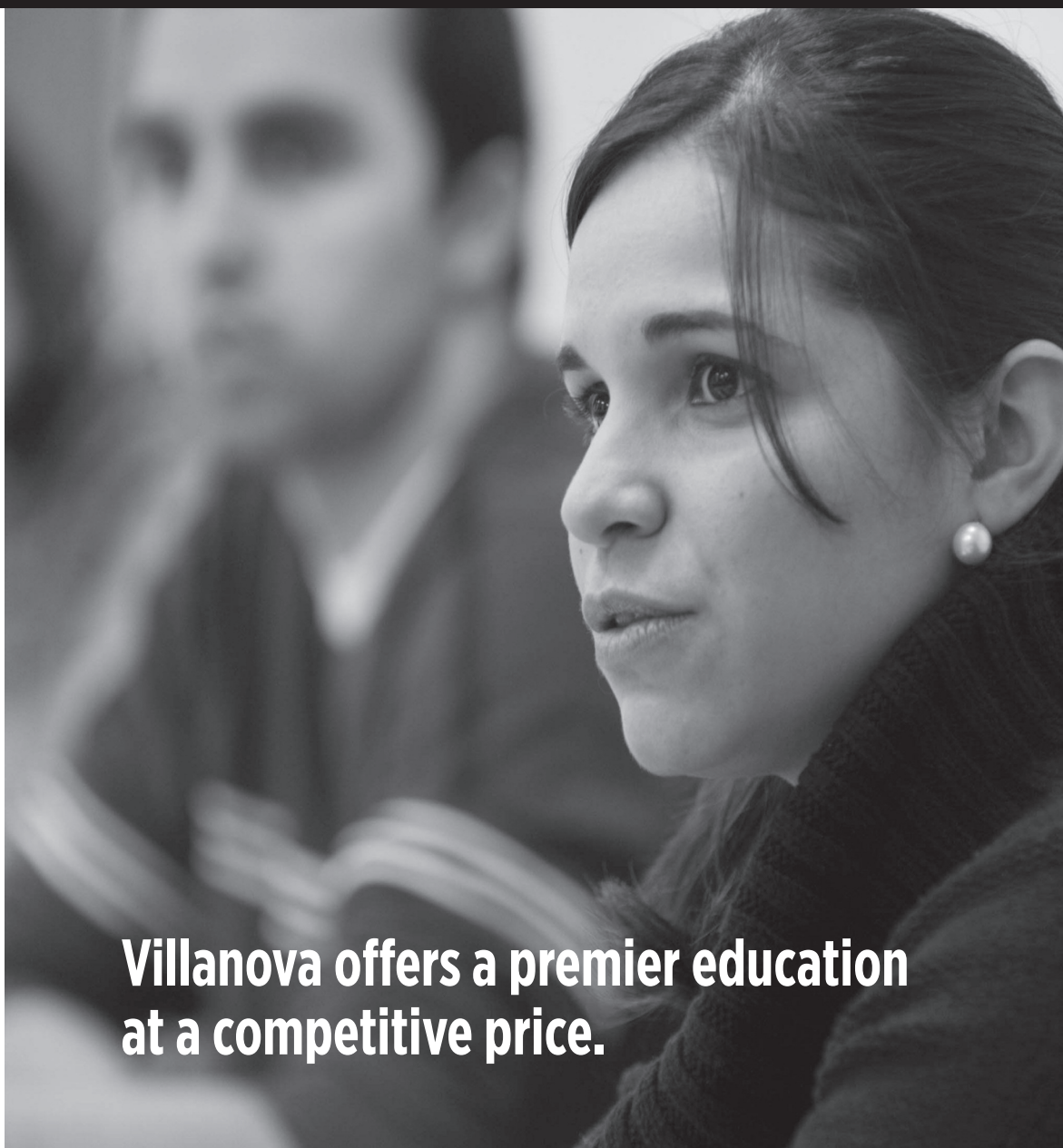
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Have a very puppy Christmas this year

BY: COURTNEY KACHMAR
Centurion Staff

This Christmas instead of getting the usual pair of socks or earrings, why not get that someone special a puppy instead?

This does beg the question of where does one get a puppy?

The easiest way to get a puppy or even an adult dog is through adoptions. Adopting a puppy or dog is one of the easiest and fastest ways to getting that best friend you have always wanted.

At pet stores you can come across many different types of breeds, sizes and colors of dogs. However, when asking a pet owner about their dog, you would be surprised at how many of those dogs are either adopted or rescued from a shelter.

