

Missing Girl's Body Finally Found

SHANNON HARRAR

Centurion Staff

The death of Lindsey Piccone, a woman who went missing in Tyler State Park, was ruled as suicide after her skeletal remains were discovered on Nov. 1.

According to the Newtown Patch, a park staff member discovered the body while clearing out vegetation. The death has been ruled a suicide by Pennsylvania State Police.

Although the identity of the body was not disclosed at the time of the discovery, upon further investigation and examination of the body, it was determined to be Piccone based on dental records.

21-year-old Piccone, a Bensalem native, was reported missing on Sept. 6, when her car was discovered at Tyler State Park. Her disappearance was heavily reported around Bucks County, and missing flyers were posted across campus.

The park was searched multiple times following her disappearance. Additional help was provided by police departments from Bensalem, Newtown, Northampton and Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania State Police also took part in the investigation. So did the Northampton Fire Co., the Newtown Fire Assoc., Trevoze Fire Co., the Newtown Ambulance Squad, and at least two K-9 search and rescue teams.

Piccone's family made public pleas for her to come home, including an emotional video posted six weeks after her disappearance

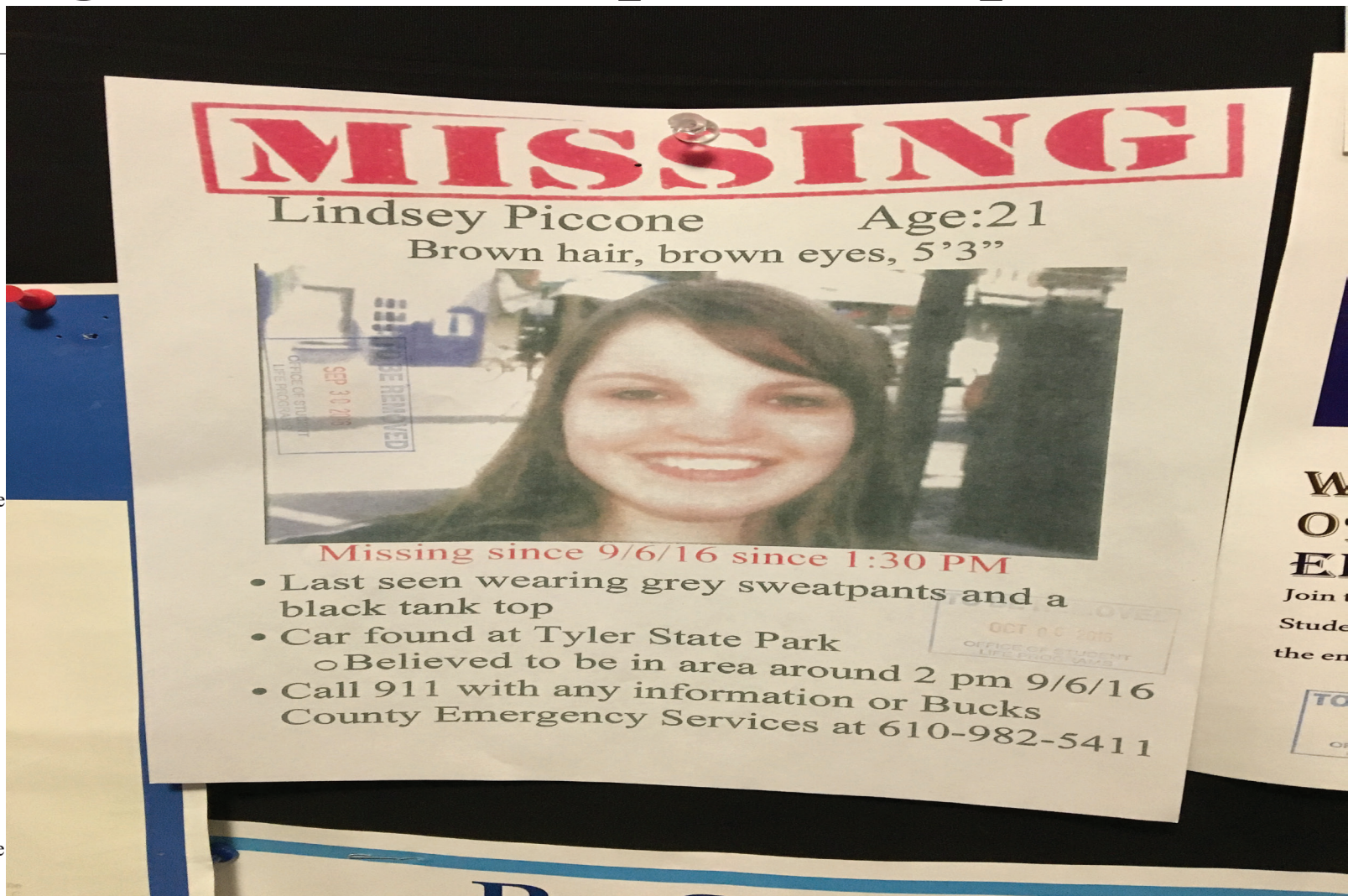


Photo of Lindsey Piccone

by the Bucks County News Feed.

The video quickly went viral, gaining over 700 thousand views in just 24 hours. Lindsey's mother, Jeanette Piccone, made a tearful plea for her to contact them or come home. She begged for anyone withholding information to come forward.

In the video, Piccone's cousin, Heather Andrew, described her as "a normal 21 year old girl... she worked at a daycare, she adores

children, and loves spending time with her family and friends."

Andrews said that Piccone's disappearance was very irrational and spontaneous. She had left a very vague note that didn't have any implications of a permanent goodbye.

The family offered a reward for anyone who came forward with information on Piccone's whereabouts. Unfortunately, until this recent discovery, no further

information came to light.

An obituary was published in the Bucks County Courier Times a week after Piccone's body was found, declaring her death date as the day she went missing, Sept. 6.

She will be survived by her parents, Jeanette and Paul, as well as her brother and nephew, and two dogs. She has been described as loving the outdoors, and always putting her family and friends first.

Relatives and friends were invited to attend a visitation at Tomlinson Funeral Home in Bensalem, on Nov. 10, followed by a memorial service. Piccone's family asked for memorials in her name to be made out to the Women's Humane Society in lieu of flowers.

Despite the closure that is now provided to Piccone's family, friends and relatives they will still mourn a life taken too soon.

Innovative Student Research Conference Comes to Bucks

SHANNON HARRAR

Centurion Staff

Bucks will be holding their biannual Student Research Conference Dec. 3 in Grupp Hall. Started in the fall of 2008, the conference is a day-long gathering for students to come and present research reports in front of their peers and panels of administration.

Originally orchestrated by language and literature professors Jennifer Diamond and Lois Gilmore, the conference stemmed from them coming up with an alternative to oral presentations for their Comp110 classes.

They figured instead of giving oral presentations for the final project, why not let students present in a conference style?

What originally started out as something confined to the Language and Literature department soon expanded and branched out

to virtually any department in the school, and even various clubs in the school.

