

Bringing Attention to Active Shooter Protocols

MADISON HELSEN

Centurion Staff

After the event that took place in Las Vegas, the threat posed by active shooters - those who kill or attempt to kill people in crowded areas - has weighed on the minds of the public.

Preparation for emergency situations, both physical and mental, is crucial on college campuses, and colleges across the country have their own strategies for reacting to potential killers.

Bucks County Community College administrators and security have devised their own plan to be prepared as well.

Dennis McCauley, head of security and safety at Bucks, said that students can find information on their particular campus's protocol on Buck's recently redesigned website.

It is important as a student to inform yourself on what to do if a dangerous situation arises, as it is extremely easy to find the protocol online.

"Simply just go to the Bucks Campus website, click on "Campus Life", and find "Security & Safety", then click "Active Shooter Protocol," he suggested. He also said there is a 20 minute video students can watch on the

topic, stating, "I really recommend students watch this video for their own safety."

The active shooter protocol is categorized into six different sections: "if the shooter is outside your building," "if the shooter is inside your building," "if the shooter enters your office or classroom," "if you are outside," "points to remember," and "police response and you."

Each category lists tips and guidelines to help students and faculty effectively deal with an active shooter.

Remaining calm and calling 911 are two direct responses, but other tactics like playing dead may not come to mind during this situation and that is why reviewing the website is essential for students at Bucks.

McCauley also went on to talk about reporting suspicious activity by saying if a student suspects something, or are concerned, they should report the incident anonymously and continued to stress that the student who reported information will be kept anonymous and remain confidential.

There is a specific website to report the suspicious activity at Bucks.edu/tips, where a group will look at the report, and re-

spond appropriately.

Bucks also offers text alerts that students can sign up for, "We have text message alerts, this is important to have if you are a Bucks student." McCauley explains.

These text alerts will notify students of canceled classes, delays, upcoming events, and emergencies.

Dominique Fragoso, a 20 year-old business management major, explained that she has seen the material on the Bucks website.

Fragoso says, "I think it is really important that students look into this stuff, because emergencies happen all the time." She continued on by saying, "I want to be prepared if my life is in danger, especially because active shooters

are a very real possibility."

It is a shame that students must accept the grim reality that a shooter could close in on the Bucks college campus, while it is not something anyone likes to think about, it is a situation everyone should be prepared for.

Active Shooter Protocol

Active shooter events are unpredictable, dynamic, rapidly evolving, multi-variable situations requiring rapid response by law enforcement. If BCCC experiences an active shooter situation, you should take the following actions:

- 1. If the shooter is outside your building:**
 - » Remain calm
 - » Turn off all lights, close and lock windows and doors, close blinds
 - » Barricade doors if not lockable
 - » Warn others, if possible and safe to do so
 - » Get yourself and others on the floor and attempt to hide behind/under something
 - » If safe to do so, move to a core area of the building and lock/barricade yourself in a room
 - » Silence radios, cell phones and other devices; remain silent
 - » Call 911 and Security as soon as safely possible
 - » Remain in place until given the all clear by an identifiable police or security officer
- 2. If the shooter is inside your building:**
 - » Remain calm
 - » If safely possible, flee the area
 - » If not safe to flee, lock/barricade yourself in a room
 - » Turn off lights and hide under/behind furniture - stay low to the floor
 - » Remain silent, silence radios and cell phones
 - » Call 911 and Security as soon as safely possible

Find the Active Shooter Protocol at <http://www.bucks.edu/resources/security/activeshooterprotocol/>

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Present Your Ideas and Findings at the 2017 Fall SRC



TAYLOR MARZI

Centurion Staff

Come participate in an academically rich event and build up your resume! The Bi-Annual Research Conference at Bucks is always an exciting event for the campus and will be back Dec 1, 2017 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

What is the Bi-Annual Research Conference? Professor of Language and Literature Charlie Groth, the woman in charge of the research conference who is very enthusiastic about the conference said, "it is magic! The basics of it is a day when students present the research they've been working on. Sometimes in classes (but sometimes it's not)."

"You're doing research to do things and have thoughts with other people to learn about your

ideas. All of these really interesting conversations happen. This is a huge community day for Bucks, everyone is involved, the moderators, students, dean, president. Since it's during registration it's a good time to learn about majors."

The conference is also a recipient of a Bellwether award, and has been around for 10 years on this campus. It is also open to the public and many members of the community come to participate.

Many different topics are discussed at the Student Research Conference. From Comp 111, literature, STEM, sociology, kinesiology, and many more. Presenters can even organize a panel of similar topics and discuss from several different points of view.

The conference can be very beneficial to students and audience members. Presenters can build their resume and learn crucial public speaking skills while participating. Audience members can discuss and learn about new majors and meet new professors that they may be interested in. It's very important to submit your proposal to present by Nov 4 at 11:59 p.m. because late submissions will not be accepted.

If a student is nervous to present

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Cybersecurity's Growing Importance: From the Surveillance Industrial Complex to Your Campus Web Use

HAL CONTE

Centurion Staff

Bucks hosted a cybersecurity forum on October 8, with representatives from Microsoft, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and other organizations attempting to promote end-to-end security for local businesses and residents as well as highlight the problems raised by recent cyber events such as Petya, WannaCry, Equifax and allegations of Russian hacking attempts.

The event, which took place on the Newtown campus, featured nearly 20 different speakers, including spokespeople from local start-ups, multinationals, and government agencies.

While computer and data security has been a major problem for a while, ordinary citizens and companies are increasingly being targeted en masse by criminals using techniques such as ransomware. Ransomware usually involves the victim clicking on a link that encrypts their data, rendering it inaccessible until the victim pays a large sum of money to the attacker.

Unlike many previous cyber techniques, ransomware does not require much advanced knowl-



PHOTO CREDIT: BUCKS.EDU

edge of computer code. "Back in 1980, the sophistication had to be huge, but the attack was minimal," an FBI special agent from the bureau's Philadelphia division who presented at the event explained "Now, it has switched completely."

"You used to need to know how to write code," the agent said. "Now you don't have to know anything, really."

Advanced hacking tools have also been spread online by organizations such as WikiLeaks, which continues to release leaked CIA cyberweapons as part of its "Vault 7" series of document dumps.

If your computer is compromised by ransomware, "the FBI does not advocate paying," said

the agent. "Contact your local FBI office."

"We have 2,500 cyber investigations going on right now," he continued. "We can't keep up."


The motives for hacking websites or stealing personal data can vary. Some hijackers are merely criminals desire to make a quick buck. Others include activists such as Anonymous, which has illegally defaced various websites as part of their political anti-capitalist agenda. Slides shown as part of the FBI's presentation included the Anonymous logo.

