

2020 Presidential Candidates Making College Affordable?

TYLER SEALE
Centurion Staff

A wave of democratic politicians have recently announced their plans to campaign for the 2020 presidential election, but they all hold a similar topic in high interest, being the college affordability crisis and its possible solutions. Some of these democratic candidates have backed solutions for more affordable college for years such as Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Sanders has specifically supported tuition-free college, so much so that he even pushed his competitor in the 2016 presidential election, Hillary Clinton, to shift from primarily supporting affordable college concepts to embracing the idea of tuition-free college. Warren has pushed for debt-free college, which focuses more on providing students. This has been suggested with strategies such as providing two years of free community college. Lang and Lit professor, Dr. Chris Bursk, saw this strategy as a great opportunity for community colleges, saying, “That could benefit community colleges with enrollment as well as being able to show people what they offer.” Bursk continued, “Two years free at a community college could

help address the issue of availability of education to lower income individuals.” Varying income levels are an obstacle that brings up the question if an education should be considered a fundamental right. Bursk said, “Not everyone has the same chance.” This is proving to be true as most jobs that pay well require a college degree, which automatically excludes individuals who cannot afford college from that career opportunity. Plans that support education as a fundamental right will help lower income students as well as students that are often excluded from opportunities such as students of color to gain equality in education. Another strategy to finance these programs is more or new taxes being instated to offset the expenses caused by some of these politicians’ plans. This solution brings up more issues as it could be seen as taxpayers just taking on the burden college students once did, whether those tax payers will or desire to attend college. This also does not help the millions struggling with debt right now. Bloomberg.com, states, “Debt among 19 to 29-year-old Americans exceeded \$1 trillion at the end of 2018”, which was the “highest debt exposure for the youngest adult group since late 2007.”

Even though the idea of college being debt or tuition free is a sudden and polar opposite of the current reality, The Atlantic.com, provides a quote from policy director at Demos, Mark Huelsman, stating, “That’s the beauty of debt-free college programs: There is a lot of flexibility in there on policy design.” Part of these policy designs that could be a concern is if a certain Grade Point Average, (GPA), should be required for students to be eligible for these programs. Danielle Fish, a paralegal study major at Bucks, stated, “Everyone in debt should get equal financial opportunity to pay it off no matter their GPA.” These candidates running in the 2020 election could be pioneers for the future of the American college system and how its availability of an education will be realistically obtainable for anyone pursuing it. Democratic members choosing to focus their attention on the college affordability crisis could prove to be extremely beneficial in gaining support, as Bursk and Fish said that a candidate trying to find a solution for the crisis would be a step in the right direction to gain their vote.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Historic Tunnel Under Tyler Hall

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG
Centurion Staff

Tyler Hall is an elegant mansion that sits upon a hill, looking over Neshaminy Creek, with unforgettable gardens and beautiful scenery – but underneath that mansion lies a long, narrow, and secret passageway. I met with Tobi Bruhn, vice-president of Advancement and Executive Director of Foundation and Alumni Relations. He was excited to show me this mysterious tunnel. Bruhn and I climbed down the stairs to reach the basement of Tyler Hall. “The tunnel is a thing of interest, not many people know about them,” told Bruhn. We entered the basement, and it was filled to the brim with boxes of files and papers. The basement was spacious, and there was only a narrow path carved out of the plastic bins to wade through. “They’re planning on cleaning house down here soon,” he told me as we passed a stack of bins that had fallen and spilled its contents all along the pathway. After minutes of walking, we

reached our destination: a rectangular opening in the wall with an odd warmth shooting straight out of it. It was the tunnel. Many pipes and wires snaked their way along the walls, while overhanging lights threatened to bang into your head if you weren’t too careful. At the end of this tunnel should be the basement of the Orangery – but all we could see was pitch black. We started our trek into the tunnel. The walls looked like they were once smooth, but had deteriorated somewhat to the test of time. Cracks and discoloration plagued the wall. Dust was caked on everything. In between dodging low lights and protruding pipes, all I could smell was dust, earth, and humidity. “You have to watch your head,” warned Bruhn, “Stella Elkins Tyler was probably short, so she really didn’t have to worry about hitting her head.” The warning was a minute late, unfortunately. “I’ve hit my head many times,” he winced.

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Photo courtesy of Francis Klingenberg

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Bucks News

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Bucks Presents the Vagina Monologues



Photo courtesy of Brendon Lauff

BRENDON LAUFF
Centurion Staff

The Vagina Monologues, written by Eve Ensler, is a play that explores sexual experiences at its best and its worst covering issues like body image, genital mutilation, sexual identity, and sexual violence.

This play has balanced empowerment with raising awareness. Comedy is the best icebreaker in any situation that covers awkward conversations and this play is able to find the best use of comedy when talking about vaginas.

While waiting for the play to begin the only images on the stage were various symbolic images of the forbidden topic of the female genitalia. The play at no point crosses any lines in explicit material but makes several

innuendos.

The “eye of the tiger” and the horror score from Hitchcock’s “Psycho” play as various images flash across the screen, including iconic figures and historical images like Wonder Woman, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and scenes from women’s marches in Washington.

The production here at Buck’s Newtown Campus on Feb. 22 was directed by Margo O’ Moore who has directed other productions such as “Proof” and “An Ideal Husband.”

When interviewed the director said “This is a special piece and history-wise it has evolved over 20 years and is always being updated... This production brings different challenges and issues that are relevant to today’s world.”

O’ Moore also stated “It allows women in politics or prominence to look about the struggles of body image... and the issues and attitudes of the world.”

When asked if she added any personal touches to this specific production O’ Moore said “The script itself gets updated each year and that Ensler, the original creator, gives instructions to the directors of how she wants it to be performed.”

O’ Moore also said, “Ensler wants it to be inclusive and spontaneous... I wanted the actresses to have the feeling of release in discussing and performing with these topics and even better understand the individual monologues.”

Bucks student Cherry Kirumbi, 22, a communications major from

Fairless Hills, was interviewed before and after the play. Kirumbi said “I decided to come to this play because my ‘Intro to Acting’ professor said this would be a good play for one of their assignments.”

Kirumbi also said, “I know very little about this play and heard it had something to do with female empowerment.”

The play starred a variety of amazing actresses with unique skill sets that came to life in this production in a multitude ways.

The play included Shelli Pentimal Bookler, a local actress, director, choreographer, and professor here at Bucks as well as Carley Crowley, known for work with productions such as “Proof” and “The Miracle Worker.”

The production also includes

Becca Finkenaure, Marianne Green, Nina Harper, Diana Irvine, Maria Jarrell, Lauren Kerstetter, Sandra Lawler, and Carlene Lawson. All of which have had extensive careers in theatre/film industry with a couple having experience in voice over work.

After the inspiring play that included various scenes like the flood, vagina happy/sad facts, they beat the girl out of my boy, the little coochie snorcher that could, and I was in the room, a thunderous applause filled the 350 seat auditorium.

After it was over Cherry Kirumbi said “I loved it, it was great, I loved the concept,” and “I was originally nervous going into this because I didn’t know what to expect, but after seeing this, wow amazing.”

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Student Life

Show Off Your Talent at the Tyler Literary Showcase!

ERIN SMITH

Centurion Staff

The Tyler Literary Society (TLS), one of the oldest student-run clubs in Bucks history, is looking for students to submit or perform art for their annual Tyler Literacy Showcase Tuesday, April 16.

The showcase will take place in the Gallagher Room on the Newtown campus and will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Vice-president Cherry Kivumbi, a 22-year-old communication major from Fairless Hills, described the showcase as “an inclusive event that showcases different forms of talent of Bucks students in a friendly and welcoming environment.”

TLS has been accepting any poetry or musical performances from both students and staff, and it has also encouraged people to



bring in physical art to display or even sell during the event.

Food and music will be provided, and anyone is welcomed to

attend at no cost.

This is the second showcase that TLS has hosted, and members are hoping for an even bigger turnout.

President MaryKate McGarvey, a 22-year-old music student from Levittown, shared that “even if you don’t have any art to display or perform on stage, we really encourage people to come for a good time. We have a lot of fun planned for this event.”