Co-coordinator of the conference Professor Charlie Groth recalled how at one conference, the American studies club at the school submitted research exploring race and gender. Then on almost the polar opposite end, the Society of Bucks Engineers submitted their own topics too.

Groth really wanted to stress how the conference as a whole is more than just a scholarly activity --- It's a full-fledged event. It allows mass collaboration between students and faculty of different departments.

One project she recalled was done between nursing, theatre, and film students. The big research presentation between the three very different departments allowed the nursing students to practice interacting with mental illness patients, portrayed by the theatre students, which was then filmed by the cinematography

students and submitted for review at the conference.

Another thing that is important to note about the conference is how wide the span of topics is. Students can really research and present on basically anything they have interest in.

Panels of administrators and faculty are put together to oversee the conference. They are typically organized by topic. For example, one year the topic of eating disorders was explored through the multiple perspectives of English composition, psychology, and women's studies students.

Each research session has a moderator that listens to the topics and speaks to students about them, which leads into another great thing about the research conference. The whole event is a tremendous opportunity for students to network.

The lunch break half way through the day is very focused on letting students come together and compare notes on topics, and

more importantly network with people who they otherwise may never get the opportunity to meet. Deans of different departments either come to the conference or send faculty project coordinators to come and observe the students and reach out to them about their topics.

Groth was very enthusiastic about this portion of the conference. "It's not just your paper, it's your research," she said. One thing she loves seeing students realize is that the conference really allows them to become the experts on their topics, and when they see that it's a major confidence booster.

The other co-coordinator, Professor Sarahlyn Bruck also commented on that great part of the conference. Naturally, students meet the day with nervousness and anxious anticipation, but that soon changes when the students actually present.

The environment of the conference is warm and non-threatening.

There's no intimidating podium or microphone, just an audience of people who want you to do well and genuinely care about your topic. "It's actually fun and not terrifying," Bruck said.

Bucks is the only community college in the area that does something like this, which makes the experience even more cool and unique. It's a very rare opportunity for students to be able to conduct research and present to it to their peers and a panel of administrators. Most students don't get this kind of experience until grad school.

The conference usually gets a turnout of about 150 to 250 students, but is open to the public and is really an awesome day for the community.

Although the deadline for registration for the conference is already over, there's another held in April available for anyone to present topics of interest.



Beyond Bucks

Donald Trump, America's New President

SHANNON HARRAR
Centurion Staff

Republican presidential candidate Donald J. Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States in the early morning of Nov. 9.

To the utter disbelief of millions of Americans, Trump made his victory speech in New York City around 2 am Wednesday morning, after his opponent Hillary Clinton made a phone call to him and conceded.

"I just received a call from Secretary Clinton..." he began, "she congratulated us, it's about us, on our victory."

He went on to congratulate the Clinton family for the tough challenge they posed during the campaign and commented on how much of a debt of gratitude America owes Clinton.

"I pledge that I will be president of all Americans," he said at the start of his speech. "Working together, we will begin the urgent task of rebuilding our nation and renewing the American dream."

"Every single American will have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential... We're going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none," he said, in remarks reminiscent of Clinton's pledges.

Earlier that night, Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta announced to Clinton's waiting followers that she would not be making her concession speech the night of the election results.

Instead, she made her speech around 11 am Wednesday morning in New York.

"Last night I congratulated Donald Trump and offered to work with him on behalf of our



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

country," she told the crowd.

"I'm sorry that we did not win this election... but I feel pride and gratitude for this wonderful campaign that we built together."

Throughout the short speech, Clinton expressed strong emotions about the surprising result of the election, but she maintained a cool and composed attitude.

"I know how disappointed you feel, because I feel it too.... But I want you to remember this; our campaign was never about one person or even one election. It was about the country we love and about building an America that's hopeful, inclusive, and big-hearted."

"Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead."

"Let us have faith in each other, let us not grow weary, and let us not lose heart," she said to the crowd in summation.

In an electoral "trifecta," as many news outlets are calling it, the GOP also won majorities in the Senate and the House of Representatives, giving the Republicans complete control of the Congress as well as the presidency for the first time since 1928.

Throughout the election night, many states were deemed "too close to call," as votes were still being collected, and the race between the two major candidates

appeared neck and neck.

However, the tight race came down to the decisions of several crucial battleground states, namely Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. The results of these states baffled citizens across the U.S.

Trump's triumph in Pennsylvania was especially shocking, as the state hadn't voted for a Republican presidential candidate since 1988.

The big take-away from the results in the battleground states was the contrast between densely populated Democratic strongholds and rural, Republican-leaning counties. In PA this was clearly evident, with Clinton winning major counties such as Bucks, Allegheny, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia. Despite Clinton's victories in these important counties, she still lost Pennsylvania thanks to Trump's victories in the center of the state.

The final count left Clinton with 228 electoral votes, and Trump with 279. However, Clinton did gain the popular vote, just as Barack Obama did in the past two elections.

A little closer to home, Pennsylvania saw some other major election results as well.

The hotly contested U.S. Senate race between Republican Pat Toomey and Democrat Katie McGinty led to a close Republican

victory.

The 8th District race for the U.S. House of Representatives resulted in a win for Republican Brian Fitzpatrick over his Democratic opponent Steve Santarsiero.

The 31st district (the district BCCC falls into) race for state Senate was won by Republican Mike Regan by 36 percent over his Democratic opponent John Bosha, and independent Kenneth Gehosky.

The Pennsylvania 31st district race for the state's House of Representatives was extremely close. Democratic candidate, Perry Warren, a Newtown councilman, was elected over Republican Ryan Gallagher by just 28 votes.

Democrat Josh Shapiro won the position of attorney, beating his opponent John Rafferty by a close 3 percent difference.

Eugene DePasquale was re-elected in his position as auditor general against his Republican opponent John Brown, and the two third party candidates running, John Sweeney of the Green Party, and Libertarian Roy Minet.

In the race for Pennsylvania treasurer, Democrat Joseph Torsella won over Otto Voit, the Republican candidate, Green Party candidate Kristen Combs, and Libertarian candidate James Babb.

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Bucks News

Bucks Drama Club Performs ‘A Christmas Carol’

ERIN McVAN
Centurion Staff

Celebrate the holidays with the Bucks Drama Club for their live performance of “A Christmas Carol” on Dec. 9-11 at 7 pm.

The show includes a cast of 18 different members, not including production workers. Tickets are \$10 for the community and \$8 for students, senior citizens and children.

Club president, Maia Van Valkenburgh, is proud to announce the upcoming event. She is excited for “a big draw with the community and not just a niche group of theater lovers.”

“Everyone loves ‘A Christmas Carol,’” Van Valkenburgh continued, “This year we’ve had the most participants in terms of active members than we’ve had in years.”

Cast member Sarah Zawodniak has a strong passion for theater. “I’ve always loved theatre. Almost every single year I have been in a play and I’d like to keep that going,” she said.

Zawodniak is playing three separate characters in the performance. This includes the Ghost of Christmas Past, Martha Cratchit, and the Charwoman. “I am excited for basically the performance to go fantastic and to have fun with it and watch how people react to the play,” she said.