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This article is Part 1 in a series of reports on digital and cyber issues in Bucks County

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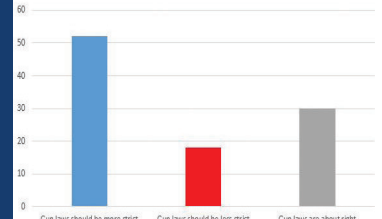
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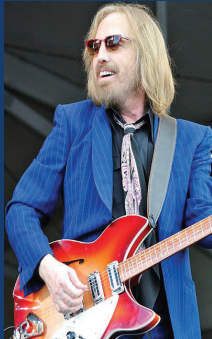


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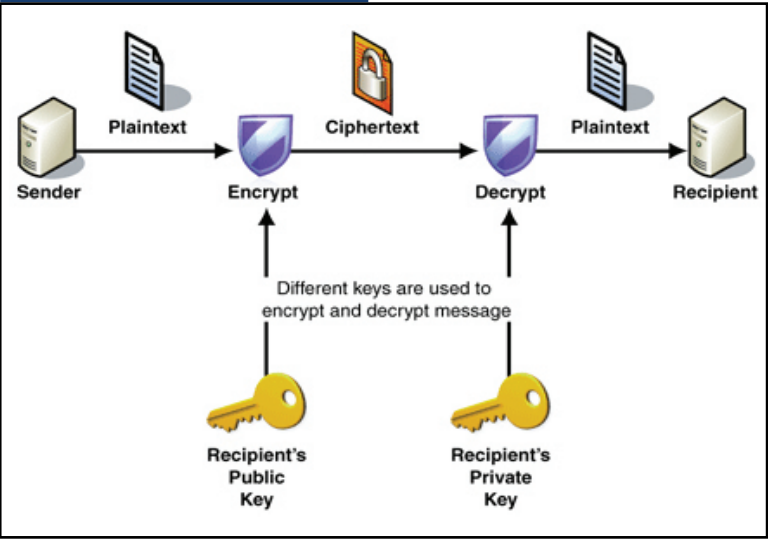
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Cybersecurity

Continued from Page 1

Recently, however, state-sponsored attacks such as alleged Russian hacking of US organizations to influence last year’s presidential election have taken center stage on the list of the bureau’s worries.

In a presentation titled “Current Cyber Threat Landscape and How the FBI is combatting Cyber Crime,” the FBI agent explained the current predicament.

“We’re seeing attacks, basically, on our infrastructure,” the agent explained. Stopping these sorts of attacks can often be more difficult than tracking domestic cybercrimes. “I’m not going to put handcuffs on Putin. I’m not going to put handcuffs on Kim Jong Un,” he joked.

Chris Stafford, an adjunct instructor at Bucks, showed steps that ordinary citizens can take to protect their data online in a presentation called “Internet Security in an Unsafe World.”

“When the Model T came out, there was no such thing as a driver’s license,” Stafford explained “We’re rapidly going to get to a point where big companies demand that their employees get training.”

Stafford suggests that people looking to stay safe online should avoid using Microsoft Edge, Internet Explorer, or Chromium and switch to Firefox or Google Chrome.

SR Conference

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in front of an audience there’s no need to worry! Professor Groth shared some pointers for a first-time participant:

“Don’t forget to enjoy yourself! Know there isn’t a right or wrong and they are just as nervous as you are. The audience is interested in what you have to say. Because the audience hasn’t seen this research they are not there to judge you. And don’t forget to come for free lunch. You must remember to register on time and that the time and date is firm. You have to do that on time. Otherwise it’s not as scary as they

Open Door Club: No More Oppression Here at Bucks!

LIAM BROWN
Centurion Staff

Those wishing to join the fight against discrimination and hate based on sexual orientation and gender identity may find themselves drawn to the Open Door Club at Bucks.

Advised by Professor of Sociology Max Probst, the club’s aim is to “discuss global, national, and local issues pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity.” The club is open to anyone (hence the name) and meets on Thursdays from 12:30-1:30pm in Rollins 114.

When asked why he chose to advise for the “Open Door Club”,

Probst stated that he “wanted to support students and help them build leadership skills around programming for the LGBTQ community” and as a professor that is “out” on campus” he felt the need to “to build a community of support and understanding for students who may need it”.

Although Probst may advise the club, he describes the members as “the heart of the club and they provide each other with support and friendship. “

It is these close ties of friendship and support that provide a welcoming environment to members so that they can feel safe, welcomed and respected. This is needed because these sorts of feelings don’t always permeate their everyday environment.

Probst stated that on a day-to-day basis, he sees behavior that is both harmful and offensive to people of the LGBTQ community.

“There are many examples going on globally and nationally that I can use to showcase the need for the Open Door Club, but I will focus on what is going on right here at our school. I walk around this campus and I occasionally hear students openly call each other “f*g” as an insult or joke.”

“I have had conversations with



PHOTO CREDIT: BUCKS.EDU, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS , THE CENTURION

transgender students who are fearful of using the bathroom on campus or who get “outed” by their professors.”

He went on: “Usually, centers of education are places where young minds are cultivated to birth an open minded and intellectual society that seeks to better both its members and the world it inhabits. However, that is not the case when oppression and hate are present.”

Many LGBTQ students find

themselves under attack not just in the classroom but also in their own homes. “I meet with students who tell me that they will be kicked out of their house if they come out because their parents are homophobic,” Probst sighed.

The Open Door Club will serve as a safe place for students suffering from such oppression to freely discuss the issues that affect them. The organization is open to any that wish to join, and meets Thursdays from 12:30-1:30pm.

Short Fiction Contest: Want to Be an Award-Winning Author?



PHOTO CREDIT: PIXABAY CREATIVE COMMONS

SINDY COLINDRES
Centurion Staff

Do you like to write? Do you like money? Would you like your writing to be reviewed by professionals? If you said yes to any of these questions, then enter the Bucks County Short Fiction Contest! We are in search for the top short fiction writers here in Bucks County!

You must be a Bucks resident of at least 18 years of age to submit your work. (Note: If you are a part time or full time worker at the college, you may not enter.) Don’t let this discourage any high school writers, there will be a separate Short Fiction Contest for Bucks County high school students in the spring of 2018.

Each person may submit only one short story. Short story can be up to 12 pages, double-spaced. All work must be original, unpublished, typewritten or word-processed, and accompanied with an entry form that can be found at on the Bucks website by searching they keyword “Short Fiction Contest.”

Entry rules, as found on the website, state the following:

1. Each entrant may submit one original short story. Stories must be previously unpublished, including in online blogs or publications.
2. Please place the title of the story, (or an abbreviated version of the title), in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the

story. Do not place your name or address on any pages of the manuscript.

