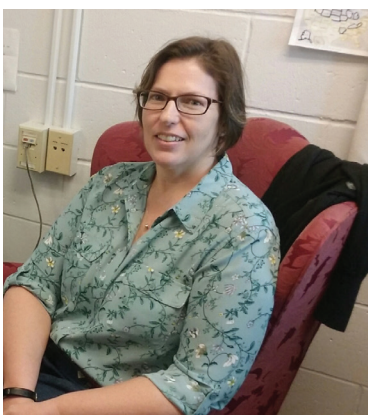


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Bucks Increases Tuition by \$15 a Credit for Fall 2019



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG

Centurion Staff

Facing reduced revenues and declining enrollment, Bucks recently raised tuition by \$15 per credit for county residents beginning in Fall 2019, a change from previous years when tuition was increased just \$5 per credit.

On Thursday, April 11, Bucks' Board of Trustees voted to increase tuition by \$15 per credit for county residents, \$30 per credit for state residents, and \$45 per credit for out-of-state residents.

For a student taking 12 credits, this is a \$180 increase. For the 2017-2018 semester, the county credit rate was \$150. Next school year, it will be \$165.

Bucks President Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt said in a release that "We're committed to providing the highest quality educational experience." She added, "This balanced budget allows us to invest in

the success of our students."

Cole Schug, a freshman in communications, said that "For being outside of state, it sucks." However, he added, "The quality of education is pretty good for how cheap it is."

Schug mentioned, "Other colleges are more expensive, so this is pretty alright."

The cause for this increase is a drop in state funding, and an ongoing decline in enrollment.

According to an article published by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the proposed budget by Gov. Tom Wolf did not include an increase in funding for Pennsylvania's community colleges.

It went on to mention that Wolf did include education funding, but not for community colleges.

Kyle Gallagher, a freshman majoring in business administration, said that the county rate increase wasn't too bad. "It's understandable, seeing as the state hasn't in-

creased funding."

"If they did it again next year, there might be cause for outrage – but right now, it's all fine," he added. "It's already fairly cheap."

Also, a decline in students attending Bucks has been noted. This is after a few years of a relatively flat change in the student population.

Without more students coming into Bucks, there has to be an increase in funding somewhere.

On the tuition increase, Shanblatt said, "It was not an easy decision to make." The increase was to maintain a balanced budget, as to continue providing the services that Bucks is proud of offering.

Shanblatt wrote in a letter about the services: tutoring, the latest technology, and in-demand new programs. She also said that the success of the students is important too.

Lindsey Liebert, a freshman majoring in communications, said,

"For some, it may affect their ability to attend Bucks."

"But, if it funds education and helps student's needs, it isn't a problem," she mentioned. "It can go both ways, really."

For the past five years, the Centurion has reported that Bucks Board of Trustees has increased the tuition steadily by \$5 per credit.

This year's increase comes on the heels of an annual Lobbying Day event in which students, faculty and administrators from colleges across Pennsylvania traveled to Harrisburg to lobby state legislators for increased funding for higher education.

Shanblatt, who is also chair of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, spoke at this event. She argued that more funding from the state "...will support the colleges' vital role in providing high-quality education and workforce training."

Reporters Give Students Look Into News Business at Yearly Forums

NATHAN DUNLAP & TYLER SEALE

Centurion Staff

Bucks hosted the Journalism Forums on April 17 and 18 at the Newtown Campus, offering students a peek at the deadline-based career called "the news business."

For April 17, the panel included journalist Shane Fitzgerald, Dana O'Neil and Mike Sielski. On April 18, journalism professionals Marion Callahan, Tom Sofield, and Rick Rickman presented.

All six of the speakers started small in their respective fields, O'Neil a senior writer at the Athletic started by covering 11 to 12-year-old baseball games. From their it was all uphill, as she went from the Philadelphia Daily News to ESPN covering college basketball, to becoming a writer at the Athletic.

O'Neil is a very successful woman journalist in a male dominated field. As always being judged harder, looked at different and had the odds set against her, she defied the norms and become a notable person in her field of expertise. As Mrs. O'Neil said "you have to be tough, know who you are as a person and to have thick skin."

Sielski received high praise as The Associated Press Sports Editors named him the top sports columnist in America in 2015. The Philadelphia native happens to also be the author of two sports



From left to right panelists Rick Rickman, Tom Sofield, and Marion Callahan

books. Sielski currently a columnist at the Philadelphia Inquirer put out about three to four articles a week.

As he has grown into a household name in the Philadelphia region his views have a sense of trust. Sielski expressed that "people believe what they read" and you have their trust.

One of the most powerful men in buck's country with media and news is Fitzgerald. He oversees content for daily news organizations including the Bucks County Courier Times.

The speakers also touched on the evolving industry of Journalism.

When asked for advice for aspir-

ing journalism majors Fitzgerald said, "The most important thing to do is to get your first step in the door."

Callahan stated, "I started with print, but the reason I am sitting here is that I embraced change and stayed a student."

This showed to be true as Callahan initially left her job at the Intelligencer to learn how to properly create news videos and ended up going back to the Intelligencer to help run their video team.

Callahan continued, "40 percent of the job is shooting and creating video. I really enjoy it and think it has helped me become a better writer." This represented how new

innovations and reporting trends within the industry can help an experienced professional improve a core skill such as writing.

Panelist Rickman is the news director at WBCB radio and gave insight into news radio. Rickman stated, "news radio is evolving as stations have websites and live streams now." From print to video and radio the industry as a whole is changing and will continue to.

Insight from these guests has shown that remaining adaptive and building human connections are aspects that help one survive and remain satisfied with a career in journalism.

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Students Enjoy the Spring Fling



Photo courtesy of Jon Corley



Petting zoo at Spring Fling, courtesy of Jon Corley

JON CORLEY
Centurion Staff

Bucks held its annual Spring Fling on Thursday April 25.

The event is held every year at the end of April. People can spend some time relaxing and enjoying the spring weather during the event

The event is not exclusively for students, but to families and anyone else curious about the event as well. Provost Lisa Angelo said, “I’m grateful for the wonderful weather and not only did we have a great student turnout for students, but families as well.”

The Spring Fling also gives new

students the idea of the events that take place at Bucks. Julian Frick, 19 of Doylestown said, “Its really cool. I didn’t know that we had events like this and I’m glad to be a part of it.”

While the event was planned for April 24, some of the students were taken by surprise by it. Tim Youse, 19, an audio engineering major from Newtown commented about the events advertising stating “I wish that there were more advertisements for it. I knew it was going to happen, just not today.”

The Spring Fling offers its crowd various activities including mini golf, frisbee, basketball, a virtual reality stand, and a raffle stand.

There were also new features added just this year including bounce houses and a petting zoo.

The virtual reality stand gave people an experience in which it seemed that they were on a roller coaster. Anatasina Lebotesis, 19, a Business major from Lower Southampton said, “I wasn’t expecting it to be that real. It was like I was on a real roller coaster.”

The event also had a Culinary Barbeque and Rita’s water ice stand to offer the crowd with refreshments. The food service Director Scott McGrath said, “Culinary is proud to be here a Bucks County Community College.”

Perhaps one of the Spring Fling’s most notable additions was the inclusion of its petting zoo. The zoo had a wide range of animals to view and in some cases, interact with including chicks, ducks, foxes, goats, an owl, a spider monkey, a turtle, a yak, and an alpaca.

The petting zoo had attracted a lot of interest as well as Brendon Lauff, 21, a communication studies major said, “I came last year and I knew they brought new animals, so I decided to come and check it out.”

Software test analysis Robert Bowers also commented on the petting zoo stating, “Its an interactive and comforting experience for

any one who loves animals and it puts them in a happy mood.”

The goal of the event was to make sure everyone was happy and came together in a fun environment. Associate Provost Kelly Kelleway said, “I think this is a wonderful event and I’m glad the weather held. Its nice to see students, staff, and faculty in one place.”

The Spring fling has been held at Bucks for about 20 years now, 16 years under the Director of Student life and athletics Matt Cipriano. Cipriano commented about the event, “The staff has put in a lot of work for this event and they deserve a lot of credit.”



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Profile

Fighting Stage IV Cancer: Keri Barber's Story

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG

Centurion Staff

The day was Aug. 24, 2018. The days of the summer were dying down as September rolled in closer and closer. It had reached 83 degrees Fahrenheit at noon, but it was starting to cool down – a very welcome relief from the heat.

Keri Barber was at St. Mary's Medical Center receiving news that would change her life forever. She was suffering some kind of illness, but her doctor wasn't sure. They had a colonoscopy done, and a few tests were run. "I was so mad, I was gonna have to live with a disease for the rest of my life," she thought to herself.

After some waiting, her doctor walked in the office room with a grim look on her face.

The conversation that ensued flipped Barber's world 180-degrees. "I am floored you have cancer," her doctor told her. "I was in disbelief and in denial, it didn't make sense," recalled Barber.

The official diagnosis was metastatic colon cancer.

When Barber left the medical center that day, the world felt much colder.

Barber is an associate professor at Bucks who always tries her best to be a support for students who struggle in school. "My mission is to be happy, and to make others happy," she said.

Born and raised on the west coast in California, Barber was raised in a troubled Catholic family. Her parents didn't connect with each other, and so that would transfer into the love Barber received

– not much. "I barely heard an 'I love you' from my parents," she said. Their family moved between Washington state and California every couple of years before they finally moved to Montana.

In Montana, the parents bought 14 acres of land. There was no running water and no working plumbing, so the bathroom was an out-house on the property. "It wasn't great," she said. They lived there for a while before Barber's father sold his tools to move out.

Her parents have been divorced for 20 years now. "They can't stand to be in the same room with each other, even today," she said.

Barber was an HR director for Jacob's Engineering in California, and then became an editor and copywriter for a newswire. She would write reports about the earnings companies would send to her, and then they would be published. "Honestly, the thing we worried about messing up was 'public' in a report, we didn't want to spell 'pubic.'"

"It was so boring, I just wanted to read about Shakespeare and teach," she said. She earned her doctorate in English Literature during the 18th and 20th centuries. She then heard about a teaching position at a community college in Pennsylvania, which she simply had to go and do. She took a 40-hour road trip with her husband and two cats across the country to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

"During the trip, we passed by some mountains in New Mexico," Barber told, "and the cats were screaming because the air pressure difference was getting to their

ears." Her husband vowed to never do that again. "Whenever we visit California, we can never do car trips."

