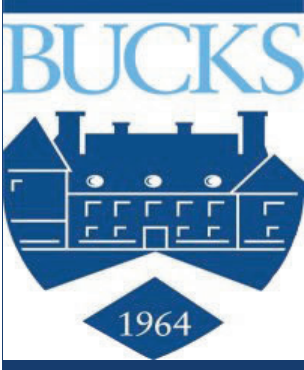


The Centurion



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

Volume 52 Issue 6

Dec. 8, 2016

Bucks-News.com

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On-Campus Demonstration Turns Violent



The demonstration on Dec. 1

SHANNON HARRAR
& HAL CONTE

Centurion Staff

A demonstration by a sign-bearing, purportedly Christian activist sparked a furor at Bucks last Thursday, leading to scuffles between students and police involvement, as well as fears from administrators and student groups

PHOTO CREDIT: ALEX ANDERSON

about the arrival of a hate speech on the Newtown campus.

According to an email sent to faculty by College President Stephanie Shanblatt, a man entered the courtyard between Grupp Hall and the library around noon bearing a sign strewn with hate speech.

Accompanied by a woman, whom some students suggest

may have been his wife, the man held up a sign filled with bizarre and hateful slogans denouncing Muslims, gays and lesbians, along with “Black Lives Matter, baby killers, ankle biters, witches, the Pope, occupational whores, gamers, Obama, and rebellious women.”

A crowd of about 100 students gathered around the protester, according to Liz Marcucci, a student observer. According to Marcucci, “he was just, like standing here, saying bad stuff.”

Students chanted “a--hole” as the protester continued to speak against various groups of people. “Everybody was just getting really upset,” said student Lashe Adams.

The scene turned violent when students began to throw various objects, including a Gatorade bottle, at the protester, and his female cohort threatened to mace nearby students.

Students responded with taunts. “We got in her face and just said, ‘mace us,’” Adams explained.

At some point, the man was reported to have shouted, “all the women should leave,” which riled up the crowd. Several eyewitnesses claim they saw a student attempt to rip the sign down with a knife. However, this could not be confirmed.

The man then allegedly tried to attack the crowd. “He was trying to beat people up, we were right in front of him,” Adams said.

Police immediately advanced and put the man in handcuffs.

Director of safety and security at Bucks, Dennis McCauley, called the police when he heard of the developing unrest.

“This is the first time I’ve seen something like this in my 10 years,” McCauley said.

Although more information about the man could not be disclosed, McCauley did say “he has a viewpoint but I don’t want people to feel he’s a threat.”

“It’s important for students to know they can’t take matters into their own hands,” he stressed. “The main goal was to not let anyone get hurt on either end.”

The incident led to much conversation on campus, with the Secretary of the Student Government Association (SGA), Theodora Dagkli, announcing a “Show of Peace and Unity” to be held at the sight of the protest on Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.

Razin Karu, president of the SGA, also sent an email to faculty praising security personnel for their management of the situation, and declaring “the Bucks SGA condemns the act that targeted various sections of our diverse

student body and appreciates the response our students gave to the person.”

Students passing through the courtyard, some of whom did not participate in the incident, were angered by what they saw, with some Christian students expressing dismay at the way the protester was portraying their religion.

“He’s destroying the image of Christianity,” said Ryan Russell. The protester’s sign said “WARNING....OBEY JESUS OR HELL-FIRE.”

“I’m a Christian and we’re taught the opposite of what he was saying,” Russell said.

Russell also mentioned that he didn’t recognize any of the Bible verses printed on the sign.

The protester had a link to a website, called Christian Interviews, written on his sign. This website features cult-like materials and its moderators have tweeted lessons on “how to rebuke Harry Potter fans.”

The incident has since been covered in The Intelligencer, as well as in conservative writer J.D. Mullane’s column in the Bucks County Courier Times. A video of the protest was posted on YouTube and has garnered over 800 views as of Tuesday.

Students Stressed as Finals Arrive

HAL CONTE

Centurion Staff

At this point in the semester, you might expect to see students fretting about finals and attempting to escape their exams, but on the day before Thanksgiving break, most Bucks students weren’t all that concerned.

“I have one final and I just got a study guide today, so I don’t have to worry about it,” said Kait Briggs, a business major. Briggs’ thought process seems common among students. “I’m not stressed at all. Once it gets close, I’ll go through notes,” said computer science major Alex Lorenz.

One reason behind this lack of stress is simple, many students don’t have finals to take. “I actually don’t have any,” said Justin

Showers, neuroscience major.

Some students only have a few difficult exams. “I’m not so worried. Just the calculus final is going to be tough,” said Reeda Elmiami.