There are several animal shelters in Bucks County that you could go to and look at dogs or puppies. Some of these shelters include the Women's Human Society in Bensalem, Bucks County SPCA in New Hope and also Crossing's Animal Sanctuary in Upper Makefield.

One of the adoption agencies that visit the Fairless Hills Petsmart every Sunday between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. is the Trenton Animal Shelter. They usually have anywhere between 8 to 10 dogs with them, which either come from the shelter itself or foster homes.

What is a foster home you might ask?

A foster home is a home where people take in abandoned, stray or given up dogs that cannot be placed in a shelter due to overcrowding. They will stay in a foster home until they can be adopted out by the right pet owner.

The Trenton shelter offers all different types of dogs varying in size, color, age and breed from their 70 to 80 lb. all white American Bulldog/Pitbull Terrier Mix named Dexter, to their 6 lb. Chihuahua named Tea Cup. The prices range from \$12 to \$150, which covers spay/neutering and shots for a year.

The Trenton animal shelter typically brings in pitbulls or pitbull mixes because so many of the dogs are running



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A puppy similar to these could make your siblings, kids, or better half very happy on Christmas morning

loose throughout the city. Even though pitbulls have a bad reputation they can be the most loving and caring dogs anyone could ask for, according to the shelter.

Adopting a dog or puppy in a sense is like adopting a child, you must put in an application for that pet that you want and hope they give you a call back within a couple

days. You must put down references to make sure that the environment the dog would be going to is safe for them.

Adopting is made easy for perspective owners because the majority of the dogs are already house broken. You will also get to see how they react in public, in big crowds and around your children be-

fore

you take them home.

There is nothing better than seeing your children's faces light up on Christmas morning, especially when they see all the presents underneath the Christmas tree. Make their biggest dream come true by adopting their best friend today at any animal shelter.

Christmas bargain ideas

BY: KELLEY ARMSTRONG
Centurion Staff

The holidays can be rough.

You have to coordinate family plans with pesky relatives, decorate your house (in 30 degree weather no less) and still keep your sanity through the hours upon hours of commercialized "tradition" and "holiday music."

You could say it's a difficult responsibility (yes, it's a terrible holiday music pun). But the worst thing one would have to worry about during the holidays is buying the gifts; gifts for your friends, gifts for your family, even gifts for "that-one-person-you-really-don't-like-but-you-give

them-a-gift-anyway-because-they-would-be-horribly-offended-if-you-didn't."

It truly can be hard on you (and your wallet) to get gifts for everybody. So, in the spirit of good cheer and magnanimity, here is a small list of inexpensive gift ideas that can work for just about everyone on your shopping list this year.

1. Cookies/Baked Goods: Sweet, simple and full of love, cookies are perfect for the holiday season. You would be hard pressed to find

a single person who doesn't like cookies- or a college student who would turn down free food. Spend a few bucks on cookie ingredients and some colorful bags and you can make a batch of cookies to distribute among your friends and family for the holidays.

2. Sentimental crafts: This is a gift for a close friend or family member. Got a picture of you and your best friend? Decorate a frame and give that to them for the holidays. Good at drawing? Draw something for a loved one.

They say gifts from the heart are the best kind and in both belief and practice, nothing is further from the truth.

3. Jewelry: You are probably thinking jewelry is way too expensive! Yet before you close this article in disgust, there are a few ways to find or even make inexpensive jewelry.

There are multitudes of craft stores that sell pendants and beads that people can use to create their own jewelry. You can even go digging around in bazaars and local markets and see what kind of deals you can find.

4. Bargain stores: There are a lot more bargain stores than



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Christmas gift ideas are easier than you think and could be as easy as making Christmas cookies for your family. The world would like you to think. It may take a little searching- both to find the store and to find the deals- but once you do, there are tons of great gifts to be found for loved ones.

Try and look past the expense of the bigger gifts and look towards simplicity for the holidays.

5. Time: This is about as free as you can get folks. Spending time with others during the holidays can sometimes be the best gift of all. You really can make a

friend or family member's holiday by just spending a day with them.

Watch a movie, bake some cookies or just sit around and talk about nonsense; it can really show how much you care about someone and what they mean to you. After all, that is what the holidays are all about, right?

With the powers of commercialism and our capitalist economy, it is kind of hard to focus on what really got the holidays started in the first place. Holidays are meant to

be relaxing and celebrating what matters to us.

For some, it is true that gifts do matter, but it is also good to keep in mind the "joy and good will towards man" aspect of it all too (just don't tell that to Black Friday shoppers). In the end, the holidays are all about what you make of them and although the stress is unavoidable, the rewards of giving and receiving during this time of year can make all the difference.