Derek Esplin will be performing as Bob Cratchit, as well as the Undertaker’s Man. He is looking forward to “getting everything done and seeing how it comes together and the audience’s reactions.”

Last year’s play was “Harvey,” and this past spring they had a showcase similar to a musical talent show. The Drama Club fea-



Conor Sears as Scrooge tures a wide mixture of different plays every year, drawing in both the students and the community.

There is no doubt that this year’s performance will be spectacular. There are also plans in the making for a full musical performance in the upcoming 2017 spring session.

In addition, they are planning a trip to New York to attend a Broadway production. Their tickets will be fully paid for by the Drama Club, with the exception of meals and transportation.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the classic story, “A Christmas Carol” is about a mis-

erable, mean-spirited older man who can not stand the thought of Christmas. He believes it is all humbug and treats those around him with the same attitude. Three ghosts decide to take him on a journey through his past, present and future to transform his bitter attitude towards life.

PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE HARRYMAN.

Come on out and enjoy a classically reproduced show filled with excitement for students, family and friends. You may even decide to become a part of this fun-filled group that provides constant opportunities to express yourself. Be a part of your Bucks community, and shine!

Socratic Society Scholars Scramble for Students

HAL CONTE
Centurion Staff

Bucks’ Newtown Socratic Society is attempting to build club funds and take on new members as the end of the fall semester

approaches.

“We need a budget for food and drinks, possibly posters,” said Mark Cobb, professor of philosophy and founder of the club at Bucks. “Of course we’d love to go on a trip, but where would we

go?”

The club has existed for multiple years, with the number of members shifting depending upon the circumstances. “At some points, it had no members. It had twenty people at one point,” club

member Brian Deley said.

The most recent meeting of the club, which gathers in the lobby of Founders’ Hall, was host to a discussion that touched on scientific, geographical, and religious topics.

Arguments raged over whether computer viruses were a form of life. Hunter Curry argued against the notion, saying, “A computer virus is a self-replicating process, but isn’t considered life.”

Nick Benedetto begged to differ, “Viruses aren’t alive, but computers may be. They fulfill all the philosophical requirements.”

Perhaps more controversially, club members debated organized religion. “Religion is a background ideology today,” Benedetto said. “It is going away because people just want to listen to all arguments these days.”

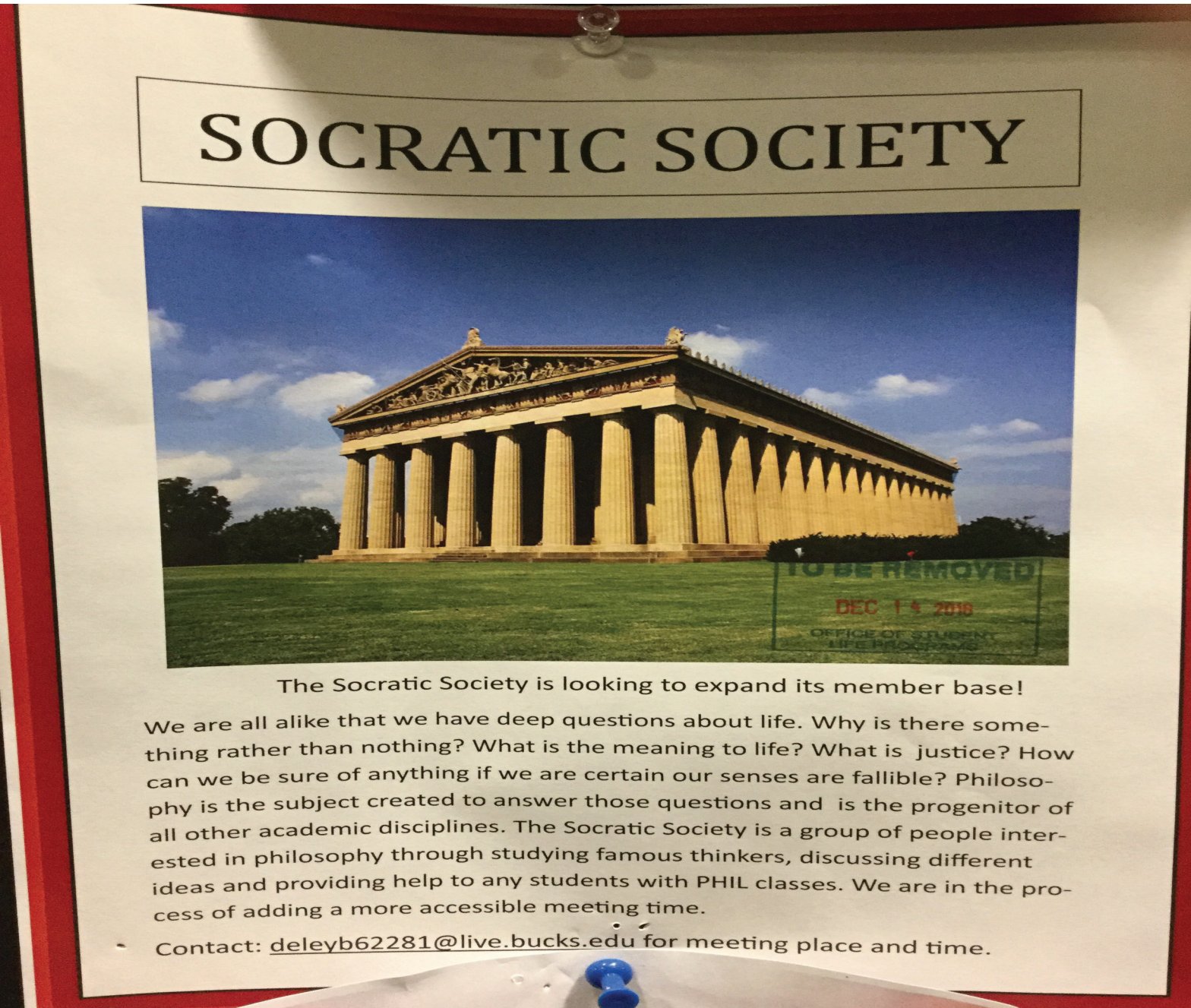
“Religion - organized religion - predates government, but it gets taken over and manipulated by governments,” Deley responded.

Many members of the club seem to be scholars. “We’ve discussed Nietzsche and Socrates. And we plan to discuss more casual stuff in the future,” Cobb said.

Usually, however, the club is relatively low-key. “The class is pretty communal. We go off on tangents about just random stuff,” Curry said. Many jokes are exchanged.

Deley shared that he had recently found an encyclopedia of philosophy in the library. “That was the end of my day. I couldn’t stop reading. I was ten minutes late to class. It was actually quite recent - from the nineties or the early 2000s.”

“That’s two decades old,” Curry replied. “For philosophy, something from the nineties is from ten minutes ago!” Cobb joked.