She continued, “I’m so excited to see it happen for a second year in a row.”

The club, advised by English Professor Eric Specian, has been in place since the 1960s, when the school was first founded. It has been off and on for several years.

McGarvey explained that officers would come and go as they graduated and moved on to four-year universities. She got involved when a friend stepped up and took a position as an officer.

“When she left, I decided to step in as president and brought a lot of awesome people with me to be on the board of officers, including Cherry, the current vice president,” said McGarvey.

McGarvey believes that with this team, they can really bring honor to the club and artistic value that TLS have emphasized and encouraged in previous years.

In addition to the showcase, the TLS has previously published multiple issues of their art magazine, “The Tyler Lit Mag.” It featured original poems, short stories, artwork, photos, music lyrics, screen plays, and more created by Bucks students.

A new issue of the magazine is published and printed once a semester and is free for anyone to read.

The club is looking for any student interested in or has experience with graphic design or magazine layout and editing to help them work on their next issue

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

of the magazine, which should be published in late April to early May.

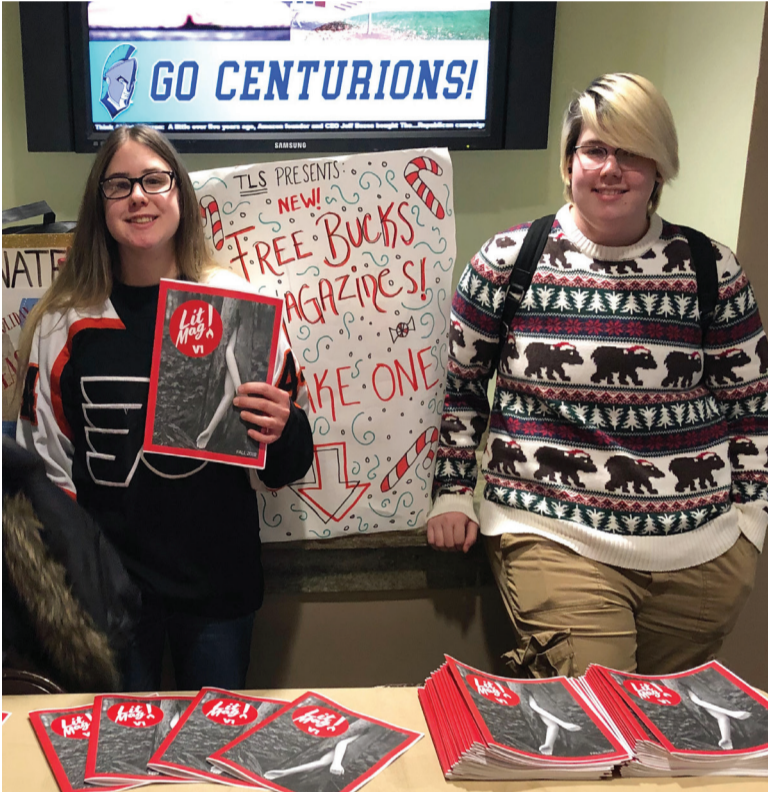
If any student is interested in providing their original art for the magazine, providing assistance with editing and graphic design, or overall have any questions, they can contact the club at theylerlitsociety@gmail.com.

TLS has been looking for new members. If you want to be able to share your creativity through art, music, and writing in a fun and down-to-earth environment, TLS may be the right choice for you.

The deadline to submit pieces or performance ideas to the TLS to be featured in the showcase is Wednesday, April 10. All art must be approved by the club and Student Life beforehand.

Anyone can go the “Tyler Literary Society” Facebook page and follow the Signup Genius link.

left photo, Kahla Roberts (left) and Ash Rose Grant (right), courtesy of Erin Smith



Fashion on Campus

JAYLA JOHNSON

Centurion Staff

Looking around Bucks, there is no unifying fashion sense to be seen. Every student and staff has their own style.

There are students who wear three-piece suits, while others wear pajamas. Some have haircuts picked from the front cover of that hair-style book in the barber shop, while others tried experimental looks.

With all these contrasting looks and styles, it’s hard to see any note of similarity. Everybody had their own different fashion sense.

Nicholas Vincent, 25-year-old communications major, had always dressed to impress. He can make any athletic-wear turn into a runway-ready sports show.

Vincent said, “there are in or out clothing pieces that I’ll always like.” However, he will always try to follow the trend.

“I was a logo man in high school, and I would wear lots of loose fitting clothes,” he confessed. Nowadays, his clothes fit him, and he is more conscious how he dresses.

Mackenzie Mooney, a 19-year-old communications major, had always dressed comfortable and cute for class.

“I’m here to learn, not to impress. Sometimes, I don’t mind a subtle flex,” she laughed, and brought out her Louis Vuitton keychain wallet.

“If Bucks had a dress code, I’d hate it,” Mooney said. The idea of a dress code brought back bad middle-school memories.

Gabby Adornetto, a business administration major, can be seen dressed as she described, “#Mom-sCloset.”

Adornetto worked at the school wearing her athleisure look. When



she isn’t working, she can be seen in her business casual attire.

John Fey, 25-year-old Journalism major, said, “I hate seeing people wearing pajamas.”

Fey was always looking presentable with his pea coat. Throughout the week, he wears either jeans or dress pants paired with a button-up shirt and light jacket.

Fey believed, “dressing nice will have an impact on how people will treat you.”

Anthony DiRenzo, 23-year-old communications major, agreed with Fey. However, his sense of style goes along the lines of, “finding stuff that matches.”

Any average college student can relate with that.

While some try to plan out their outfits for the week or simply pick at random from a closet, Jared Roberts has always lived by these words: “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

Roberts, a 20-year-old journalism major, consistently wears the same five outfits throughout the week. Of course, he washes them and replaces any old clothes – but he keeps it simple.

“My style ain’t broken,” he bragged.

College is the prime time to test out new things – like new fashion. As long as you stay true to yourself, you don’t have to worry about what others think.

Bucks may not have a fashion sense, but it does have style.



Above: Anthony DiRenzo; Left: Jared Roberts; Below: John Fey



News

Governor Tom Wolf Pushes for \$15 Minimum Wage

JOSHUA THOMPSON
Centurion Staff

Pennsylvania may be getting a raise this July, as Governor Tom Wolf, has renewed his efforts to raise the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour to \$15 an hour.

Wolf has proposed that the wage starts out at \$12 an hour, and then increase it by 50 cents, reaching \$15 an hour towards 2025. Wolf has tried to raise the wages before, but plans to move ahead were shot down.