Wordsmiths Reading Series at BCCC

Ethel Rackin

Book launch of *The Forever Notes* by Ethel Rackin

Wednesday, December 12 • 1 p.m.

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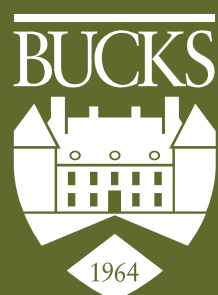
Ethel Rackin is the author of *The Forever Notes*, published this fall by Parlor Press. Her work has appeared in journals such as *The American Poetry Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Court Green*, *Evergreen Review*, *Poetry East*, and *Volt*. She earned her MFA from Bard College and her PhD in English literature from Princeton University. She is an assistant professor of Language and Literature at Bucks County Community College.

Self-Portrait

Your face in a boat of roses
your face in a cloud of stars
your face surrounded by bougainvillea
surrounded by wolves or larks
face of rock-salt or silt: a billion cells or more
one who stares back across a crowded boulevard
baby bougainvillea, your face reflected
one eye looks straight while the other wanders
a night house surrounded by pointed firs
a porch, pleated, beneath ten trillion stars
pulsating bougainvillea
panicking, side-winding stars.



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Where to learn. Where to return.

Taylor Swift's new album a hit

BY: DANICA FOSSESCA
Centurion Staff

When country star Taylor Swift's new album hit stores back on Oct. 22 fans were seeing Red, the title of her fourth studio album.

The album sold more than 1.2 million copies in the first week of sales alone, a feat not accomplished in about a decade, according to Rolling Stone magazine.

Overall, Swift has sold over 26 million albums and has 70 million song downloads worldwide.

Most of the tracks on Swift's new album are similar to other tracks she has done in the past that directed towards ex-boyfriends in a passive aggressive way.

The track titled "Red" starts out with slow with a banjo being plucked in the first verse, but the pace soon picks up into a quicker pace of drums and guitar. The message from the song seems to sound like Swift is struggling to get over one particular relationship.

The track titled "I knew you were trouble," seems to shift back and from the fast pace of an electric guitar. The message seems to be calling one of her boyfriend's insensitive and uncaring, but blames herself because she

knew what she was getting into.

The track "All too well," is a song of Swift recounting how good things used to be with one of her boyfriends before he threw away his chance with her. In the song she claims that the former boyfriend is haunted by his mistake by keeping her scarf.

The song is slow for the most part, but then picks up with the drums as Swift goes into her chorus.

The track "22" is more of a party song that will probably find its way blaring on most pop radio stations for a while. The message seems to be letting go of the hassles of everyday life and just letting lose for a night or two.

In her track "Stay Stay Stay" Swift describes the positivity of another relationship with her lover accepting of her for all her flaws. The song has a reggae feel to it with an upbeat clapping repeating during the chorus.

Through the slow strumming of a guitar, Swift seems to explain a relationship that was good, but then turned sour when things became distant between the two in "Sad Beautiful Tragic."

In "The Last time," Swift teams up with Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol as they



Red meant go for Taylor Swift fans as they flocked to stores to buy her new album with sales over 1 million. She shares her own personal experiences no matter how sensitive she may be to them and really touches her fans who can relate to her music. Not many artists of our generation are brave enough to be so vulnerable with their fans.

While some fans of Swift may miss the old country style music, "Red" has helped move her into a different genre without losing the emotional presence Swift is none for. It seems, so far, that Taylor Swift can do it all.

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THE WEEK IN TV/MOVIES/MUSIC/BOOKS

TV

Thursday 12/13

Big Bang Theory - CBS - 8:00
The X Factor - FOX - 8:00
Grey's Anatomy - ABC - 9:00
Glee - FOX - 9:00

Friday 12/14

Last Man Standing - ABC - 8:00
Kitchen Nightmares - FOX - 8:00
Fringe - FOX - 9:00

Saturday 12/15

Cops - FOX - 8:00
Parking Wars - A&E - 9:00

Sunday 12/16

The Simpsons - FOX - 8:00
Family Guy - FOX - 9:00
American Dad - FOX - 9:30

Monday 12/17

How I Met Your Mother - CBS - 8:00
The Voice - NBC - 8:00
Two Broke Girls - CBS - 9:00

Tuesday 12/18

NCIS - CBS - 8:00
NCIS: Los Angeles - CBS - 9:00
The Voice - NBC - 9:00

MOVIES

THEATER

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (Not Rated)

A curious Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, journeys to the Lonely Mountain with a vigorous group of Dwarves to reclaim a treasure stolen from them by the dragon Smaug.