“It’s just the essays. Nothing else is really troubling right now,” said first-year student Daniel Orwat.

Other students have been stressed. “My social functions have been dying. You have to have good study habits,” said economics major Elana Auerbach.

“There’s been lots of crying,” said education major Sam Goldberg, “Dogs do help.”

But most students have pushed the finals to the back of their minds. “I’m sure I’ll feel stressed once I realize when finals are,” said Patrick Wilson, a biology major.

First year student Hamza Mqadmi said he still had a lot of time ahead of him to work. “He’s giving us a while,” he said, referring to his professor.

“I’m stressed about finals, but at the same time I am worried about other things. I’m just studying what I can,” said Lucas Disangro.

Students like Disangro have classes that have alternative assignments instead of an exam.

“In high school, every single class you’d have a final review packet. But in my acting class, you have to memorize a monologue,” Disangro continued, “You just have to interpret it in your own way.”

Despite the overall sense of nonchalance, many students have



Stressed out students (both)

study tips they hope to use when the finals loom closer.

“I love lists!” said Goldberg. “Definitely lists, I make lists on an index card and stay at Bucks a while after class,” said psychology major Brianna Shaw.

Goldberg also noted the college library can be a useful tool for work-worried students. “It is kind of cool how even though the

library is a place of chatting, we still do work.”

Mqadmi also had advice. “Check Canvas, do what teachers suggest, study specifically, and you’ll be fine.”

“It’s crunch time, final time. You have to get into the books, no playtime,” said Niki Brown, biology major. “I limit the things that I usually do. Sometimes,

PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN SAVANA

I won’t go to the gym. I keep a mental note that it is the last month of school. Less pleasure, more priority.”

But even a student as dedicated as Brown has sacred recreational activities. “I give up everything. Except for my Eagles games. Nothing’s touching my birds,” she said.

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CB West Student Rids Her School of Styrofoam

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ANGELA GRABOSKY
Centurion Staff

When CB West senior Shaylan Kolodney, 17, got into high school she noticed the cafeteria was filled with Styrofoam plates. They were under hundreds of pieces of pizza and chicken patties, and she wanted to change that.

Kolodney was inspired to take action because she had gotten really into reading science statistics. “It really struck me in the heart,” she said.

Kolodney went through the school board and started doing presentations. She also talked to Aramark, the school’s foodservice provider. Now the cafeteria uses biodegradable utensils and containers lunch ladies can stick in dish washers. Seventeen thousand less clamshell containers enter landfills each year and Kolodney hopes to make this number higher. She is now working with Doylestown to give local restaurants incentive to use alternatives.

Styrofoam is a brand name for polystyrene. It a petroleum-based product and therefore contributes to green house gas, which depletes the ozone layer and adds to climate change. Polystyrene can’t be recycled cheaply because of the components it’s made out of. Most recycling facilities don’t handle it because it costs too much money and effort.



PHOTO CREDIT:WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.ORG

Polystyrene is usually a single use container that is thrown right into a landfill or the ocean. It is dangerous for wildlife; 50 percent of sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs. Any polystyrene container ever used still exists. It takes almost an eternity for it to decompose.

Kolodney said ignoring environmental problems is like “If you live in your own house, knock down walls, pick up the carpet, spit on the floor and say it’s not important.”

“If the environment isn’t healthy the human race isn’t healthy. Our job is to see ourselves as part of the earth, not separate,” she said.

Alternatives for polystyrene are recyclable plastic, cardboard, compostable boxes, and reusable containers. The problem is that they are more expensive. Styrofoam is the cheapest container at 7 cents per container while compostable containers cost 17 cents.

Kolodney spoke to various restaurants before her presentation. She found that most restaurants in town are already making the change on their own. 86 West and T-Swirl-Crepe Restaurant both said they steer away from polystyrene because they are environmentally conscious. Planet Smoothie, however, said they still use polystyrene because it has better insulation.

Right now there are still at least a dozen restaurants in the borough, and several dozen more in the township, that still use polystyrene because it costs less. But the restaurants Kolodney spoke to in town were interested in becoming environmentally friendly.

Kolodney pitched various solutions to the Doylestown Environmental Board. These include giving stickers to restaurants that are eco friendly, promoting eco friendly restaurants on the town

borough website, and communicating with the Intelligencer about publishing the names of eco friendly restaurants. The town is considering piggybacking on programs that are already out there, like in New York City.

Cafeteria Culture, an anti-waste non-profit based in New York City, influenced Kolodney in her research. They pushed to get rid of polystyrene in the New York City public schools, the largest public school system in the U.S. with 18 thousand schools.