She has been a Language and Literature professor at Bucks for the past 10 years. At the beginning of the fall 2018 semester, she learned she had Stage IV Colon Cancer. It took two months of tests and colonoscopies to confirm the diagnosis, "but my doctor knew immediately that it was cancer," she said. "They thought they had caught it just in time."

Chemotherapy didn't shrink the mass the first time around, and so they were concerned. A scan of her liver showed it had likely spread three times. Her cancer markers, a test of a protein produced by cancer, were at a seven, then it increased to 10. Today, it is less than one.

Through the numerous chemotherapies, her liver doctor, Douglas Fraker, has been there for her every step of the way. "He is so soft-spoken, but very funny and positive," she said. He personally visited to check on her every day after surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. He was unlike other doctors who would only send residents to check in.

Barber said that she feels very weak, but also "much more in tune with the world around me." Also, she really appreciates everything that has been done for her. She began to tear up.

"Everybody who knows has been so understanding and kind to me," she cried, "I am just so grateful for everything." The English Department created



Professor Keri Barber, courtesy of Francis Klingenberg

a mural of cards and gave her a stuffed Bucks mascot. And every couple of days, a professor in the department leaves her food in the freezer that she may take home. Bucks itself has been understanding in giving time-off and has been very supportive.

She is also grateful for her family, which has supported her every step of the way. Her husband especially has been helping her get through the effects of cancer.

"I read a lot more," Barber mentioned. She reads a lot of WWII survival stories because, "It gives me hope, you know?" Or she's in her garden with one of her cats, Leonard. Her other cat can usually be found waddling away from even a hint of trouble.

Barber still continues to be a support for her students. Not everyone can be supported she men-

tioned, but Barber tries her best to keep her door open to anybody who needs to talk.

She hopes to be in remission by the summer, and wants to never go through another round of chemotherapy. "It's like microwaving your liver." She also hopes that her family can get through this, and be much happier. "Cancer takes a toll."

She has plans to visit Thailand and Paris. "I've always wanted to kiss Oscar Wilde's grave and add to the collection of kisses that is there."

Even though she may be in pain, and she feels so weak, she still has that same passion for teaching. Something that she's always had hopes in keeping.

"My goal is to continue teaching, it's what I love."

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The Dark Side of Digital

How Social Media Affects Young People

MATTHEW AQUINO

Centurion Staff

Bucks student Ben Sloan 20, gets up in the morning, sun shining on his face as he's ready to take on the day and what it has to offer.

He has his breakfast and a shower and then dresses up in a new outfit. Sloan promptly picks up his phone and checks all his social media.

Instead of going out on this beautiful day and being productive he sits down on his bed and turns on his gaming console.

"This is one of my normal everyday routines" said Sloan. Whether it be before school or after school Sloan said he religiously comes home from school and plays his console. If not after school he plays before he explained. He also said he looks at his phone on a regular basis throughout the day.

Social Media has been a staple in our society for many years and it surely isn't going anywhere anytime soon. Whether it be Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, or even Tinder, social media like these have changed the way people interact and live their lives.

Bucks student Katie Alvarez, 23 from Southampton was asked how social media changed the way she interacted with people and said, "I feel like I'm more prone to reach out to them on Snapchat than talk to them in person. I also feel like I talk more about the things I see on there with them."

Stephanie Gerber 21, an Education major at Bucks had her own take on social media and how it affects the youth. "It makes everyone more judgmental and I feel like everyone that has social media has definitely developed an ego." She

also explained that it's changed the way people even meet each other and how dating has changed.

"Many times, my friends don't even want to go to the bar and meet people, they rather just swipe right or left through a plethora of people on their phones and try to meet them through an app instead of at a social setting."

Sloan and Gerber both agreed there's some sort of thrill psychologically when someone 'likes a photo' that you posted or comments on something you posted.

Psychologists Dr. Henry Karibandi who is based in Warrington with a degree from Penn State University explained the thrill someone goes through when someone's post on social media gets 'liked.' "When someone receives a like on social media, they get a rush of dopamine," he said.

Dopamine is associated with pleasure and rewards and its released when eating food, having sex and even receiving an award for something explained Karibandi. "Essentially anytime a person receives a 'like' it's a mini high that is going off in their brain. The more likes and dopamine being released the more the person craves the positive attention social media brings to them" added Karibandi.

When asked if people pay too much attention to social media Karibandi stated "Extremely to much attention and it can cause many problems psychologically." Recent Studies have shown that certain individuals who use social media on a regular basis can cause themselves a number of psychological problems including anxiety, depression, loneliness, ADHD, and addiction said Karibandi.

Alvarez agreed completely with



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Karibandi and said "I think people pay too much attention to social media, especially females. We see girls on there that look like they have these glamorous lives from their relationships to their appearances without ever thinking that any of those photos could be photoshopped or that posing, lighting or any of those things could change the outlook of the picture."

Also, most people aren't going to post the sad aspects of their lives. I also agree and feel that it gives people a lot of anxiety and depression. Being an avid user of social media, I know myself I have felt like I have constantly missed out.

Not only does social media cause anxiety and depression but it causes people to put on sometimes a fake persona for the world to see. Alissa Roher, 21, Psychology major stated, "Yeah everyone tries to look perfect on social media."

Sloan also added "I agree people on social media definitely try and

act perfect and also try to act like they have many friends but in reality, half the people that are on their social media they haven't even met in real life!"

When asked whether young people are using social media at too young an age, students voiced their take on it.

"I do because they should be outside playing and they're too busy on internet devices and video games, which I guess somewhat have an aspect of social media to them because of the chatting back and forth through the game and messaging" said Gerber.

"If I had a kid the earliest, I would let them use social media would be between the ages of 15 and 16 but I'd make sure it's on lockdown and keep an eye on it until they're 18 and then they can do what they please" stated Roher.

"I think kids should start using social media in high school since that's when they're really starting to make friends to be in contact

with outside of school and eventually will be leaving to move onto college" added Alvarez.

Dr. Karibandi agreed with the students but explained that because kids at a young age are using social media, they are picking up bad habits. "Texting while driving has been considered deadly ever since the start of social media and it's a habit that needs to be stopped!"

According to The National Safety Council it's been reported that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year. Nearly 390,000 injuries occur each year from accidents caused by texting while driving. One out of every four car accidents in the United States is caused by texting and driving.

Social Media has had an immense impact on the way people interact and there wellbeing and will be monitored for years to come.

Some Celebs Face a Twitter Backlash

JOSHUA THOMPSON

Centurion Staff

As awesome as social media can be, it also has its downsides. For every good cause, there's also drama – and if you're not too careful, you will be dragged in.

Twitter, for better or worse, has given us access to see what our favorite celebrities are doing these days. With just a click of a button, you can follow these folks, and see what they are up to.

With as many tweets as they put out however, there's some that might not sit well with those, especially on the heels of the #MeToo movement.

This was the case for Marvel Director James Gunn. Though Gunn was reinstated, he was at one point fired by Marvel over some offensive tweets he made around 2009 and 2010, this coming from the website "The Verge."

Gunn has since apologized for

his tweets, but this opens up a big question: should celebrities be held accountable for what they say online?

I asked Prof. Shawn Queeney this question, using the Gunn incident as an example.

"I think there's a couple of things that lead to him getting let go," Queeney stated. "His employees saw the reaction to these old tweets, and based on the negative reaction the public had, let him go. You can't post stuff on behalf of the studio or workplace."

I also asked Queeney if he thinks that studios have a right to step in and warn workers or even fire them if they post unfavorable things online.

"Yes, it's an employment situation," Queeney said in response.

Anonymity gives people the guise of being a random online internet user, and so they feel free to say whatever is in the recesses of their mind.

"If someone came into my class and said something like 'White people should run everything, we should have segregation,' a lot of people would be disgusted. With social media, it gives these people the comfort to say things they wouldn't say in public in front of everyone," said Queeney.

A similar situation to celebrity's needing to watch what they say online comes in the form of the Vic Mignonga situation.

Vic Mignonga is an anime voice actor and actor who has been accused of sexual misconduct in the work place. He filed a lawsuit against Funimation Voice-Actors Jamie Marchi, Monica Rial, and her fiancé.

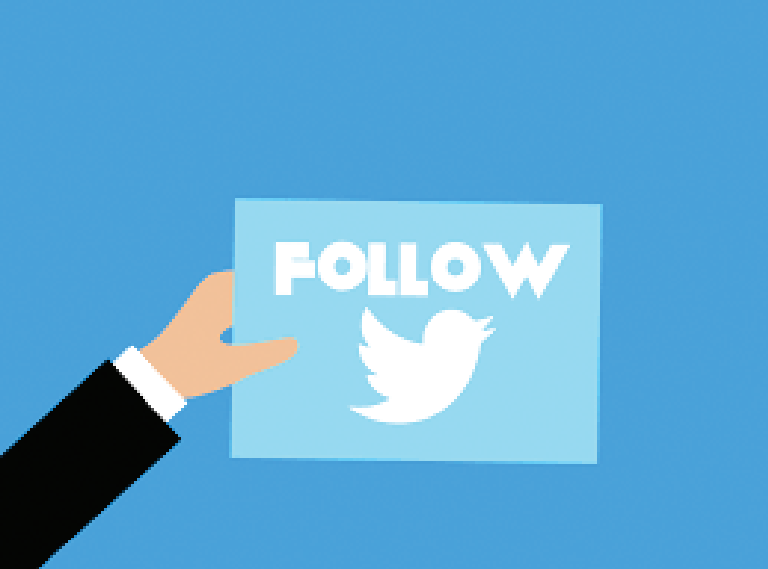
YouTubers such as Nick Rikita and That Umbrella Guy have covered this situation on their respective YouTube channels, with Rikita reporting and telling people what the outcome of this lawsuit may be, once everything is all said and done.

While this has been going on, individuals from the lawsuit have allegedly been posting less favorable things online, such as arguing with fans about the situation, citing proof and guessing who the law would favor in this situation.

Whether you're a big time celebrity, a voice actor, or a normal college student, it's best you watch what you post online. This might seem obvious, but in the heat of the moment, it's easy to forget.

Left: photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Right: James Gunn, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



The Dark Side of Digital

The Disturbing World of YouTube Challenges

BRADLEY HARE
Centurion Staff

A child, no more than the age of 7, is watching “Peppa Pig” on YouTube’s Kids section. Peppa’s family is enjoying a day in the park having a picnic, Mommy Pig is getting harassed by an annoying bee, all seems normal enough. However, in a blink of the eye, the scene changes.