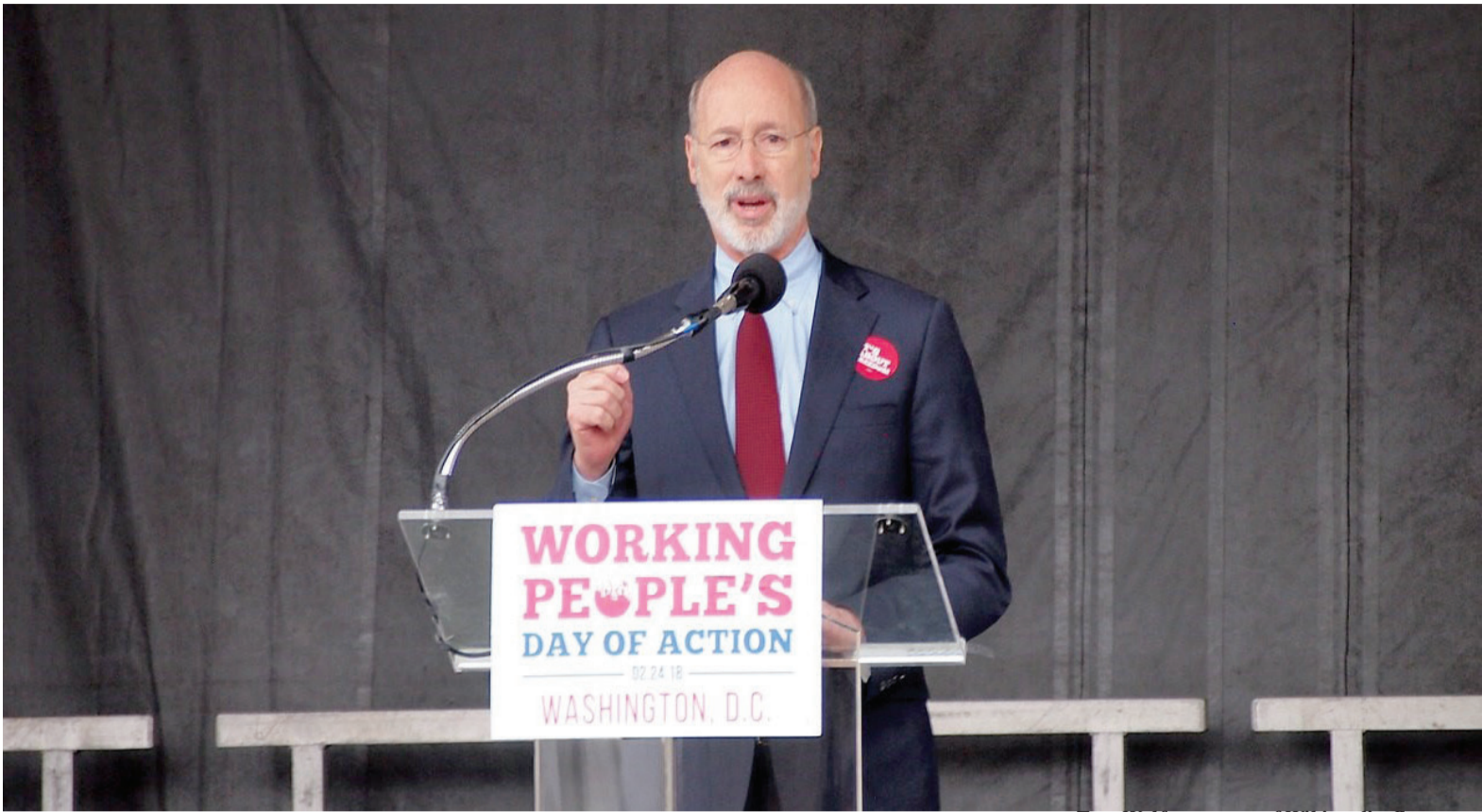
The raising of the minimum wage isn’t something new, as reported by USA News, there has been a growing movement across the country. In 29 states, the minimum wage already surpasses the federal level, and other states like PA have promised to raise and reach the \$15 wage goal in the future.

While this might sound like good news, not everyone is so sure that Wolf’s minimum wage plan will work at so well. Cinema/ video major Avery White from Bensalem, wasn’t too thrilled with the possible minimum wage raise.

“I fear the unforeseen repercussions of a move like that,” White said. “When small businesses have to meet this new demand, and they can’t afford it, they’ll have to raise the prices of their product. Once that happens, small businesses will become more obsolete than they already are.”

Brian Deley, who felt that raising the wages to \$15 was a bit too much, was on board with the idea of the wages raising in general.

“Large minimum wage increases (above 25 percent) of what the



Tom Wolf, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

minimum wage already is almost always hurts the people we are trying to help. I would not personally be in support of raising the minimum wage to \$15. I would however, find \$10 or \$11 more acceptable,” said Deley.

Like White, Bucks student Manny Jones, from Bensalem also agreed that Wolf’s agreement to raise the minimum wage would do more harm than good to small businesses in PA.

“Governor Wolf’s minimum wage raise would be a disastrous score to small businesses in the commonwealth,” stated Jones. “I do agree that the minimum wage

raise that’s deep should be done more progressively and over a longer stretch of time. The governor’s plan would make the wage to go up to \$12 by summer. This would be catastrophic for small businesses who can only afford \$8 or \$9 an hour. The governor is going about this all wrong.”

Economics Teacher Stephen Cocca gave his take on both the \$15 wage, and how and why the wages in states are going up.

“Wages overall haven’t risen much in the last decade, but as of recently (3.1 percent wage growth in October) are finally growing. If people’s wages don’t grow, then

inflation (prices for everything we purchase) eats away at our purchasing power, so everyday families can’t afford necessities like housing, food, etc.”

“So, I personally like to see minimum wage be raised close to the inflation rate (1.8 percent) so families can afford basic necessities. The trade-off and counter argument is that some businesses can’t afford to pay the higher wage and would need to lay people off, and this is true for some industries like farmers,” said Cocca.

Cocca added, “I believe raising the minimum wage from \$7.25

to \$15 an hour (doubling) may be too aggressive and would prefer a more gradual raise to minimize any negative impacts like layoffs or some businesses closing. I think \$10 in the short term and maybe \$15 in the longer term (5 years or so out).”

Nothing is set in stone yet, but by July we’ll find out whether or not Wolf’s plan to raise minimum wage is a go, or no, and for better or worse, if a lot of PA employees who get paid minimum wage will be seeing a pay raise.

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Arts&Entertainment

Everything is Still Awesome in the LEGO Movie 2

BRADLEY HARE
Centurion Staff

Nobody expected “The LEGO Movie” to explode in the way it did.

Not only was the original film successful, but it also launched two spin-off movies, a TV show, a 4D ride, countless toy sets, two airline safety videos (Yes, really), and now its own sequel.

Even though it may not have surpassed the original film in terms of amazement and originality, it’s just as grand.

The plot picks up right after the original movie, with the Duplo blocks invading Bricksburg. After five years of trying to rebuild, only for their blocks to keep being stolen, the citizens give up and rename the city ‘Apocalypseburg’, and it looks just like it’s described: dreary, depressing, and a complete wasteland.

The main character, Emmet, is still his cheerful, happy self. That is until his friends are kidnapped and he has to go into space to save them. After a run-in with an expertly skilled fighter by the name of Rex, Emmet decides to train to be the cool and hard-boiled warrior his friends wanted.

Right off the bat, the animation is top notch as always when it comes to LEGO movies. You can see the rough spots and scratches in the figures, like the worn out details and scuffs on them.

The location’s use the fact everything is made of LEGO pieces to its fullest effect, being able to see just where each block begins and ends.

When in motion, the animation is snappy and quick, furthering the action and the comedy of the film.

The highlight of animation goes to a new character- Queen Wat-evra Wa’Nabi, who, as her name suggests, changes forms every so often, keeping you on the edge of your seat to see just what she changes into next.

Another aspect the film does well- the jokes hit bullseye after bullseye. For every one joke that may not work, five others are lined up ready to make you laugh. Highlights to these hilarious moments are just how insanely masculine Rex is, how oblivious Emmet is to the dangers of his new world, and the songs in this film.

The big difference this movie has to the original is that it is now a musical, with about half of these songs being designed to make you laugh.

Special mentions to these songs is the queen singing about how she isn’t evil with a hilarious payoff near the middle of the film, a song that literally says it’s going to get stuck inside your head, Batman trying to prove to the queen just how he is a better lover than Superman, and the credits song singing about how awesome the credits are.

The midpoint onward has surprises tossed your way and each one has you saying something along the lines of “Oh my gosh, how the heck did I not see that coming?”

There is just enough foreshadowing in the film for the pieces to



fit in (pun completely intended). Not one twist here feels like it was out of place and it all merges together to tell a coherent story about the necessity of growing up but not losing your past childlike self. This is best exemplified by a dark reprise of a song from the first movie that punches you right in the gut.

That being said, the biggest problem with the film is that it takes a while to get going. They spend a bit too long in Apocalypseburg and they also spend too much of that time ragging on Emmet for still being happy and being a loser despite the fact that he was a key player in the past movie.

Regardless, it is still a fantastic film that manages to build on the foundation that the first film establishes and it is well worth watching. Everything was awesome before and everything is still awesome now.

Overall score: 9/10

Controversial Wins At This Year’s Oscars

ALICIA MINCH
Centurion Staff

The 2019 Oscars were filled with controversial winners, stunning live performances, and big upsets.

This year’s Oscars had people talking. Unlike any year before this year’s Oscars did not have a host. Actor and comedian Kevin Hart stepped down from job after homophobic tweets from his past were discovered.