Eventually New York City made the Urban School Food Alliance. New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Orange County, and Miami-Dade County school districts began to collectively purchase polystyrene alternatives. The goal was to increase the number of purchases and bring prices down. This succeeded, their compostable plate manufacturer even started to offer other school districts lower prices too.

“We thought if we can change New York City schools it’s big enough to make changes city wide and nationally,” said Cafeteria Culture Executive Founder Debby Lee Cohan. Now small towns like Doylestown are looking towards New York as an example.

Kolodney hopes she can make use small changes to make big ones as well. “I am completely concerned about the future and future generations,” she said.

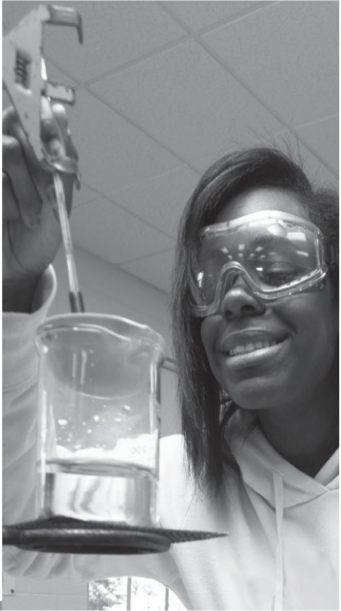


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Beyond Bucks

New Hope For Students

Experimenting With Later Start Times at Solebury School

ANGELA GRABOSKY
Centurion Staff

The alarm is repeatedly screaming at you to wake up as you smack the snooze button over and over again. It sounds so much nicer to be unconscious, wrapped in darkness and warm blankets than it is to get up at the crack of dawn. This may seem like an unavoidable school experience, but not for some students in local areas.

Solebury School, a private boarding and day school in New Hope, has recently started an experimental schedule with later school start times. They even use “later, healthier school start times” as part of their radio advertisement.

“I don’t envision us ever going back to an 8 o’clock start time,” said Principal Thomas Wilschutz.

Solebury starts 30 minutes later four days a week, and one hour later every Wednesday. They changed their class schedules as well, it went from 50-minute blocks to 80-minute blocks. Now students have no more than two to three classes a day.

“It may not seem like much but that extra time does help—you can sleep more, study a little, and do so much more,” said Macio Sexton, 17-year old senior at Solebury.

On certain days Sexton even has 80 minutes of free time, which he said is “more than enough time to finish homework for multiple classes.”

Sexton said the schedule works better for some than it does for others. “To tell the truth if I had to take the classes I took during my junior year with this schedule, my life would be so much harder. I think this schedule is better for seniors who take more electives, than for underclassmen who have to take core classes,” he said.

Wilschutz said their special education department has had the hardest time adapting to the new schedule.

Solebury had to adjust to some challenges. Some parents work schedules were unable to adapt, as well as the public school buses. Now the school runs five or six of its own passenger minivans to provide transportation.

Clubs have built-in time to meet during the day. Sexton said the new schedule makes it a little more complicated to schedule club meetings, but Wilschutz finds that there are now more kids creating new clubs.

The school has been getting feedback throughout the year in surveys. Parents and students reported diminished homework and less anxiety in the household.

The new schedule allows students to sleep later and go to bed earlier. “The benefits are tremendous. There are years and years of research saying kids need more sleep,” said Wilschutz.

Major organizations that support later school start times include the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Education Association, and more.

The American Psychological Association recommends starting high school and middle school at 8:30 a.m. or later. Their data



PHOTO CREDIT:
WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.ORG

shows increased attendance rates, decreased disciplinary action, less student involved car crashes, higher student GPAs, higher state assessment scores, higher college admissions test scores, better student attention, less sleeping in class, and better quality in student and family interaction.

Michelle Crunkleton, a mother of ninth-grade twin daughters, recently pitched later school times to the Central Bucks School Board. “Sleep is so important to our mental and physical well-being. How well and how long you sleep affects everything; yet sleep is so undervalued in our society,” she said.

Sleep is especially important for students going through puberty. “Developmentally appropriate sleep helps students feel well and be well, helps them regulate their emotions better, helps them to make better decisions, eat healthier, depend less on caffeine and other stimulants to wake them up, and helps them arrive at school ready to learn,” said Crunkleton.

She does not want people to blame teens for lack of sleep, and disagrees with the idea that they all just stay up too late on phones and other devices. “Good sleep habits should definitely be a part of the conversation, but not the end of the conversation. Decades of sleep research has shown that early school start times are a problem. Parents and teens are responsible for healthy bed times, but schools are responsible for healthy wake times,” said Crunkleton.