Now a still image of a woman stares at the viewer. Her messy long hair runs down past her shoulders. Her eyes are the size of golf balls, with black pupils only barely smaller than the actual eyes. A smile that appears carved onto her face spreads ear to ear. A threat is made, claiming that they will kill them in their sleep, appearing in their bed, unless they take part in an activity with the sole intention of harming them.

Thus, the Momo Challenge was born, or at least, that’s what it appears to be on the surface. In reality, it’s the latest in a long line of types of internet hoax, with this fictional story being a possibility in the minds of those that fear this challenge. A internet hoax is a message or post online with the sole intention on getting spread, with its real world equivalent being chainmail you get promised something good to happen to you if you share it with a certain number of people.

There have been no reports of any actual deaths relating to the challenge, and any that were made are shrugged off as a hoax due to a lack of evidence, like the 12-year-old girl who allegedly took the challenge. Even YouTube stated that there are no videos on the website that were up for a long enough time that promoted the challenge, as the act of promoting such a dangerous game is against their policies.

Regardless, this does however reawaken the fear and dread for parents, worrying about their impressionable children being safe online from disturbing and graphic content.

Internet personality, Jim Caddick, better known to his fan as Caddicarus, first heard of Momo

through the ITV News station as well as from the school that his girlfriend’s children attend. Having access to the internet for as long as he has, Caddick didn’t panic like others did and saw through this as another powerless hoax. He did however, notice that other people were still panicking and felt like this was a real danger to their kids, and decided to make a video to discuss this alongside other online tricks, titled “EDUCATE YOURSELVES: Beware Of Hoaxes”.

“I’m not going to insult anyone’s intelligence. I know anybody with any semblance of logical problem solving, or any kind of adult in the audience will know, including parents, that Momo itself isn’t real, because, well, just look at it, it isn’t real,” said Caddick referring to the bizarre face of the dreaded Momo.

He was right on the money, as this dangerous Momo was a statue created by Keisuke Aisawa called “Mother Bird”, created on Aug. 25, 2016, two years before the Momo Challenge really picked up steam. The statue itself was harmless enough, being the face of Momo on its rarely seen torso; a body of a chicken, wings and claws included. On March 3, 2019, he was interviewed on the situation, stating that “People do not know if it is true or not, but apparently the children have been affected, and I do feel a little responsible for it.” He also reassured that the statue was already thrown out after it started to rot. “The children can be reassured that Momo is dead. She doesn’t exist and the curse is gone.” Aisawa promised.

Despite this, the fact that Momo no longer poses a threat doesn’t mean there is no danger; rather, the danger is now the mass hysteria that surrounds it. “Any damage being done, any trauma being inflicted, any nightmare and sleepless nights, they’re all due to uninformed mob mentality spreading it around.” Caddick explained in his video. While he did say that despite the possibility of this challenge working and causing a death, it seems unlikely due to a lack of evidence around it.

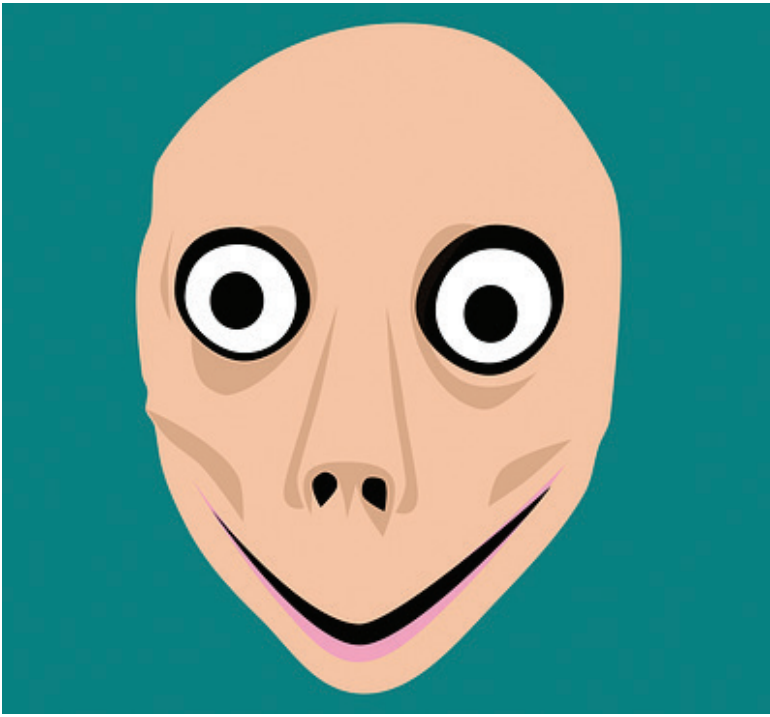
“Learn how YouTube works or simply supervise your kids whenever they’re on, and report those videos that trick you into clicks... YouTube is not a predetermined censorship like movies and TV.” Caddick suggested, referring to how parents need to play their part in halting fear before it gets a chance to spread.

Just like with most horror fads, the memories of Momo faded just as quickly as they entered, fast enough that some kids and teachers really didn’t know it was a thing. In fact, Caddick’s kids wouldn’t have even heard of Momo had it not been for school bullies scaring children into thinking Momo is coming for them.

Psychology professor Wilma Starr of Bucks County Community College had a similar experience to that of Caddick, with the school of her daughter alerting Starr about Momo. According to her research, anything about Momo really killing kids or being the cause of death is just a hoax.

This wasn’t the first suicide challenge that people were scared of; back in 2015, there was the Blue Whale Challenge, which encourages people to go through 50 days of self harm and hating yourself before committing suicide on the final day, with similar threats to their family should there be failure to comply as seen in the Momo Challenge. A suspect, 21-year-old Phillip Budeikin, was charged and arrested for being the alleged mastermind behind this after seemingly driving a teenage Russian girl by the name of Rina Palenkova to commit suicide, alongside 130 other lives being taken from copycat groups.

Even with seemingly concrete proof like this, flaws still pop up as the 130 suicides are also linked from other suicide groups with seemingly no relation to the Blue Whale challenge. There are also the fact that these “curators” of these games being kids between 12 to 14 years old with them never really starting the game. Add in a lack of any real way to prove that this game was the cause of their deaths, and it gets even more confusing, turning into a rabbit hole of



Momo Challenge image, courtesy of google images

madness.

Perhaps the most convincing part of the idea that stuff online can influence you to perform heinous acts is the now infamous stabbing of Payton Leutner, 12-years-old at the date of her near death experience, getting stabbed 19 times. On May 31, 2014, Anissa Weier and Morgan Geyser, both 12 at the time, tried to kill her to appease a fictional creature called the Slenderman, a faceless figure in a black suit who became a widespread internet phenomenal.

Weier was found to not be guilty due to her having a mental illness, and was placed in a mental ward for 25 years, while her partner Geyser was also found not guilty for the same reasons and were given 40 years in a mental ward. It should say something that in order for someone to carry out a heinous act, they had to have some sort of mental illness first, something that only one in five adults have, and even fewer having serious variants of them.

So, if there is no real way to prove these challenges are the cause of deaths, why do so many children think it has power? “Sadly, when younger people access online information, they have a tendency to believe, without a doubt, what they see or read.” Starr explained, already finding the idea

behind Momo to be odd. Not only that, but add in the fact that children and even adults are willing to do some dumb stuff for their 12 minute of fame, and the danger of death begins to climb and add up.

“As with anything one hears, sees or reads, one needs to think about the validity of the claim in three questions; “Does this make sense?”, “Why would anyone do this?”, and “Should one do ANYTHING which is a challenge so that one can be viewed by everyone on YouTube?”” Starr clarified, using old YouTube trends of the Tide Pod and Cinnamon Challenges.

“I understand people have actually plummeted to their deaths due to their trying to get the ‘perfect selfie’ to post on their Facebook site that they didn’t look where they were standing. That’s a tragic and totally senseless way to die. But this story did make the national evening news! But at what cost?” Starr concluded, lamenting on the tragic nature people would go to get attention.

With all this said, the spread of knowledge is a constant trait that is needed to help combat the fear and thrill of doing challenges just to get internet fame. Above all else, there needs to be awareness for the fact that these challenges will only hurt you if you let them.

How the Internet Influenced Anti-Vaxxers

JARED ROBERTS
Centurion Staff

Mumps, Measles and other horrific diseases thought to be obsolete are finding a resurgence in today’s world. All these diseases were thought to be gone with the invention of the vaccine in 1967. However, with the internet being what it is, there is a lot of misinformation online that is indirectly aiding with the comeback of these infections.

According to an article on PBS by Priyanka Boghani, “More than 200 individual cases of measles which the U.S. declared was eliminated in 2000 were confirmed across 11 states in the first two months of 2019.”

The internet and social media have the potential to bring sound information about medical issues to the entire planet. The internet also carries poorly sourced and often just flat out wrong misinformation as well, and millions of people are increasingly believing the false facts.

Not vaccinating your child has become a trend. Many people believe that vaccinating your child will cause them to develop autism.

“One enduring misconception about vaccines stems from a now-retracted and repeatedly debunked medical journal article from the late 1990s that implied a link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Despite plenty of evidence to the contrary, that myth

and others like it has endured. And health officials and lawmakers say that social media has played a key role in the spread of misinformation,” Boghani said in her article.

A lot of younger people are figuring out they were indeed not vaccinated and are going against their parent’s wishes and getting themselves vaccinated in order to prevent the spread of some nasty diseases.

Ethan Lindenberger, an 18-year-old high school student indeed went against his parents’ wishes and indeed vaccinated himself.

“My mother turned to anti-vaccine groups online and on social media looking for her evidence and defense, rather than health officials and through credible sources. These sources that spread misinformation should be the primary concern of the American people.” Said Lindenberger.

Nurse Pat Greeley had his two cents about why children should get their vaccines, “As of right now, I would suggest that everyone vaccinate their kids. There is no study or evidence that fully suggest that vaccinations are harmful.”

“The benefits of being vaccinated far outweighs the risk involved of not vaccinating your child. Diseases such as the mumps are returning after nearly being irradiated can cause long term health issues for your child that are far worse than any side effects of the vaccinations.” Greeley stated.