One thing every Oscars has in common is the controversy. And this year was no different and people made their stance loud and clear.

The movie biopic, Bohemian Rhapsody, about the lead singer of the band Queen, Freddie Mercury was up for five nominations. The movie was such a hit that Queen and Adam Lambert opened the award show. Performing Queen’s famous hits “We Will Rock You” and “We Are the Champions”.

Most people who saw Bohemian Rhapsody can agree that it was a good movie, but some were questioning if it should have won so many awards. The movie won four awards at the Oscars, the most of any that night. The awards included Best Actor for Rami Malek’s role as Freddie Mercury, Best Sound Mixing, Best Film Editing and Best Sound Editing.

When asked if Bohemian Rhapsody deserved so many awards, 19 year old hospitality major Jessica McMillan said, “I didn’t see the movie, I’ve just heard about all the hype behind it. I do think that it won appropriately for all categories.”

The Best Picture award went to Green Book. The movie was a lesser known then its competition, Bohemian Rhapsody.

Green Book’s plot follows a white man named Tony Vallelonga who accepts a job driving an African American musician named Dr. Don Shirley around the South for concerts. The pair forms an

unlikely friendship. The directors and writers claim that this movie was based on a true story and a true friendship.

This win has many people very upset, and there a few reasons why people did not appreciate this film.

Firstly, the man who played the driver, Viggo Mortensen, casually dropped the n-word at a Q&A for the movie. People were very upset, that a man who starred in a movie about bringing two races together did such a thing.

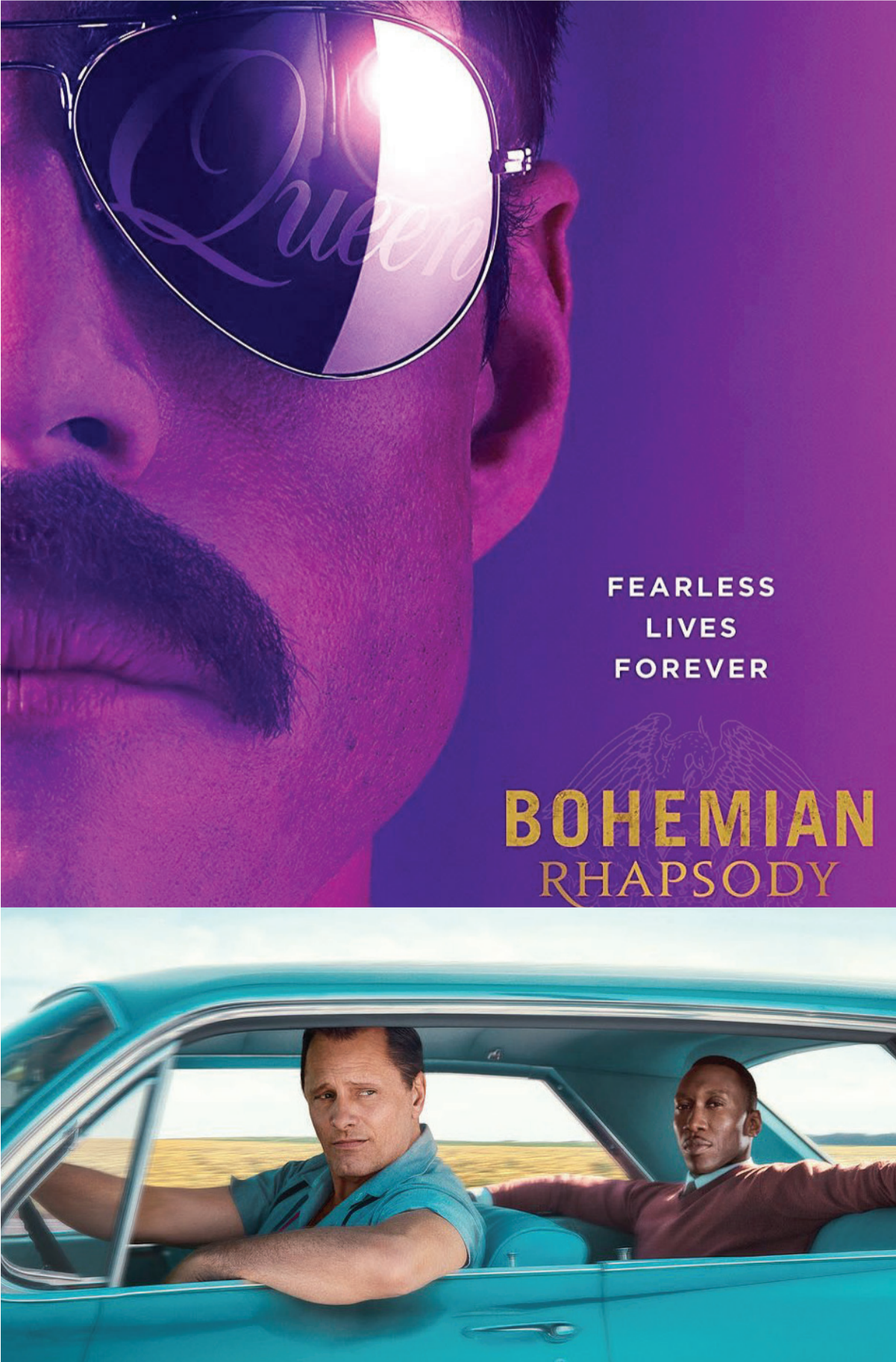
When asked if the movie still should have won because of what the actor did, 19 year old Psychology major Alexxi Ramirez says “Yes, I think the movie still should’ve won Best Picture. The movie won because of the message it was trying to convey, not because the actor’s poor choice of words.”

Another controversy surrounding the movie was that the family of Dr. Shirley said that Shirley and Vallelonga were never friends and only had an employee/employer relationship. Audiences were very disappointed in this revelation.

When told that the pair weren’t actually friends, Early Education major Chloe Timet said “It’s sad that the movie producers misconstrued the story into something it wasn’t. For that, I don’t think it should have won.”

Another thing that was controversial with this movie was that some say it has the ‘white savior complex’, which is when a white person “saves” an African American, and people are tired of this trope in movies.

Every year at the Oscars, there always seems to be one big controversial story that everyone focuses on. Last year it was Three Billboards, and the year before that it was the infamous Moonlight and La La Land mix-up. Hopefully, next year everyone can focus on the art of movie making.



Bucks News

Professor Groth’s First Book

JON CORLEY
Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College’s own Professor Charlie Groth has just recently published her first book, “Another Haul: Narrative Stewardship and Cultural Sustainability at the Lewis Family Fishery.”

Writing a book has always been one of Groth’s dreams since she was young. So much so that she began researching the topic of fishing while figuring out how community, culture, and the environment intersect.

The book’s topic was not only chosen because of Groth’s interests, but also the fact that it allowed her to be near her home. This made being a student, worker, and mother all a possibility as she gathered the research she needed. When she began her research, Groth was still a student at the University of Pennsylvania.

Conducting the research she needed for the book was difficult at first. The university Groth taught at at the time mainly focused on business, technology, and health related subjects, leaving her with little time or resources to gather the information she needed to complete the book.

Fortunately, Groth was able to find a college - Bucks - that was able to support her while she collected her research.

“The atmosphere is very supportive. You can research and write for an audience you can imagine and spend the time you need to do scholarship well,” she said.

To kill two birds with one stone, Groth brought her research in for her students to evaluate as part of a class lesson. It was also a chance to expose them to that kind of field research. Students offered her feedback on what should be included in the finished product. The students were very patient and helpful, Groth said.

Groth also wanted to make the book enjoyable to read, as opposed to an academic work, which Groth said can be dense and hard to get through.

