

Racist and Homophobic Incidents At Local Public Schools Draw Concern from Administrators, Anti-Hate Groups

HAL CONTE
Centurion Staff

From Quakertown to Council Rock to Neshaminy, a steady stream of hateful and racial incidents has roiled Bucks school districts throughout the fall, including hateful shouts, stone-throwing, and swastikas scrawled on bathroom walls, leaving administrators and communities scrambling for a suitable response.

As doors were opened across the country for a new year of learning, the sign of Neshaminy’s Herbert Hoover Elementary School was found defaced with a racist message: “F**k n****. No n**** allowed,” alongside an offensive and vulgar drawing.

In September, pictures of swastikas and anti-gay slogans in Council Rock were distributed in online chatrooms, just one month after the school had to contend with a crop of toxic Instagram accounts using the school’s insignia to spread abuse and racialist content.

Soon afterward, a student wore a confederate flag shirt to class in defiance of the rules, and another flag had to be removed from the wall of a classroom.

In October, a normally friendly

football game between Quakertown High School and Cheltenham ended with intolerant rhetoric and stones hurled at the Cheltenham team’s school bus.

“It’s always been here,” said William Harner, superintendent of Quakertown School District.

But, he added, these incidents have “taken the mask off” a problem that has been brewing for generations.

Since last year’s presidential election, reports of hate crimes and hate incidents have surged across the country, causing alarm in school districts and among professionals like Maureen Costello, director of the Teaching Tolerance project at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), an antiracist and anti-hate legal organization.

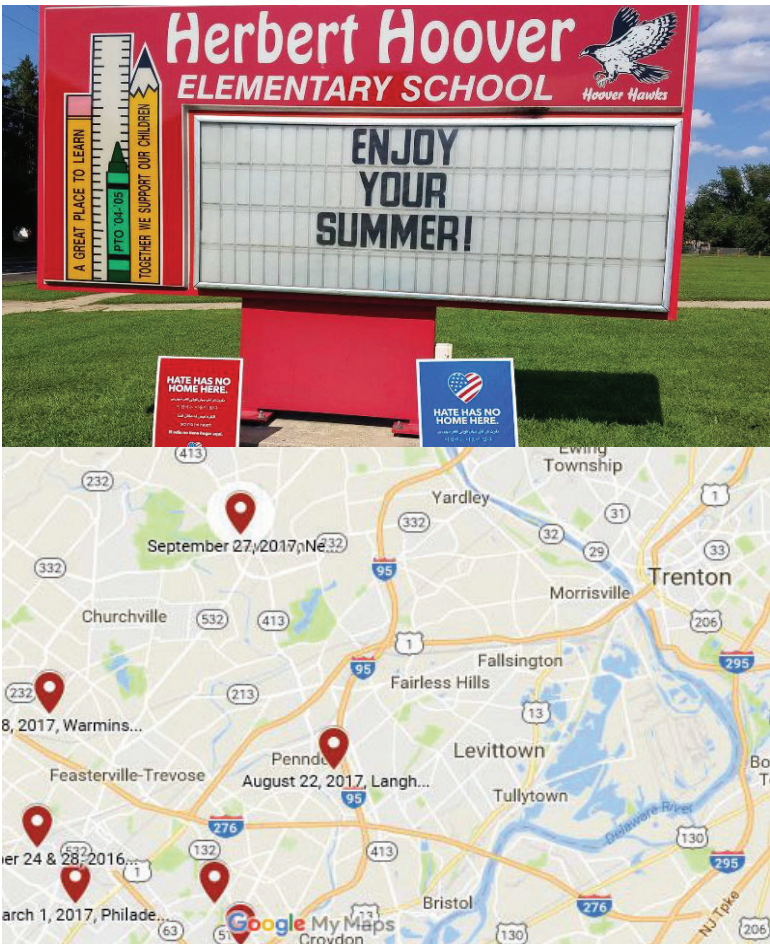
“I hope this is temporary,” she said. “There were 90 [reported] incidents in October in the nation... Three or four years ago, people weren’t as overtly racist.” She said that an increased number of reports doesn’t necessarily mean that the number of events has gone up. “Schools don’t usually report incidents.” She explained that with the increasing use of social media platforms to document hate, Bucks residents may only be beginning to realize a long-standing problem.

When asked if the recent expressions of bigotry are a new problem or one that is only now surfacing, Susan O’Grady, Council Rock community relations specialist, replied, “we cannot speak for the larger region. We have experienced isolated incidents in our own district and have taken proactive measures to address each while viewing them as teachable moments for our school community.”

O’Grady denied a request for records of prior racial incidents, saying that they were discipline matters that may contain personal information.

Costello and Harner made it clear that not everyone who commits acts of hate and bigotry are necessarily bad people. “The students who were punished were removed from athletic events [but] they’re good students, good athletes,” Harner said. “A lot of the time, the perpetrator’s intention is to “be funny” or “gain attention,” Costello clarified. “What they don’t realize is that the impact is so serious.”

Acts of hate often have repercussions that reach far beyond those immediately targeted. “Kids are embarrassed,” Harner sighed. “The student council from Quakertown put out a video



Top: Herbet Hoover Elementary School put up signs against hate after the attacks Below: Action Network’s PA Hate Map PHOTO CREDIT: TWITTER, ACTION NET

saying “this is not us.” “The entire school and the entire community is injured,” Costello concluded.

Bucks County has had a fraught history with race and bigotry.

Levittown, which stretches into four Lower Bucks municipalities, was founded explicitly as a whites-only community.

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Two Women Charged With Hacking Bucks Computer Systems

SINDY COLINDRES
Centurion Staff

A Bucks student and her cohort were arrested and charged with hacking the college’s computer system to alter her grades and the grades of other students in a microbiology course.

The two women arrested were Aleisha Morosco, a 30-year-old part-time student, and Kelly Margaret Marryott, a 37-year-old employed at a medical office.

Bucks officials have suspected since July that someone had been meddling with students’ grades, and once it was reported to the police, the suspicion was confirmed.

Police said Marryott used the personal information of a Bucks faculty member she gained from her employment at a medical office. From there Morosco allegedly hacked the school’s computer network to change her own grade and the grades of other students.