Crunkleton pointed to the success of schools like Solebury. There will have to be personal adjustments, but everyone already has different schedules. Clubs won’t be lost in the ether, and adjustments are financially feasible.

Crunkleton does not know how her speech was received at the school board meeting. “They listened politely and thanked me, but it is hard to know just yet. I’m hoping for some action,” she said.

Private schools seem ahead of the curve right now, but there are some public schools trying out the program as well. Two Chester County School Districts, Unionville-Chadds Ford and Owen J. Roberts School, have formed “start time committees” that are in their beginning stages.

Unionville-Chadds Ford has a prominent link on their website about school start times, paired with a picture of an alarm clock. At the moment, they are trying out a program called the Chester County Student Forum Delayed Start Time Project.

Pennsylvania currently has some of the earliest start times in the nation. Crunkleton said we are the fifth worst state in that regard, but that could soon change.

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Crime

Heroin Epidemic Takes Over Plumstead Township

ANGELA GRABOWSKY
Centurion Staff

Twenty-five miles north of the city of Philadelphia, even rural areas like Plumstead Township have a heroin problem that fills jails, burdens police, and takes lives. Plumstead Police Detective Kevin Larkin finds that theft and heroin addiction go hand in hand. “These people are doing drugs, getting high, and looking for their next fix. They commit a lot of crimes falsi, crimes of deceit such as theft and burglary,” he said. “Generally, people we catch stealing aren’t stealing to buy weed, they are going to buy heroin,” he said. Addicted individuals will even steal from family members.

Drugs in general are a problem, but heroin is an epidemic that spans the country. “Opiate is accessible in Doylestown and Plumstead, you don’t have to go to Trenton or Philly to get it,” said Larkin.

Heroin is an opiate. This means the base of the drug comes from the seed of a specific variety of poppies. According to the DEA, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, heroin is extremely addictive because it enters the brain rapidly. “Heroin abusers report feeling a surge of euphoria or ‘rush,’ followed by a twilight state of sleep.”

After repeated use, a person develops a tolerance to the drug. This person then has to use more to chase after the satisfaction of their first high. This results in addiction.



PrimeCare Medical Inc., the company that runs Bucks County Jail, gives out patient education sheets on opiate withdrawal. Early withdrawal symptoms “are usually mild to moderate and maybe be mistakenly recognized as the flu.” But later opiate withdrawal can result in abdominal cramps, diarrhea, dilated pupils, goose bumps, fever, vomiting, and insomnia. They urge patients to report symptoms to staff members.

PrimeCare also warns inmates that people who go through withdrawal will end with less tolerance to the drug, so they are more likely to overdose if they continue to use the drug after their release.

Heroin overdoses not only tax on our medical and police services, they kill. “I’ve had parents tell me they’re waiting for the day they’ll get a call that their son or daughter is dead,” said Larkin.

The Drug Policy Alliance says, “The chance of surviving an overdose, like that of surviving a heart

Assortment of drugs

attack, depends greatly on how fast one receives medical assistance. Witnesses to heart attacks rarely think twice about calling 911, but witnesses to an overdose often hesitate to call for help or, in many cases, simply don’t make the call.”

Several states have enacted laws, often called “Good Samaritan” laws, to encourage people to call for help before it’s too late. “If you’re doing drugs as a group and someone overdoses, you have immunity so you can call to save your buddies life,” said Larkin.

Plumstead officers are trained to treat overdoses with Narcan. This treatment reverses the effect of an opiate in the user’s system. It is a nasal spray that is shot up each nostril. If that form isn’t affective, the squad is trained to administer it through a shot.

If someone overdoses, police look through their phone

for information on the dealer. Larkin said there have been a few successful cases where the dealer is charged with drug delivery resulting in death.

Drug delivery resulting in death is, Title 18 under Chapter 25, criminal homicide. The Pennsylvania General Assembly says the grounds for prosecution are if “the person intentionally administers, dispenses, delivers, gives, prescribes, sells or distributes any controlled substance or counterfeit controlled substance in violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, and another person dies as a result of using this substance.”

Drugs like heroin can also be taken on with preventative measures. DARE, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, has been speaking in Pennsylvania schools for years. State Training Coordinator Lloyd Bratz has been in the

program since 1988 and was one of the first 15 officers trained in PA.

“Back in the day kids used marijuana and other drugs because they were inexpensive, now heroin is free and inexpensive,” said Bratz. “Kids go from pain killers to heroin.”

He tells kids that they have a choice. They can spend money on stuff that’s good for them instead of stuff that’s bad for them, because drugs only lead to long term problems.

“Kids who I taught then are parents now. They still remember me. They see me and thank me. I’ve seen the good and the bad from kids I have taught, it can go both ways. We’re not gonna stop drugs. If you can slow the process down that’s success. If I touch one person, I believe it’s a success,” said Bratz.