More recently, there has been a reported outbreak of Mumps at Temple University. Some students have voiced their concerns, such as Morgan McGrail.

“If you send your child off to a public, urban school, or university, you should be willing to vaccinate them to prevent outbreaks such as this,” McGrail stated.

As of today, there has been over 105 reported cases of mumps at Temple University.

Julie Palmer, a Temple student, voiced her concern when she believed she was infected with the nasty disease.

“I thought I had mumps last Friday just because I was sick. That’s how paranoid everyone is.” Palmer said.

She continues, “Everyone is making jokes about it, but I think you can get mumps even if you had the vaccine because the virus mutates or whatever, right?”

Symptoms of mumps include fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite. Swelling in a person’s salivary glands causes puffy cheeks, a signature feature of the disease.

Mumps can be contracted through saliva exchange or something as simple as drinking after them or sharing their utensils.

Tej Patel of Temple said, “The mumps situation is scary here. It seems like every once in a while, I find out someone I know has it. Mumps is very contagious, and it



Photo courtesy, of Wikimedia Commons

seems like the situation at Temple isn’t slowing down.”

Patel does things to stay as clean as possible, “I, myself, make sure that I keep washing my hands before I eat or do anything because mumps is something that can knock you out for nearly two weeks and I can’t afford to get that behind in my classes.”

This outbreak is causing people to fall behind in class whether it is because of their sickness or the paranoia of catching it.

Marybeth Gerdemann, a Temple Student, said, “The fact that the outbreak spread around the university so quickly was a big surprise. Vaccines are important

for everyone, especially for the health of college students.”

Temple has been providing free vaccinations for students.

“I think it is great Temple Health Services took action to provide vaccination clinics this week so students can receive the mumps vaccine and booster shots.” Gerdemann continued.

It is a step in the right direction, however, there needs to be some sort of regulation regarding these vaccines we receive. It is good to have your own opinions after looking up facts, sometimes you just need to update them every so often to make sure your knowledge is still accurate.

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Student Life

Advice for Incoming Bucks Students



JAMES WISTER
Centurion Staff

Starting at a new school can be a stressful and overwhelming task, and current Bucks students have advice and tips for the new students that can help them be successful here.

The spring semester is coming to an end, and the next time most students return to campus there will be plenty of new faces here at Bucks County Community College.

Students graduating high school or transferring from other schools will be starting a new chapter of their academic careers.

Brian Tomes, a 22 year old Accounting major from Philadelphia, suggests that new students become involved at school. Tomes is involved in the sports management club and he said it has helped him meet new people and he wishes that he had joined the club sooner.

Bucks County Community College offers students a wide variety of interesting clubs to join such as the Anime Club, Music Society, Eco Club, Gaming Club, Drama Club, Radio Bux and many other clubs. Incoming Bucks student athletes have the option to play a variety of sports as well.

Cassie Tavormina, a 20 year old

psychology major from Warminster who plays for the Lady Centurions basketball team, believes that joining a sport at Bucks is a great thing for new students to do to get involved. “Playing basketball here at Bucks helped forge the path to succeed,” sais Tavormina.

Finding a way to get involved at school is the most import thing for new students to do. Just coming to school to go to class and then leaving will leave you feeling left out.

Izzy Serafini, a 19 year-old business major from Doylestown, would advise new students to be open to new people. Izzy said, “be as social as possible and reach out

to people.” Serafini also said she has made a lot of good friends here at Bucks.

Besides socializing with new people, there are other important things new students should keep in mind when they start their first semester. The library here at Bucks can be a very useful tool for students who want to take the initiative to succeed. Tutoring in the library is free to all students and you can receive help with any subject.

Edward Ma, a 23 year-old Criminal Justice major from Philadelphia, wants new students to take advantage of all the library offers. Ma said, “I go to the library to get

help writing essays and they help direct me the right way to write it. Take advantage of everything the school can do for you.”

Making the most of your time at Bucks County Community College can be very beneficial to your future success. Bucks allows students to lay the foundation of a successful academic career that you can build upon after transferring.

For new students that arrive on campus, make sure to talk to students who have been here and they’ll tell you about all of the great things you can find here at Bucks.

Rider University Scholarship is an Opportunity for Students



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG
Centurion Staff

Rider University has a scholarship for juniors and seniors that will pay 100 percent of their tuition.

The STEM Scholars program is formally known as “Rider University’s STEM Scholars Future Teacher Scholarship Program,” which is funded by the National Science Foundation, according to the programs site on Rider.

According to a brochure by the program, the president asked on the nation to produce 100,000 new science, technology, engineering, and math teachers by 2021.

The program was started in response to help get teachers into “high need” school districts like Trenton. The teachers teach the STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

It is run by Dr. Danielle Jacobs, an associate professor Chemistry at Rider. It is also run by Prof. Peter Hester and William Larrousse.

According to the site, the program is open to transfer students with an interest in science, math, or education. A STEM focus is recommended.

There are many benefits that come with

this scholarship: stipends, memberships in associations, covered cost of expenses, job placement, and professional development.

This is also in addition to 100 percent tuition support for the junior and senior years at Rider.

Cathryn Jolley is a STEM Scholar who works as a 6th grade science teacher in Hamilton, according to a FaceBook post.

She has been quoted as saying, “It’s overwhelmingly exhausting but so much more rewarding than I ever could have imagined.”

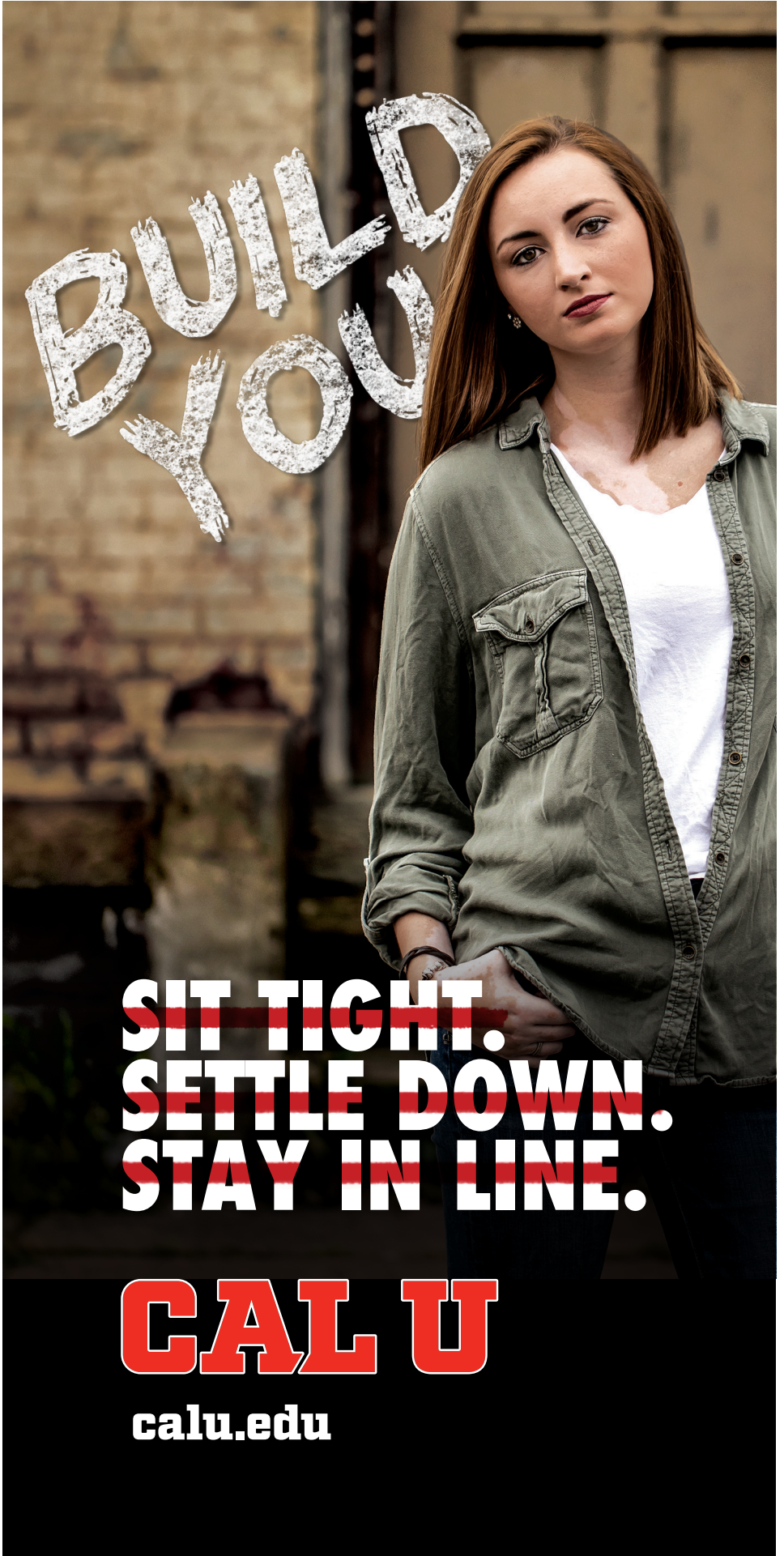
She loves every day, and she said, “I look forward to see my student’s smiling faces every morning.”

She said that Rider prepared her well, and she will always be grateful, according to the Facebook post.

Rider University guarantees in “getting you a job in a high school that is in great need of a STEM teacher,” said the school’s website.

For every year of full tuition support, you’ll be “committed to teaching two years for each year of full tuition support.”

If interested, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/stemscholarsrider>, or contact Danielle Jacobs at 609-895-5667.



Arts & Entertainment

Beyoncé’s “Homecoming” Illuminates Netflix

JAYLA JOHNSON
Centurion Staff

On April 17, 2019 Beyoncé partnered with Netflix and released a documentary called “Homecoming”. The documentary highlighted her two week performance at Coachella, a music festival held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California.

Beyoncé is more than just an artist, she is a visionary.

Beyoncé performed April of 2018 as the first Black female to headline the festival which first started in October 1999.

Artists come together every April for two weekends and perform for roughly around a quarter of a million die hard music lovers.

In an article published by TIME, she shares what it meant for her to be the first Black female headliner: “As a black woman, I used to feel like the world wanted me to stay in my little box. Black women often feel underestimated. I wanted us to be proud of not only the show, but proud of the process. Proud of the struggle. Thankful for the beauty that comes with a painful history and rejoice in the pain, rejoice in the imperfections and the wrongs that are so damn right. I wanted everyone to feel grateful for their curves, their sass, and their honesty. Thankful for their freedom.”