3. Stories should be typed, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, in Times New Roman font size 12. Please, no fancy, large, or tiny fonts. Black ink only. No illustrations of any sort. Entries that do not follow these rules will be disqualified.

4. Please fill out the entry form completely.

The final judge will be author, Janet Benton. Janet Benton is the founder and director of the The Word Studio and is the author of the 2017 novel, “Lilli de Jong.” Her work has appeared in various publications such as the New York Times and the The Philadel-

phia Inquirer.

First, second, and third place winners will receive honoraria of \$200, \$100, and \$50 respectively. Also, they will be publicly honored at a celebration and a reading at Bucks on Sunday afternoon, Dec 3.

We asked Project Administrator, Professor Elizabeth Luciano why should people enter the contest. She told us if you’ve “written something you feel could touch someone else, it needs to be heard. Chances are someone else is feeling the same way.”

Even if you do not win, it is still a great way to get your writing out there and for it to be reviewed by judges. Professor Luciano also said that there is an “excitement about sending your work out.”

Submit your entry form by 12 p.m on Thursday, Nov 2, 2017.

Check the BCCC website bucks.edu for any more information.

For any more questions, contact Professor Elizabeth Luciano at Elizabeth.Luciano@Bucks.edu or the Bucks Department of Language and Literature at 215-968-8167.

Finally, A big thank you to Strategic Initiative Grant from the Bucks County Community College Foundation for funding this contest!

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Phi Theta Kappa offers great scholarships, fellowship opportunities, and, potentially, scholarships for memes. No Joke.

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Halloween at Bucks

Top 10 Halloween Flicks

Halloween Happenings

SYDNE PATCHELL

Centurion Staff

Oh yes, it’s that time of year again. The time for pumpkin spice lattes, sweaters, hayrides, pumpkin patches, and scary movies has arrived. If attending local fall events isn’t your forte, stay home with a bowl of sweets and watch the best movies of the season.

A few of the movies that were ranked as a “must-see” are “Hocus Pocus,” “Halloween Town Series,” “Halloween,” “Friday the 13th” and “Nightmare Before Christmas.” Others include “Twitches,” “Casper,” “It’s The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown” and “Nightmare on Elm Street.”

“Hocus Pocus” is the most popular Halloween movie amongst college students. After asking students from Bucks, Penn State Abington, and lower Bucks, “what are the best Halloween movies of all time?” the answer was always and unanimously, “Hocus Pocus” and if not, it was “Halloween Town.”

People enjoyed talking about the potential for coziness, pumpkin flavored foods, and great movies when asked about the top ten best movies. Many college students who helped make up this survey, didn’t care much for



the scary movies, but rather the Disney original movies that play this time of year.

Current Bucks student Krista Hiller, 19, of Sellersville, like others, says that her favorite movie to watch this time of year is “Casper.” She said, “I really just love spending time with family, eating popcorn, and enjoying the cuteness in the movie instead of the scariness.”

Another Bucks student, Sydney Kramer, 19, of Richboro, says that her favorite movie is “Halloween Town” and mentions, “I’ve always wanted to ride grandma Aggie’s broom stick!”

A lower Bucks student, Coty Thomas, 20, of Sellersville like

many others, says simply, “it’s a classic!”

When it came to scary movies, people didn’t rave much about the newest movies or really any movies from the last ten years. In fact, the newest movie in the top ten list is from 2005, “Twitches” and the oldest is from 1966, “It’s The Great Pumpkin.”

With the ability to create amazing effects and animation, using extremely realistic makeup, and hiring proficient actors, in this day in age we cannot compete with our predecessors. With this simple observation, it is safe to say that when in doubt, for choosing a great movie to watch on Halloween, pick a classic!

CONNOR DONAGHY

Centurion Staff

Between haunt attractions and community events, there is no shortage of fall-themed and Halloween activities in Bucks County this season.

The variety of haunted hayrides are in abundance, with some popular choices being Shady Brook, Valley of Fear, and Sleepy Hollow.

Additionally, The New Hope Railroad Line offers a Haunted Halloween Train, with tickets only available for teens and adults.

According to their website, the train promises to “toss you in the hands of the unknown” as well as frighten the strongest of heart and test the nerve of all passengers onboard.

Alongside haunt attractions, “The Rocky Horror Show”, returns to the Bucks County Playhouse. A popular and acclaimed play version of the 1975 cult film, the play runs throughout October. Due to mature subject matter, no one under 17 is recommended to attend.

Another annual expedition in Bucks County are the many ghost tours. Every Friday and Saturday night in October at 9 p.m., a guided ghost tour of New Hope takes place on the corners of Main St. and Ferry St. Age old stories of the supernatural will be told as you walk through historic

But they should not purposefully change the color of their skin to match them. It’s just wrong.

Stereotyped cultural costumes, is acceptable in that there is nothing wrong with wanting to learn about culture and wanting to embrace it. There is something wrong if you just wear these

landmarks and frighteningly dark streets.

Some more family-friendly oriented activities are available, such as Peddler’s Village recently held their annual Scarecrow festival. The scarecrows are on display until Sunday, October 29. The public is encouraged to vote for the best scarecrow. With more than one hundred creatively made scarecrows, this event can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

From Sunday, October 29th through Saturday, November 4th, the annual ‘Canal-O-Ween’, will take place alongside the Delaware Canal in Yardley, with the attendees carving pumpkins that will be displayed alongside the canal.

During the evening hours, the jack o’ lanterns will be lit up and lined up across the Delaware Canal for all to see.

“Frankenstein Rocks”, a comedic musical based on the popular story of Frankenstein will be on stage right here at Bucks County Community College. With performances on Friday, October 27 at 7 p.m., Saturday, October 28th at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, October 29th at 3 p.m., you will have several opportunities to attend. The play will be held at the Zlock Performing Arts Center here on campus and tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$20 at the door so don’t miss an opportunity to laugh, have a good time, and get into the Halloween spirit.

culture inspired clothes because it just looks “cool” or “funny.”

You shouldn’t throw on a poncho, wear a sombrero, and draw a mustache on and call themselves a “Mexican.” It’s insulting and makes whoever is wearing the costume seem arrogant.

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Avoiding Costume Catastrophe

SINDY COLINDRES

Centurion Staff

Halloween is a fan favorite holiday. Time Magazine stated that “American trick-or-treaters will spend \$8.4 billion on candy and costumes this Halloween.” With that being said, there should

be some guidelines for what is appropriate and what is not.