Socratic Society flyer

PHOTO CREDIT: HAL CONTE

Beyond Bucks

Transitioning to Transgender Policies: Pennsbury

TERRELL GREEN
Centurion Staff

The Pennsbury School Board created a new policy to improve the well-being of transgender students, titled “Transgender and Gender Expansive Students,” which became effective starting Oct. 18.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that every student has equal access to educational opportunities. “We thrive to provide our students with a safe environment to learn. With that being said, we felt it was necessary to provide a policy for these specific students so they don’t feel discriminated against anymore,” said Board Member Joshua Waldorf.

The new policy focuses on a few key points. Some include gender-segregated activities, restroom accessibility, physical education classes and intramural sports teams, dress codes and discrimination/harassment.

The policy encourages schools to eliminate segregated activities, such as health, and let students decide what classes to take based on their gender.

It gives students accessibility to restrooms corresponding to their gender. No student will have to use a specific restroom because they are transgender or gender expansive.

Transgender and gender expansive students will also be able to participate in physical education classes and sports consistent with

their identity. Students who have discomfort in an activity, such as swimming, will have an alternate choice as well.

Transgender and gender expansive students will also be able to dress the way they choose. This means that schools will not be able to adopt dress codes that go against students’ gender identities.

Discrimination and harassment towards transgender and gender expansive students will not be tolerated. Any students doing so will be given disciplinary action based on the situation.

“Within the last year, more than 12 incidents involving gender discrimination arose within the district,” said Waldorf. “We had multiple parents calling in stating that their children felt segregated and discriminated against because of their gender.”

Waldorf said the district was ready to make this new policy because they didn’t want to have a bad image.

“This is something that is happening worldwide. We will not tolerate discrimination by students based on gender and that is why we acted as soon as possible on this matter,” said Waldorf.

Debra Wachspress, Vice President of the Board, said that the new policy will benefit all schools. “This was a topic of discussion that we have been talking about for a while now. With everything that is included in the new policy, these students should begin to feel more comfortable



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

and feel that they are in a safe environment,” she said.

Cori Baker, a 15-year-old freshman at Pennsbury High School, says she likes the idea of the new policy. “I think it’s something that should’ve been done a long time ago. I can name at least a handful of friends that I have that are

transgender. With this policy, it should make it easier for them,” she said.

Sarah Clark, a 37-year-old stay-at-home mother, is very optimistic for her and her transgender daughter. “I think this policy will help her. I can be at home now and know that she is being treated

fairly and equally to all the other students. The schools are going in the right direction for sure,” said Clark.

The board stated that they will check up on this new policy within the next three months and report back to see how it is progressing.

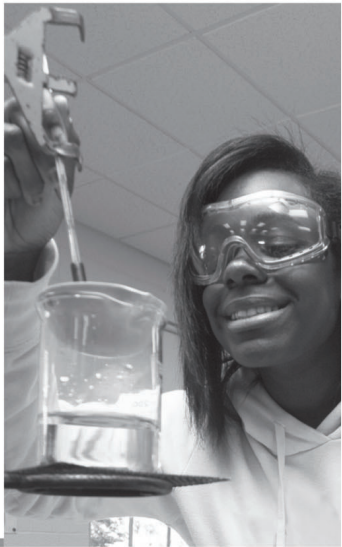


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Beyond Bucks

Transitioning to Transgender Policies: Central Bucks

LAUREN SAVANA
Centurion Staff

Central Bucks, and other area school districts, are finally addressing the controversial topic of transgender students in the classrooms by working to provide a more comfortable environment for their learning experience.

School districts are not the only entity that doesn't seem to know how to deal with these family's concerns; the local courts are struggling to protect the civil rights of these students when it comes to gender identity.

"Not only do some states question whether transgender kids are legally allowed equal access to bathrooms, locker rooms and sports, opinions vary on whether they even should be.

Gender identity refers to an individual's internal sense of gender; it may or may not match their biology," The Intelligencer, a local newspaper, wrote when reporting the same issue.

Now almost half way through the school year, educators are attempting to accommodate all students fairly.

John Kopicki, Superintendent of Central Bucks School District said as of now there are no gender-specific policies. The districts are currently in the process of enacting such policies.

"Our goal is to make all students comfortable — to understand all students' rights, we're doing our due diligence... it's a sensitive issue and we want to consider all sides," Kopicki said.

Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 and the district recently held a "community conversation" in hopes of educating school district employees about these issues.

Karen McConnell, superintendent for finance and administrative operations at Central Dauphin School District, was a keynote speaker at the event.

"It's estimated that four in 1,000 people are transgender and that 1.4 million adults in the U.S. identify as such," McConnell said.

"Get yelled at or get beat up" is pretty much the only option transgender people have when



On left, woman protests for her transchild, on the right (top) Central Buck West High School, (bottom) Pennridge middle school

PHOTO CREDIT: (LEFT) WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM, TOP RIGHT, CBSD.ORG, BOTTOM RIGHT, WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

using public restrooms across the country. This recent "bathroom hysteria," as McConnell called it, is one of the most challenging issues that school districts are trying to deal with in Central Bucks, as well as nationwide.

One suggestion given at the "community conversation" was to try to have an open dialogue between districts and the families of these students, and of course the students personally.

Other suggestions were to have school district personnel only address the transgender student by their name and appropriate pronoun corresponding to the student's gender identity from now on. Also, school districts should attempt to work with these families and create a prepared

plan to protect these students in extreme cases.

These students need protection besides in the bathroom. McConell said, when it comes to extracurricular activities like gym, these students should of course participate freely.

The Civil Rights Division of both the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice gave school districts specific guidelines on the best way to protect the civil rights of transgender students.

Title IX, "prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs and activities by institutions that receive federal funds, applies to discrimination based on a student's gender identity and transgender status," the letter said.

Title IX also says that the

school district personnel must not treat a transgender student differently from other students.

Since Title IX was written, a federal judge in Texas blocked that specific line from going into effect.

"Responding to a lawsuit filed by Texas and several other states, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor granted a preliminary, nationwide saying the Obama administration's guide would turn schools 'into laboratories for a massive social experiment,'" The Intelligencer reported.

Despite the legal uncertainty of the issue, Pennridge School District in Perkasie said it would continue abiding by Title IX.

"The district will look to guidance from the courts and regula-

tory agencies to accommodate all students on a case-by-case basis, particularly where the law in this area remains in flux," Troy Price, Pennridge's director of administration said.

When discussion about students requesting private locker rooms and bathrooms, Price said, "it will be district policy to make individual user options available."

In the Pennsbury School District, Assistant Superintendent Donna Dunar said, "Transgender students are the focus of a board policy that will be developed in the near future by our new board policy committee. We look forward to developing this policy, as we are committed to the uniqueness of every child in Pennsbury."

Tom Wilschutz, head of Solebury School, a private school in New Hope, has always had a gender policy. Though that gender policy changed after a male student that was staying in the male dorm, came out as a female. This year, Solebury added a gender-neutral bathroom and gender-neutral locker room.





"It's critically important that students are allowed to be publicly supported as their authentic selves," Wilschutz said.