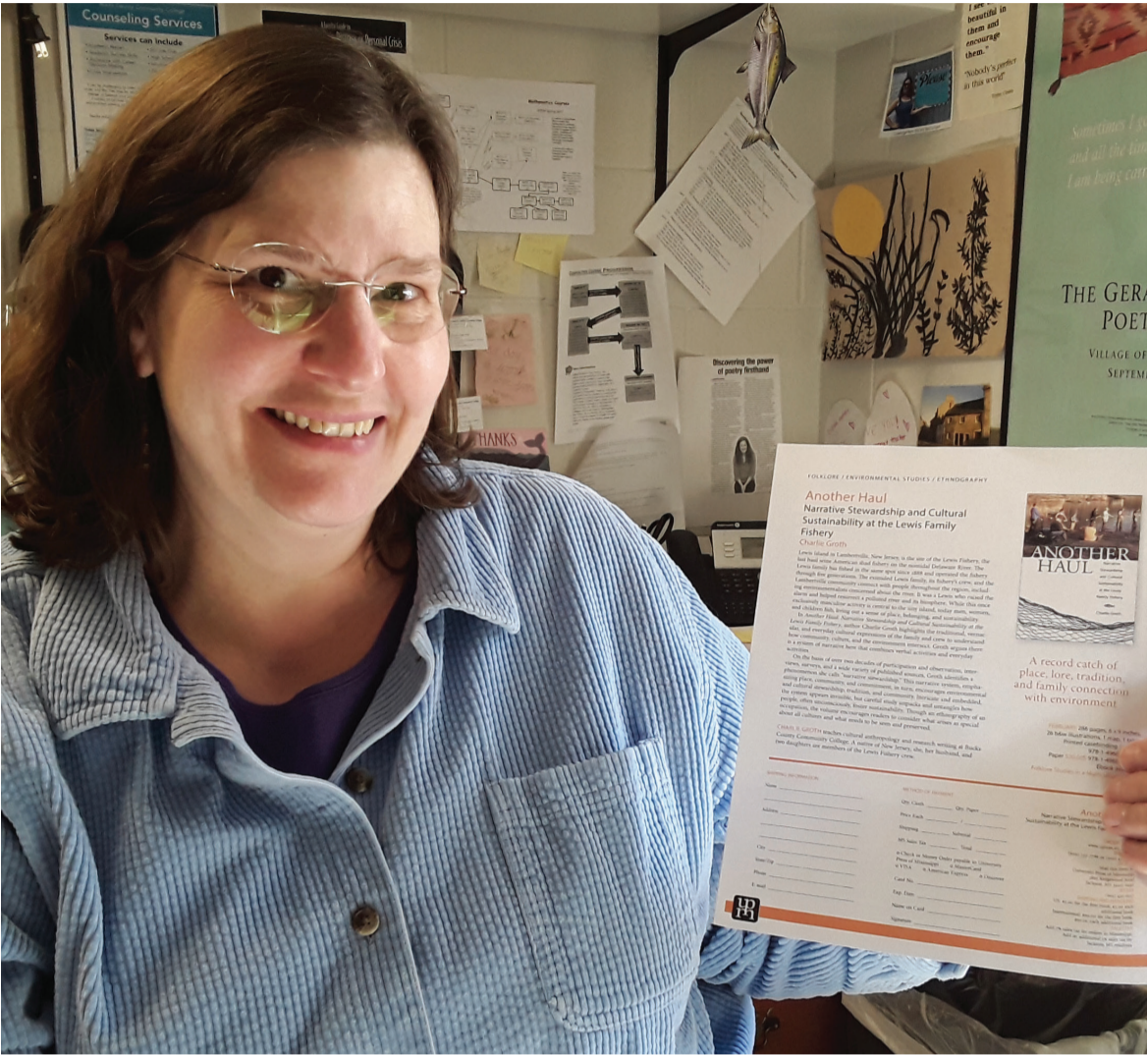
“You want to write something that you can share with people, she said.”

The book took about 10 years to write, but was finally finished not too long ago. She also had 22 years of research to work with.

“I have about 10 times the field research that many studies like this have,” she said.

With the book’s completion, she achieved her childhood goal and is now getting a chance to share her ideas with other educators to help them with their environmental work.

“Achievement brings happiness, and Bucks made it possible,” she



Professor Groth, courtesy of Jon Corley

said.

Groth will be hosting several events to promote her work, including, on March 31, a book signing at the Newtown Bookshop from 2-3 p.m. On March 22 there

will be a book launch party at the Lambertville Public Library from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.. The Language and Literature Department is also planning a reading this semester.

Groth offered a message to stu-

dents: “What you learn at Bucks is the real world. The writing and research are how scholars really do it and those skills can be applied to other professions and your professional life.”



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Do Bucks Students Use Facebook?

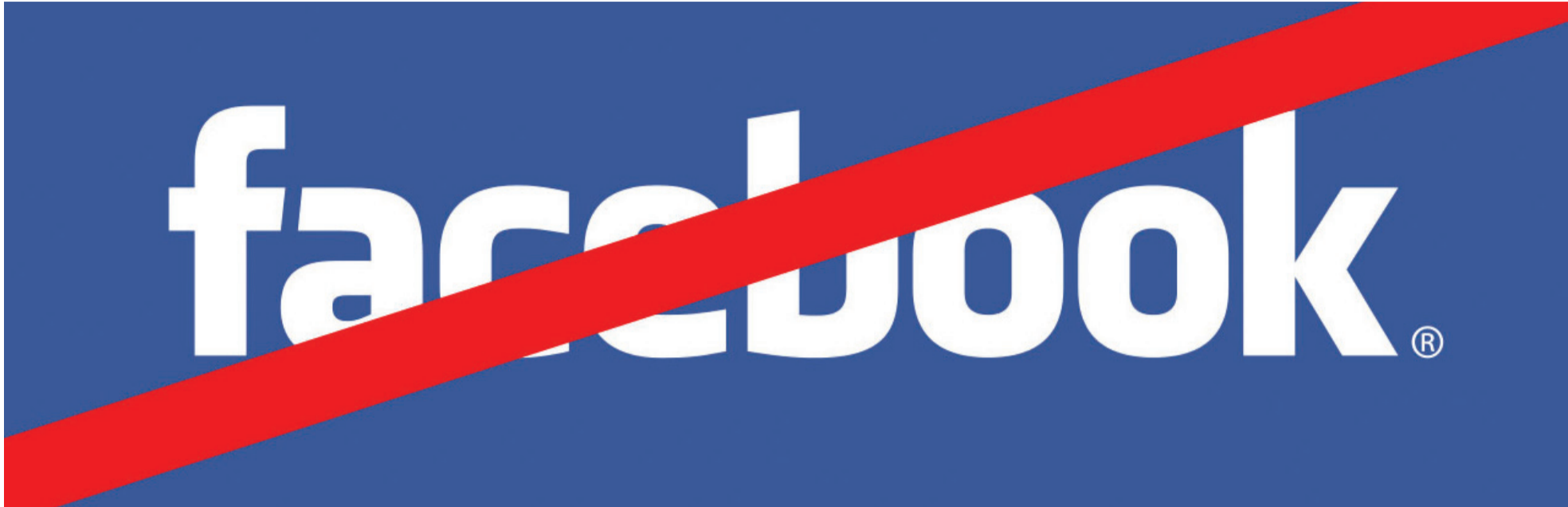


Photo courtesy of Google Images

MACKENZIE MOONEY
Centurion Staff

The number of Facebooks users has significantly dropped in the last four years. Teens and young adults have been going on Facebook less and less due to the birth of newer (and some might say better) social media platforms. It has been proven that 51 percent of individuals between the ages 13 and 17 still use Facebook. This is a dramatic change when in comparison to the 71 percent of people in this same age group that used the platform back in 2015. A huge reason why this certain age group has kept their distance from this specific social media app is because of the increase in older individuals beginning to

use it. No one wants to broadcast their every breathing second on the same platform as their parents. Because of this, in came two of the most popular apps in today’s generation: Instagram and Snapchat. Bucks student Ciara Flor, from Southampton, says that she only uses Facebook to keep in touch with older relatives she does not see so often. “I made a Facebook when I was nine years old” Flor said. “I like it because I can see what my family is up to. I also find it interesting that it is the only social media platforms that you will find a little bit of every age group on.” She also went in depth about how Facebook has changed over the years. Flor said, “Facebook used to be a site to just post weird