Blackface is an example of something that’s not appropriate for Halloween. In the 19th century, white performers would paint their face black in order to play slaves or any other black character.

These white performers would portray black people as illiterate savages. Black people were left to suffer in the stereotypes that white performers created.

Now, if someone wants to dress up as Kanye West or Barack Obama or any other black character that is perfectly acceptable.



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Halloween at Bucks

Awesome Mix, Vol. 2: Heckin’ Spookin’

When music is the soundtrack to your life, you don’t put crappy songs in the queue. That’s why we’re giving you Awesome Mix, something that is exactly what it sounds like. In every issue, you’ll get a unique playlist full of songs that are actually worth getting stuck in your head. Your earbuds will thank you.

NICOLE “NICO” CISNEROS
Centurion Staff

What up, my haunts and ghouls! Yeah, yeah, I know it’s a few days away from everyone donning masks and thrift store treasures so they can take candy from strangers. But it’s about damn time to get into the spirit! Now I’ve tried my best to avoid the cliché Halloween playlist— i.e. Time Warp, Ghostbusters, etc.— to give you something new to shiver and shake to. I’ll accept gratitude in the form of Twix bars and Pop Rocks.

Twisted Nerve: Bernard Herrmann
There is no more terrifying

whistle in the world than the melody in this tune. Orchestrations slowly get layered atop it, only to crash together and take its place in the most terrifying way. 10 points for you if this tune conjures up images of Elle Driver on her way to poison The Bride.

Monster: Kanye West, Jay-Z, Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj, Bon Iver

Yeezy and Jay-Z prove they’re out for other rappers’ blood, but Nicki Minaj truly shines here as the most fearsome beast in the game. This was pre-Pink Friday, when Nicki was making her name by killing features on other artists’ tracks. With feral bombasity and a few different personalities, Nicki closes out the track with quick, slick quips that cut every other rapper down to size.

Heads Will Roll: Yeah Yeah Yeahs

Death is really decadent for Y3. There’s glittery blood and killer chrome, clear allusions to the Queen of Hearts, and synth that makes everything eerie yet cool. Obviously I won’t advise anybody to dance themselves to death, but this song makes it very hard not to.

Million Years: Nico Vega
Witches-- true green, powerful,

dark mistresses of magic-- this one’s for you. This is a ferocious homage, with hard drums and a grinding guitar, vocalist and songwriter Nico Vega growls out the lyrics, reminding every mere mortal she’s the HWIC. And if that chorus doesn’t set the Puritans straight, nothing will.

Wolf Like Me: TV on the Radio

Ah, the tormented werewolf trope: from BBC’s Being Human to the “classic” Twilight saga, there’s always some poor schmuck who struggles with his newfound shapeshifting abilities. Yeaah, TV on the Radio doesn’t play into that here. The narrator of the song is thrilled to be a werewolf, talking the whole time to his crush-- who may or may not be just his type.

Bad Things: Jace Everett

True Blood may be dead and gone, but its theme song is as immortal as the vampires on the hit HBO show. This Southern gothic/country rock track was a perfect fit for the show-- and, honestly, for vampires at large. Some of the lyrics are a mix of creepy and emo (I’m the kind to sit up in his room/heart sick and eyes filled up with gloom), but 99.9 percent of our generation’s vampires have fit this bill.

Short Change Hero: The Heavy

Some people have songs they run to, others have their throw-back track. This is my “running-for-my-life-in-the-zombie-apocalypse” jam. The whole intro of the song sounds like a mix of someone trudging through a thunderstorm to dig a grave. Then it bleeds into this rough, Memphis-blues rock ballad about this hero who really, really shouldn’t be here. All that roughness and isolation give me some zombie paranoia. (Remember kids, rule #1: cardio.)

Tribute: Tenacious D

Satan didn’t know what he was in for when he encountered Kyle Gass and Jack Black on the highway late one night. He thought he’d get a few souls, maybe a few laughs. What he got was the Best Song in the World-- and we got the Tribute to that song. It may not sound anything like the Best Song in the World...but at least we have this secondhand demon-repellent!

Ain’t No Rest for the Wicked: Cage the Elephant

Sometimes, kids, the monsters are as real as you and me-- hell, sometimes they are you and me. Cage the Elephant’s debut proved



just that, with three tales that proved just how wicked we mortals can be, all in the pursuit of the almighty dollar. The harsh reality of the lyrics are covered by the fun beat, so don’t be scared here.

Jump in the Line: Harry Belafonte

I made a valiant effort to keep this mix clear of typical Halloween tomfoolery, but there was no way I was going to exclude the perfect marriage of Belafonte and Beetlejuice. This song was a triumphant celebration for Lydia and the ghosts, and frankly, it’s fun as hell!

BONUS TRACK: Thriller - Michael Jackson

Did you really think we were getting out of here without this?! “No mere mortal can resist the evil of the thriller!”

Do you dare look behind you? Well, you won’t find this mix there. To find the playlist on Spotify, search AM#2: Heckin’ Spookin’.

Costumes

Continued from Page 3
Another example would be, the love of wearing a headdress which a number of people wear at festivals. Headdress were worn by Native Americans who earned a high level of respect in their tribe.

Not for someone to look “cool” when he or she is taking a picture. With oversexualized costumes, why would someone need to dress up as a sexy “firefighter” or a sexy “Cinderella” or even a sexy “girl scout?” It is understandable that women want to feel and look good, but they don’t have to oversexualize themselves in these

costumes to do so. There is nothing wrong with costumes that look appealing but individuals are capable of looking better than this. Mental Illness is a serious issue and should not be made as a joke. The Huffington Post claims that “over 8.3 million Americans - suffers from a serious mental health

issue.” It’s safe to say that generations are paying more attention to mental illness and have started to take it more seriously than before. Dressing up in a straight jacket because you are pretending to be a “crazy person” is not funny. Sexual Harassment is another serious issue that should not be turned into a joke. Do we really

need to explain why an adult flasher costume is bad? It’s just plain gross and disturbing. Don’t get us wrong, we are not trying to ruin the party by saying what is good and what is not allowed. We just want to get the message out there to be careful with what you wear. Have a happy, safe Halloween!

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Editorials

Students’ Takes on Trump’s Poor Track Record with Women

GABBY HOUCK
Centurion Staff

It’s not a secret. Most women loathe our president. Now we can’t completely disregard the fraction of women that do support him, but for the overwhelming majority that cannot stand him, can we really blame them?

Defunding Planned Parenthood, cracking jokes about grabbing our genitalia, and passing legislation that makes it easier for our bosses to deny us birth control coverage because of moral obligations, are all past things our current president have done and said. It essentially feels like a war is being waged on women, a war that most women are determined not to lose.