Apparently there hasn't been much of a reaction to the change in policy and these additions to the school. Wilschutz said there are five or six transgender students at the 230-student school that includes grades seven through 12.

As for Doylestown, they tried something a little more unorthodox. Marlene Pray's, founder of the Rainbow Room, main goal is to "create a community where our transgender youth can safely and freely live their lives and speak openly without fear of repercussions, prejudice and even violence."


Though the Rainbow Room isn't in a school building, it's in the Planned Parenthood building on Court Street in Doylestown. It still serves for an educational purpose and provides a safe place for the LGBTQA+ youth community. Anyone from the ages of 14-21 are welcome to attend community events, keynote speakers, and educational discussions.

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Belmont Featuring Flexible Seating



Mrs. DiJoseph's 3rd grade classroom

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE MEANS

GEORGE MEANS
Centurion Staff

Mrs. Roberts baked a batch of bagels. She arranged the bagels in three equal rows of four each on the cooling rack. How many bagels did she bake? “How can we turn this into a multiplication problem?” Mrs. DiJoseph asks her students.

The day begins with 20 kids all gathered on the carpet as the math problems are projected onto the board from a white Hitachi projector that hangs from the ceiling. From there, the students get to sit in the seats that they chose at the end of the previous day... and their options are far from limited.

Yoga balls, giant pillows, hokki stools, bungee, butterfly, camping, and director’s chairs fill Mrs. Miller and DiJoseph’s 3rd grade classrooms at Belmont Hills Elementary School in Bensalem.

They are the two 3rd grade classes at Belmont that are taking part in an Action Research Program that is trying out a flexible seating arrangement which allows students to decide where and what they sit on. If the program is successful, it will be incorporated into the other two 3rd grade classrooms next school year.

“It help keeps the disruptive behavior at bay,” says DiJosph.

The idea began last year when “reading workshops” were incorporated into grades 3-5, where students read independently in any way that they feel comfortable. Some kids choose to lie under their desks, while others put their feet up on top of the desk.

“I noticed when kids were more comfortable, they were able to sustain reading for longer periods of time,” says DiJoseph.

“I happened to stumble across a blog last spring,” says Miller. The blog was written by a 4th grade teacher who had incorporated flexible seating into her own classroom. “It kind of struck a chord. ‘Like, oh, can this be done?’” Miller says.

The idea of flexible seating has become ever-popular in the corporate world with conglomerates like Google and McDonald’s integrating similar ideas into their workplaces. “We’re going to pioneer it on an elementary level,” DiJoseph jokes.

There are other classes across Bensalem School District also trying this innovative program. At Struble Elementary, “A couple of the 2nd grade classrooms are piloting it,” says Miller.

Since almost all of the desks have been removed from the classrooms, the teachers have different size workstations set up around the room. “We are both starting to see kids zero in on specific spots,” Miller says.

“Even within those seating options, there’s other seating options,” says DiJoseph. Some are lower tables with pillows and yoga balls surrounding them, and other stations are standup desks encircled by stools and higher seating options.

Globally, kids sit on an average of 8.5 hours a day, according to the school district’s website. On a molecular level, the body is designed to be active and on the move throughout the day, not dormant.

Too many hours of sitting can be danger-

ous to kids’ health and it has been proven that getting up and moving around is the solution to this problem. There are over 10,000 studies supporting this evidence and scientists, doctors, and teachers across the United States are beginning to realize that a change has to be made.

Miller mentioned that Finland has some of the most successful education programs in the world, and that their kids get recess after every 45 minutes of instruction! “When you give them breaks, their engagement level is higher,” Miller says. The students at Belmont Hills only get about 20 minutes of recess every day.

DiJoseph believes that it is when the kids get bored that behavioral problems begin to develop. “What I am seeing is the day-to-day conflict between students is much lower,” says Miller.

The success of this program will be measured by examining test score data between the different classes and comparisons of scores in previous years. Since analyzing different groups of kids won’t be definitive evidence, the school will also evaluate individual growth and teacher progress to determine the program’s success.

Principal Marla Zeisler is highly supportive of the flexible seating initiative, “I had a personal interest in this because my grandson... needed special seating,” Zeisler says, “It’s a great way not to single out any students.”

Even after doing their research, implementing the program wasn’t as easy as either teacher had predicted. “In the beginning I was very apprehensive,” admits DiJoseph. “I got a little nervous that I had bitten off more than I can chew,” says Miller.

Since the students don’t have traditional desks to use for storage, they use cubbies and carry “browsing bags” around with them. DiJoseph says that getting used to seeing their bags on the floor next to them was one of the hardest things to get used to. “Sometimes it looks a little chaotic,” says Miller.

Another task for these teachers was filling up their classrooms with furniture options. Over the summer, Miller chose to set up a project on DonorsChoose.org, a classroom support website. Although it became a \$700 project within a week, many of the costs have still come out of the teachers’ pockets.

“Thrift stores have been my best friend,” says Miller. “Thank God for Five Below, because it adds up,” DiJoseph says.

Both teachers agree that it’s all about the kids. You can see their enthusiasm in their vibrant, but diverse teaching styles.

From DiJoseph’s rock star-themed classroom to Miller’s jungle, all of the kids appear to be active and actively involved.

“They just want to be engaged,” says DiJoseph.



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Beyond Bucks

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Police cruiser outside of station
GEORGE MEANS
Centurion Staff

Penndel Borough Police Chief Joseph Sciscio sat down to talk about the department’s limited resources and the difficulty of playing secretary, supervisor and detective all in one.

Sciscio is the only full-time employee on the police force in Penndel Borough. He is assisted by 10 part-time officers and together they operate as a full-time police department without any support staff.

“I heard a statistic that the council was talking about that it was over 60 percent of Penndel were renters,” said Sciscio. He believes this number is high, but it is probably close to accurate. “I haven’t verified that yet,” he said. Sciscio estimates the total population at 2,300 residents.

“Resource allocation can be tricky,” he admits.

On Sunday, Oct. 23, seven residents of a youth independent living facility on Bellevue Ave.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE MEANS

had to be detained after allegedly assaulting a male and female on East Woodland Ave.

The residents of the Youth Service Agency had crashed a Halloween party in the early hours of the night. After refusing to leave, the police were called. When police arrived, the young men and teens were already gone, but they returned later that morning to beat up a man and his girlfriend at the residence.

According to Levittown Now, the accused were Daniel McCleary, 19, Da’vohn Chapman, 18, Cameir Renwick, 18, Nathan Shaw, 18, Jesus Joa, 18, and two juveniles. They were arrested and charged with burglary, stalking, terroristic threats and aggravated assault.

The male and female victims sustained injuries including a possible concussion from the women being kicked in the ordeal.

Only one of the detained was from Bucks County. Four out of the seven arrested in this incident were from Dauphin County near

Harrisburg, PA.

All five adults were taken to Bucks County Correctional Facility and the youths were handed off to the appropriate agencies.