Directed by: Peter Jackson

Starring: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage, Andy Serkis

Release Date: 14 December

DVD

Ted (R)

As the result of a childhood wish, John Bennett's teddy bear, Ted, came to life and has been by John's side ever since - a friendship that's tested when Lori, John's girlfriend of four years, wants more from their relationship.

Directed by: Seth MacFarlane

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis and Seth MacFarlane

Release Date: 10 December

MUSIC



T.I.

New Album "Trouble Man: Heavy is the Head"
18 December

Bad Religion

New Album "True North"
22 January

Ashanti

New Album "BraveHeart"
29 January

BOOKS

"Threat Vector "

Written By: Tom Clancy

Jack Ryan has only just moved back into the Oval Office when he is faced with a new international threat. An aborted coup in the People's Republic of China has left President Wei Zhen Lin with no choice but to agree with the expansionist policies of General Su Ke Qiang. They have declared the South China Sea a protectorate and are planning an invasion of Taiwan.

Release Date: 4 December

"Merry Christmas, Alex Cross"

Written by: James Patterson

It's Christmas Eve and Detective Alex Cross has been called out to catch someone who's robbing his church's poor box. That mission behind him, Alex returns home to celebrate with Bree, Nana, and his children. The tree decorating is barely underway before his phone rings again--a horrific hostage situation is quickly spiraling out of control.

Release Date: 15 November

"The Third Wheel (Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Book 7)"

Written by: Jeff Kinney

Greg Heffley is not willing to be the odd man out. A dance at Greg's middle school has everyone scrambling to find a partner, and Greg is determined not to be left by the wayside. So he concocts a desperate plan to find someone--anyone!--to go with on the big night. But Greg's schemes go hilariously awry, and his only option is to attend the dance with his best friend, Rowley Jefferson, and a female classmate as a "group of friends." But the night is long, and anything can happen along the way. Who will arrive at the dance triumphantly, and who will end up being the third wheel?

Release Date: 13 November

Wordsmiths Poetry Series at Bucks County
Community College presents A Memorial Reading for

Gloria Calcina del Vecchio

Bring a poem to read in memory of Gloria

Sunday, December 16 • 2 p.m.

Orangery • Newtown Campus • Bucks County Community College

Gloria del Vecchio, long time Bucks County, Pa. resident, passed away on June 21, 2012, at Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol, Pa. A beloved mother of four and grandmother of five, Gloria dedicated her life to enriching the lives of others. Her poetry, renowned with powerful imagery, has been published extensively and her artwork has been shown in many galleries. Gloria's book of poetry, *Patriarch Athenagoras - Man of Love*, was published by Black Oak Press in 1998. Gloria was a featured poet at the nation's bicentennial celebration in Philadelphia, and self-published, *I Know*, a literary magazine. A well admired Bucks County Community College professor of philosophy and sociology, she founded and

directed numerous community arts organizations including 'Big Intersection' to bring together poets and artists to share their work and engage in fellowship. With an unrelenting thirst for social justice and peace, Gloria was a fighter for a variety of human rights causes and the environment. She is survived by her daughter, Raphaele of Morrisville, Pa., her sons, Dante of Levittown, Pa., Felix of South Portland, Maine, and Paolo of Silver Spring, Md. and adored grandchildren: Dylan, Felix, Nicolas, Gianna Jade, and Aurora.



there is another river under the Delaware--
a river of secrets that has been
hidden since the beginning...
the shamans knew of it and the
immense revolutionary angels who came before
the Indians --they knew it too --for
this is the Mystery, itself, that is
sought in all religions, in all philosophies.
there are always those among us who
watch on riverbanks.
they know secrets.
I met a man who walks the riverbanks.
looking straight across the river, the mist
seems to be transparent and sometimes the fog
piles up on the other side.
the sun behind the bridge is casting long shadows of
the bridge piers. These shadows radiate out from
the bridge and pierce the fog
"very few of us know," the Riverwalker said, "that
the rising sun appears first under one arch of
the bridge and then in following mornings in
the progressive openings that cross the river--
a private intimacy of passage like the

sun reflecting on top of the thick blanket of
fog...

"then, the long shadows that pierce this vision become
darker and strange. ..

"they are the Mysteries that are usually hidden or
occasionally barely visible or felt.