In an interview, Professor of Language and Literature, Annette Conn confided, “I think that women’s rights are seriously threatened by Trump’s administration.” Professor Conn teaches American Women’s literature here at Bucks.

In terms of the rallies and movements women have started in response to the threats from our country’s current administration, Conn asserted, “toning it down is not an option... We need to elect more women to political office, both locally and nationally.”

“These marches and rallies are so important,” said Jillian Broskey, a 20-year-old journalism major from Newtown. “Women need to use their voices or else nothing will change,” she insisted.

Broskey, like most women, is not a fan of the culture our



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

president promotes. “The fact that he mocked women all throughout his campaign sets an example that it’s okay... that you can still run for president and win even after mocking us.”

Broskey, aggravated, said “we were making so much progress with Obama and now it feels like we’re taking steps backwards... People shouldn’t be able to control other people, especially when it’s some ignorant white guy doing all the controlling.”

Broskey isn’t the only one who shares this sentiment about moving backwards. 19-year-old Lucas DiSangro, a communications major from Levittown, said “nothing about Trump screams advocate for women’s rights... It seems like while we’re all trying to move forward he’s moving backwards.”

Shayna Lopez McClain, a freshman nursing major from Doylestown, admitted “I’m a Christian, but Mike Pence pushing his religious agenda down the country’s throat just isn’t something I agree with.”

How a Comma and the NRA Changed the Constitution

MICHAEL VIGILANTE
Centurion Staff

“A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

These are the words of the founding fathers in the Second Amendment to the Constitution who sought to protect the people from unjust oppression in 1791, yet things have changed over the course of history.

Two weeks ago, over 50 people were killed and over 500 were injured in another mass shooting attack that took place in Las Vegas, with such a high number making it the deadliest mass shooting event yet.

If this tragedy were a one-off occurrence; an aberration or abnormality, perhaps it would be easier to write off those among us who want to pass stricter gun laws as being over dramatic or out of touch with the ‘real America’.

We no longer live in that space, and it is important to understand how we arrived here and who is responsible.

Curious punctuation, as it turns out, was the impetus for a lobbying organization with 5 million members and a few libertarian lawyers to change the interpretation of the Constitution for a population of over 350 million.

The Second Amendment reads as just one sentence that contains some oddly placed commas – punctuation that prior to 2008 had gone largely unnoticed.

The original interpretation of

the Second Amendment tended to put more emphasis on the prefatory clause, a “well-regulated Militia,” more than it did the subsequent “bear arms” clause. In fact, the Supreme Court declined to rule four times that the Second Amendment protected an individual’s gun rights outside of the context of militias.

Even a 1983 Supreme Court case, which weighed an Illinois town’s right to ban handguns, agreed with a lower court ruling that “the right to keep and bear handguns is not guaranteed by the Second Amendment.”

Enter the National Rifle Association – one of the most powerful lobbying groups in the country.

What had originally begun in 1871 as a way for people to improve their marksmanship had shifted in the 1970s to focus on one single issue, halting gun control legislation.

They have become remarkably proficient at this singular task over the last 30 years, already spending more money on lobbying during the first two quarters of 2017 than they did all of 2016 – a sign that they may be feeling outside pressure. But in 2008, they scored their biggest legislative victory, successfully using the curious punctuation of our forefathers to redefine the fundamental interpretation of the Second Amendment. District of Columbia v. Heller began when Robert Levy, chairman of the Libertarian Cato Institute, personally financed a lawsuit that would challenge a local law pertaining to the restrictions of handguns in

Continued on page 6



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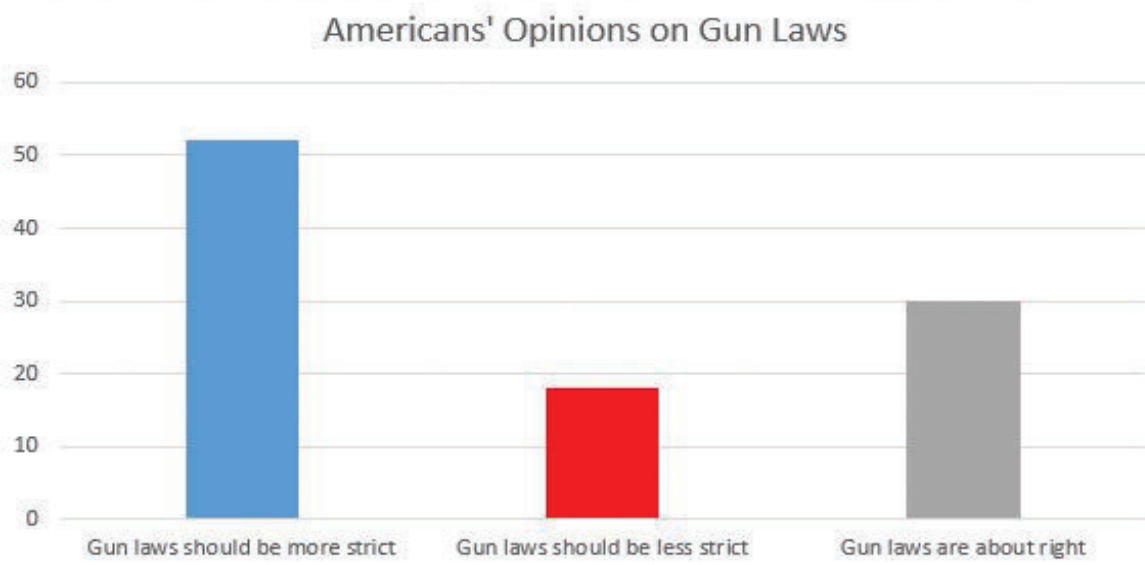


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Editorials

Student Opinions on Gun Control NRA



Americans are sharply divided on gun laws. Data from Pew Research Poll, June 20 PHOTO CREDIT:THE CENTURION

BRANDON BAILEY
Centurion Staff

On Oct. 1, 2017, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock of Mesquite, Nevada opened gunfire on a crowd of about 22 thousand concert goers from the 32 floor of a next-door resort and casino, killing 58 people and seriously injured almost 500 in a span of 10 to 15 minutes.

This is not the first time something like this has happened in our country, with attacks like this or the Columbine and Sandy Hook shootings raising the question that is often asked; what should be done about gun control?

20-year-old business administration major Abby Walls from Southampton said, “I definitely think there should be more restrictions and background checks. I understand that it is our...right, but I don’t think that should be as relevant or significant today. Just because it’s written in our Constitution doesn’t mean it’s right.”