Sometimes, in situations with out-of-towner arrests, the suspects are handcuffed to a bench inside of the tiny police station until transport from another county can come pick them up. “It’s not uncommon for an officer to have to watch someone on the bench while they do their paperwork,” said Sciscio.

Some officers have even spent their whole shifts watching prisoners on their bench. “If we don’t have serious enough charges to arraign them, then we have to babysit,” he explained.

“It’s not necessarily a safe situation either,” said Sciscio. Recently they had a prisoner who kept trying to spit on a female officer while in custody.

Other than the youth center, Penndel has several apartment complexes, Cairn University dormitories, a recovery house, and short-term living spaces at a place simply labeled “Get Rooms Here!”

An application to open a half-way house at 113 W Lincoln Hwy was recently withdrawn from the borough’s agenda. “That’s why I really started coming [to council meetings.] I wasn’t going to let that happen,” said Kirsten Houser, resident of Penndel for the past four years.

Earlier this month, Houser and her husband looked outside of their home on Bellevue Ave. and saw kids brawling on the sidewalk. “Small town,” she said, “lots of crime here.”

Amber Gushue, 26, life-long resident of Penndel, recalls that the SWAT team was called out to Oxford Grant Apartments to remove gang members from the complex in 2006. “They’re called Millcreek Apartments now, but they’ll always be Oxford Grant to me,” she said.

Five members of the Bloods gang in Trenton had apparently moved into the complex and were selling drugs in the area. Sciscio was involved with this incident, working on the Narcotics Unit for the Bensalem Police Department at the time. “It was interesting,” he said.

Sciscio reassured that the apartments have changed ownership, not just names. “The management is very proactive,” said Sciscio,

to propose a motion to disband the Penndel Police Department several months ago. “It was just a proposal that I had to look into,” Sodano continued on to say, “to increase the safety long-term because we don’t have all of the resources that Middletown has.”

Council voted not to outsource the police services to Middletown Township in early September, and have recently voted on an architect’s plans for a new police station to be built. They are currently awaiting bids on the project.

The Penndel police station is currently located within the Penndel Borough Hall. The new station will provide the department with more space, and secure areas, to book and hold prisoners.

Penndel Police responded to



Bench inside of station
PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE MEANS

adding that they are “fantastic.”

Although Sciscio says that all, or even a majority, of the crime cannot be attributed to the transient population, he admits there’s “a substantial amount of crime from people who don’t have roots here.”

“That’s probably one of their biggest struggles,” said Council President Kali Sodano. “Obviously, long-term residents all know each other.”

Sodano was the council member

189 calls, resulting in 17 criminal arrests, over the month of October, and swore in Dallas Krum as their newest addition to the force on Nov. 7.

Even with additions to the force, officers are usually alone in the station on overnight shifts. “That concerns me,” said Houser.

“Can they really handle it?” she asked.



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Arts & Entertainment

A (Gilmore) Girl’s Dream Come True

VERONICA DIAMOND
Centurion Staff

Mark your calendars! The upcoming Netflix mini-series “Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life” is set to release on Nov. 25.

Before I dive into it, I’ll discuss the original series a little bit. The original television series “Gilmore Girls” aired in Oct., 2000 and ended its run in May 2007 making super fans speculate what’s going to happen in the revival of the show.

The basis of the show is that a young 32-year-old single mother, Lorelai Gilmore, is raising her teenage daughter, Rory. It centers heavily around her relationship between the two.

When Gilmore got pregnant at 16, she ran away from home leaving behind her old life for a new one in Stars Hollow, CT.

During the first season, the viewers get a look into Lorelai’s relationship with her wealthy parents, Richard and Emily Gilmore when she goes to ask her parents to pay for Rory’s schooling at an expensive private school. Their relationship is very rocky and always a struggle for Lorelai.

As the original series goes on, the viewers get a glimpse into the romantic relationships between Lorelai and Rory. In all, Lorelai has been with Rory’s dad Christopher, Rory’s teacher Max, and the



diner owner Luke. Rory too had relationships with Dean, Jess and Logan.

Although the creator of the show and the upcoming mini-series, Amy-Sherman Palladino, is keeping closed lips to who is in a relationship with both Lorelai and Rory.

Many people are still specu-

lating who will be with who in the upcoming A Year in the Life revival. Are you team Lorelai and Luke or are you rooting for Lorelai and Christopher? But the biggest question yet is who Rory is going to end up with. Is it Dean, Jess or Logan?

Others are curious as to how the four 90 minute episodes will

unfold all together. Palladino decided to make each episode a theme of winter, spring, summer and fall. Singer/songwriter Carole King has been involved in the show. King’s song “Where You Lead” was used for the theme song of the entire series. She also made guest appearances as minor characters on the show.

Lauren Graham, the actress who plays Lorelai, has said that “I always assumed that it was ‘You’ve Got a Friend.’ Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall and I always assumed they were going to ask her [Carole King] to use that song. I don’t know if that’s true. That’s just what I figured, given that she did our theme song and is a part of the show.”

The upcoming revival cast includes all of the originals that include Lauren Graham (Lorelai Gilmore), Alexis Bledel (Rory Gilmore), Kelly Bishop (Emily Gilmore), Keiko Agena (Lane Kim), Melissa McCarthy (Sookie St. James), Scott Patterson (Luke Danes), David Sutcliffe (Christopher Hayden), Matt Czuchy (Logan Huntzberger), Milo Ventimiglia (Jess Mariano), Jared Padalecki (Dean Forester), and Liza Weil (Paris Geller) among others.

Edward Herrmann, who played the role of Richard Gilmore, sadly passed away in 2014. However, Palladino wrote him in the storyline by showing Emily as a newly widowed woman. In the upcoming revival, Bishop’s character explores what the definition of her new life will be like without her husband.

If you can’t wait any longer, you can watch the trailer for the mini-series on Netflix.

HBO’s Newest Knockout Hit



DAVID JONES
Centurion Staff

Gunslinging, cattle ranching, artificial intelligence, and \$40,000 a day. What do all these things have in common? They’re all things that you’ll find in HBO’s new sci-fi thriller series, “Westworld.”

Based on the novel of the same name, by prolific author Michael Crichton, the story takes you into the future of the world in which technology has advanced so far that robots with artificial intelligence are no longer a thought of science fiction.

The robots work in “Westworld,” a theme park that allows the patrons to live out the days

of the Wild West. The hosts, as they call them, are deeply woven throughout the world’s narrative and there is a scripted adventure waiting inside every host that the patrons can experience.

The park was built to indulge in people’s fantasies, the hosts cannot hurt the patrons but they can be killed or used in any way the patrons please. At the end of every day all of the hosts are pulled from the park and their memory is wiped so they awake and do the same thing every day. The problem lies within a small update to the hosts system which includes a glitch that allows them to remember what has been done to them.

Now with memories of lives they don’t remember living, and starting to question whether their reality is actually real, what will happen to the hosts of Westworld? This new show created by Lisa Joy and Jonathan Nolan, brother of Christopher Nolan, acclaimed director of “The Dark Knight” trilogy and films like “The Prestige” and “Memento,” is a ten-episode season that airs every Sunday night at 9 p.m.