Stephanie H. Shanblatt, president of Bucks County Community College, released the following

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Partners in crime? Morosco (above) and Maryott (below) PHOTO CREDIT: NEWTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Journalism Faces Threats Posed by New Digital Age

HAL CONTE
Centurion Staff

With the shift towards digital media, the rise of fake news, and decreasing ad revenue, the future of America’s news business in 2017 is increasingly blurry, creating an exciting albeit threatening time for students pursuing journalism degrees.

While there are certainly many jobs in the field of reporting - 49,600 people will be employed in news jobs in 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics - students are entering a business undergoing a period of historic agitation.

At America’s newspapers, fat print profits were vaporized during the Great Recession and never really recovered. Digital growth has not been able to fill the gap. Even the New York Times, which is seen as an industry success story in adopting to the new digital age, has seen revenue from advertising drop from 70 to 40 percent – with just 12 percent of that representing profits from digital ads, according to statistics from Wired Magazine.

“The problem is the business model,” said Tony Rogers, professor of journalism at Bucks.

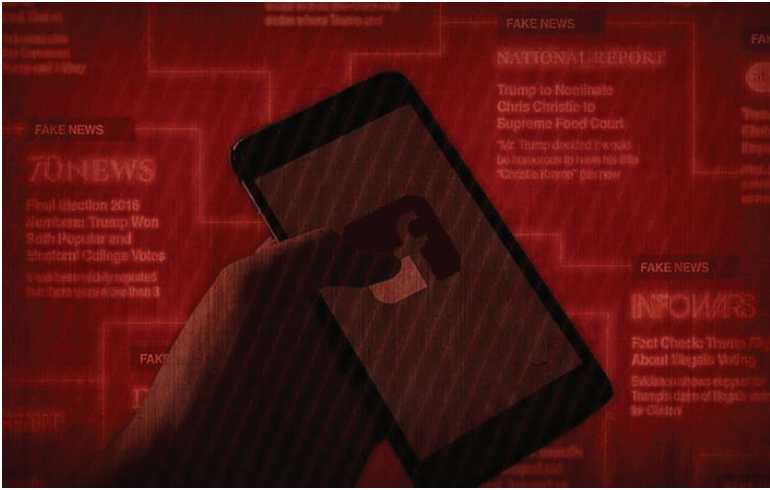


PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

“When the internet came along there was this mindset that if newspapers just dumped all their content online for free, they’d get lots of digital advertising. That hasn’t happened.

Many of those dollars are being hoovered up by online platforms, platforms which traditional news organizations like the Times may use to gain clicks- but do not control.

An academic report published by Columbia University’s School of Journalism titled “The Platform Press: How Silicon Valley Re-engineered Journalism,” says that mainstream news outlets including The New York Times, the Los

Angeles Times, and the Chicago Tribune, “are giving up” the traditional functions of publishers, as they are putting much of their work on websites like Twitter, Facebook, and Google.

The news sections of these websites – and the algorithms that control them - are increasingly becoming the de facto page layout editors for the entire country, if not the world.

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This article is Part 3 in a series of reports on digital and cyber issues in Bucks County

Bucks News

Op-Ed: A Look at Why My Friend
Pepper Sprayed Radical Reverend



Artistic rendition of the Radical Reverend getting peppersprayed.

GABBY HOUCK
Centurion Staff

A recent issue of the Centurion came out with an article about the Radical Reverend. In the article, security was asked if anyone got peppersprayed. They denied the notion and insisted that they saw no one in the crowd use pepper spray on the Reverend. However, that’s not what happened.

I was there right up against the barricade when it happened, standing next to 19-year-old environmental science major, Sarah Squitieri, from Doylestown. The student took matters into her own hands when she felt threatened by the pastor.

“He marched up to the barricade and got in my face, I didn’t feel safe so I did what I had to do,” Squitieri nonchalantly stated.

Squitieri has always been one to speak her mind and stand up for what she thinks is right, “If something is said, or if something is happening that I don’t like, I’m not going to just shut my mouth and comply, that’s not who I am.”

Squitieri was on her way to math class when she noticed the commotion going on in the middle of the campus. “I thought a fight had broken out, but then then I realized what was going on when I heard them screaming f--ts will burn in hell and just really awful stuff.”

“I approached the barricade and asked Pastor Aiden a question, he then proceeded to tell me to take my hat off when I did he recoiled and started calling me a d-ke, and would only refer to me as he.”

“Even if that is all for show, no woman ever wants to be publicly

put down like that, especially at a place where you’re there to learn and better yourself.”

After the verbal berating by Pastor Aiden, a different pastor approached the barricade. He was provoked by a student standing to the left of Squitieri, who was questioning the Reverend for making his kids bear witness to their inappropriate teachings. This question visibly upset the reverend, who began an onslaught of verbal attacks on this young woman, calling her a “wh-re,” and telling her she was going to burn in hell. He even went so far as to tell the student she deserved to have a miscarriage.

“He was so close at that point that I could feel his spit on my face,” Squitieri recalled.

She then added, “He was so fixated on screaming at this girl that

I saw my opportunity and I took it. I didn’t want him near me or this girl anymore so I just calmly unclicked my mace and sprayed.”

Unfortunately Squitieri was unaware this would mean criminal charges. Squitieri now has to pay a \$500 fine to avoid having a warrant out for her arrest.

“They (security) told me it was my fault because I made the first move, because I brought the weapon,” Squitieri agitatedly recalled.

“What’s frustrating to me was that him getting in a student’s face wasn’t considered the first move, me defending myself was...I just don’t understand why the school isn’t more on our side with this.”

“It’s not right that we can’t defend ourselves or air our grievances because they’re protected under the First Amendment, that’s

not freedom of speech that’s just defamation and verbal abuse.”

“Why do they get to show up and be protected, where’s our protection as students against them? We pay to attend this school don’t we? If I pay \$3,500 out of my own pocket why am I the one who has to suffer because he got in my face on a campus I pay to attend?”

Even with the costly fine, Squitieri doesn’t regret her actions. “I don’t regret it one bit, I hope it taught him a lesson for the next time he wants to scream in an innocent student’s face.”

As for the next time the pastors make an appearance, Squitieri said, “I’m apparently on some sort of probation, next time they come I’m not even allowed to approach them. Because their safety is clearly more important than mine.”