"it is not as I told you...it's not so much that
you see something different every day. It's that
these occurrences, although rare...come in an endless
number of combinations...so that when they do happen
there seems to be no end to what you might see.

"the peak condition is under the first arch.
several days ago, the full diameter of
the sun was visible at a low angle both
completely under the arch and on the water, and
this is the situation which absolutely lights up the
underside of the
leaves of trees along all the riverbank.

"I only saw this once this year because on the
other days just before and just after the event I am
describing, there were clouds."

and I, myself cried to the river's shadows,--"Oh immense
angels, what happened here in the beginning?
I think time was different then, if it existed at all."

then, the Riverwalker answered, "Within a
day or so, the sun will no longer rise
under the bridge at all. On our river, there will
be no sunrises."

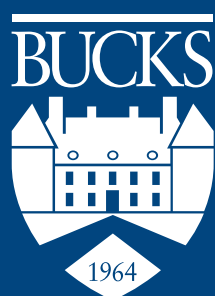
"What are you talking about?" I said to him.

"Are you speaking of your own death, or my
death or the death of each one of us? You are
wrong! There will always be sunrises on our
river!"

– from "Dialogue With a River Walker"

Gloria Calcina del Vecchio in collaboration with Larry Hale

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Where to learn. Where to return.

Soccer growing in popularity in America

BY: BRIAN WRIGHT
Centurion Staff

Most people growing up today played soccer at some point in your lives.

Somewhere between the ages of 5 and 15 or perhaps older, but after that age, many American children abandon the “beautiful game” in favor of sports such as baseball, basketball and football.

But, recent trends have shown that soccer has been steadily picking up enthusiasm in the U.S. beyond just recreational play. So the question is this: Could soccer be gaining momentum on other mainstream sports in the U.S.?

Professional soccer in the U.S. has always had a bit of a rocky history to say the least; arguably the most famous team in American soccer history was the New York Cosmos, who played in the North American Soccer League that operated from 1968-1986, according to nasl.com

There’s a current incarnation of the NASL, but we’ll get to that a bit later.

Many NASL matches failed to reach 15,000 in attendance and rapid expansion ultimately led to the league suspending operations prior to the 1985 season. So, while the original NASL ultimately folded, it laid important ground work for Major League Soccer.

The MLS was established in 1996 and began with 10 teams: D.C. United, Columbus Crew, New England Revolution, NY/NJ MetroStars, Tampa Bay Mutiny, Colorado Rapids, Dallas Burn, Kansas City Wiz, Los Angeles Galaxy and the San Jose Clash, according to mls.com



Soccer fans at Seattle’s Quest field celebrate the season opener of 2011 between the Seattle Sounders and the Los Angeles Galaxy before the game

Attendance in the early years of the league was rather poor and many of the original 10 squads have either folded altogether, re-branded or do not exist in their original state.

“It was a struggle,” said Greg Plefka, 27, an avid soccer fan and historian. “The league (MLS) was in its infancy and it was difficult to put fans in the seats.”

Indeed, the league struggled financially under original commissioner Doug Logan, who eventually resigned and was replaced by current commissioner Don Garber, a former NFL executive.

During Garber’s tenure, the MLS initially struggled to attract viewers outside of the team’s markets, but hit a

major breakthrough in 2006 by garnering a TV contract with sports giant ESPN.

Since then, the MLS has become more profitable. One of the best moments for the MLS was the signing of Beckham from the Spanish giant Real Madrid. Beckham has since been a part of the LA Galaxy since 2007.

Many established European stars have come to the U.S. since Beckham’s arrival. One of the most notable being French striker Thierry Henry, who joined the New York Red Bulls in 2010. Other players include Tim Cahill, Rafael Marquez and Robbie Keane.

By 2007 the MLS was on stable ground both financially and fan-wise; having

pockets of die-hard fans in many of the markets. But the league wanted to expand more.

Because of the influx of famous players, there have also been new teams added to the league including the Montreal Impact, Portland Timbers, Vancouver Whitecaps, Philadelphia Union, Seattle Sounders and San Jose Earthquakes have all debuted in the league and 15 of the 19 teams now play in soccer-specific venues.

In 2011, the MLS had one of their biggest accomplishments in bringing soccer to the public by inking a huge 3-year TV deal with NBC, according to newyorktimes.com. This meant that at least one game per week in the 2012 season would be carried on the newly-formed NBC Sports Network, or on the flagship NBC station.

“The NBC deal was huge,” said Sean Cuerou, 26, a growing soccer fanatic and sports fan. “I think that gives them a big opportunity to continue to grow the game.”

