

COVID-19

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COVID-19 and its Temporary Effect on the Environment



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

ELIZABETH WATSON

Centurion Staff

An unplanned pandemic could’ve been the saving grace the environment needed, but was it?

According to National Geographic, “In early April, with shutdowns widespread, daily global carbon emissions were down by 17 percent compared to last year. But as of June 11, new data shows that they are only about 5 percent lower than at the same point in 2019, even though normal activity has not yet fully restarted.”

Elliot Taylor, 15, of Doylestown said, “Corona definitely helped the environment... temporarily. People were off the roads and

not traveling reducing carbon emissions but is going back to the same as it was before the pandemic.”

Others would agree with this temporary positive effect on the environment.

Caroline Son, 15, of Doylestown said, “It helped because less people were going out, decreasing pollution from transportation. It’s giving the earth some time to heal and mend from people’s damages.”

“Despite this, I think although it may seem like the earth is getting better, it can worsen in the long run. After Corona starts to get better, it can eventually harm the

earth, as the benefits are temporary. People will need to make up for lost time, which could worsen the earth as a result,” Son concluded.

According to Science Direct, In other parts of the world, such as Europe, air pollution has dramatically reduced since governments ordered citizens to stay at home to contain the spread of the new coronavirus. Main industries as well as other regular activities have ground to a halt. This leads to the question, if COVID-19 is positively impacting the environment in other countries, how is it impacting the US?

According to Science Daily,

“The first comprehensive study of the pandemic shows consumption losses amount to more than \$3.8 trillion, triggering full-time equivalent job losses of 147 million and the biggest-ever drop in greenhouse gas emissions.”

How will we keep this sustainability going during a pandemic?

Erin Haas, 21, of Florida University said, “Something that I saw about how it has affected the environment was the used masks are being thrown into the ocean and that it’s been affecting sea life, so they said once you’re done using your masks to cut off the strings.”

Other solutions have been

proposed on how to continue this momentum of progress against climate change.

“Overall, we just needed to do better listening to rules and regulations and prepare more,” said Taylor.

“I think we need to start focusing on climate change and what we can do to help the earth more. I feel like a lot of people aren’t paying attention to the severity of what’s happening to the earth and I think if people started paying more attention to what’s going on we could slowly start progressing and hopefully help mend the earth,” said Son.



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National News

Justice or Injustice for Breonna Taylor?

ELIZABETH WATSON

Centurion Staff

Within the matter of months, Breonna Taylor became a symbol for race relations within the U.S. On March 13 after midnight, police entered the home of Breonna Taylor and her boyfriend Kenneth Walker, both whom were sleeping at the time.

The officers had a no-knock warrant and startled Walker awake. He then proceeded to shoot the officers who came into their apartment. Claiming self-defense, the officers open fire and killed Taylor as she was sleeping. This has caused a civil uproar in Louisville, KY.

On Sept. 23, a state grand jury announced the three officers involved in the shooting would not be charged with the death of Taylor.

Many students have something to say about the killing of Breonna Taylor.

Emma Cullen, 20, of Savannah College of Art and Design said, “My initial thought when the news notification popped up on my phone was ‘finally... they did something.’ Then when I looked a little closer, I realized that only one officer was charged and it wasn’t for murder.”

According to CNN, Brett Hankison was charged, not with Taylor’s death, but with “wanton endangerment” for firing into a neighbor’s apartment. The two other officers who were involved have not been charged.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Many are saying the courts cared more about the neighbor’s walls then about Taylor’s life.

Julia Cullen, 18, of UNC Charlotte said, “They think justice is giving Breonna’s family money, so they don’t ‘complain’ anymore. What they did was murder and even if they don’t charge them on that, they entered a house unwarranted, armed and not in uniform.... what could justify that?”

Bucks student Leah Miller said, “It was a gross misuse of power and an attack on human rights.

I think that with it being such a high-profile case, the officials involved just wanted it to go away. I think they should have been harsher with the cops involved instead of letting them go free. I also think that something is wrong with our judicial laws, as it shouldn’t have been that easy to

get off.”

Bucks student Jacob Mairone said, “I think the whole police raid system has always been a dangerous one. I think it’s disgusting that we just let cops go loose on the ‘war trail’ just to go home to their families and not have to answer for what they did.”

Many agree that they are tired of this gross injustice, which has led to protests all over the country

that have become violent.

“Personally, I don’t think the cops really deserved to die, I don’t think anyone does,” said Jocelyn Beltran. 20, of Doylestown. “I’m assuming because it makes them feel better seeing others in pain. If anything, the cops should of just stayed home once they saw it coming, they can’t act surprised.”

Students Worry Trump Will Refuse to Accept Possible Election Result

LEAH MILLER & GINA DONAGHY

Centurion Staff

On Sept. 23, reporters at a Washington news conference proposed the question to President Trump if he would commit to a peaceful transfer of power after the election. Trump’s evasive response regarding possible loss of the election resulted in criticism from many Americans.

Trump answered, “We’re going to have to see what happens. You know that I’ve been complaining very strongly about the ballots, and the ballots are a disaster.”