Hate and Racism



Maureen Costello
PHOTO CREDIT: SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Continued from page 1

William and Daisy Myers, the first African-Americans to settle in Levittown, were met with mob violence and attacks by residents upon moving in to their home. “These incidents don’t come out of nowhere,” Costello asserted. “They have a context. It’s really important to always connect the present to the past and the past to the present.”

“We have a very robust community,” Harner said. “[But] history is written by the victors. There’s a lot of emotions around this issue... We’re entering into a place of looking in the mirror.”

According to the SPLC, a surprising number of the recent hate crimes and hate incidents have occurred in white, affluent communities. “There’s a kind of copycatism,” Costello noted.

The increasingly public expression of bigotry in Bucks County has attracted attention from the national press. “We were doing our investigation and the news media contacted us. It started with a phone call from Fox News,” Harner explained.

When asked what schools should do to combat bigotry, Costello said that administrators, teachers, and faculty should denounce the act, affirm the values of the school and take steps to rebuild.

Both Quakertown and Council Rock have

taken steps to prevent future incidents, with the former considering any expression of racism or hate as grounds for suspension. The latter is reviewing strategies such as “collaborative discourse with our high school students on the topic of inclusiveness and targeted elementary level lessons on respect and acceptance,” according to O’Grady.

The districts are also partnering with recognized experts on hate, racism, bigotry, aggression and violence.

O’Grady said that Council Rock is having the Peace Center, a Langhorne conflict resolution and anti-violence organization, train all Council Rock employees “to recognize and strategically address intolerance and racism. This training will be ongoing over the next two years.”

“In addition, we have partnered with both the Anti-Defamation League and Minding Your Mind (a nonprofit that focuses on mental health awareness) for school-based assembly programs to bolster and underscore our message of acceptance. We also administered a climate survey for staff, parents, and students to help us better understand stakeholder perceptions around diversity and tolerance. The survey was designed with the assistance of Hanover, a nationally recognized research company.”

Harner said that Quakertown High School’s principal met with Peace Center representatives for advice on how to address the problem.

When asked if the school districts were coordinating efforts to prevent hate crimes, Harner explained that a monthly superintendent meeting was on the agenda, but “right now, it is just a bunch of individual school district efforts.”

Quakertown has also held an 8th grade assembly to discuss the matter. Harner revealed that “some [parents] have wondered what we will teach our daughters or sons, so I can keep them away from it.”

Although a few residents seem wary of discussing the topic of hate, particularly after a rash of open bigotry, Costello said that there is a definite educational value. “It’s a moment for a community to say, “Who are we? Are we a people who ignore this or come together and say, “this is not who we are?”

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The Internet At Risk

Why You Should Care About Net Neutrality

MIKE VIGILANTE AND SYDNE PATCHELL
Centurion Staff

When President Trump took office in January of this year he brought with him a philosophy of deregulation and dismantlement into Washington, including a plan to eliminate net neutrality, or a free and open Internet.

Ajit Pai, a former Verizon lawyer and FCC Commissioner under President Obama, was named Chairman of the FCC by President Trump in Jan. 2017 and immediately began working to do away with net neutrality rules put in place by the previous administration three years ago.

In a statement, Pai pontificated on a bygone era of internet regulation, saying that “For almost 20 years, the Internet thrived under the light touch regulatory approach ... This bipartisan framework led the private sector to invest \$1.5 trillion building communications networks throughout the United States. And it gave us an Internet economy that became the envy of the world.”

However, in the eyes of many, the Internet, over the last 20 years, aided by the advent of smartphones in our pockets, has shifted from a mere novel privilege for the rich to a right that all Americans should have the ability to enjoy.

Shawn Queeney, a 49-year-old communications professor from Pennsburg, defines net-neutrality as “the Internet as we know it—anyone who wants it has access to it.”

“I can’t help but feel some important voices are not heard as we craft these rules that might end up hurting this important industry,” he continued. Regulations should not be based on the 20th century model we used for utilities.... But I just don’t have a lot of faith in the free market to sort it all out.”

The concept of net neutrality is a simple one, yet one that still remains somewhat absent from the public lexicon and understanding, despite multiple attempts over the years to repeal the rules put in place in 2015.

Put simply, net neutrality is the



assumed expectation of freedom we have when we surf the internet.

Under current net neutrality rules, internet service providers (ISP’s) cannot speed up or slow down (throttle) any content you wish to access on the internet.

Without these rules, consumers are at risk to actually pay more for less Internet.

At the core of the fight for net neutrality is Title II of the Federal Communications Act of 1934 – the legal foundation for 2015’s Open Internet Order establishing rules restricting ISP’s

Title II of the Communications Act concerns “common utilities,” or things like landlines, electricity and pipelines that give the FCC the ability and the legal authority to enforce net neutrality rules.

Prior to the Open Internet Order of 2015, Internet service was classified under Title I as an information service.

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Comcast, David L. Cohen, praised the proposal and stressed the difference, or lack of correlation, between Title II status

and net neutrality, calling Title II an “outdated regulatory regime, [harming] investment and innovation, and not at all necessary to guarantee consumers an Open Internet.”

However, without Title II status, the FCC would lack the legal footing needed to enforce ISP’s to obey by Net Neutrality laws.

If the order is gutted or the title reclassified, Internet providers could become de-facto arbiters of free speech on the internet; only promoting content they approve of, while stifling content they don’t or are in competition with.

Moreover, internet providers could partition your internet access, shifting away from the utility model currently used and more towards a regulatory model.

Companies like Comcast and Verizon, instead of charging a flat fee for internet access, would charge you separately for website access, streaming, gaming, etc.

In a statement, FCC Chairmen Ajit Pai railed against what he described as a party-line vote that, in his words, “depressed investment in building and expanding broadband networks and deterred

innovation.”

In reality, however, Chairman Pai’s proposal adds uncertainty to customers and actually stifles innovation by allowing broadband providers to charge tolls to access their customers.

Jennifer Martyn, an 18-year-old student from Chalfont, says, “I think they should not do it [deregulate net neutrality]. I understand why the FCC would want to try and innovate the Internet, but I know my mom wouldn’t pay more for the services we already have.”