Accidental Overdoses; An Unfortunate Trend in Doylestown

PHOTO CREDIT: KILL YOUR LOCAL HEROIN DEALER FACEBOOK PAGE

LAUREN SAVANA
Centurion Staff

“Two of my closest friends from high school in the same week, overdosed from the same bad batch of dope, and they weren’t even doing it together. I live in Doylestown, and it gets swept under the rug because we’re this rich town, but we have our dark side,” said Holly Jane (her name has been changed out of request).

The amount of people that use heroin in richer suburban areas, has increased drastically. Even worse, the quality is being lowered, so it’s cheaper. This leads to kids overdosing from shooting unknown substances into their

veins.

“I’m not proud of the fact that I’ve watched my ex-boyfriend cut his supply with baby powder, dying it with tea leaves to give it a darker appearance. It broke my heart, but he was able to save more, and make more money, but I would see people post on FB that someone just overdosed, and I couldn’t help but think, it was his fault, and partly my fault too,” a woman in a local AA meeting told the group. She was recovering while her ex was in prison.

Male drug overdose deaths between 12 to 25 have doubled in PA in the past decade. The state now has one highest drug death tolls in the nation. Heroin and prescription pills are responsible for half of those deaths.

Doylestown obituaries are littered with unlisted causes of death, usually from drunk driving, heroin, and prescription pill overdoses.

So what is local law enforcement doing to curb this awful abuse sweeping the town? Several police officers weren’t comfortable giving their names but were willing to discuss certain tactics.

“We’ve had flyers put up across Bucks County, that have actually been very effective, it’s a photo of a skull and a needle, and it states if you want to turn in a drug dealer simply text BUCKSDRUGTIPS to TIP411,” a Doylestown officer said.

Bucks County District Attorney David Heckler joined Assistant DA Matthew Weintraub and

other members of the DA office to launch a Heroin Prevention Outreach initiative. “We asked ourselves, ‘With limited resources, what can we do that’s smart and will make a difference?’” said Heckler.

“There are three ways to attack this problem – 1) educate the public; 2) eliminate the supply of drugs; and 3) prosecute dealers through the use of anonymous tip lines,” he said.

There is also a telephone line: 1-215-345-DRUG (3784) and an e-mail address: drugtips@co.bucks.pa.us.

“We want to take the public by the throat, because without the public’s help we can’t win. That’s paramount. Enough is enough. If you know something, tell us,”

said Weintraub.

“This is all dedicated to curb heroin use, but the fact still remains, there will always be someone still choosing to use drugs,” another Doylestown officer said, “We need to take a more active role in going after the people that supply, where it’s coming from and how it’s being treated.”

No officers could give a definitive answer about how that is possible.

Dave, the man that led the AA meeting, said, “You know I’ve even seen people on Facebook, there’s a public page titled, ‘Kill Your Local Heroin Dealer’ though the intention isn’t lost on me, I would implore all those to NOT take that action.”

Beyond Bucks

Lawsuits Filed Over Water Contamination



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.ORG

LAUREN SAVANA
Centurion Staff

Two more lawsuits were filed over the past month on behalf of Montgomery and Bucks county citizens exposed to perfluorinated chemicals in their drinking water. There are now four lawsuits in process. Each case is seeking class-action status. Creedon & Feliciani and Levin, and Fishbein, Sedran & Berman filed the latest two lawsuits. Both cases were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. The Intelligencer reported, “Since 2014, 22 public drinking water wells and more than 150 private wells in Bucks and Montgomery counties have been shutdown due to contamination by unregulated chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in total, affecting the drinking water of more than 100,000 people.” Creedon & Feliciani represented 12 plaintiffs who claim to have their water contaminated with the toxic PFOA and PFOS. The 12 plaintiffs are seeking a class-action lawsuit that will represent over 70 thousand people. “The 12 plaintiffs named include residents of Horsham, Warminster, Warrington, Ivyland and Hatboro, as well as veterans and civilians who formerly worked on the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster,” Creedon & Feliciani stated in a press release. The chemicals are suspected to have originated in firefighting foam used for fire training, safety, and emergency purposes as far back as the early 1970s. The suit names six foam manufacturers as defendants: The 3M Co., Angus Fire, The Ansul Co., the Buckeye Fire Protection Co., Chemguard, and National Foam. The biggest question, is why? Why would manufactures allow the use of these chemicals, and more importantly, why wouldn’t they warn the surrounding communities about environmental and physical harm? “For years, these companies manufactured the injurious Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) for use by the U.S. Navy,” the release states, “As the manufacturers of AFFF, the defendants knew or should have known that the inclusion of PFOS and other similar chemicals in firefighting foam would present a major risk to human health and the environment, yet these companies failed to warn against this potential for harm.” These most recent lawsuits are similar to the first suit filed in September by Weitz & Luxen-