Although some students on campus are entirely for the

eradication of weapons in our country, some like 20-year-old business administration major Michael Petrino from Warminster, disputed, “how do you think a lot of these people who shouldn’t be allowed to own guns get them? Not over the counter, that’s for sure...they get them online or on the black market. If you ban guns entirely, how would someone like me protect myself from some psycho that figured out how to get one? I wouldn’t be able to.”

Self defense is one of the biggest concerns for students here at Bucks, arguing that if you take away their guns, then you’re taking away their freedom as well. Petrino also said, “my whole point is, if you ban guns from civil Americans, then the criminals that get them illegally will just take advantage of the situation. More background checks should be administered, and they should definitely stop selling guns at Walmart.”

18-year-old liberal arts major Ilan Ladyzhensky from Newtown said, “I’m against gun control, but

I’m not the type of person to be protesting on the streets for people to have the right to bear arms. My whole family owns guns, it’s probably like five guns per man ratio. People should be allowed to have guns, but they should have more restrictions. I just bought a lever action rifle with just my driver’s license...it seemed a little too easy.”

Possible changes to gun laws in the United States have been both considered and under fire recently. Since 2016, Nevada law makers have been in the process of implementing stricter background checks for the purchase of weapons. The problem is the legalities behind it, as Nevada would have been one of the first states to implement a new standard of rules and regulations.

The attorney general Adam Laxalt determined that the bill in which they wanted to pass couldn’t be enforced, because the background checks would have to be conducted by the FBI, who was unwilling to do it alone.



NRA

Continued from Page 5
Washington D.C.

In the minds of the NRA, this lawsuit had already been years in the making.

For over three decades, the NRA funded legal research. They supported pro-gun rights law review articles. They sponsored various legal seminars. They made hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations to Political Action Committees. They did everything in their power to make the public believe in a fallacy, and it worked.

A Gallup poll showed that in 1959, 60 percent of Americans favored a ban on handguns. That number reduced to 41 percent in the 1970’s, and in 2008, the year of the Heller decision, 73 percent of Americans had reversed course, now believing that the Constitution actually already guaranteed the rights of individual Americans to bear arms.

Ultimately, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that “The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that firearm for traditional, lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home.”

Using the dubious commas to parse the amendment, the court ruled, “The amendment’s prefatory clause announces a purpose,

but does not limit or expand the scope of the second part, the operative clause.”

What this really meant is that the fragment “right to bear arms” now superseded the initial clause,

“a well-regulated militia,” marking a complete 180 in the way the amendment had been interpreted for over 200 years.

While many people feel this is the correct interpretation of the Second Amendment, I would contest that the founding fathers could no better conceive of a semi-automatic weapon than they could a rocket ship.

Left unchecked for the past 10 years, the ramifications of this decision have extended into the realm of semi-automatic weapons, and the infamous “bump-stocks,” where we now find ourselves at a pivotal crossroad.

We are not as divided on this issue as it may seem at first glance. There is actually real bipartisan support for certain policies; preventing the mentally ill from purchasing weapons, background checks for private sales at gun shows, even the creation of a federal database to track gun sales draws some Republican support.

We will never be able to stop every lone-wolf attack, but if we pass widely agreed upon, common-sense gun laws, we can at least mitigate their frequency – and carnage.

It’s time to stop letting the extremist views of a group of 5 million people dictate public policy for a nation of over 350 million.



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Editorials

Opinion: An Armed Citizenry is Essential to Prevent Violations of the Peoples’ Freedom

TYLER CREIGHTON
Centurion Staff

From the Promethean discovery of fire to the Kalashnikovian innovations of the modern era, the people have always tried to ensure their safety and welfare via arms. Meanwhile, structures of authority, such as states, have historically taken advantage of their monopoly on violence in order to oppress the people.

Armed populations have often successfully rebelled against such structures. Criminals have also exploited the availability of weapons to accomplish acts of horrific violence, while otherwise non-violent citizens have used weapons to deter them. The misuse of weapons by untrained individuals has also led to catastrophe.

However, if you were to look at the balance sheet, the need for protection and liberty for the many outweighs the mistakes of the foolish, providing a reasonable justification for the people to possess arms to defend themselves against potential threats. But some say that the vast power and resources of modern state apparatuses makes the idea of a citizens’ resistance seem futile.

We live in a time and a place that is relatively free, compared to the tyrannies of 19th century monarchies, Nazi Germany, and other fascistic regimes. But this relative freedom has bred complacency when it comes to trust in structures of authority, such as the state and other elements of the

capitalist system.

Although the current American constitution has checks and balances, if the state were to disregard them and begin implementing authoritarian policies, an unarmed population could do nothing to stop the process. While it could be argued that such thinking is blatant paranoia, one might also argue that such suspicion would have been highly beneficial to the citizens of Mussolini’s Italy, Pinochet’s Chile, and the colonels’ Greece.

Criminals, such as mass shooters and fundamentalist terrorists, already have little to no regard for laws, and are willing and able to go underground to get their hands on weapons and otherwise banned substances. One only has to look at the prohibition of alcohol or cannabis to see the futility of a government ban on gun ownership. A black market would likely develop, creating an enormous, unregulated criminal enterprise growing like a tumor in the heart of every major American city.

If firearms were to be outlawed entirely or if they were significantly more regulated, the law-abiding citizen would find themselves in a precarious situation, as they would be left to rely solely on the state for protection, which has been inefficient in preventing criminals from obtaining weapons in the first place.

Even worse, the fear that one might be attacked by a criminal at any time would likely lead to some citizens begging for a



Europeans used arms in their resistance against the Nazi police state regime during the Second World War
PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

privacy-invading authoritarian surveillance state to stop crime. Measures like “stop and frisk” policies, which had statistically targeted minority groups per NYPD annual reports, could become a matter of everyday life.

The real issue isn’t guns - which do not cause crimes on their own. So what does? The plagues of destitution and hunger that have haunted America for years have left a mark on the psyche of the American people, as Charles Dickens eloquently portrayed in his characterization of Abel Magwitch, who in the novel “Great

Expectations” gruesomely threatens a young orphan in industrial England for a slice of pie.

With a lack of sustenance directly related to poverty, and poverty statistically related to crime, it raises an ethical conundrum on where to place the blame; should blame lie with the desperate and starving, or the oppressive structures which lead to their hunger, such as poor education, lack of inherited wealth and social constructs. Would the removal of such systemic structures of oppression lead to a substantial decrease in violent crime commit-

ted by firearms?

Essentially, a well-armed populace, regardless of disparities between levels of weaponized potentials, and relative to state and paramilitary super-elites, is required to safeguard the people’s will. Criminals will always strive to attain firearms and weapons regardless of legality, as the hungry would attempt to illegally attain bread. Poverty and crime are statistically linked. It is too easy to blame the criminals and their weapons, rather than the social malaise that allocated them insufficient resources at birth.