Amie Rickert, a student from Levittown, added, “I think that the new changes won’t make much of a difference besides just paying a little more each month.” She also says that she’d rather not pay more because she pays her own bills and the new regulations are potentially likely to increase rates of companies.

In response to Pai’s proposal, Mignon Clyburn, a FCC Commissioner appointed by President Obama, firmly cemented her position against Pai’s proposal as “an unwavering champion of robust, bright-line net neutrality rules

that protect consumers against the anti-consumer and anti-competitive practices of broadband providers.”

Clyburn, in a point-by-point “fact sheet” released by her office, also scrutinized the proposal that “Enables offerings that favor the vertically integrated broadband provider’s own content and services over those of consumers and innovators who rely on the Internet to grow their own businesses and stay informed.”

Chairman Pai’s proposal would also shift the burden of enforcement from the FCC over to FTC, a federal agency that has never enforced net neutrality protections and would now be tasked with managing consumer complaints – effectively stripping the teeth from the FCC, leaving them no recourse for wronged business or consumers.

In 2015, public outrage helped to win key victories for Net Neutrality, and in 2018, the same outrage is needed if a truly free and open Internet is to be preserved.

The Restoring Internet Freedom Order will be voted on at the FCC’s Open Meeting on Dec. 14.



Top: A protest in September against the end of net neutrality. Middle: Caricature of Ajit Pai, FCC boss, seeks to eliminate net neutrality regulations to the applause of telecommunications companies. Bottom: Projection against growing corporate power. Photos from Wikimedia Commons.

What Does Corporate Takeover Look Like?

TYLER CREIGHTON
Centurion Staff

The FCC’s move to repeal net neutrality regulations, which stop telecommunications companies from blocking, throttling, or charging for access to websites of their discretion, is just one more step in the direction of corporate control over our everyday lives.

Ajit Pai the chairman of the FCC, will have his name infamously etched into the history books, at least what remains of them in this near-Orwellian scenario which may very likely be our future.

Ajit Pai and other supporters for the repeal of net neutrality claim that net neutrality “stifles innovation,” yet this is simply not true. If one were to take note of the ever-increasing rate at which innovations have been made in social media, smartphone apps, and computing, then how could one say that the very regulations that keep the internet open are a detriment to progress?

It is ironic that advocates for the repeal of net neutrality claim that it amounts to government regulation of the internet. In fact, net neutrality prevents regulation of the web billion-dollar monopoly corporations like Verizon and AT&T.

Without net neutrality, these corporations could cut off access to websites they – or the United States government, which through the NSA has historically been tied to telecom companies – deem inappropriate for the public to read, just like in North Korea or China.

The unveiling of these plans also dovetail with the direction of our leaders to ever-greater subservience towards the interests of multinationals. The 2010 Supreme Court Citizens United ruling, which gave corporations the right to spend as much money as they saw fit in public elections, was a colossal step towards oligarchic control of the government by the super-rich.

We are witnessing a creeping power grab via the control of access to free information held by the public, the subtle incorporation of surveillance technology into consumer goods such as smart TVs, iPhones, and cars, targeted advertisements and propaganda, and the installation of a former Associate General Counsel for Verizon as FCC boss.

The repeal of Net Neutrality will have the potential to greatly reduce the ability of a discontent public from organizing, and sharing information freely against corporate elites.

News

Journalism

Continued from page 1

“News outlets are forced to fight for the crumbs that are left,” Rogers sighed.

According to the Economist, Facebook and Google have gobbled up between 80 and 90 percent of growth in digital advertising revenue this year. The sway they hold over the internet’s nervous system may be the determining factor in whether particular news outlets get a share in the profit or shut down the presses for good.

“What would happen is that there would be this whole knowledge about how to get page views by using keywords,” Rogers explained. “Then Google would come along and change their algorithms and control how people are accessing content.”

The Wall Street Journal, which adopted a comparatively successful paywall model from the very beginning, saw its Google search results nosedive nearly 50 percent after it prevented users from accessing five free articles per month.

Google’s search algorithms are designed to promote free content – which, according to a study from the Columbia report, can bias news feeds in favour of opinion and advertising-like information, as well as “low quality, sensational, or made-up pages.”

As a result, some media analysts have begun to worry about a possible future where the information consumers receive is determined by wealth- with clickbait and fake news for the many and high-quality, accurate journalism for the few.

Facebook, Google, Twitter, and other social media websites have been hit since last year’s presi-

dential election for injecting fake news and Russian disinformation into Americans’ media diet.

News outlets have been attempting a multi-pronged strategy for tacking what their lobbying group, the News Media Alliance, calls the “digital duopoly.”

The president of the Alliance testified before Congress in October, saying that the tech companies should overhaul “their ad-driven business models and opaque algorithms....so that higher-quality, reputable content is elevated in search and news feeds.”

In addition, established media companies have sought to increase scrutiny of the tech companies in an endeavour known as “Project Goliath,” according to a Wall Street Journal article.

In response to pressure from establishment journalistic outlets, as well as Congressional Democrats, Twitter has begun to fund media literacy groups, and Google’s Jigsaw think tank has rolled out Civil, a blockchain-based project that they say will help journalists.

Google has also acted to down-rank websites promoting what it describes as “factually inaccurate information to manipulate users in order to benefit a person, business, government, or other organization politically, monetarily, or otherwise.”

However, these moves have fanned the flames of discontent among anti-establishment and fringe news sites, including WikiLeaks, AlterNet, Breitbart and CounterPunch, which have accused the company of censorship- a charge that could potentially increase their readers’ distrust of mainstream news.

The problems that established media faces is also generational: Constant exposure to hyper-par-

FAKE NEWS



Interest over time

Nov 13 - Nov 19 2016
Fake news 61



Mainstream news outlets “are giving up” the traditional functions of publishers, as they are putting much of their work on websites like Twitter, Facebook, and Google.

tisan and fake news may have turned millennials permanently away from objective news reports from established outlets, according to an article published in the Journal of Communication Inquiry.

In addition, conservative millennials may never turn to mainstream sources that their figureheads describe as untrustworthy and dishonest.

PHOTO CREDIT: HAL CONTE

“So many readers are trapped in these news bubbles,” Rogers said. “The idea that the internet was going to lead to some promised land didn’t up being the case.”