Beyoncé’s performance was one of the best anyone has ever seen,

whether or not you like her music. She gave everything in herself to make this performance a memorable one.

The documentary shows what her life looked like leading up to the performance. She practiced every single day for hours.

Beyoncé was influenced by a HBCU Experience, which is short for a Historically Black College and University. She paid tribute to the HBCU Experience by featuring a full marching band, major-ette dances, and a step show.

In the documentary, they show how she was supposed to perform in 2017; but, due to getting pregnant and having twins, she promised the fans she would headline in 2018. She had multiple health complications, but at the end of the day she is overall Beyoncé, so nothing is impossible for her.

Paige Scholl, a Communications major, was in awe of the documentary: “The movie was life changing. I cannot stop listening to the Live Album. She is a Queen.”

I have to agree, it was something no one could ever recreate, nor imagine what it took for this to happen.

The live album can now be streamed on all music platforms, such as Apple Music, Spotify, and Tidal- which her and her husband Jay Z bought for \$56 million in 2015.

TIME Magazine also released a

list of what one would learn from the documentary. One would learn the following; she wanted to go to college but unfortunately could not because of her music career. Her performance needed to be more than just flower crowns and glitter. “I studied my history, I studied my past, and I put every mistake, all of my triumphs, my 22-year career into my two-hour Homecoming performance,” said Beyoncé.

It has only been a few weeks since it has been released and it already has gotten great reviews. On Rotten Tomatoes, it scored a 97 percent; on Metacritic 92 percent; and on IMDb 7.6/10.

Just recently the actress Sandra Oh gave a shout out to Beyoncé in her TIME 100 Gala Speech. She praised the work that went into the documentary and how she encourages empathy, advance culture and one day achieve equality.

This documentary is very inspiring. Especially for me being a black female, and looking at how she was able to overcome all her hardships- this just proves once you are motivated and determined, nothing is impossible. She is named the Queen for a reason.

If you have not seen or listened to the album already, it is something everyone should do when they get the chance. She takes the old school music and puts her flare to it so all walks of life can enjoy it.



Lightning Strikes Beautifully, Yet Not Twice, in “Shazam!”



BRADLEY HARE
Centurion Staff

The story revolves around 14-year-old Billy Batson, being kicked around from orphanages and foster homes after his mom lost him at a carnival. He’s an out-cast due to him trying to find his mother, even if it means breaking the law. Eventually, he is taken in by the married couple of Victor and Rosa Vazquez, alongside five of their adopted kids. Elsewhere in the world, Thaddeus Sivana, after getting rejected by an elderly wizard in his youth, tracks him down to steal and claim the Eye of Sin, a dangerous magical source that kept the seven sins at bay. With it in his hands now, the wizard chooses Billy to be the hero in a last ditch effort to save the world.

The acting in this film is up to snuff with the best in the DC cinematic universe. The role of Billy Batson is played by Asher Angel, and he nails the attitude of a despondent teenager who is just looking for his mother as well as

the teenager who realized that he is able to turn into a superhero. Zachary Levi, the actor for the titular hero himself, portrays the fear of being granted powers and turning into someone you don’t know, going to joy of messing around with these powers with a sense of childlike wonder, and finally to the acceptance of his new role and responsibilities was done wonderfully.

The villain is equally enjoyable, with the main villain being acted out by Mark Strong, who, true to his name, delivers a powerful performance as the main villain, especially when he returned to claim the eye of sin and to kill off his brother and father.

The parents that Billy ends up with, Marta Milans as Rosa Vasquez and Cooper Vasquez as Victor Vasquez, are ultimately a loving couple with believable romance, but I feel they may have idolized them a bit too much. Granted I understand the reasoning for this to show Billy another positive alternative than returning

to his mother, but the story does suffered in another way with all the children they have.

It’s great to have diversity, but the problem is that when you have five other characters alongside the main character, a struggle for developing any real character traits will form. Sadly, the other kids rarely develop as the story progressed, stepping on each other’s toes for some form of growth or character development.

They are just stereotypes; the gamer who has his head down on his phone or glued to the TV called Ian, the shy kid who I honestly can’t recall saying a single sentence called Jovan, the energetic happy go lucky sister called Darla, are the only two who have any kind of resemblance of a character arc, the college bound Mary with her arc getting aborted midway, and Billy’s crippled best friend who helps him adapt to his superhero life, Freddy.

That said, Jack Dylan Grazer, the actor who plays Freddy, can sometimes go a bit too far with

his speaking his lines and come off as a bit annoying, most prevalent during his introduction. I kept thinking to myself that he should really just take a breath and let us breathe with how fast he speaks.

Thankfully, he does slow down when it is time to be emotional, even if I don’t think he honestly deserved it, with him boasting that he knows Shazam after making him a viral sensation by testing out his powers, even saying he is braver than him for filming the stunts than the stuntman himself, and saying he’ll bring him to lunch at school to boost his social status with his peers. However, this does lead to an amazing gag right before the credits I don’t wish to spoil, so it did serve some purpose, alongside being the catalyst into Billy realizing he needs to start treating his superhero role seriously.

Despite those negatives, when the action shows, it really does. With Shazam being a hodgepodge of different superpowers, seeing them all play out as he discovers them one by one and how Levi

brings out the childlike energy is amazing to watch unfold.

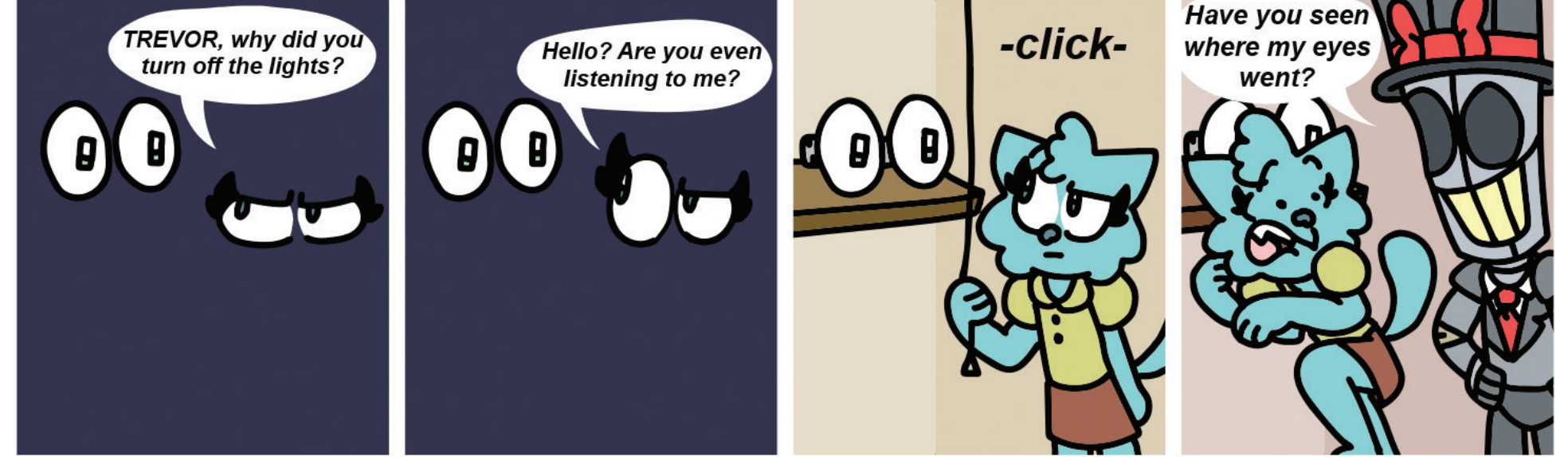
The humor is also pretty strong, with special mention during when Billy brings out Shazam to take Freddy out of school to goof off and try to figure out how many super powers Shazam has, with special mention to how he finds out he’s fireproof.

That’s what the movie’s major strength is in the end; wish fulfillment, and the innocent joy of being that superhero you always wanted to be growing up. We get to see how the gleeful yet childish Billy turns into being a true superhero with morals, yet also still have his own sense of identity and energy. Sure, there are still moments meant to tug at your heartstrings or even scare you, (that boardroom meeting was downright chilling) yet the fantasy of becoming a superhero is still where this film’s strong suit truly lies.

While I didn’t get my wish for developed side characters, I did end up getting my wish for a great main character, energetic fights with great visuals, and humor, and that is more than enough for me.

Overall Score: 8/10

Cindy and TREVOR



BY JACK BRULLIEA

Bucks News

Bucks Live! Presents Bucks Blues Explosion

BRENDON LAUFF
Centurion Staff

Bucks second annual Bucks Blues Explosion featuring Duke Robillard with The Little Red Rooster Blues Band was a fast moving, “rockin’ performance” with all the best blues and rock hits.

This electrifying performance event was held here at Bucks’ Newtown Campus in the Zlock Performing Arts Center on April,12.

Even before the show started people were excited to see the performance. One patron said “I’m really looking forward to the performance, I’ve never seen this before but I heard Duke was a great guitarist.”

The Director of Community Programming & College Events at Bucks, Pete Chiovarou, said “This is our second annual Bucks Blues Explosion and it seems to be rather popular, people seem to really like it and we nearly sold out... I would love for more students to come and support Bux Live.”

College President, Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt, said before the show “I’m really excited to see this and I always enjoy coming to events here at the school,” and “I just wished more students went to more events here.”

A few patrons like Christopher R. also said “I really like Duke and the blues and I’m really happy to come and hear him and the opening band.”

Another patron, Helen S., said “I came here last time and it was really good, I love coming here to the college. I was also here for the ‘Vagina Monologues’ and really enjoy all the events you guys here at Bucks do.”

As the show started the opening band The Little Red Rooster Blues Band (LRR) rocked the house with a sharp shiny harmonic, a terrifying big bass player, a skillful fast-moving drummer, and the red shiny guitarist/lead singer.

LRR have been rocking since 1988 with Kevin McCann on guitar and Dave Holtzman covering the harmony. This particular performance also featured Bob Holden on drums and Jeff Michael slapping the bass.

They have released 7 CD’s of original material to date and were inducted into the International Blues Hall of Fame in 2015. LRR even won the “Best Self-Produced CD for 2019” at the International Blues Challenge held in Memphis, Tennessee.