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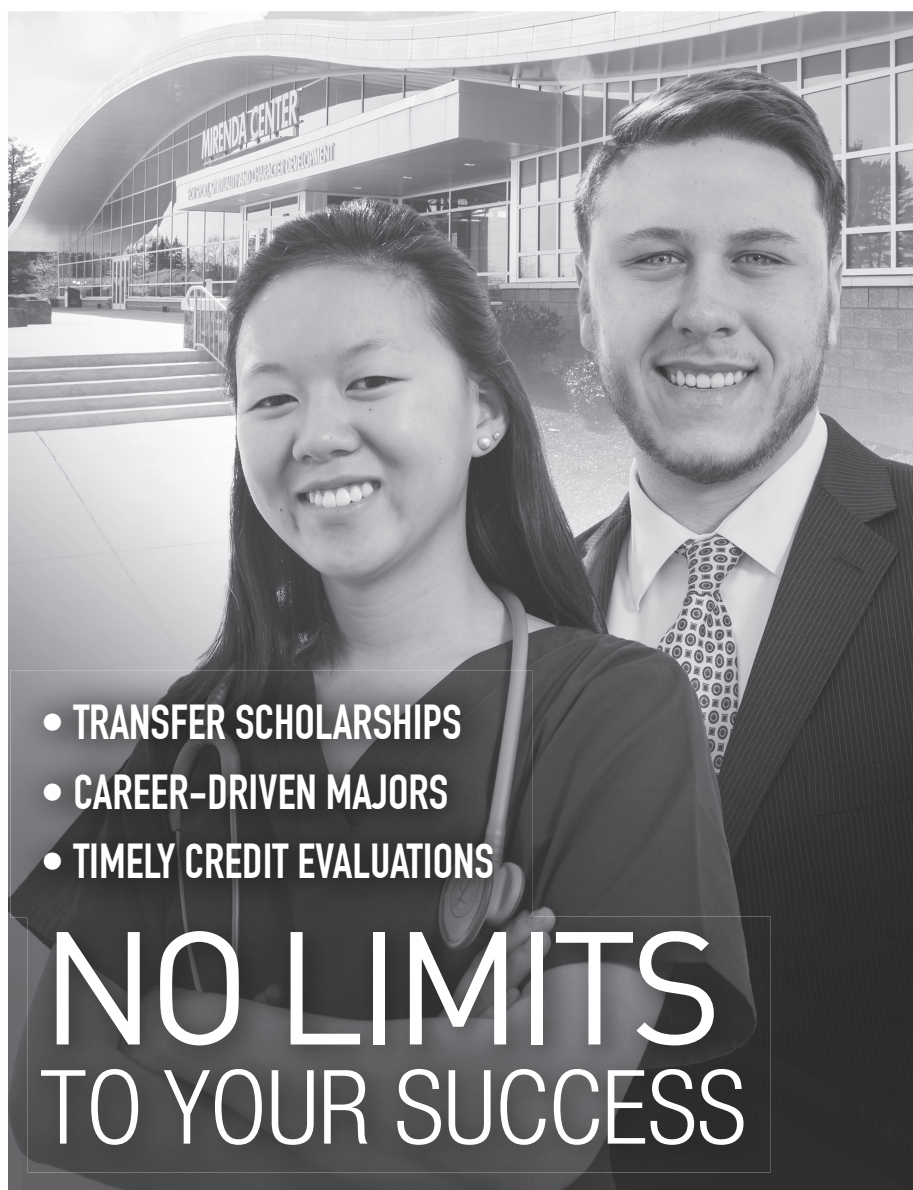
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“The Amazing Max” Mystifies Bucks Again

MEDELIN CRUZ

Centurion Staff

“The Amazing Max” show entertained and wowed Bucks families as Max Darwin used sorcery to win kids and parents’ hearts.

The show being based in New York City created a lighthearted combination of magic and comedy. His useful tactics of telling jokes the parents could understand and the use of visual and interactive storytelling with the children made it all more eye grabbing and attention worthy.

As children went up on stage to be featured in a magic trick with “The Amazing Max”, you could see the wonder and excitement in their eyes that exemplifies the pure joy they felt at the time.

Beginning at a young age, Max Darwin learned the art of performative magic through travelling around the world with his parents.

Throughout this time, he created a persona for himself that would later be recognized as one of the most talked about magic artists in the country. Being seen on television for guest spots on networks such as National Geographic, Nickelodeon, and starring in national TV commercials that would be watched by millions.

In 2011, he started the “The Amazing Max and The Box Of Interesting Things” show.

This has been played off Broadway and travelled all around the country to local communities and cities to entertain children and families. “The Amazing Max” have taught children how to use magic and make others amused and engaged in performing with every day household items such as cards, rings, and others.

To help welcome “The Amazing Max”, Bucks’ Drama Club showed their love and support by attending the event and help fundraise for the club.

By the amount of people being present at the event, showed the Drama Club the power “The Amazing Max” had on the local community. “It created a bonding experience and made others closer with their friends and families.” said Drama Club Treasurer Derek Esplen, 22, a Music major



from New Hope.

The power of theatre has an impact on those performing, watching, and experiencing the show.

As “The Amazing Max” and the Drama Club have performed many events before, they both know the connection it establishes with the audience. It teaches the universal principles of self-expression, self-knowledge, and creativity to those anyone on stage or in the audience. The idea of individuals having various views on the way they live their lives in one room sounds simple and overlooked, but is actually very complex and reflective.

“Bringing people together is the best part,” said Drama Club President Gia Folino, 19, a Music major from Bensalem.

People from all different backgrounds and walks of life come together to sit and watch others entertain them. The amazing part is that theatre is a worldwide presentation that celebrates all different cultures and traditions. Max Darwin has brought multiple people together and has taught something new to children about magic tricks they can use at home.

A show like “The Amazing Max” has not only brought happiness and laughter to our area of Bucks County, but also brings together families all across the nation.

The Loss of a Legend: Tom Petty

MICHAEL VIGILANTE

Centurion Staff

Tom Petty, legendary front man of “The Heartbreakers” and writer of such famous songs as “Free Fallin” and “I Won’t Back Down” died of a heart attack last week at the age of 66.

Petty, who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002, had said in recent interviews that he would be embarking on his final U.S. tour this year.

He performed his last show at the Hollywood Bowl on Sept. 25.

Petty’s style and sheer song writing ability transcended genre by spanning from folk and country, into rock and roll while helping to define and influence a generation of songwriters to follow in his footsteps.