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News

There’s a Historic Number of Women Running for Office Across America – and They’re Winning

MIKE VIGILANTE
Centurion Staff

On Nov. 2, 1920 millions of American women went to the voting booth to have their votes counted for the first time. A fight that took a century for activists and reformers to cultivate and win had finally come to fruition.

Although the fight for suffrage had been won nearly 100 years ago, millions of American women are still marginalized in the workplace – earning 78 cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts - and in government, where the United States ranks 104 of 190 countries vis-à-vis female representation, according to data provided by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Despite these societal shortcomings, a number of organizations have been quietly working to nurture and inspire women to run for office themselves, to shockingly successful results, as evidenced by recent state and local elections in places like Virginia, New Jersey, and Washington.

One such group, EMILY’S List, the largest national resource for women in politics, has been working since 1985 to fund campaigns for women striving for public service.

The name EMILY’S List isn’t a reference to the organizations founder or a homage to Emily Dickinson, rather an acronym for “Early Money Is Like Yeast,” it makes the dough rise.

According to EMILY’S List, the acronym is a reference (or challenge) to conventional wisdom in political financing, where major early donations help in attracting bigger, late donors.

But to the hard-working people behind EMILY’s List, the name is much more than a simple title or catchphrase to spur recruitment.

“EMILY is more than a slogan,” their mission statement describes. “She’s a candidate, a voter, an operative, a member.”

Candidates, voters, operatives and members alike turned out on Nov. 8 to elect a record number of women to public office in Virginia and Washington.

There were five open seats races in the Virginia House of Delegates with women running for three. Moreover, women knocked out eight male incumbents – some of which were considered long-shots.

15 seats overall were flipped on Nov 8. in the Virginia House of Delegates, 11 of whom were women supported and endorsed by EMILY’S List.

“A record number of women ran for office in Virginia,” said EMILY’S List President Stephanie Schriok. “And now a record number of women will serve in the Virginia House of Delegates, fighting for improved public education, investment in infrastructure, economic growth, and access to healthcare.”

Prior to the election, the highest number of women to serve in the

Virginia House was 19 in 2013. That number will increase to at least 25, with some elections still too close to call or heading for a run-off.

Debbie Walsh, director at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, also noted that, “Virginia women ran in record numbers this year, and their victories are one big story of this election.”

“Running as challengers,” she continued, “they defied conventional wisdom and predictions to score some surprising wins.”

Walsh also made a point to note several other important landmarks achieved on Election Day.

The new Virginia lawmakers will include the first woman elected as openly transgender, the first Latina, and the first Asian American women in the Virginia House.

New Jersey’s newly elected Lt. Governor will be a black woman, the first elected to statewide office in New Jersey.

Charlotte, North Carolina elected its first black woman mayor.

Seattle, Washington will not only have its first woman mayor in almost a century, but its first openly gay mayor in its history.

Atlanta’s mayoral race will soon be decided in a run-off election between two women.

Danica Roem, Virginia’s first openly transgender lawmaker, in an added layer of irony, even won by unseating Del. Bob Marshall, a Republican who introduced



EMILY’s List is one organization helping women run for office
PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Virginia’s infamous “bathroom bill” that would have prohibited transgender students from using the bathroom of their choice.

Roem said on MSNBC’s “The Last Word” after her historic victory that “No matter what you look like, where you come from, who you love, how you identify or any other inherent identifier that you have, you should be celebrated because of who you are, not despite of it.”

The historic elections of Roem and others came at the heels of the Women’s March that was held a day after President Trump’s inauguration on Nov. 21, 2016 that saw nearly half a million people flood into Washington D.C. to advocate for women’s rights and equality.

While it’s difficult to know exactly how many women became

inspired to run after witnessing one of the largest protests in American history, there are isolated cases that illustrate that effect.

Ashley Bennett decided to run against Atlantic County Freeholder John Carman after he posted a meme to his Facebook page that read “Will the women’s protest be over in time for them to cook dinner?”

Bennett then beat Carman by 1,000 votes.

The nation’s recent female victories are, for some, seen as a bellwether of things to come for the 2018 mid-terms and 2020 presidential race, with women leading the charge by both running and voting.

Only time will tell if voters will parlay local success to national success – but it’s a good step towards equal representation.

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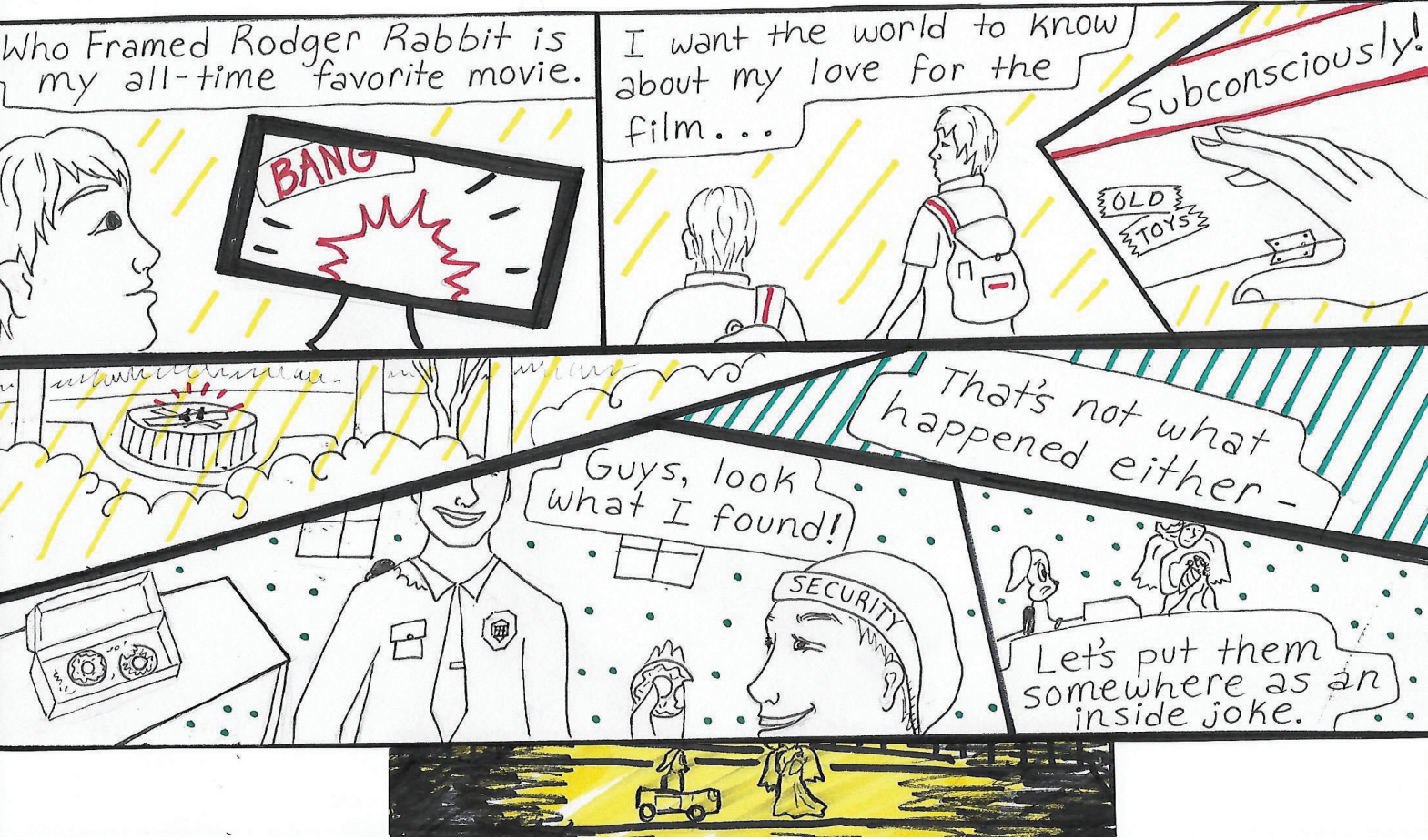
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Comics