The was a whole of shaking going on with the opening songs from LRR as they dished out hits from their song collection and other fabulous blues and rock songs.

Songs like “27 Dollars on you”, “Thrift Shop Rubber”, and “Cotton Mouth” rocked the night away with a loud, heart pounding, seat vibrating beat that even a stoic student reporter couldn’t help but enjoy.

At the intermission halfway through the show Dr. Shanblatt was able to say “It was great, this was a lot of fun, and it’s full! It’s nice for the community to come out to enjoy the music.”

Next up on the list was Duke Robillard; an all American guitarist and singer.

He founded the band Roomful of Blues and was a member of the Fabulous Thunderbirds and even though he is known as a rock and blues guitarist, he also plays jazz and swing.



Photos courtesy of Brendon Lauff

Duke rocked the rest of the night away with some great blues/rock songs to soothe the soul and fill the spirit.

At the end members of The Little Red Rooster Blues band like guitarist Kevin McCann were able to say “It was great, this event was a solid blues event, we had great fun. I want to thank the Bucks County Blues Society and the Bucks County Community College for having us”.

Dave Holtzman, harmonic, said “This was a stellar crowd; we weren’t expecting all that, this event very well represents the blues community.”

Jeff Michael, bass player, said “We would also like to thank Duke, who is a legend and national treasure, for being able to open up for them.”

This show seemed to be well liked and well received by those in attendance and it was a fun Friday night music event here at Bucks.



Student Who Made Threat is Sentenced

SARAH SIOCK
Centurion Staff

Former Bucks student Sarah Squitieri has plead guilty to accounts of disorderly conduct and was sentenced to two years probation after allegedly calling in a fake bomb threat that closed the Newtown campus back on Sept. 26, 2018.

Newtown Township Police stated that on Sept. 25, Squitieri made an anonymous tip to the police claiming that a person named “Karl” sent her a group of text messages that said he planned to commit acts of violence against the campus by using weapons of mass destruction, namely of the explosive variety.

Squitieri was traced as the source of the anonymous tip and was called in for an interview. According to police, during the interview she provided information that contradicted her previous statements to officers.

Through additional investigations, detectives were able to determine that Squitieri had provided false information concerning the phony threat and that there was no credible threat to the college.

Bucks campus security also provided the police force with additional assistance during the investigation.

Dennis McCauley gave a statement, “The Office of Security & Safety would like to thank the Newtown Township Police Department and the Bucks County District Attorney’s Office for their professionalism in bringing this case to an appropriate conclusion.”

Squitieri was taken into custody on Oct. 4, 2018, and was charged with threats to use weapons of mass destruction. Her bail was set

at \$100,000. Squitieri was unable to post bail and was sent to Bucks County Correctional Facility in lieu of the money.

This was Squitieri’s second incident at Bucks. In November 2017 she got into trouble when she pepper-sprayed Pastor Aden, the infamous religious protester who visits the Newtown campus to perform his radical rallies.

Squitieri was set to appear three times in the Court of Common Pleas in front of the Honorable C. Theodore Fritsch, Jr.

Squitieri’s first court appearance took place on Oct. 17, 2018. She was arranged and told her charge; the report of the knowledge of a bomb threat without the knowledge of a bomb.

Her second court appearance was another arraignment on Nov. 14, 2018. This arrangement was waived. However, her original charge stayed.

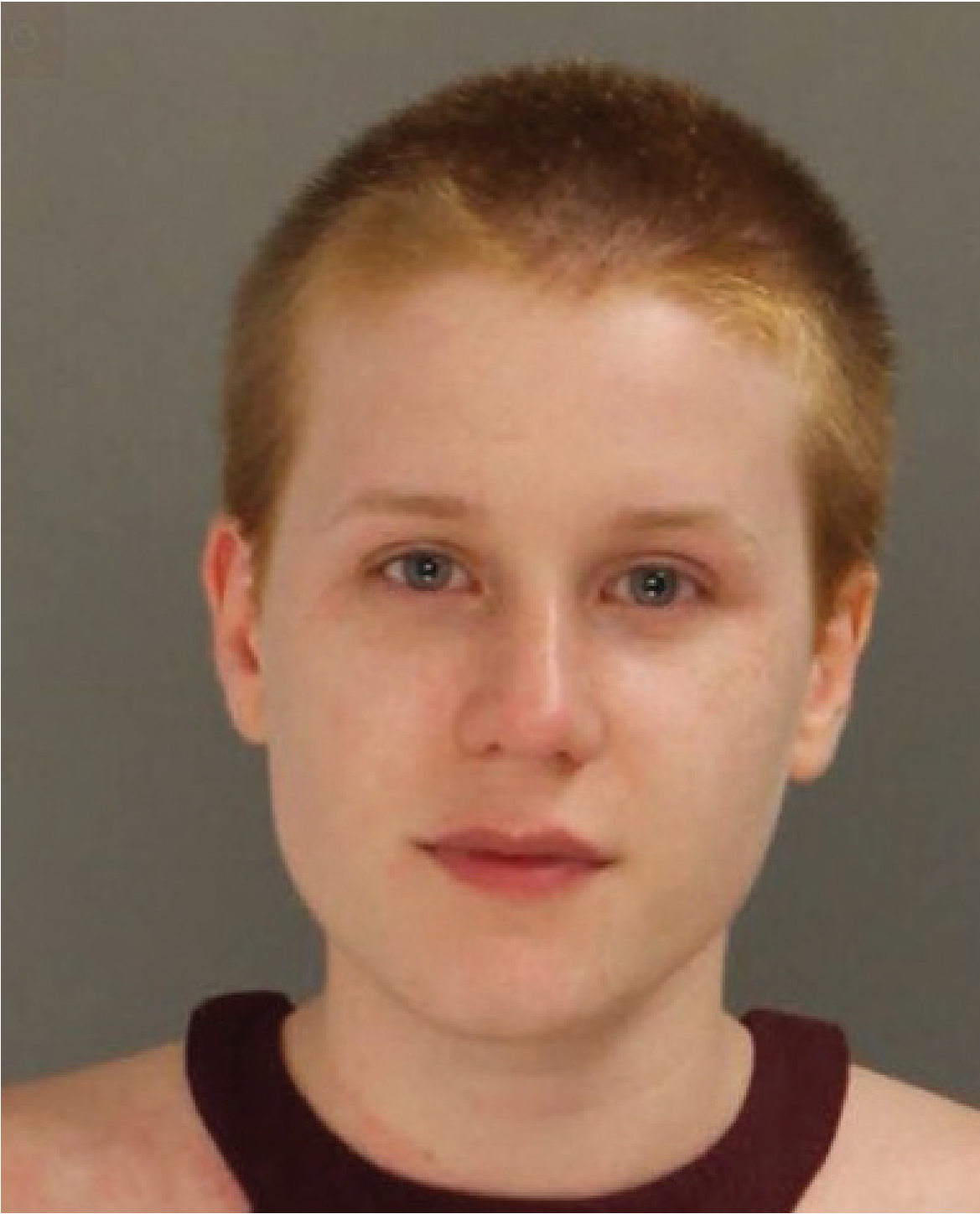
Squitieri’s series of court earings ended on March 13, 2019. During her third and final court appearance Squitieri faced an additional two charges of disorderly conduct.

She plead guilty to both charges of misconduct and was sentenced. Squitieri’s original charge of the report of knowledge of a bomb threat without the knowledge of the bomb itself was dropped during this hearing.

Squitieri was sentenced to serve two consecutive years of probation and to continue mental health treatment. Squitieri is also required to pay a number of different costs.

Her second year of probation has the possibility to be dropped if she complies fully to the conditions of the probation in the first year and pays her fees.

Squitieri’s sentence came with a



Sarah Squitieri, courtesy of crimewatchpa.com

special condition to have no contact with Bucks County Community College.

Back in October, Bucks Student Shayna Lopez McClain, who knew Squitieri, spoke to the Centurion in regard to the incident.

“I don’t know why she did this, but I know she was not trying to hurt anyone and definitely did not mean for things to go this far,” said McClain.

Around Bucks County

Drunk Driving Still a Major Problem in Bucks County

MATTHEW AQUINO
Centurion Staff

Drunk Driving is a serious issue that sometimes goes unnoticed but affects individuals all around the country and has caused countless deaths and injuries to many in the state of Pennsylvania.

Paige Seibert, a woman who is 22 and a resident of Doylestown, lost her older brother Sean Egan, a 28-year-old man, to a drunk driving car accident on Christmas Eve last year. Seibert and her family were devastated and she stated, “No holiday will ever be the same.”

Seibert continued, “My brother was a great person who was minding his business driving home to see us on Christmas Eve and because of someone’s horrible judgement he was innocently killed.”

Every year PennDOT publishes statistics for drunk driving incidents in the state of Pennsylvania. A list is composed of the counties with the highest number of drunk-driving related fatalities. According to PennDOT Bucks County is ranked high on the list with an astounding 13 deaths due to drunk driving. These were updated statistics for 2017.

Officer Brandon Bolton of Central Bucks Regional Police Department commented, “I have unfortunately been at many scenes where there has been a drunk driving incident and have prevented many more by handing out DUI’s.”

Bolton added, “The problem with giving out a DUI is an individual will get their license taken away but even though it’s gone they still go out, get drunk and get

in a vehicle and drive.”

Bolton’s longtime partner on the force Officer Mike Andrews agreed and stated, “There needs to be stricter laws passed to prevent drunk driving from occurring, it’s a simple problem that can be fixed.”

Judge Jonathan Halbom of Bucks County Justice Center located in Doylestown had a lot to say on the issue of drunk driving and DUI’s. “I have been a judge for over 15 years and have served at many different courts and its astonishing how many individuals per week come in because of DUI’s.”

Halbom said, “It saddens me when I get certain people for a DUI and within a year or two, they are back in the courtroom with the same issue.”

Halbom explained that the state of Pennsylvania has a real problem with how they discipline people who receive a DUI. He noted that even though there have been positive changes put into effect that the laws need to be stricter to prevent deaths and injuries in the foreseeable future.

In May 2016, Gov. Tom Wolf signed a law requiring motorists convicted of driving with a Blood Alcohol Content of greater than 0.10% to use an interlock ignition for one year. This law forces drivers to pass a breathalyzer-type test before they can start their cars.