Often tortured and defiant as well as angry yet familiarly warm, Petty, himself, struggled to define his own songwriting process.

“I hesitate to even try to understand it for fear that it might go away,” said Petty in the documentary on his life titled “Runnin’ Down a Dream.”

“It’s shocking, crushing news,” Bob Dylan wrote in a statement. “I thought the world of Tom.” He finished by saying, “He was a great performer, full of the light, a friend, and I’ll never forget him.”

Petty, the every-man’s rocker, did not have the attaché of a Bob Dylan, the meticulous touch of a Jeff Lynne, or the eerie mysticism of a George Harrison, all of whom he would later work with as members of the super group “The Traveling Wilburys.”

But, Petty’s down to earth,



plain-spoken word-craft made his music accessible, relatable, and above all else, transcendent.

After hearing the news artists all over the world took to social media to express their surprise, grief, and admiration for the late rocker.

“I loved Tom Petty,” wrote John Mayer on Twitter. He continued to write, “I covered his songs because I wanted to know what it felt like to fly.”

But, like most artists, much of Petty’s early catalog went largely unrecognized at the time of its release.

Petty had been near bankruptcy towards the end of the 1970s, after having sold the publishing and royalty rights to his songs for \$10,000 but found his biggest success in the 1979 album “Damn the Torpedoes,” reaching number two on the charts and triple platinum status.



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

“Damn the Torpedoes” established Petty as a hit making goliath in the industry, and provided him the leverage he needed to renegotiate his deal with MCA, signaling a shift in the way top-tier artists approached their record deals in the future.

“Full Moon Fever,” perhaps his most recognizable record, released in 1989, introduced a new and younger generation to the songwriting genius of Petty and

even made Rolling Stone Magazine’s list of 100 best albums.

The albums opening track is perhaps Petty’s most famous and well-known hit, “Free Fallin,” where he offers one last piece of solace for those struggling to cope with the news of his untimely death.

Petty sang, “I’m gonna free fall out into nothin’. Gonna leave this world for a while.”

Sports

Eagles Strike Back in First Games

KYLE BROWN
Centurion Staff

Much to a stunning surprise for sports analysts, the Eagles swooped in for a 4-1 winning record so far, proving their team’s potential strength this season.

They started out on the road for the first two weeks of the season with a 30-17 win over the Washington Redskins in which quarterback Carson Wentz threw for 307 yards and 2 touchdowns despite no help from the running game.

Their next game came against the Kansas City Chiefs team that was coming off of a big win against the New England Patriots. The Eagles fought hard, but came up short in a 27-20 loss that put the Eagles at 1-1.

The next game came against the 0-2 Giants who came to Lincoln Financial Field hungry for a win. In a hard fought battle the Eagles won 27-24 after a 61-yard field goal from rookie Jake Elliott that set a record for the longest kick by a rookie kicker in NFL history.

After that came the 0-3 San Diego Chargers who fought hard, but fell against a rolling Eagles run game in a 26-24 win for the birds of Philadelphia. Finally the Eagles found a way to put it all together as they crushed the Arizona Cardinals in a dominating 34-7 win.

There are tons of reasons to get excited about this year on offense as the Eagles are 6th in scoring, 8th in passing, 5th in rushing, and 3rd in total offense. Darren Foy, 18, a sports marketing major from Morrisville said of the Eagles run, “I’m ecstatic. They’re playing above expectations...I see us making a deep playoff run, a Super Bowl run possibly. We almost



Eagles vs Redskins

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA

beat Kansas City, and I think we can compete with anybody.”

While some fans like Foy are upbeat and optimistic about the play, others like CJ Phay, an 18 year old English major from Doylestown, isn’t getting his hopes up too high yet, “we’re doing pretty well,” Phay says, “but, too much optimism shouldn’t be had. People are talking about going all the way which is premature. Although I think playoffs are a strong possibility. We’ll come in as a wildcard, but I don’t think we’ll win the division.”

Collin O’Connor also added, “I think they’re third best team in the league right now. We’d be better if we didn’t have injured

players. If we stay healthy we make playoffs.”

The excitement is well earned and the Eagles are looking good, but despite a 2nd ranked run defense the Eagles 24th ranked run defense may prove to be a fatal flaw once they go against more patented quarterbacks.

O’Connor stated in regard of this, “Our secondary is playing well, but it’s weak because of the injuries. Once we get Ronald Darby back we should be better.”

As of now the Philadelphia Eagles are in a three way tie for best in the NFC with Carolina and Green Bay, and things are looking sunny in the city of Philadelphia.

Men’s Basketball Team Bounces Back

ELIJAH PITTMAN
Centurion Staff

After a previously mediocre season for the men’s basketball team, the coaching staff is expecting the team to have a bounce back this year with the many new players added to the team.

Somah Solewion, 20, a business administration major at Bucks is one of the team’s star players that is returning from last year. He gave his thoughts on the team from this year and how it differs from last year, “There is a lot more talent this year and a lot more dedication. I can already see that guys are serious about this. My team goals are obviously to make the playoffs and to be at least top 3 in the conference. To be able to get there I think we just must work hard, stand up for each other, and treat everyone like there your brother.”

Adjwoda Sanoumnga or formally known as Drew, 18, is a health science major. He gave his thoughts on the teams and season, “I think that this year we have more talented guys. More guys that can handle the ball, rebound, and create their own shot. Another thing is I think with the team we have, we can be good defensively on the fact that we have bigger players. We have guards that are over 6 foot. My team goals are just to win everything, playoffs and then championship. If you believe a championship is possible then you shouldn’t be playing.”

Ryan Charity, 23, the assistant coach for the team, said, “Our team is young, we have a lot of

really good players who really wants to play basketball and enjoys playing the game. I don’t think coming to practice every day and working hard will be an issue for these guys. I am sure we will get maximum effort from them. They already have good communication skills, I’m sure everyone just wants to win. A championship should always be the goal but we missed playoffs last year so we will just take it one game at a time. For us to compete for a championship we they will just have to be focused and locked in from day one and we have guys coming back from last year that will have that experience. They will be leaders this year and show the new guys the ropes from an early start.”

Frank Copestick, 36, another one of the head coaches of men’s basketball this year, has an optimistic outlook, explaining, “This year’s team looks much more athletic. We have a lot of freshman that are right out of high school, it’s easier to coach players like that. I have very high expectations for these guys. As a coach and even back when I was a player, my expectations and goals was to be the best and to play like every game was your last game. As a goal I think this year’s team can put Bucks county back on the map. Our team record hasn’t been to good the last few years and were trying to get back to be a competitive program. I want these guys to play hard so we can go to the playoffs and compete for a championship.”

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