berg. In a media release announcing the suit, the law firm said, “residents near the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham and former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster were exposed to PFOS and PFOA in their drinking water.” Weitz & Luxenberg said, “alternative designs of AFFF were available, technologically feasible, and practical, and would have reduced or prevented harm to Plaintiffs.” Even though these chemicals have been banned in the production in firefighting foam since 2002, the companies that used these chemicals in their manufacturing never admitted negative effects. The law firm said, “Neither 3M nor any other defendant that uses [the chemicals] recalled its dangerous products.” “About 16 public wells and 150 private drinking water wells have been closed in Warminster, Horsham, and Warrington in the past two years, after the chemicals were discovered above a 70 part per trillion health advisory limit set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Although research into the chemicals’ health effects is still ongoing, some studies have linked the chemicals to a variety of health effects, including cancer,” wrote The Courier Times after the original lawsuit. Hannah Bates of North Wales; Michael Bridges of Warminster; Ann Marie Kuter of Warrington; Kelley Liott of Horsham; Lynda Mills of Hatboro; Jennifer Rock of Horsham; and Carolyn Sippel of Warminster were the first seven plaintiffs to come forward and fight for their communities. All four of the cases are seeking a medical monitoring program to screen for potential illness, including a blood-testing program. One response in the defense of the companies is under possible prosecution. “AFFF is a product that was used by the U.S. military and departments of defense around the world because it saves lives — which likely explains why this product remains in use approximately a decade after 3M exited the sales of it. In any event, we believe these claims lack merit. 3M sold these products with instructions regarding their safe use and disposal,” said 3M attorney William A. Brewer III. Since September, there have not been any court dates set for the Weitz & Luxenberg suit. The Creedon & Feliciani suits have personal ties; Joseph Feliciani has lived in Horsham for 30 years. Feliciani believes that this could have implication “for our children, our grandchildren and for those that follow. This problem is going to be with us for a very long time. The time to address the problem is now.”



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Arts & Entertainment

Bucks Music Professor Releases Jazz Album

KATARINA TOMPKINS

Centurion Staff

Jeff Baumeister, jazz musician and Associate Professor of Music at Bucks County Community College, has released an album called “Pretty Melodies, For People Who Dig That Sort of Thing.”

The album’s eight tracks take you on a wild, yet somehow calming, adventure through a thick forest of highs and lows with every note played. It features piano, played by Baumeister himself, saxophone by Lenny Pierro, drums by Mark Pultorak, and bass by Paul Gehman, all stitched together in gorgeous harmony.

The album’s beginning track, “From Here,” slowly draws you into Baumeister’s imaginative world. Tracks like “Blood,” and



“Everything Is Nothing,” then bring a strong, robust flavor to the ears’ palette with an impregnable, steady tempo, clean execution, and jazz’s customary erratic un-

dertones. The final track, “Leaving,” brings you slowly back down to a soft bit of earth from the adventure through Baumeister’s musical rabbit hole.

“Pretty Melodies” is a departure from its nine-year predecessor, “Useful Music;” a six track album that includes the same instruments, but an entirely different set of band members. Along with the alternate band members comes an alternate stylistic approach. The arrangements of “Useful Music” bring forth a much more precise and straightforward character than that of the warmer, free flow which “Pretty Melodies” radiates.

“Its meandering dissonance leaves me feeling like a Peanuts character. Like Charlie Brown, at any moment Lucy is going to snatch away the football, and I’m going to find myself laying on my back, staring longingly at the sky, wondering what just happened,” said John Corl, a former Bucks student. “It’s just that type of music.”

Baumeister’s talents have been thrown in with the likes of musicians such as Art Lande and Bobo Stenson, and his unique variety of musical mastery has been described as “conceptually complex”. All of this is clearly demonstrated in his most recent work.

Baumeister has received Jazz Performance degrees from William Patterson University and the University of the Arts, in addition to studying privately. He is currently Associate Professor of Music at Bucks, where he’s been teaching since 2003. He teaches 10 different music related courses. He is also the recipient of the Eubie Blake Scholarship and the Bernard Peiffer Jazz Piano Award for Excellence, Creativity, and Dedication to Jazz Piano.