There have been many efforts by PennDOT and organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) to change these laws and make them stricter for offenders. Dawn Seibert, 52, and mother of



Mothers against Drunk Drivers logo, courtesy of google images

Sean Egan joined Mothers Against Drunk Drivers ever since she lost her son. “There have been many changes made but this is still not enough, the laws have to be stricter for someone who is a second or third-time offender.”

In early October a bill was passed to establish Pennsylvania’s first felony offense of driving under the influence. The bill directly affects anyone with a third conviction of driving with twice the legal limit of alcohol in their system. It also affects anyone who is convicted for a fourth time of a DUI.

Egan’s sister did not approve of the law stating, “Why does it have to take a third time or fourth time for a harsh punishment, I think by the fourth conviction an individual should lose their right to even operate a vehicle.”

She noted that the drunk driver that killed her son wasn’t a first-time offender and that he had received a DUI in the past. “My son’s death could’ve been avoided if it wasn’t for the leniency that is given to drunk drivers.”

Seibert said that she understands that some people have problems with alcohol and even acknowledged that she had problems in the past with alcohol. “Its important

that someone convicted of a DUI get the proper help needed so they don’t make the same mistake, in the end if it saves a life, I can go to sleep a little better at night.”

When Andrews was asked if he thinks that drunk driving can be eliminated, he said, “I think there are always going to be people that drink and drive but if bar staff and anyone around that person can avoid it from happening, I think they absolutely should.” Officer Bolton added, “I do think with the emergence of Uber there has definitely been less drunk driving and DUI incidents.”

Bolton went on to explain that now with the emergence of Uber no one in a group of friends is pressured to be the designated driver and no one is counting on one person for their lives. The fact that Uber can pick people up right at a bar and take all of them home is definitely a step in the right direction.

Mario Fiore, a 26-year-old man, and local resident of Doylestown stated, “Every time I go out with my friends and we can’t get a designated driver we all just use Uber and there’s never been a problem before.” He also added, “I think the problem is people honestly just get in their car and think its alright

I’ll drive home I’m only ten minutes away nothing bad can happen, and then they end up getting pulled over for a DUI or even worst killing someone or themselves.”

With the possibility of marijuana being legalized Judge Halbom sees a risk in the increase of DUI’s given out. “At the courts we already have many drivers convicted with DUI’s for marijuana in their system.”

He added that drunk driving may decrease in the future because many laws are becoming stricter and there are different ways for people to get home now but he does think DUI’s will stay the same or even increase. “In my opinion we need to raise the fines that come with a DUI so it really instills fear in the younger generation to drink and drive or do drugs and drive” said Halbom.

Halbom explained that a large majority of people who receive a DUI in the age range of 21-35 and with higher fines put into place will make it harder for the younger generation to pay off and get back on the road quicker.

“In reality drunk driving is something that can’t be ignored and has to be fixed for the future” said Halbom.



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Student Life

Bucks Drama Club Set to Perform “Next to Normal”

ERIN SMITH
Centurion Staff

Members of the Bucks Drama Club are preparing to perform playwright Brian Yorkey’s rock musical “Next to Normal” at the Zlock Performing Arts Center on the Newtown campus from May 2 -4 at 7 p.m. and it is intended for mature audiences.

“Next to Normal” is a musical that centers on a mother who has multiple mental health issues, including bipolar disorder and paranoid schizophrenia, and how it affects the life of her husband and two teenage children. The show being performed in May is fitting, as it is Mental Health Awareness month, and the show has themes that deal with the struggles of having a mental illness and how it affects people’s relationships.

Cali Wagner, a 19-year-old liberal arts major from Philadelphia, has taken on the duty of directing the show. Though she has acted in in multiple productions in the past, including “The Little Mermaid” and “Bye Bye Birdie”, this is her first time directing.

Wagner is tasked with roles like instructing actors on where to stand onstage and helping actors on how deliver lines a certain way.

“Really, I just want to feel like I can help actors be the best that they can be,” said Wagner.

When asked if she preferred acting or directing, she said, “I think directing was a lot more fun for me because I’ve always gone to shows

and found myself thinking about how I would set up a certain scene or how I would have a character say a certain line.”

Wagner is very excited that the show is coming up, and shares how she thinks the cast will do great, “I love everyone performing in the show, I’ve gotten very close with them because they try so hard to do so good.”

Vice president of drama club Sofia Carrasquillo, 20 years old and a music major from Langhorne, plays one the main parts of the show. After performing with Neshaminy High School’s Summer Stock program and having played parts in shows like “Pippin” and “Falsettos”, this is her first main role. She plays Dianna Goodman, the mother who deals with multiple mental health disorders.

When asked about what it was like to play a woman with such severe mental health problems, she said, “I feel like I’m not a very emotional person, so playing a character who is so hyper-emotional was hard at first. I had Cali and other credible people helping me with the quirks and feelings that are traditionally associated with bipolar disorder.”

She even helped President Nate Brady pick the show to perform this semester with a diverse cast with numerous male and female parts, so that members of the drama club would have a lot of chances to audition for certain parts.

Forrester Connor is a 19-year-old secondary education major from Yardley who plays Gabe

Goodman, Diane’s son. Connor describes his character as the “perfect son”- someone who is smart, charismatic, and most of all, favored by his mother. Though he seems to be perfect, Connor shares that Gabe is also very self-centered and “feeds on the attention of others”.

When asked how he got into theater, he responded honestly, “My mom basically made me get into theater as something to do. And then, my girlfriend became director of the show and really wanted me to do it too.”

Connor also reveals that he is genuinely very excited to have such a leading role for the first time and looks forward to performing in May.

Emma Sabol is a senior from Council Rock High School North who also takes college courses at Bucks., A film major from Newtown, she plays the part of Natalie Goodman, Dianne’s daughter and Gabe’s sister.

When asked about her character, she describes Natalie as “A perfectionist who puts a lot of stress on herself. She is always responsible and had to take care of herself due to her mother’s mental illness and dreams of getting out of her house to go to Yale to pursue music.”

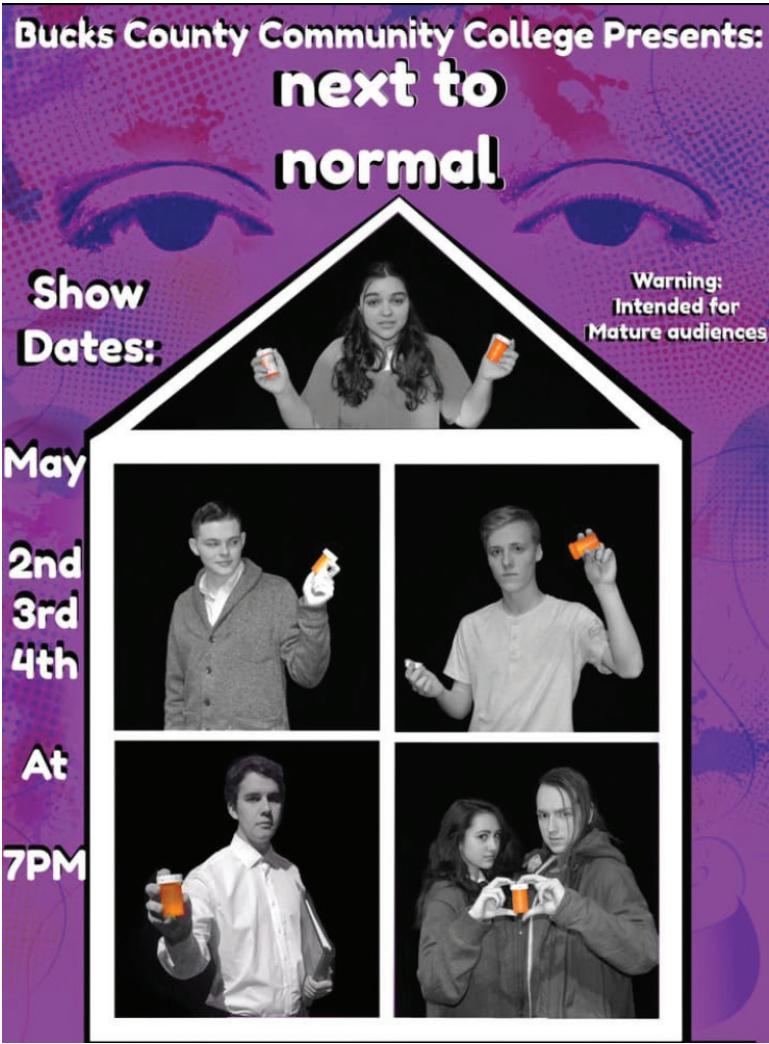
Sabol expresses her fondness of the cast and how they all work so well together, “Its fun to be able to joke around with everyone at one

moment and then have everyone jump right into character and do a scene.”

All students shared how grateful they are to be a part of this production and favor Bucks’ drama club much higher than high school drama clubs. As Sabol said, “High school drama was so competitive and it was easy to see that teachers had favorite students who would always get picked for big roles.”

With Bucks’ program being mainly student-run, actors feel like the whole process is much more collaborative and inclusive.

Students interested in seeing “Next to Normal” can buy tickets online on the Bucks County Community College Drama Club Facebook page, the box office, or at the door. Tickets are \$10 for students who can provide a Bucks ID, and \$15 for general admission.



Where Are Students Planning to Transfer?



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

BAILEE ZELIS
Centurion Staff

Every Bucks student has their own plans, so I asked some students around campus why they came to Bucks, what they like about Bucks, and what they plan to do after Bucks.

A few students that I talked to plan to transfer next semester to a four year university. The most popular school students transfer to is, Temple University, with Penn State and La Salle also common among Bucks students.

Bucks and Temple University offer a dual enrollment plan where if a student graduates Bucks with an associate’s degree, they can get guaranteed enrollment at Temple to finish their Bachelor’s degree. This plan appeals to a lot of students at Bucks, which is the reason that Temple is the biggest transfer school.

Carleen McElderry, a human resources management major, talked about her transfer plans for

next semester. She said, “At first I was looking into schools like Penn State, Delaware Valley, and Arcadia. My older sister recently transferred to Temple as well. She was telling me all about the Fox School of Business, and the more that I looked into their program, the more I realized it was the field that I wanted to go into.”

McElderry also mentioned how she has been at Bucks for the past four years trying to get some perspective on what she really wanted to study. She also talked about how she appreciated the fact that Bucks gives her the ability to take a semester off if she needs to.