Additionally, NBC agreed to televise several U.S. Men’s National Team contests on their airwaves. National team games have always drawn relatively good ratings as people usually have pride in their countries.

So, with profits on the rise and the league slowly gaining national footing, is it possible that it could overtake any of the four major sports in the United States?

The attendance in the MLS

has continued to grow in 2012 as they broke their previous record of 5.5 million to 6,072,854. This was the first time that the MLS broke the 6 million mark. They also posted their highest average attendance with 18,801, according to mlsattendance.com

In fact, in 2011 the MLS overtook the NBA and NHL in average attendance. The MLS had an attendance of 17,870 and the NBA and NHL posted numbers of 17,319 and 17,126 respectively, according to the examiner.com

But, seeing as how the MLS has only existed since 1996, already being ahead of two major sports in attendance, it is a big accomplishment.

“It’s (Soccer) definitely on the rise,” Cuerou said. “MLS is very entertaining and the amount of money NBC paid for the EPL shows interest here.”

He may be on to something. If NBC is willing to shell out that kind of money to show those games, the network must know the market for the sport in this country is heading in the right direction.

It’s hard to say whether soccer here will ever become the top sport in America with the way the NFL dominates, but they appear to be on the right path and they are moving ahead of other major sports in North America.

Despite a rocky beginning, traditional “football” appears poised for a rise to national prominence.



Los Angeles Galaxy Star David Beckham has increased the popularity of the other football in America since his arrival

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Centurions fall late to Spartans, remain winless

BY: STEPHEN GODWIN JR.
Centurion Staff

Northampton Spartans (5-0) guard Dontae Davis had 17 points and was 6/10 from the field and 3/5 from three point range to help his team stay undefeated and beat the Centurions (0-5) by a score of 73-58 on Dec. 8.

The turning point in the game came in the second half when the Spartans came out with more energy than the Centurions and started draining threes thanks to guards Andrew Miller, Seth Stoudt and Davis. Miller and Stoudt had 13 and 12 points respectively.

"We played good defense and rebounded well and just controlled their scoring runs," Miller said.

For the Centurions forward Dontay Mobley was 9/15 shooting for 20 points and 10 rebounds and fellow forward Tyler Nichol had 12 points on 6/10 shooting while adding 11 rebounds.

"We played good, but they just made their shots," Nichol said.

If the Centurions were supposed to be intimidated about playing an undefeated opponent they certainly did not show it as they got a quick bucket right after the opening

tip.

Davis was hot early though, scoring seven of his 17 points to help pace the Spartans, but the Centurions kept up with the score 11-10.

After the game was tied at 11 both teams struggled to score for a stretch, but then drama ensued.

When Spartan forward Zach Hankerson was trying to muscle his way towards the basket, Centurion guard Giovanni Romero took an elbow to just above his eye, causing it to start bleeding badly. Romero was forced to leave the court and did not return to the game.

"That really affected us," Centurion head coach Donald Perry said. "He is one of our best players."

The Centurions did a good job rebounding the ball and seemed to focus on good ball movement throughout the game.

The Centurions then picked up the pace as they went on a 10-2 run to go ahead 21-13 behind guard Shane Davis and Nichol. The Spartans did mount a little bit of a comeback to get it with 21-19 only to see the Centurions surge ahead again 23-19.

At the end of the half the Spartans took advantage of a flurry of Centurion turnovers



Centurions' guard Shane Davis is one of many young and talented players on the 2012 men's basketball roster

to go ahead 28-25. The half ended with the Centurions scrapping their way back to tie the game at 28.

The Centurions started the second half slow and paid the price as the Spartans went on a 9-2 run for a score of 37-27.

Both teams were sloppy this game as they committed multiple offensive and defensive fouls, but the Centurions were the larger culprits.

The game then switched gears as the Spartans went on a scoring drought and the Centurions turned it on to go on a 9-0 run midway through the half to take the lead 45-

42. Moments later the Spartans tied the game at 46, but then Miller put the team on his back as he scored all eight of the Spartans 8-2 run to take a 54-48 lead.

As the Spartans continued to add to their lead the Centurions struggled with their shooting as they sensed the game was getting away from them. To make matters worse Centurions' guard Dimitri McCoy injured his ribs, hurting any chance of a rally with the score 65-53.

Stoudt then took over the game as he helped the Spartans finish the game on 12-0

run with two of his three balls.

After the game Spartan head coach Kevin Foley seemed impressed with the Centurions effort.