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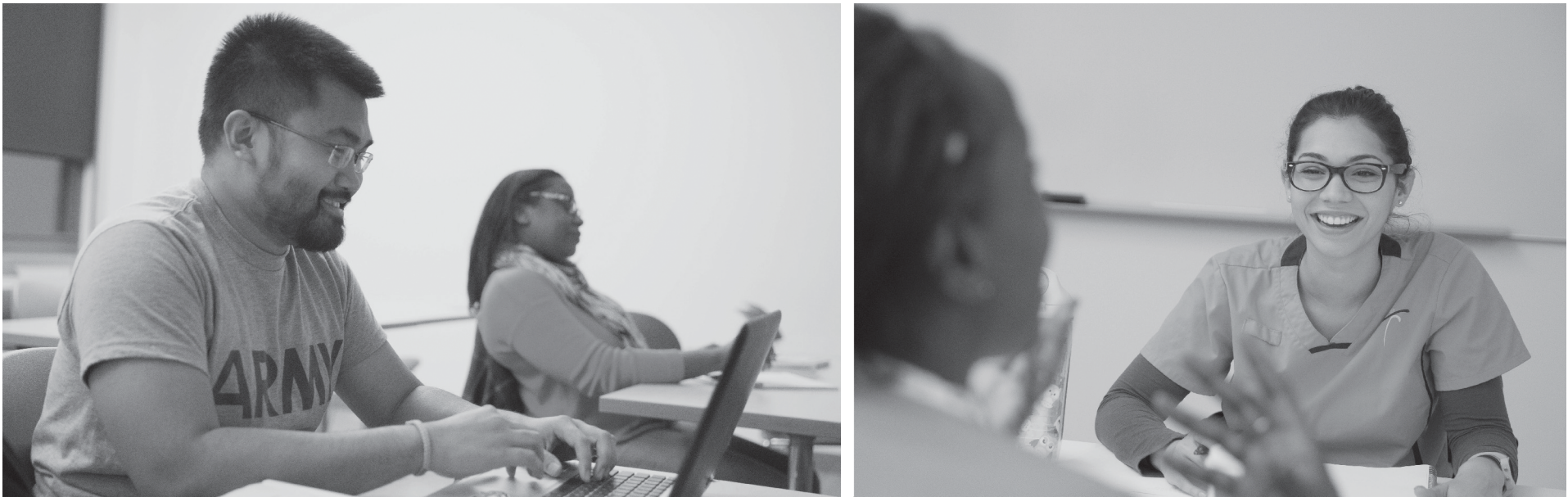
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Sports

The Eagles Are Spiraling Downward

GIANFRANCO ILLIANO
& CHAD DINGMAN
Centurion Staff

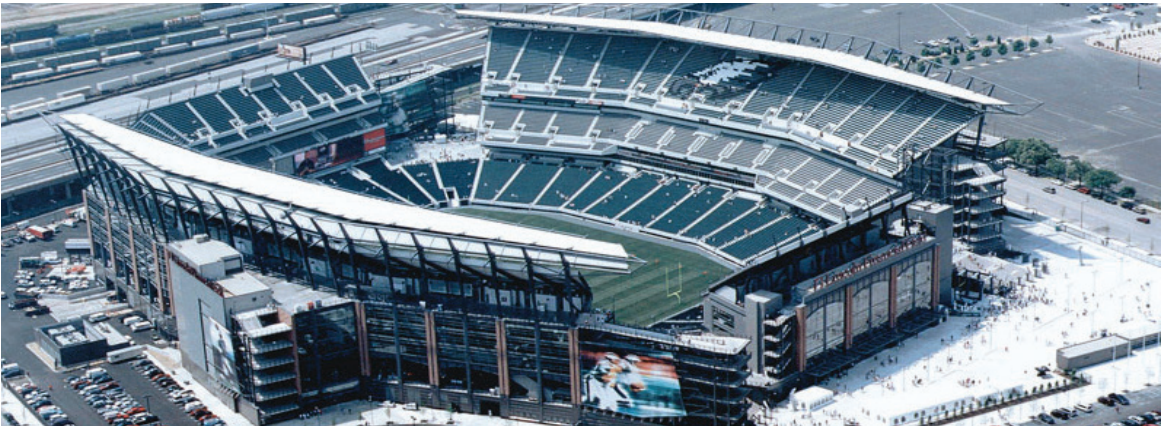
The Philadelphia Eagles have continued their downward trend after losing 27-13 in week 12 to the Green Bay Packers and falling to the Cincinatti Bengals 32-14, in what can be argued as their worst stretch of the season.

The Eagles are now 5-7, and are a game and a half out of a wild card spot with several teams ahead of them.

It was the Eagles’ first home loss of the season, and their third straight loss within the last four games. Based on how they’ve played at home this season, this has led many fans to scratch their heads at the uncharacteristic display.