videos and funny statuses with your friends, now it has evolved to people posting what exactly they are doing in that very second.” She also did not hesitate to mention that just like everyone else in her age group, she feels uncomfortable putting her life out there for Facebook to see considering the older audience that has introduced themselves to the app. Flor finished by saying that she usually only uses Facebook if she gets bored of using Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter. With how invested everyone in today’s world is with social media, Facebook is not going anywhere any time soon. Instead, people just place it on the bottom of their list of apps to scroll through when they should be

doing more productive things. Going hand in hand with what Flor had to say, Zac Cary, from Richboro, also does still currently have a Facebook account. Now, just because he has one, does not mean he is an active Facebook user. He stated that “no one in my age group uses Facebook and most of my friends don’t even have one, so I feel no need to go on it.” Cary says he has nothing to worry about when it comes to the older audience being in his business because, has mentioned before, he stays off Facebook. Just like everyone else, he sticks to Instagram and Snapchat. Following the trend of being a part of the “Facebook is dead” generation, Bucks student Jenna Mozer follows right behind the

rest. She also has a Facebook account, but is not as active as some. Like most of us, her parents are active on Facebook which definitely holds her back, but not to the point where she is uncomfortable. “I like Facebook sometimes because I can connect with family and post photos easily” Mozer said. Seems like everyone in their teen years has the same idea when it comes to social media. Facebook is very rarely used by anyone below the age of thirty. This leaves people wondering if maybe our generation will pick back up on Facebook when we get older. The old folks have not quite yet figured out how to use Instagram and Snapchat, and the young generation is going to try for as long as they can to keep it that way.

Historic Tunnels Under Tyler Hall



Photo courtesy of Francis Klingenberg

Continued from Page 1.

As we passed an alcove, Bruhn recounted, “Sometimes we give parents and kids tours of the tunnel, because what kid doesn’t like that sort of thing.”

“Usually, they run ahead and get to this light-switch here and turn off the lights,” he laughed. With no other source of light, the tunnel would be pitch black.

We escaped the narrow corridor with minimal trauma, and entered the basement of the Orangery. Inside was a boiler, and a stone furnace in the corner.

As we left the building, with the tunnel behind us, I realized that many didn’t even know about its existence.

The Centurion previously reported on the tunnels in 2008 but students were still surprised to hear about them.

Usman Yaftali, the vice-president of the Muslim Student Association club was shocked when I mentioned it to him. “I have been here for 2 and a half years, and I never knew about them,” he said.

Hamzah Dabbour, a freshman majoring in engineering, was also surprised. “Are you for real?”

The tunnel was created in the early 1930s during the mansion’s construction.

“We were told by members of the Tyler family that Stella Elkins Tyler used the tunnel for convenient access to the Orangery and greenhouse,” said Bruhn. She would use it to get access to her

art studio.

The tunnel was also used often by servants and staff to get to refrigeration facilities, especially during the colder and stormy weather.

Nowadays, it is locked up tight. It is visited only during the occasional tour of the mansion or by a badgering reporter trying to get a scoop – otherwise, the tunnel is locked to any student or staff.

It holds utilities like steam, telecom, and heating along the walls, giving a warm, humid feeling throughout the tunnel.

When asked if there had been any cave-ins, Bruhn said, “Fortunately not!” The maintenance of Tyler Hall ensures that this tunnel will stay safe.

“Repairs above the tunnel will

be made during the Spring (on the sidewalk),” mentioned Matthew Metcalf, Historic Preservation Program Coordinator.

Bruhn expanded on that, “the sidewalk is in pretty bad shape – we’ve had to replace it about three times now.” It is very susceptible to the harshness of snow and water, and it easily breaks.

Also, the foot traffic and vehicles don’t help matters much either.

There have not been any accidents in the tunnel as far as Bruhn knows, but that doesn’t mean they are empty of any living beings. Rodents and snakes hide in holes and sneak around.

Still, it’s only a small footnote in the history of a rich Bucks County family.

The Tyler family was a significant land-owning family, acquiring nearly 2,000 acres of land. 200 acres of that property was to be given to Temple University, and the rest turned into Tyler State Park.

Temple University sold the land to the Bucks County Authority. With that land, they broke soil on what would become Bucks County Community College.

The Tyler family may have used the tunnel as a convenient passageway between the Orangery and Tyler Hall.

Today, it is a curious, secret remnant of the family’s history that creates stories for children, and opens the door to learning about the intricate history behind Bucks and the Tyler family.

Sports

The **Phillies** Look to Make a Push to Postseason

JARED ROBERTS
Centurion Staff

What an exciting time it is to be a Philadelphia Phillies fan right now. Many people around the internet are projecting the team to be nothing shy of perfection. After coming off an interesting 2018 season, the Phillies looked to improve themselves. They finished the year with an 80-82 record, and there were many issues going into the offseason that they needed to address. Such as their defense, their fielding percentage was .979 which was second to last in the National League. They also committed 123 errors which was also second to last. Their offense was not the greatest either. They finished dead last in hits and second to last in batting average. With all that said, things needed to change, and General Manager Matt Klentak knew this. The team made it very clear that they are in a win-now scenario. Rising stars like Rhys Hoskins and Aaron Nola made a huge impact for the team and now they need to add. Owner John Middleton was quoted at the beginning of the offseason saying, “We’re going into this expecting to spend money and maybe even be a little bit stupid about it.” Philadelphia never let him forget those words he said and to this day, he was a man of his word. The first major deal was on Dec. 3, when the Phillies and the Seattle Mariners made a major trade. The Phillies sent over Shortstop JP Crawford and First Basemen Carlos Santana for Shortstop Jean Segura, and Relief Pitchers

Juan Nicasio and James Pazos. This deal freed up first base for the Phillies and Rhys Hoskins was happy to return to his natural position rather than playing the outfield. This deal added depth to the lineup with Segura. Segura is a two time All-Star and a career .287 hitter. He also has an amazing glove over at shortstop, a position that was like a revolving door for the Phillies last year. Nicasio and Pazos adds two consistent arms out of the bullpen. The next move was a few days later Dec. 6, the Phillies traded relief pitcher Luis Garica to the Los Angeles Angels in exchange for relief pitcher Jose Alvarez. This isn’t a groundbreaking deal however, Alvarez posted a 2.71 Earned Run Average compared to Garcia’s 6.07. A much-needed upgrade. Now that Hoskins has moved from playing Left Field to playing First Base, there was an opening out there. Home grown guys like Nick Williams and Aaron Altherr seemed to fit the bill however, Williams was set to man right field and Altherr had an awful 2018 campaign batting only .181 with 8 homeruns and 38 runs batted in. The Phillies need to make a move and they did that very thing on Dec. 12, signing veteran outfielder Andrew McCutchen to a 3-year, \$50 million contract. McCutchen previously played for the Pittsburgh Pirates, San Francisco Giants and New York Yankees. Throughout his career, has always been a thorn in the Phillies side. He is an All-Star, Gold Glove winning outfielder with a National League MVP under his belt as well.