Comics made by staffer Sarah Zawodniak about two mysterious toys on the fountain by the Gateway Center.



Hackers

Continued from page 1
statement about the incident:
“Dear Colleagues:
Last week, the Newtown Township Police arrested two women in connection with an attempt to change grades at the college last summer. I wanted to assure you that this was an isolated incident. When the college discovered the problem, we reported it to Newtown Township Police and worked cooperatively with law enforcement to resolve the case. Bucks takes the integrity of our data systems very seriously. All of the grades altered in the breach were restored to their correct level.
I would like to thank the Newtown Township Police Department for their professionalism in bringing this investigation to its appropriate conclusion. In addition, our gratitude goes out to the Office of Security and Safety, Information Technology, and Online Learning for their prompt attention to this matter.”
Both women have been charged with unlawful use of computer, computer crimes, computer trespass, identity theft, and criminal conspiracy.
Computer trespassing is a very serious crime. PhiladelphiaCriminalAttorney.com states that “If you are indicted on federal computer crime charges, you can face being sent to a federal prison for years.”
The two women were arraigned before District Judge Mick Petrucci and released on \$40,000 unsecured bail.

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Campus News

Take a Journey with the Bucks Travel Club

SYDNE PATCHELL
Centurion Staff

Bucks offers little-known chances to visit interesting locations in places in different cities along the East Coast as part of the Travel and Trips organization.

So far there have been trips to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. These trips are for students or anyone who wants to travel, but don't feel comfortable traveling to these cities on their own.

If you are wondering how you can buy tickets, there are two ways. Go on the Bucks homepage under Student Life and click on Trips & Travel. You can purchase tickets online or in the Rollins Center in room 122. Trip Coordinator, Heather Kouveras, of Washington Crossing explained "You don't have to be a student to go, but as a Bucks student you get an amazing price!"

Another great reason to buy tickets soon is because they sell out really fast. The Longwood Gardens trip has seven tickets left. Also, some classes offer extra credit opportunities to students who attend trips which make it a win-win!

According to the Bucks website, "All trips are chartered using a local and insured charter company. Most trips use air-conditioned & lavatory equipped motor coaches." Additionally, all trips are rain or shine, but if the college is closed for bad weather, the trip will be cancelled and refunds will be given.

The group was able to visit the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. and go on a food tour in Greenwich Village in New York City. Kouveras explained "trips are structured but also give people free-time to roam around as they please." Tour guides offer lots of suggestions for places to shop and eat which is not something you could get for free if you went on your own.

People enjoy taking pictures, seeing mon-



uments and historical museums, going ice skating, and eating some great food. And not to worry, there are three more trips to sign up for! The club will travel to New York for the holidays on Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday Dec. 16. And on Saturday, Dec. 9 the club will visit the Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa.

LongwoodGardens.org describes their "exquisite conservatory" as "reminiscent of the splendor of France's Versailles with fanciful topiaries, imaginative wreaths, ornate mirrors, and more than 50 trees trimmed in classic holiday hues and sparkling crystal ornaments.

The magical garden doesn't consist of only trees, shrubs, and flowers but also thousands of floating cranberries, apples, and gilded walnuts to really attain the French look. Outside Longwood Gardens "...offers colorful fountains dance to holiday music, strolling carolers, and a wonderland of a half-million twinkling lights await."

If you like to see beautiful and bright things during the holiday season consider taking a trip with the Bucks Travel Club.

Holiday Gift Ideas for a Broke College Student

TAYLOR MARZI
Centurion Staff

It's the most wonderful time of the year and that means giving gifts to your friends and family for the holiday season, which may be tough since you're a college student and most likely have limited funds. The upside is there are many ways to give thoughtful presents without breaking the bank.

One factor that will help you find a great inexpensive gift is to know where to shop. There are many bargain friendly department stores to find good quality items for half the original price such as Marshalls, TJ Maxx, Homegoods,

and Ross.

Melissa Middleton, 20, an environmental science major from Levittown and an employee at Marshalls explained, "There are so many great cheap gift baskets at these types of stores, you will be able to find the perfect item for any of your loved ones in one shopping trip! We have gift baskets full of food, coffee, and even bath and body products. We even have gift cards as well."

A great idea for the creative



college student would be to try "Do It Yourself" gifting. Nothing says "I love you" more than something that is made from the heart. If you're a student who has artistic, creative ability, a piece of artwork, such as a painting or a scrapbook, are great inexpensive gifts to give!