The cast is filled with tons of big names, like Anthony Hopkins, who plays the creator of the park, Evan Rachel Wood, best known for “Across the Universe,” with James Marsden and Thandie Newton as hosts in the park.

Jeffrey Wright plays the Director of Behavior for the park, and Ed Harris plays a mysterious man in black with strange intentions yet to be revealed.

The show has currently aired six of the 10 episodes for its first season, and has kept me captivated each episode.

The first episode introduces you to the park fairly well, and paves the way to the main conflict of the series. Every episode so far has continued bringing forth a trend of leaving me at the end of the episode scrambling to talk to someone about what just happened.

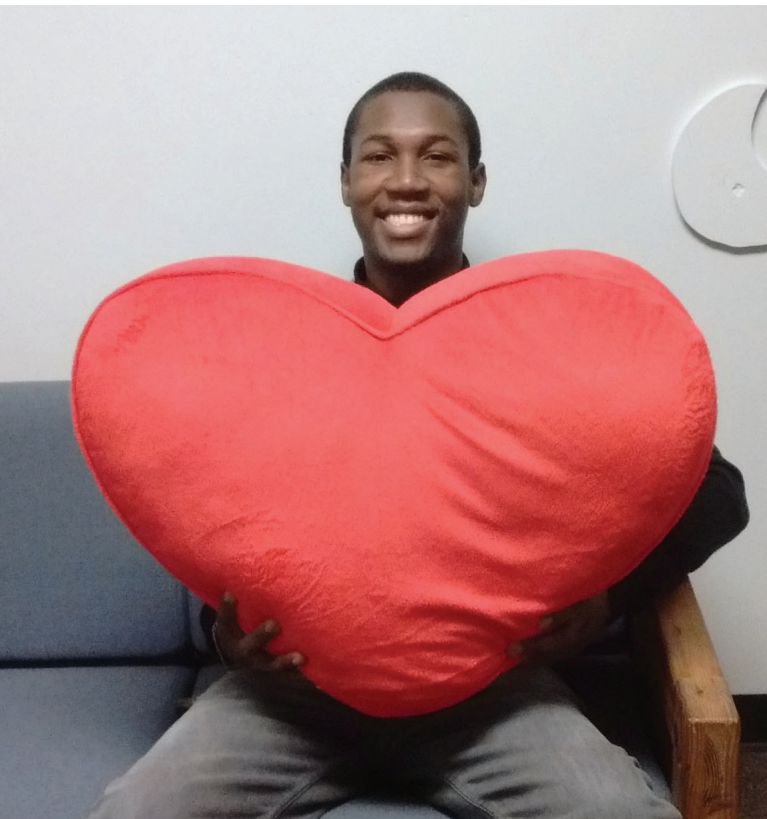
Who is the Man in Black and what exactly does he want? What is happening to Dolores and why

does Bernard keep bringing her in for questioning? What exactly is the new narrative that Dr. Ford has created and why is he disrupting so much of the park to prepare it? What exactly is Teddy’s mysterious past and what’s going to happen between him and Dolores?

This is a series that asks a lot of questions and spins an excellent tale. The writers and directors manage to perfectly blend the genres of a western period piece and science fiction. I cannot recommend this series highly enough, and I cannot wait to see where they take me next.

Feature of the Week

Underground Alumni of Bucks



GEORGE MEANS
Centurion Staff

“What’s the prerequisite? Having me looking less legit. I don’t care for your preferences. Studying what the method is. Infiltrate on that residence. Chillin,’ wait on the premises. I am an enigma and that is what has you hesitant.” – DK Robin “Times New Roman”

Mix a little bit of Hopsin with a splash of Childish Gambino and camouflage those styles with the sophisticated fashion of Drake and what do you get?

DK Robin is not your average rapper. Relatively new to the game and having roots at Bucks, he is looking to have his presence be known.

Demetri Kyle Robinson is a 24-year-old graduate of Bucks. He has been returning to campus to spread the word of his dedication toward accomplishing his dream of becoming a successful musician.

“For me, it’s go hard or go homeless,” Robinson says.

In the spring of 2013, he left Bucks with an associate’s degree in business administration. “It says degree of arts on it... I don’t know,” Robinson laughs. His plans of going to Temple University were quickly thwarted by an \$8,300 bill. This is when Robinson really became DK.

Robinson began writing in 2011, but it wasn’t until around May 2013 that he got into producing. By January 2014, he was transplanting his ideas into digital recordings. He released his first mixtape, “Reading Off the Powerpoint,” at the beginning of this year and has been going ever since.

Over the past several years, Robinson feels that he has learned more out of school while pursuing a career in the music industry. His frequent use of pop culture references shows that Robinson stays up to date on current events. “I always try to keep up on that stuff,” he says.

Reading books and watching TV and movies are just some of

the ways that Robinson keeps his references fresh. “Now it’s more for personal enrichment,” he says.

Leaving college, Robinson knew that he would need more than just his everyday life to rap about. “I just feel like I have so much more range using imagination.” Robinson says, “It kind of takes you out of your realm.”

On his newest album, released August 7, Robinson includes a track called “Sickle Cell Chronicles,” that details his experience with sickle cell anemia. “I was in the hospital three times last year,” he says of his experience with the painful blood disease.

Two of Robinson’s biggest influences are J. Cole and Drake. Drake’s appearance particularly inspired him. “His image is clean cut,” says Robinson, “You don’t have to be a thug? I can do that!”

A particular line from J. Cole’s “Friday Night Lights” mixtape helped Robinson to discover his dreams of being a rapper. The track “Too Deep for the Intro,” Cole says, “If they don’t know your dreams, then they can’t shoot ‘em down.” Hearing this line was a life altering moment for Robinson.

Although he lists these artists as his biggest influences, Robinson had been introduced to rap much earlier in life. He remembers dancing with his mother to the track “Mo Money Mo Problems” as a child.

Robinson lives in Doylestown with his brother and his mother, who has been one of his biggest supports with his transition in goals. She has been to nearly all of his performances.

Robinson has always been a relatively good child. “When I was a toddler, I pooped in a Home Depot display toilet,” he admits. Other than that, he has only been guilty of speeding on a few occasions.

Robinson spends at least 30 hours a week working at Mar-

shall’s, but most of his other free time is spent in front of his Maschine production pad making beats. “That’s another reason I stopped going to school,” he continues, “It was collecting dust for six months.”

There was a big learning curve when Robinson began making his own beats. He says that playing video games for hours at a time prepped him for this endeavor. “I feel like that spilled over into the music,” says Robinson.

“I feel like my start is a little late compared to other rappers that are blowing up.” Robinson believes that “taking time to learn producing and mixing will really pay off.”

Starting in 2017, Robinson plans on releasing a new track every week. “It’ll be less scary than committing to a whole album.”

He says that the idea of not having to stick to a certain theme is “gonna give me more versatility.”

In the meantime, Robinson has been known to perform at open mic nights in Doylestown and Philly, and even performed at the Zlock Performing Arts Center on campus for the Pray For Dominic concert event in October.