This move was a much-needed upgrade in the outfield and when McCutchen was asked about why he signed in Philadelphia, he smiled and simply said, “Did you see how much they offered me?!” Another thing that plagued the Phillies in their previous season was their bullpen. Any time they would go to their bullpen, you would never know if the guys were going to be lights out or give up the lead. So, they decided to bolster the pen and on Jan. 3, they signed David Robertson to a 2-year \$24 million contract. Robertson adds some much-needed consistency to the backend of the bullpen. His career earned run average is 2.88 and he has been in the league since 2008. Often regarded as one of the most underrated pitchers in the league, Robertson is someone who will put up consistent numbers no matter what team he is playing on. After this deal was done, there seemed to be this long wait for them to make another move. Talks of trading for another pitchers were looming in the air but with the way social media is, it was just rumor after rumor until something did happen. Feb. 7, the Phillies began having interest in Marlins star catcher JT Realmuto however, everyone in the league had interest in Realmuto. The only issue the Marlins had was their asking price for him, they wanted a heavy package for their star catcher and no team was really biting anymore, until the Phillies did. That same day, the Phillies traded catcher Jorge Alfaro, top pitching prospect Sixto Sanchez and pitcher Will Stewart for Realmuto. This was a huge move for the Phillies because of their

lack of offense coming from the catcher position. Realmuto has a career batting average of .279 with 59 homeruns and 243 runs batted in, from the catcher position, that is something that is unheard-of. Another move that bolstered this lineup and bolstered the defense. But the question remained: what about that stupid money? All throughout the offseason, the Phillies were tied to star outfielder Bryce Harper. For weeks, they had meeting after meeting regarding Harper playing in Philly however, nothing really came to a head until the Los Angeles Dodgers came into the mix. The Dodgers were apparently very aggressive going after Harper however, there was one thing that kept Harper from going there and it was the amount of time he would be spending in L.A. Apparently, the Dodgers were only willing to sign Harper for 4-5 years at max and that is something Harper did not want. So, what did the Phillies do? On Feb. 28, the Phillies signed Harper to a 13-year \$330 million contract. This was the sort of money Middleton promised he would spend. Phillies fans everywhere went crazy at the idea that the guy who has beaten up the Phillies for 7 years is now on our side. Harper was brought into the major leagues at the age of 19 and did not disappoint anyone by any means. He is 6 time All-Star, he won the 2012 Rookie of the Year award, 2015 National League MVP as well as winning the 2015 Silver Slugger Award. This was an amazing signing and much needed boost for the Phillies. With all of these pieces added

to an already great looking team, the question was, how far will this team go? Anthony DiRenzo, 23, communications major from Quakertown said “Clearly, owner John Middleton wants to win now and made it apparent to the fans. Now, they will be a serious World Series contender and will be able to recruit different players to make that postseason push.” At the end of the day, the Phillies are one of the youngest teams in the league and that doesn’t always translate to winning. Inexperience is going to be a big factor in how far the Phillies will go. Bucks student, Steve Brady said, “I love the aggressive pushes the Phillies have made this offseason. Between McCutchen, Realmuto and topping it off with Harper as well as some other pieces. I believe they are going to make the playoffs but I think that our lack of experience as well as an overall young team won’t have the experience to win the World Series but, crazier things have happened.” However, not all students are pulled into the sports world. Frank Klingenberg, 19, journalism major from Warminster, “I have no idea about any of that. The only thing that I remember from the Phillies is the Phillie Phanatic.” “He kind of looks like a distant relative of the Cookie Monster,” he said Regardless, it is an exciting time to be a Philadelphia sports fan. The Phillies have a big target on their back with not only the fans but also the rest of baseball. It is going to be a season to remember whether they triumph or fall flat on their faces.



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News

Pending Bill to Take Money Out of Paychecks to Lower Student Debt

ULISSES MORALES-COLUMNA
Centurion Staff

Tennessee Sen. and Republican chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Lamar Alexander, has come up with a strict payment plan that corresponds with the country’s massive student loan pileup that is projected to go reach as \$2 trillion by 2022.

There is reportedly an average of \$30,000 of average student debt by the time student’s graduate school, which is \$10,000 higher than it was in the 1990s. As of right now, there are currently 14 different ways of repaying back their borrowed money.

However, Alexander proposed a new law, where there would only be two methods that students are able to pay off their student loans. One where students have to pay 10 percent off of their monthly discretionary income. The second method is where their payments are stretched out over a 10-year period. Employers would be held responsible for taking out money off their worker’s checks and giving it to the government.

Student loan expert, Mark Kantrowitz, said “I think this proposal is likely to become a law, that is, after some tweaks.”

Alexander continued saying that

this new proposal who decrease the student debt and improve the efficiency of protection for borrowers. He stated that,

“It makes sure if there was no money earned, there would be no money owed and that would not reflect negatively on a borrower’s credit.”

However, this method drew some backlash from consumer supporters who called it “a mandatory wage garnishment”.

National Consumer Law Center declared that “For people with tight budgets that need to navigate a monthly income, forced automatic payroll withholding may mean diverting money away from rent, heat or food...”

When asked about the new proposal being pushed to be a new law, Bucks student, Dimitrios Manesis, a 20-year-old Radiation Technology major, expressed his opinion and commented that, “It’s a pretty great idea because it would make our student loans manageable and quick to pay off.”

“If I lived in Tennessee, this option would be suitable since the rent down there is cheaper, so paying it off would be easier. On the contrary though, living in Bucks County, rent is expensive and it would take a long time for my student loans to be paid off,”

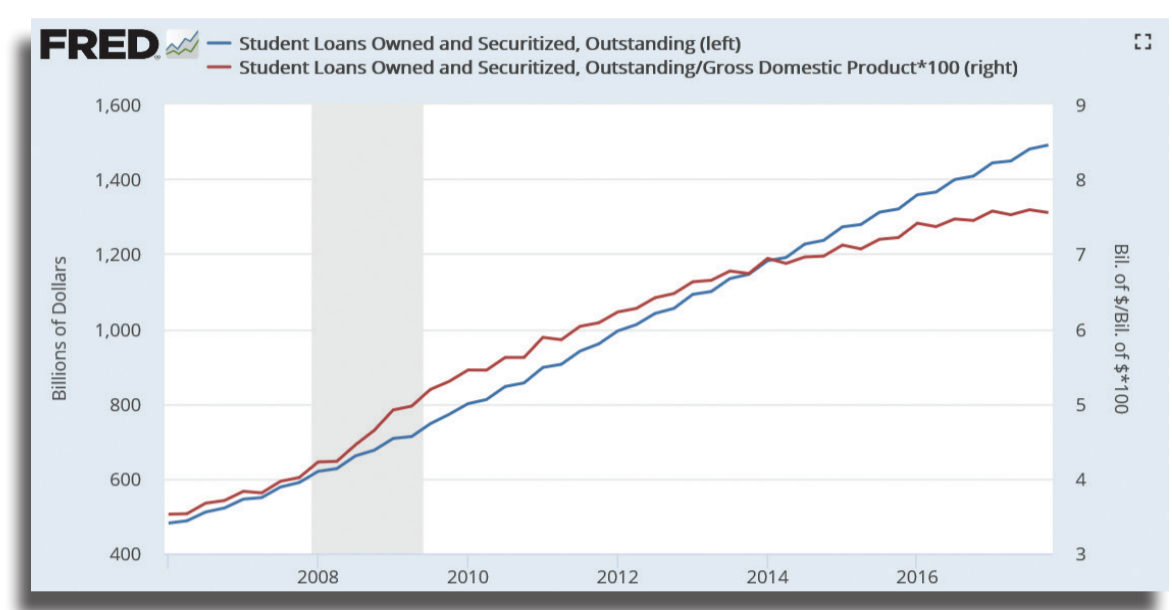


Photo courtesy of Google Images

Manesis said.

Kantrowitz explained that when students default on their federal loans, the government have the power to garnish up to 15 percent of the student’s wages. Kantrowitz then uses this to support Alexander’s 10 percent garnishment, thus making the new proposal more likeable.

20-year-old Animal Science major from Delaware Valley University, Kathrine Weiser, has mixed feelings about the wage garnishment plan.

“I’m always worried about money, but at the same time I’m worried about my student loans piling up. Each paycheck, I earn about \$100 after taxes are taken out and while taking five classes, already stressing me out. If the government were to take 10 percent of that, I would have to critically analyze what I need to spend on to survive. It’s worrying, but at the same time, I can easily pay off my student loans. It has its pros and cons,” Weiser explained. Director of Federal Relations

of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Barmark Nassirian called this proposal a “detour from real reform”. “This is a system rife with fraud and predatory lending”, adding that students might have a problem of privacy when it comes to their employers knowing their financial debt. While this bill is trying to be passed still, it would be for the best to do more research into it and find out more about the pros and cons this bill will bring.

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Bucks Sports

Men’s Basketball Season Recap

JACKIE SCHAEFFER
Centurion Staff

Bucks Men’s Basketball team finished the 2018-2019 season at 6-17.

The Centurion’s conference record was 3-5. The team is coached by Dominic Farrell in his second season as Bucks’ head coach. Farrell is assisted by Frank Copestick and Ryan Charity. After a 12-12 record in the 2017-2018 season, their record falls short this year.