"I think Bucks played fantastic and they gave us as much as we could handle," Foley said. "At halftime I didn't do anything special, but just give the guys some good motivation."

Perry was optimistic too, when he said, "I think we played our best basketball of the season. Offense has been our strength this season, but we just have to get better on defense."

Phils' roster takes shape

BY: ANTHONY DIMITTIA
Centurion Staff

For Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro the 2013 offseason has proven to be a much different playing ground compared to prior years.

After striking out on free agents at the Winter Meetings last week Amaro switched gears and dealt for Minnesota Twins centerfielder Ben Revere and Texas Rangers veteran Michael Young.

With the team's escalating payroll nearing the \$178 million tax penalty threshold, Amaro has had to pinch pennies in trying to fill holes at centerfield, right field, third base, and in the bullpen. This is a far cry from previous years, which saw the team splurge on veterans like Raul Ibanez, Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee and Jonathon Papelbon.

Yet, the Dec. 6 trade for Twins centerfielder Ben Revere signaled a new direction for the club, which acquired a cost controllable player through the year 2016. Although, the price for Revere was steep as Amaro was



The 12-year-veteran was acquired Dec. 8 to man the hot corner for the Phils in 2013

PHOTO BY KEITH ALLISON

forced to deal starter Vance Worley and Double-A prospect Trevor May.

According to Dave Cameron of fangraphs.com, Amaro essentially robbed Peter to pay Paul with filling the team's centerfield vacancy by creating a hole in their rotation. Amaro hadn't seemed too concerned at the time of the trade, wasting time to shower praise for Revere.

"Ben is an outstanding, young, controllable center fielder who fits nicely with our club," Amaro said.

With B.J. Upton signing with Atlanta, Angel Pagan signing in San Francisco, and with Michael Bourn's exorbitant asking price, the team had to find an alternative to fill the gap left by Shane Victorino's departure.

Now with the loss of Worley the team is now in search of a veteran starter, according to Phillies beat writer Todd Zolecki. As of now the Phillies have yet to been linked to any free agent pitchers.

Yet the team was able to sure up third base for at least

with the acquisition of Young from the Texas Rangers for 25-year-old reliever Josh Lindholm and Double-A pitching prospects Lisalberto Bonilla. The Rangers will cover about half of Young's \$16 million salary for 2013, with Young also receiving \$1.2 million in "benefits" in exchange for waiving his no-trade clause, a source confirmed to ESPN.

With less than \$7 million spent on two positions Amaro has possibility found a way back into the free agent market.

Time will tell if the money saved from these two deals will allow Amaro to acquire a big name free agent the Phillies faithful has grown accustomed to.

2013 Phillies payroll commitments with average annual value of contracts

Ryan Howard	-- \$25 million
Cliff Lee	-- \$24 million
Cole Hamels	-- \$24 million
Roy Halladay	-- \$20 million
Jonathan Papelbon	-- \$12.5 million
Chase Utley	-- \$12.14 million
Jimmy Rollins	-- \$11 million
Michal Young	-- \$8 million **
Carlos Ruiz	-- \$5 million
Kyle Kendrick	-- \$3.75 million
Layne Nix	-- \$1.25 million
Antonio Bastardo	-- \$1 million (arbitration eligible)
Kevin Frandsen	-- \$850,000
John Mayberry Jr.	-- \$600,000 *
Ben Revere	-- \$600,000 *
Phillippe Aumont	-- \$490,000 *
Domonic Brown	-- \$490,000 *
Justin De Fratus	-- \$490,000 *
Freddy Galvis	-- \$490,000 *
Erik Kratz	-- \$490,000 *
Darin Ruf	-- \$490,000 *
Michael Stutes	-- \$490,000 *
Total: 22 players	, \$153.12 million

*Projections based on league minimum for 2013
**Projections based on Texas covering \$8 million of contract (Source: csnphilly.com)

Lady Centurions' problem might be lack of leadership

BY: SETH CANATA
Centurion Staff

No key player emerged to take control, as the Lady Centurions fell to 0-2, losing badly at home to Harrisburg by a score of 86-30.

Head coach Lori Sullivan has a rather unorthodox approach to her team, as players take turns each game as the team leader.

The word "captain" never entered into the discussion, and Sullivan said, "This is a team sport; everyone is on equal footing on this team." This parity, while well intentioned, may have dire results for the team, with no player stepping forward to take a vocal leadership role, thereby "righting the ship."

Bucks was clearly jittery right from the opening tip, as errant passes and sloppy ball-handling allowed Harrisburg to score 18 unanswered points.