Expectations were through the roof after a perfect 3-0 start to the season in September. Perhaps fans shouldn’t have gotten too far ahead of themselves seeing as they beat the winless Browns and the Bears, two of the worst teams in the league.

The loss to the Packers was reminiscent of many games from last season. The defense could not get off the field, especially on third downs, and the offense lacked game changing play calling and execution. It was an all-around awful performance at home against a struggling team. The Eagles defense made Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers look like his old self. The loss put an end to a catastrophic month of November where the Eagles



Lincoln Financial Field

finished 1-3.

Unfortunately, the Eagles didn’t start December all that well either.

The Eagles went on the road to Cincinatti to visit the Bengals who have been struggling all season, especially without their superstar wide receiver, AJ Green.

However, the loss of AJ Green didn’t slow down the Bengals offense from torching the Eagles defense. Bengals quarterback, Andy Dalton, had his best game of the season against the Eagles, throwing for 332 yards and two touchdowns.

The only win of last month came in week 10 as the Eagles capped off the weekend with an impressive 24-15 win against the Atlanta Falcons.

Going into the week after a God-awful performance against the New York Giants, everybody had little doubt that the Eagles would be able to keep up with the Falcons, who were flying high with the best offense in the NFL.

However, the Eagles defense shut down the No. 1 offense in

the league, while only allowing 15 points and 11 first downs. Their impeccable form at Lincoln Financial Field had continued. Most importantly, Doug Pederson did a great job calling plays. This time around, the offense seemed balanced, which is always a recipe for success.

Doug Pederson finally seems to understand that he needs to call more run plays for his rookie quarterback, Carson Wentz. In week 10, Pederson called 36 pass plays and 38 run plays. What type of offense does that look like? Yeah, that’s right—a balanced offense!

Running a balanced scheme not only helps the offense, it helps the defense as well, which was evident on Sunday. By running the ball and continuously getting first downs, it keeps the clock running and the other team’s offense off the field, which is exactly how the Eagles executed the game plan.

The Eagles did a great job keeping Atlanta’s explosive offense off the field, as they possessed the

ball for 38 minutes while allowing Atlanta to possess the ball for 22 minutes. (F.Y.I.: The last time Atlanta held onto the ball for 22 minutes was back in 2009).

Not only did the Eagles offense play well against the Falcons, the defense did a magnificent job tackling the ball carrier, especially Eagles’ safety, Malcolm Jenkins, who had three key tackles that prevented the Falcons from getting a first down.

It’s just mind boggling on what happened when the Eagles faced their next three opponents-- the Eagles looked like a completely different team!

But what was most impressive about the Eagles defense against the Falcons was the amount of pressure they put on Falcons’ quarterback, Matt Ryan, especially on third downs.

The biggest problem the Eagles defense had last year, under Defensive Coordinator Billy Davis, was getting off the field on third down. The Eagles finished 26th in the league in third-down defense.

This year, with Jim Schwartz, they’re fifth.

They only allowed the Falcons to convert two of 11 third-down opportunities, which is unheard of in today’s NFL, especially when it happens to the best offense in the league.

Lincoln Financial Field, or The Linc as most fans like to call it, has been extremely loud all season due to the passionate Eagles fans. After the Falcons game, some of the Eagles players and coaches claimed that they haven’t heard the Linc that loud in years. As ridiculous as it may sound, the crowd definitely had an effect on the Eagles win and the fans couldn’t be happier.

Although, the Eagles haven’t given Eagles fans anything to feel happy about recently, as their riding on a three game losing streak.

The Eagles were obviously unable to replicate their performance against the Falcons in the three games that followed against Seattle, Green Bay, and Cincinatti. This has been damaging to their season as they now sit 5-7, and would likely have to win all their final four games to just get a chance for a playoff spot.

Playoff chances are looking grim, but hopefully the Eagles can stay in contention for as long as possible and get some crucial wins against each of their divisional rivals in the upcoming month. They would do well to look at what went right in the win against Atlanta a few weeks back and use that as a blueprint to have success down the stretch.

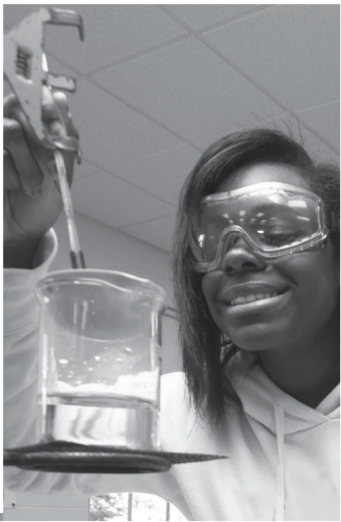


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