Shannon Kilpatrick, 20, an art student at Temple University does just that, "I buy supplies from Mi-

chaels or AC Moore and will make canvas paintings for my friend's dorm rooms or even my family member's homes. It's nice to receive a piece of artwork that someone made specifically for you and will last a lifetime."

Though the years of making a mixtape for a boyfriend or girlfriend may be over since the extinction of cassette tapes, college students can still do the romantic gesture of making their sweetheart a playlist on a music streaming app such as Spotify.

Nothing is more romantic then someone playing that special someone a love song and saying "This made me think of you."

A nice touch to the playlist idea could include a piece of jewelry or a cute couple picture in a nice frame.

There are countless other inexpensive gifts to give. Christopher Evans, 21, a business administration major from Levittown, said "My girlfriend loves fuzzy socks and that's always a gift that I get her every year with other stuff. Girls always love fuzzy socks and they're cheap!"

The holidays don't need to be a financially stressful time for a college student who already has many other expenses to worry about. With some creativity or a trip to the art store it's easy to wow that special someone and let them know you're thankful for them this holiday season.



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Arts & Entertainment

Bucks Winter Concerts One-Woman Show Looks at

CONNOR DONAGHY
Centurion Staff

Bucks students will demonstrate their musical talents in a string of upcoming winter concerts. The performances will all be held within the next month with the first performance beginning Nov. 29.

The music program at Bucks, which is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music, offers students a way to further their talent and major in music as well as earn scholarships to four-year music institutions. Every so often, the students and faculty of the music department will showcase their talents to the public in concerts such as the ones coming up.

Associate Professor of Music at Bucks, Rochelle Reed, will direct a concert choir on Nov 29. The choir made up of some fifty voices will perform at the Presser Room at 7:30 pm. Mark Pultorak, Bucks music professor, will conduct his percussion ensemble alongside Reed. The Presser Music Room, is located inside the Music and Multimedia Center, at the Newtown campus.

On Thursday, Dec. 7, the Bucks jazz orchestra will play at 7:30 pm. The concert will take place at the Zlock Performing Arts Center which is in the Gateway Center. The concert will be directed by Jeff Baumeister, a jazz pianist and member of the music faculty at Bucks. The orchestra will perform an array of songs to the audience.

From the classical tunes of the Big Band era, jazz standards, and newly composed works of today, the jazz orchestra promises

to showcase their talent to and please the audience with all the jazz music they want to hear.

The concert is free and open to the public. Tickets are available on the Bucks website under events and tickets.

Professor Rochelle Reed will also be directing and singing with a choir which will take place at an upcoming concert on Sunday, Dec 17. This final part of the concert series will end the series on a high note.

The Madrigal Singers of Bucks will perform at the Friends of Music Concert. The concert is to be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Solebury, Pennsylvania. The church is located on 6587 Upper York Road in Solebury.

The concert which begins promptly at 4 pm, will also feature Trinity’s own choir. The Madrigal singers are set to perform alongside the Trinity Choir and an orchestra with a performance of Messiah.

Messiah, composed by famed German composer George Frideric Handel, is an oratorio which features an orchestra, choir, and soloists. Messiah, which also incorporates religious themes from King James Bible, is a perfect way to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season for Christians and music lovers alike.

Tickets for the Friends of Music concert are \$20 for adults and \$10 for Bucks students. The tickets are available through Trinity Episcopal Church’s website.

Alcoholism & Recovery

MAIA VAN VALKENBURGH
Centurion Staff

“Drunk with Hope,” a one woman play that talks about the stories of recovering alcoholics, was written and performed, free to the public, by Tara Handron in the Zlock Performing Arts Center at Bucks on Thursday, Nov. 16.

The set was minimal; only six wooden chairs sat askew on an otherwise empty stage.

Tara Handron, the one-woman performer, wore an all-black outfit. The stage was lit with a warm wash alternating with a cooler blue wash as Handron switched in and out of the vignettes.

The show, which ran approximately one hour in length, switched between Hope’s monologue addressing the audience about her journey of recovery and short monologues of different characters on their own journey of recovery.

Through comedy and wit, she depicts stories of women who vary in the way they deal with alcoholism.

The writer and star of the play, Tara Handron, is the current vice president in the Greater Washington, DC area for the Caron Treatment Centers, a nonprofit organization which focuses on the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction.

According to her website, with her M.A. in communications, culture, and technology from Georgetown University and her B.F.A. in drama and performance at New York University, she wrote



Tara Handron. this play with hopes “to spread awareness about the disease of alcoholism and recovery and reduce stigma.”

Through her performances she hopes to “elicit emotions, provoke thoughts in people, and inspire them to take action in their own life.”

The play has been performed in a variety of venues from theater festivals, public performances, conferences, recovery-related events and treatment centers, and colleges all across the country stretching from New York to L.A.

Tickets for the play were free to the public and it drew up a considerable crowd with roughly 100 people in attendance.

One of the people in attendance was Conor Sears, a 20-year-old business administration major from Holland, PA.

He said. “‘Drunk on Hope’ was entertaining for the first half, but lost me towards the end because it became repetitive; there was nothing new happening after a while.”

PHOTO CREDIT: TARAHANDRON.COM

The performance features numerous characters with their own experience with alcoholism.

Some characters are angry with the process of recovery and are frustrated that all the books just keep telling them the same exact thing without helping at all.

While other characters are shy and ashamed of going to alcoholics anonymous meetings, but feel like it’s better than waking up in or near vomit night after night.

She ends the show as Hope and leaves the audience with a powerful message, citing something her uncle told her: “this will be you some day; [the definition of] restore. To bring back to life, to bring back to health, to bring back to a normal condition, to a state of vigor, to a former condition, a better condition, to give back anything lost or taken away.”

She says “alcohol took me and many others away, we were lost. But one day at a time and one meeting at a time, hope has been restored.”



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Sports

Women’s Soccer Finishes Out Season with 10-6 Record

MACY MOORS
Centurion Staff

The Bucks women’s soccer team of 2017 made a lasting impact on the program that will continue to build towards its future endeavors. With their overall successes and failures, this is their season wrap up.