The Lady Centurions never led in this game, and were down by as many as 30 points just before the half. Whatever Sullivan told the

team in the locker room at halftime appeared to help somewhat, as the girls came out in the second half with more determination and focus.

But by this time, Harrisburg already had the game well in hand and appeared quicker to the ball and crisper in nearly every offensive category.

Cinnamon Brown, a forward for Harrisburg, dominated down low, scoring several uncontested baskets, and Harrisburg kept the Centurions from driving the basket during their possessions. Clearly the pivotal player in the game, Brown thwarted any Bucks player from shooting in close, blocking several attempts at easy layups.

This forced the Lady Centurions to shoot more from the perimeter, and unfortunately, not many of those shots fell. Sullivan was clearly not fazed by her teams' early woes this season.

"I want the girls to have fun out there, to be positive, regardless of the score," Sullivan said.

While this approach may



The Bucks Women's basketball team is searching for answers in the season opening loss to the Philadelphia C.C

well be admirable, when it comes to sports, winning is the ultimate goal. So how can a coach draw positives from a losing effort?

Sullivan explained, "The scoreboard means nothing. I was happy to see that we played hard to the end despite the score."

The girls did battle right to the ending buzzer, and a last

second buzzer beater from the Lady Centurions drew a cheer from the home crowd.

"Obviously, when you consider how much these girls have on their plate, between work, school and family, sometimes practice comes third or even fourth," Sullivan said.

When it comes down to it, the term is student-athlete,

and Sullivan takes that to heart, allowing her girls the necessary time to take care of schoolwork.

"While we work hard in practice, stressing defense and communication and fundamentals, there are just some things that come first, even before practice," Sullivan said.

Cougars claw women's team

BY: SETH CANATA
Centurion Staff

The Lady Centurions' record falls to 0-4 after another runaway loss to Lehigh Carbon Cougars 83-32.

Amidst a season marked by several 50-point losses, Bucks struggled to find the shooting touch from the opening tip.

Early on, the game stayed fairly close, as Lehigh Carbon didn't get hot until midway through the first period. The Cougars, helped along by numerous fouls by Bucks players, went to the foul line 10 times.

Lehigh Carbon converted on 11 of 20 free throws in the first half alone, and a late surge by the Cougars stretched their first half lead



Centurion players scramble for the ball during the season opener against Philadelphia CC

to 31 points, 45-14.

For Bucks, shooting guard Jackie Kramer provided the only offensive spark, driving the lane several times that led to either layups or trips to the foul line, where she went 7-

for-8.

On the defensive side of the ball Shannon Swift looked like she was playing volleyball at times, as she spiked away several shots from the Cougars. This drew a raucous

reaction from the fans in attendance.

But too many offensive rebounds by Lehigh Carbon resulted in second and even third attempts at the basket. In a game that, again, was a

foregone conclusion even at the half, Bucks was dominated down in the low post area, and these extra field goal attempts led directly to extra points.

Lehigh put up nearly 90 shots in the game, compared with just over 60 from Bucks. And more importantly, the Cougars made 35 of their shots, compared with only 11 by the Centurions.

Lehigh Carbon (35/88) shot nearly 40 percent from the field, while the Lady Centurions only managed 18 percent on 11 of 62 shooting.

Despite the low shooting percentage, Bucks did manage to achieve its highest scoring output to date, a moral victory perhaps.

BUCKS SCORES

- Men's Basketball**
Dec. 1
Bucks 60 - 79 Lehigh Carbon
- Upcoming**
Dec. 15
Bucks vs. Luzerne
- Women's Basketball**
Bucks 32 - 83 Lehigh Carbon
- Upcoming**
Dec. 15
Bucks vs. Luzerne
Dec. 22
Bucks vs. Union (Tip Off Classic)
Dec. 23
3rd place (Tip Off Classic)
Dec. 23
Championship (Tip Off Classic)



The team and its coaches showing support for the college before the season tip-off

PHOTO BY BUCKS ATHLETIC PAGE

PRO SCORES

- NFL**
Dec. 9
PHI 23 - 21 TB
NYG 52 - 27 NO
SEA 58 - 0 ARI
SF 27 - 13 MIA
STL 15 - BUF 12
DAL 20 - 19 CIN
CLE 30 - 7 KC
IND 27 - 23 TEN
MIN 21 - 14 CHI
SAN 34 - 24 PIT
WSH 31 - 28 BAL
CAR 30 - 20 ATL
NYJ 17 - 10 JAC
DEN 26 - 13 OAK
GB 27 - 20 DET