Kristian Khrystenکو, a business major at Bucks who is also transferring to Temple next semester said, “The reason I picked Bucks is because you get an associate’s degree, and it’s at least something to show for two years.” He also mentioned that Bucks is a good option for people who are trying to save money.

Another future Temple student Sarah Weinberg talked about

how Bucks was a great place to fall back on when her first year at a four year college didn’t go as planned,

“I was away at college and then I came home, started classes here, and got a job. I said, I’ll do this for a year,” said Weinberg.

Weinberg also commented on how her Bucks experience helped her in the long run. She said, “Honestly, my perspective on so many things changed. It also helped me decide what I want to major in and what I want to do. I felt like I should’ve just gone to Bucks in the first place.”

Bucks acts as a stepping stone in many of the students’ lives, and not always in an educational way. Bucks student Nadzeya Andreichuk, a business administration major, came to America about a year ago from Belarus. She has a strong educational foundation back in her home country, but not here in America. She is taking classes at Bucks to improve her english and simply to educate herself more in order to get a job in

the future.

Diversity is something that Bucks prides itself on. Here you will find people of all different

backgrounds and ages, all here for a different reason. Whatever you are looking for in life, Bucks can help you get there.

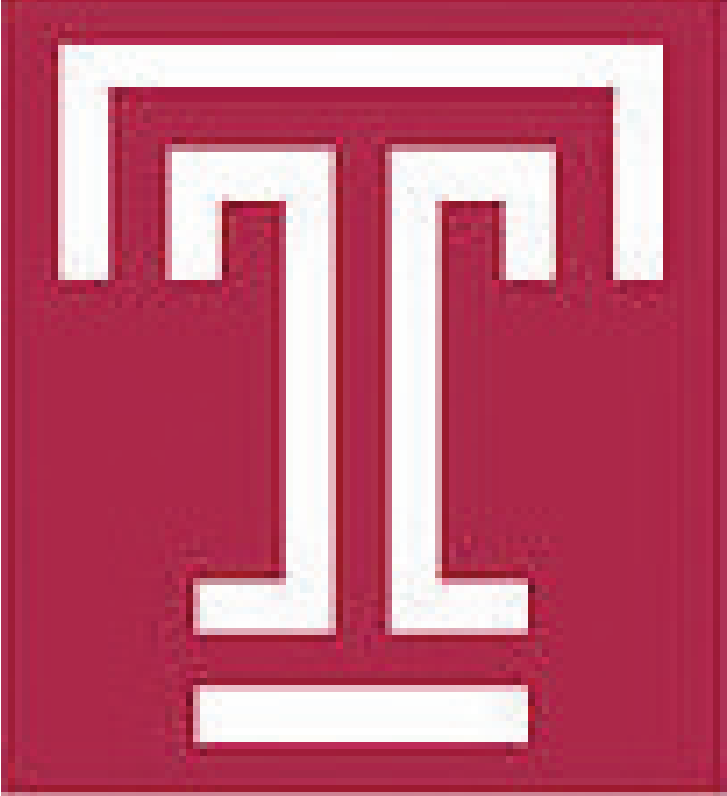


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Sports

Bucks Softball Team has High Hopes for the Season



photo courtesy of Bucks’ website

JAMES WISTER
Centurion Staff

The Lady Centurion’s softball season is in full swing with the conference play just beginning to get underway.

This year’s team has seen great improvement from last season and volunteer coach Megan Finnerty, a 23 year-old nursing major originally from Monroe, New York, believes that her team can continue to improve in certain aspects of the game.

Specifically, Coach Finnerty thinks the team needs most to im-

prove in the mental aspect of the game.

“We need to know what to do when the ball is hit in play,” said Finnerty.

Many of the players on the team agree with their coach’s statement and believe that a lack of communication on field is hurting their play and leading to errors. The most improved player in Coach Finnerty’s eyes this season has been left fielder Brianna Carsella, a 19 year-old early education major from Langhorne.

This is Carsella’s first year ever playing softball and she said she is proud of herself for working her

way into the starting lineup and said the coaches have played a big role in her development. Carsella also plans to continue playing softball going forward after this season. As for Carsella’s goals for the rest of the season, “I want to learn more about the game and keep up good relationships with her teammates,” she said.

Nikki Naylor, a 20 year-old health and physical education major from Levittown, who plays as a catcher, pitcher and center fielder doesn’t think the team has come together and worked as a team well enough quite yet. Naylor does have high hopes for herself and the rest of the team. “We

can work together to fulfill a good season and end up with more wins than losses,” she Naylor.

Anna Dean, a 19 year-old health sciences and radiology major from Bensalem, who is playing softball again for the first time since the seventh grade feels as though she has played okay this season and has progressed as the season has gone on. Dean said she wants to become a better and more consistent hitter.

Abby Schrandt, a 19 year-old health science major from Yardley, plays first base and pitcher for the Lady Centurions. Schrandt has a lot of faith in her teammates and herself and sees great things hap-

pening for the team this year.

“My goal for the team is to try to win the conference and make the playoffs,” said Schrandt.

While this goal won’t be easy to attain, it is certainly possible as long as the team continues to work on their communication on the field and trust each other to do what they need to get done in order to win.

There is a lot of optimism around the team this season and the Lady Centurion’s are going to do everything they can to reach their highest potential. Make sure you come out and support the girls as the fight to reach the playoffs heats up.

Farewell, Wade and Nowitzki



Dwayne Wade, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

ANTHONY SCHALL
Centurion Staff

The NBA lost two of the most influential and greatest players to ever touch the hardwood this past season. Dirk Nowitzki and Dwayne Wade both have officially retired and not only their fans, but NBA fans as a whole, are deeply saddened.

It’s not just about the team’s home city, it’s much more than that. These two players left such an impact on that game that has affected every basketball fan around the world. Nineteen year old Dom Chrzanowski, a criminal justice major from Levittown said, “Dwayne Wade was such a great player on and off the court. He changed people’s lives. I just saw a video on twitter of him giving back to the community and it’s amazing to see players do that”.

Chrzanowski also said, “Dwayne Wade will go down as one of the best Shooting Guards ever to play the game”. He went on and said, “Dirk Nowitzki changed the game for European players. You see all these young players coming from overseas and they look up to Dirk”.

Other NBA fans have talked about how much of an impact these players left. Eighteen year old Ricky Montaz, a sports man-

agement major from Levittown talked about how versatile Wade was. “Dwayne was able to play both guard spots and he made a living from it. He also along with Manu Ginobili perfected the Euro Step,” said Montaz.

Montaz continued, “Dirk created his own signature shot with that post fade and he paved the way for Euro players in the league. All the young Euro players look up to him. His own teammate, Luka Doncic looks at him as a role model”.

Jim Wister, a twenty one year old communication major from Bensalem said, “Dwayne was one of the best shooting guards to ever play. He started the Heat franchise has been a great influence on the community”. This is what separates Dwayne from other players, his ability to be a great player not only on the court, but off the court as well. Dirk made it possible for Euro players to come from overseas and play in the NBA, he was the face of a whole franchise for years”, stated Wister.

These two players have made their way into our hearts as NBA fans. They have made such an impact on and off the court. These two guys will always hold a special place in NBA fans hearts and will be known as legends forever.

Philadelphia Union Season Preview



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

SKYLER HOFFNER
Centurion Staff

The Philadelphia Union franchise will be playing in there tenth anniversary season in Major League Soccer in 2019.

The Union’s 2018 season had its ups and downs but ultimately the club finished in sixth place in the Eastern Conference the last play-off spot. The Union played third place New York City Football Club in the first round and were eliminated from the MLS playoffs after losing 3-1 at Yankee Stadium.

The Union, after having an okay season in 2018, ultimately had the mindset to let a ton of players go from the team.

The team let these players walk into free agency. Marcus Epps, Richie Marquez, John McCarthy, Adam Najem, Jay Simpson, and Josh Yaro.

A couple players were even traded from the Union this off-season as well including, Fabian Herbers to the Chicago Fire, CJ Sapong to the Chicago Fire, and Keegan Rosenberry to the Colorado Rapids.

A big dilemma for the Union this 2019 offseason was to try and retain the reigning assist leader in MLS in 2018 Borek Dockal.

The Czech Republic native recorded 18 assists for the Union in the 2018 MLS campaign.

Dockal was on loan with the

Union for the entire 2018 season from Henan Jianye in the Chinese Super League. Unfortunately the asking price to buy Dockal from Henan Jianye was too much for the Union and they had to let him go.

During the 2019 offseason, the Union added a plethora of players. The biggest signing of them all was Mexican international midfielder Marco Fabian.

Fabian went on to sign the biggest contract in Philadelphia Union history in the clubs 10 year existence.

Some other key additions to the 2019 Union roster were home-grown player Brendan Aaronson, Aurelien Collin, Carlos Miguel Coronel, Matt Freese, Jamiro Monterio, and Kai Wagner.

The Union finished the preseason in Clearwater, Florida with a record of four wins, one tie, and one loss.

Some Bucks students voiced their opinions on the Philadelphia Union’s upcoming season.

Michael Pietrangelo, of Southampton, Pa said “I think the Union will do just fine again this season.”

“They’re evaluated some players from the 2018 roster who never really made the 18 man game day roster and decided to either let them walk in free agency or get rid of them for the 2019 season.”

“Im very excited because the Union never really go after top talent abroad in Europe or South

America but when new sporting Director Ernst Tanner did just that I was in shock.” Pietrangelo said

Ashley Fairchild, 21, of Bensalem, Pa said “The Union are going to have a great season in 2019. The new players we’ve signed this off season are amazing. They come to the Union with some great track records.”

“New Philadelphia Union Sporting Director Ernst Tanner has truly made the fans feel like we’re trying to win something this season. After finishing in sixth place two of the last three seasons and losing in the first round of the MLS Cup Playoffs, it hurt this fan base. I think this season that will all change as the Union will win their first ever MLS Cup Playoff game in franchise history!” Fairchild said confidently.

Shawn Westerman, 18, of Philadelphia, Pa said “From what I’ve heard the Union could be good this season after struggling the last few years. If the new guys they’ve added in the offseason produce like Union think they can I think the Union will make a run in the playoff and could potentially win the MLS Cup this season?”

It seems that not only Bucks students are excited but the whole city of Philadelphia, hopefully the Union will follow in the footsteps of the Eagles, Sixers and Phillies and be dominating the entire league this season.