Lately, a lot of people have been comparing Robinson to Lupe Fiasco. I still feel that my concoction of artists closely depicts not only his style, but his personality as well.

Check out DK’s new album “The Rogaine Isn’t Working” on SoundCloud or at dkrobin.com to decide for yourself. Robinson says, “It doesn’t have to be super dumbed down or lyrical miracle.”



DK Robin (both) PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE MEANS



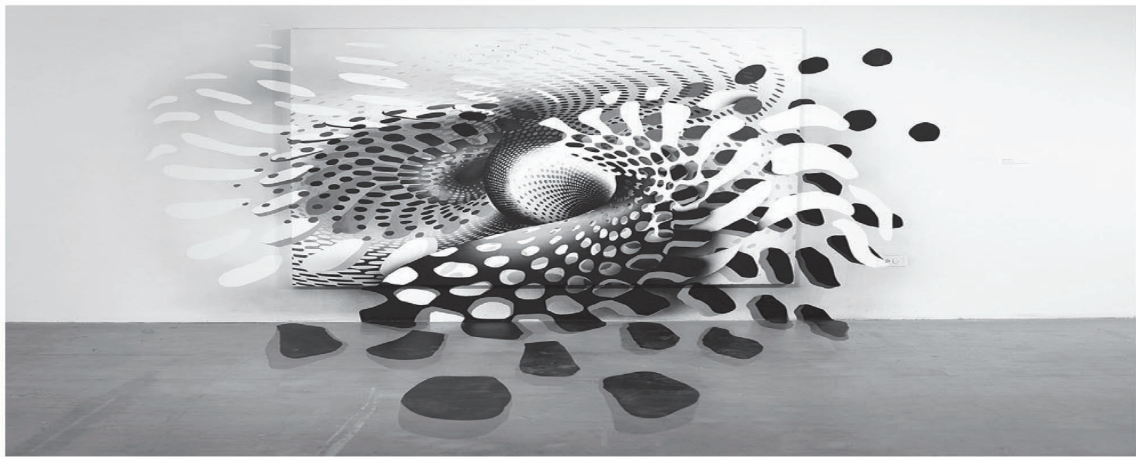
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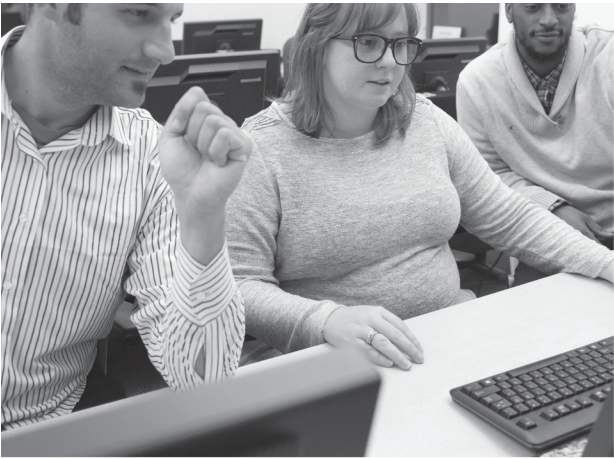
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Sports

PEDERSON'S PLAY CALLING KILLS EAGLES... AGAIN!

GIANFRANCO ILLIANO

Centurion Staff

For the second consecutive week, the Eagles lost to a division rival in heart-breaking fashion. This time around, they lost to the New York (based in New Jersey) Giants 28-23.

There are plenty of reasons why the Eagles failed to win this game, but there's one that really sticks out—the play calling. Doug Pederson, for the second week in a row, called a terrible game on offense with his abysmal decisions that led to negative plays that ultimately cost the Eagles the game.

People may argue that the two interceptions thrown by Carson Wentz were the main reason why the Eagles lost. However, those setbacks came very early in the game and there were plenty of opportunities later in the contest to make up for those turnovers. Nonetheless, Carson Wentz struggled throughout the game.

There's an old saying in football, "take what the defense gives you." Eagles' head coach, Doug Pederson, seems to not understand that concept.

When the opportunities came to score three points, the Eagles' coach decided to go for it on the fourth down, and in the end, the team didn't convert. Yes, hindsight is 20/20, but all good coaches know that there are good and bad times to be aggressive. However, Doug Pederson evidently disagrees with that philosophy, which is strange considering last week's game against the Cow-



Doug Pederson

PHOTOCREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

boys, he seemed to be too conservative. Obviously, there seems to be a lack of balance.

Believe it or not, the Eagles started the season 3-0 and rookie coach Doug Pederson looked to have all the makings of a veteran who called decent games. The Eagles won those games because their offense was balanced when it came to running and passing the ball.

In those three games, the Eagles ran the ball 96 times and passed the ball 102 times which is almost as good as it gets when it comes to being balanced. Since those three wins, the Eagles are 1-4 and the play calling has been atrocious. In the past five games, the Eagles have run the ball 117

times and passed the ball 174 times. That is clearly unbalanced and a recipe to lose.

It's simply unfair to ask a rookie quarterback to throw that many times, especially with suspect wide receivers who can't run routes and have trouble catching the ball.

The best way to win games with or without a rookie quarterback, is to establish the run game because it opens up everything and it keeps the defense on their heels. The Eagles seemed to understand that in the first three games of the season. Now, it's like they completely forgot that they're allowed to have an even amount of run and pass plays.

Doug Pederson needs to get

back to calling a balanced offense immediately, as the team now stands at 4-4—the bottom of the NFC East. Pederson needs to also feature the tight ends more consistently in the passing game, especially Zach Ertz, who can become a matchup problem for defenses. Thankfully, Pederson did include Ertz in the game plan on Sunday, as Ertz finished the game with eight catches, 97 yards receiving.

Watching these games in the past few weeks, the play calling on first and second down has been so defective, especially against the Giants. If you watch closely, the Eagles are running plays that feature delayed handoffs, which are never effective unless you're

in an obvious pass situation where you might catch the defense off guard.

On one of the fourth down plays, the Eagles needed one yard to get the first down and the Eagles ran a run play with Darren Sproles, who stands at 5'6" 190 pounds, to the right side and was immediately stopped. It doesn't make sense to run that play with the smallest player in the NFL. In that situation, the Eagles should've plugged in Ryan Mathews who stands at 6'0" 220 pounds.

There were a lot of bad play calls in this game, but there's two plays in short yardage situations the Eagles desperately needed to convert and they failed to do so by calling a quarterback sweep, not once, but twice! As far as anyone knows, the only quarterback in the NFL that should be running sweep plays is Cam Newton and Carson Wentz is far from being Cam Newton despite being similar in size.

The bottom line is that Doug Pederson called a terrible game, especially in short yardage situations. He needs to get back to calling a balanced offense that features a fair amount of run and pass plays. The aggressiveness is great, no doubt about it, but Pederson needs to understand that there are times where it's okay to settle for a field goal, which proved to be costly on Sunday, as the Eagles left six points on the field and lost the game by five points.

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