Bucks ended the regular season with a record of 10-6 overall, 8-4 in the region and 5-1 in the conference earning them a share of the EPAC Championship with Northampton Community College.

The Lady Centurion soccer team traveled to Kean University and faced Union County College on Saturday, Oct. 21 in the quarterfinal round of the Region XIX Playoffs and unfortunately fell short to Union in a hard battle of 0-2.

Although it may have been the end to their season, their talent and heart achieved many accomplishments for the program.

To start off, they beat records

within the years of the program itself. They had the most amount of wins the women’s team has ever accomplished in a season. Sophomore Forward, Brooklynn Smith, had most goals and points in a season and career.

Holly Bowser, Sophomore Goalkeeper, beat the program’s most shutouts for a season with six total shutouts and eight career shutouts, nearly leaving her to almost beating the men’s shutout record. The 2017 team also tied the program’s record with having the same amount of assists, a total seven.

Not only was the women’s team capable of exploiting their own program’s records but they achieved many awards for their conference and region as well. Smith, Sophomore Defender Macy Moors, and Bowser were all honored on EPAC Women’s Soccer All Conference Team that only a total of 11 women in the conference would make.

Smith was awarded Conference Player of the Year and Head



Coach Matt Giordano was honored Co-Coach of the year with Head Coach of Northampton, Scott Cullen.

Four Lady Centurions were awarded REGION XIX Soccer All-Region Teams as well.

Bowser and Freshman Midfielder Teresa Yeager were announced to Third Team All-Region, Moors to Second Team All-Region, and Smith to First Team All-Region.

Six of the Lady Centurions will be graduating this year, leaving

nearly half of the team left for next season. Their hard work, dedication, and heart has created higher expectations for the women’s program in seasons to come and they will get back to work in the spring.

Bucks Centurions Finish Second In Eastern PA Conference, Make Region XIX Playoffs Again



DAVE KUEBLER
Centurion Staff

The Bucks Men’s Soccer team had another solid season this year with a record of 11-7-1. The Centurions finished second in the Eastern PA Athletic Conference, and made the Region XIX playoffs.

Bucks has had a long history of success in men’s soccer, making the playoffs in 10 of the last 11 seasons.

Bucks has also achieved a national ranking, while dealing with transfers the Centurions have still been able to add multiple championships to their trophy case in arguably the toughest Region in the country.

The Centurions were forced to alter the starting lineup on a regular basis after a season riddled by injuries as well as scheduling conflicts that forced several players to miss a large chunk of the season after two players had to take classes only offered during the time of the games.

The team was very balanced, with many second year players providing experience, in addition to several talented first year guys to round out the squad. The experienced Centurions were still able to boast a 10-game winning streak in the middle of the season.

Among those players, a few of them were rewarded with Regional and Conference honors. All-EPAC first team honors went to: Darius Czneriak (Midfielder), Igor Lupisella (Defender), Josiah Thompson (Goalkeeper), Joseph Berry (Forward).

All-Region second team was rewarded to Josiah Thompson, Howard Haas (Defender) and third team honors for Igor Lupisella. Thompson was second in voting for All-Conference and was nationally ranked in saves and save percentage.

A few of the highs during this season were big wins against then nationally ranked Rowan College at Gloucester County, Manor College, and a playoff win against Delaware County Community College.

Head Coach Justin Burroughs talked about the focal points for his team by saying, “We value doing things the right way on and off the field, which includes grades, behavior, and community service.”

Burroughs message was far more than just words, as reflected by the team’s efforts in aiding the less fortunate. The Centurions spent hours committed to community outreach, with services at the Ronald McDonald House visiting with kids and their families, and making utensils for the local homeless shelter, all taking place on their own time.

Coach Burroughs summed up his team’s season fondly by saying, “We had a good season that I am proud of.” He added, “I’m not sure if we overachieved, but we did obtain some of the goals that we set for the season.”

Burroughs talked about the upcoming season by saying, “With a strong freshman class, we are set to make another run at the highly coveted Regional championship.”

An Uphill Battle for Men’s Basketball Team With 2-6 Start

ELIJAH PITTMAN
Centurion Staff

Centurions Men’s Basketball is off to a rocky 2-6 start, after having high expectations set forth before the season.

Frank Copestick, Centurions assistant coach, talked about the year by saying, “The season is not a race, it’s a marathon.” He added, “A lot of season is left to be played, we are optimistic as a staff and as a team and still feel strong about our expectations.”

Copestick talked about the players still having a strong work ethic and a strong chemistry by saying, “Practice doesn’t make perfect, practice makes better.” He added, “Guys are in the gym more than once a day working hard on their game, we have a great group of guys who all work very hard and all have a tight bond.”

Somah Slewion, 20, is a business major at Bucks, as well as team captain and leading scorer. Slewion talked about not being happy how things are going but believes things are going to turn around by saying, “This isn’t how I expected us to start the season, and guys need to pick and up and play with more heart.” He added,

“I am not about losing and we will turn things around, changes will happen soon enough.”

Damier Meadows, 18, a sports marketing major, and arguably one of the best shooters on the team said, “I do not understand why we are losing, like we are losing.” He added, “We have the players with the talent, we just aren’t executing what the coaches teach us.”

Meadows continued by saying, “Something is going to have to change, I don’t want to waste time losing games when I know we can win.” He added, “Guys just have to get it together and play harder so we don’t let our coaches down.”

Julian White, 17, another sports marketing major, talked about wishing he could do more for the squad by saying, “I wish I could do more for the team but I can only do so much.” He added, “I am just going to give it my all when I have the chance.”

White also added, “I am learning a lot during practice and I am trying to use it to expand my game to a new level, I want to be more versatile.”

Parker Kelley, 18, is regarded by teammates by hustling and



playing hard. Kelly gave his thoughts on the season so far by saying, “So far the season has been very disappointing and surprising, I thought we were going to be way better than we are.” He added, “It is not that we are not

good, it is just that guys have to play smarter and harder, it is that simple, whatever coach tells us to do we have to do it.”

Kelley added, “I believe we can turn things around and make noise for the rest of the season as fast

as we lost six, we can just as fast win six.”

Even though the season did not start as well as what the team thought, the Centurions are optimistic that they can turn things around and make noise.