The leading scorers this season were Keith Howard who averaged 17 points per game and Sophomore Adjewoda Sanoumega with an average of 13 points per game.

Sanoumega said, “The season didn’t go as I expected because we didn’t have a lot of guys as we thought we were going to have. We only played 6-8 players every night. The most memorable part of the season will have to be sophomore night, and we got a good win against a team we lost to last year and plus there were so many people there to support and celebrate my sophomore night and it was also the first game and time my parents ever saw me play.”

The team’s biggest win was 89-62 over Delaware Technical Community College and the worst loss saw Bucks lose 103-50 to Harcum College. The team plays in the NJCAA conference and it is a very big commitment to play



Photo courtesy of Bucks’ website

with practices and games almost every day. Some games require travel two hours each way and they return to Bucks very late.

“The season hasn’t been as great as we expected,” said sophomore team member Elijah Pittman. “I feel that I’ve improved a lot since last season and it’s disappointing that we didn’t

make the playoffs this year.” They had hoped to play past the first game of playoffs but did not get a spot this year.

The Centurions graduate five of their 12 players this year. They are; Kevin Fagan of Bensalem Township, Ronald Garrison of Bristol Township, Parker Kelley of Bristol Township, Elijah

Pittman of Philadelphia, Pa and Adjewoda Sanoumega of Philadelphia, Pa. The Centurions will have six returning players, four of which are guards and two are forwards as they begin to build next year’s team.

“The team can improve by just working hard in the offseason and building that team chemistry,”

said Sanoumega. “It will be a new start with incoming players and those remaining. The team will start fresh in the Fall.”

The season runs from November through February and workouts happen throughout the Fall to get ready for the season.

Bucks’ Baseball Team Looks Ahead to the 2019 Season

NATHAN DUNLAP
Centurion Staff

After a tough 2018 season for the Centurions finishing 3-16. Lead by Head Coach CJ Brancato and Assistant Tim Trainor, they look to rebound into the 2019 season ahead of them.

Brancato has a positive outlook for the Centurions this season in their first year back as a varsity program.

“It’s going to be a season of growing pains, there is definitely going to be some ups and downs. We have a good group and should be competitive thought the season,” said Brancato.

Unfortunately for the Centurions, the weather has not been cooperative with them. As a result they have been starting off the season with little to no outdoor practice and have no time on the diamond before the season starts.

“We got 20 guys on the team that are definitely ready to play and compete at the college level,” said Brancato. Having your coach behind you as a player really can put that spark in your eye and makes you want to go play your heart out for your coach and your teammates on that field.

Freshman Chase Moffatt said, “these guys show up and play for each other, there is a brotherhood on this team.” Teammates having each other’s backs on the field is important thing.

With only 3 returning players to

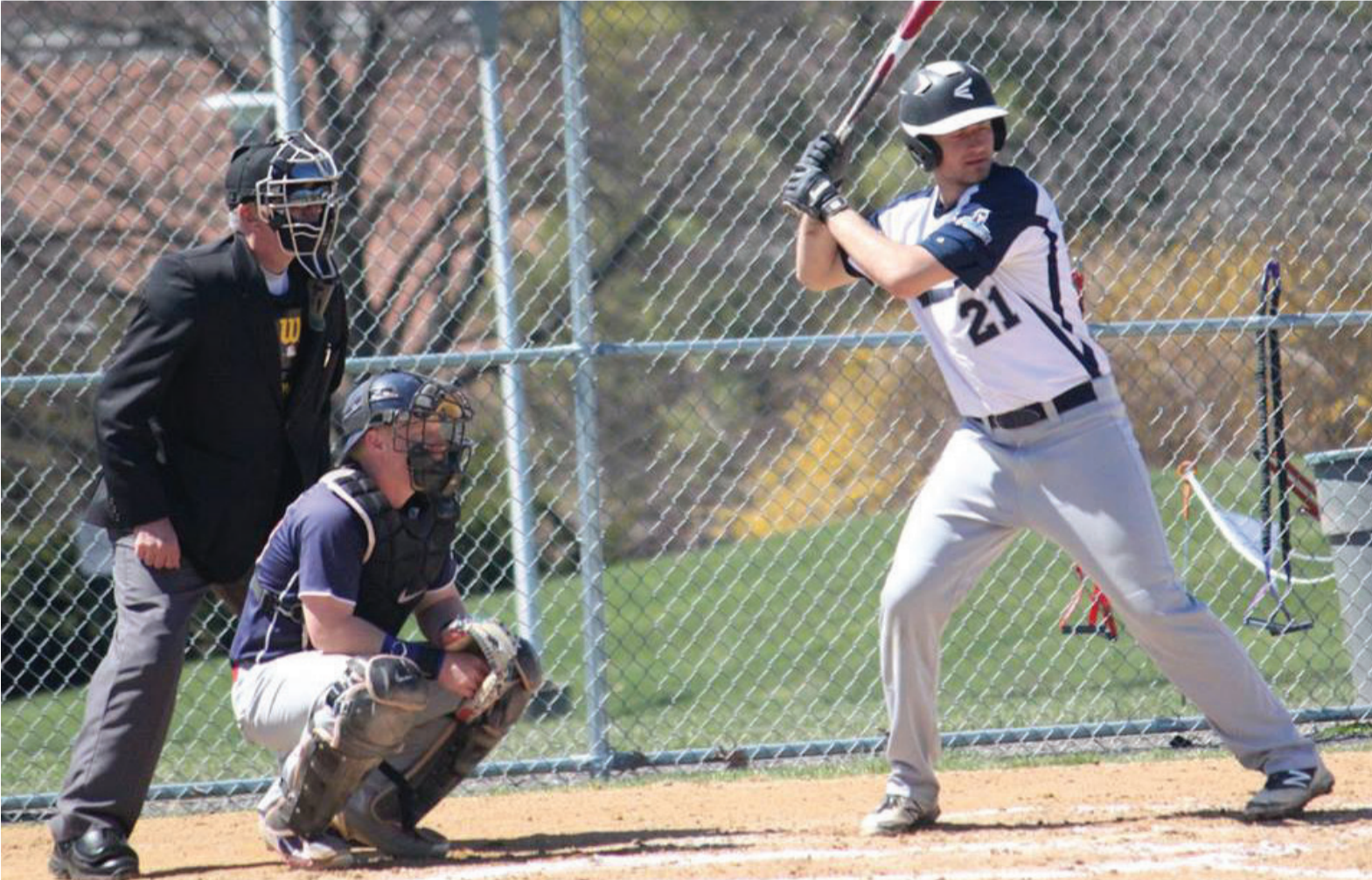


Photo courtesy of Bucks’ website

for the 2019 season, the Centurions look to fill holes with new faces throughout the lineup.

Danial McNamee, pitcher and outfielder from Southampton, PA; Jeffrey Long, outfielder from Langhorne, PA; Jason Hughes, pitcher and utility player from Warminster, PA, will all be looking at a return to the diamond in the 2019 season.

The Centurions face a difficult schedule this season as they are

playing a nationally ranked schedule per Brancato. On the difficult schedule, they face off against the top team in the country in their division and the seventh ranked team. They are also set to play the number six ranked team Brookdale Community College; Mercer County Community College is the thirteenth ranked division two team.

The Centurions had a battle with another nationally ranked team in Lackawanna College as

they were defeated in that battle, they also split the double header with the tenth ranked division one club team in Drexel University’s club team at the end of February.

Some key players this season for the team this year are sophomore Jason Hughes, pitcher from Warminster, PA. Brancato said he is one of the top pitchers in their conference. Freshman first baseman Edmund Parry from Levittown, PA. Sophomore catcher Noah Ruiz out of Warminster, PA.

Freshman pitcher and infielder Shawn Puskar from Bensalem, PA. Freshman pitcher and center fielder from Levittown, PA.

The Centurions look to build on the 2019 season with a double header on March 16. The first matchup against Northern Essex Community College at 10a.m. and the second matchup against Oakton Community College at 5:00p.m.. Both games will be held at Sanford Memorial Stadium.