Reporters also asked Democratic candidate Joe Biden for his thoughts on Trump’s comment, to which he responded, “He says the most irrational things.”

Students at Bucks and from across the nation were asked their thoughts on President Trump’s comment.

Nicholas Myers, 22, material science and engineering major at Penn State University said, “It sounds bad what he said, but there’s other context to why he doesn’t want to trust the election. He wanted to have it pushed back so a better process in voting could be established because the current system isn’t going to handle the volume of votes it’ll get this year.”

Myers finds reasoning in Trump’s response, showing his advocacy and opinion upon the mail-in-ballot argument.

“The last election had some instances where more votes were found after the count was completed and he doesn’t want that to happen again,” said Myers.

Elizabeth Watson, 20, communications major at Bucks, said, “I always had suspicions that the election would insight a civil uproar. I think whether Trump wins or loses, his supporters will

cause a disrupt in society either form excitement or hate. I think Trump having a ‘sore loser’ attitude towards this election only encourages his supporters to do the same.”

Watson believes that Trump wanting to stay in power will not only aggravate citizens, but it could chaotic and potentially violent.

“This is an issue that affects us all,” Watson continued. “If our president will not concede to losing, what will happen on

election night? This is very alarming, and people are fearful that this will create civil unrest and riots, something we already have currently going on in our country and something we live through every day. Is President Trump’s statement about him refusing to commit a peaceful transfer of power making a mockery of the constitution?”

Bucks student, Jacob Mairone, said, “Well, it’s a clear mockery to the peaceful transition of power in which our nation holds dear.

However, I feel it’s counter intuitive to say because if Trump just stopped saying these things he would be re-elected anyway.”

Bucks student Dean Guiliano also believes that Trump’s reckless comment could insight chaos.

“I think if Trump has to be forcibly removed from office given a Biden victory, the public will erupt into chaos mostly due to the unrest of his supporters. I believe damage control will be necessary in certain areas of the country, particularly the south

where his support is stronger,” said Guiliano.

Samuel Thompson, age 21, sophomore at Full Sail University in Florida, approaches the reality that Trump may resist the election outcome.

“It’s a real possibility that he won’t [commit peacefully], but I don’t think he’ll do that, if there’s any semblance of reason left in that party, they wouldn’t let it happen, but at this point... who actually knows,” said Thompson.

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Entertainment

Trendy App “TikTok” in Possible Trouble

KAYLA GIDZINSKI
Centurion Staff

Over the past months, President Trump has threatened to ban TikTok, a popular social media app that allows users to watch, create, and share videos.

The president’s executive orders argue TikTok must be prohibited from the U.S. market due to national security concerns, fearing China may have access to the personal information of countless Americans. TikTok is a US subsidiary of the Chinese corporation, Bytedance. American software company, Oracle, is trying to become TikTok’s cloud provider.

How will the potential ban affect those who utilize the mainstream app?

“I feel that Trump wanting to ban the app is a little far-fetched. From what I know, a TikTok spokesperson has provided evidence that all user data is stored on servers located in America. It is interesting to note how we have proof of Facebook selling one’s personal information to other companies, yet there has not been any talk about banning that app,” said Guy Lerario, 33, of Levittown.

“Personally, if the application turns out to be a risk towards national security then yes, it needs to be banned.

Considering the absence in concrete evidence, removing TikTok would infringe on a person’s first amendment rights.”

It is no secret that the app is widely popular among younger generations, particularly Gen Z, yearning to become “TikTok famous.”

“The app has made a safe space for individuals of all age groups to produce entertaining content. I may not make videos, but I catch myself scrolling for hours. During times like this, TikTok keeps us connected with one another without any restrictions. I think the trends that tend to grow popular are repetitive on occasion. A few of them are enjoyable. Although, content creators need to acknowledge their younger audiences and be cautious of what they are posting. Videos that are considered inappropriate, little children can be influenced. Other than that, I have no problems with the app,” said Darlington Ibe, 19, criminal justice major.

Dance and comedy challenges, episodic skits, and several more trends are some of the most popular content coming from the app.

Though TikTok has amassed such a huge audience in a short amount of time, there are still some people who don’t enjoy the app, and miss the former app it essentially replaced.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

“I do not like TikTok too much because it is a bit cringe to me. A lot of people blow up over making hand gestures and moving their arms. It also tries to give off a Vine appeal, but that was its own thing. Nothing will replace Vine,” said Bucks student Hunter Sleppy.

Before its end in 2017, Vine was a social networking platform in which people posted short 7-second looping video clips.

Alexa Schaefer-VanSchaik,

19, nursing major, finds TikTok to be too sexualized for kids.

“The app itself is not something I want to waste my time on. Kids are being exposed to videos that can come off a little obscene. Also, watching others do silly dances does not sound like anything I might partake in either. Genuinely, I do not mean to be a hater, I just find joy in doing things that are productive,” VanSchaik said.

It is obvious that TikTok has

such a big following and online presence, so losing the app would be another social media site biting the dust. In stressful times like this, TikTok has brought comfort to people all around the world.

As of now, Trump has a ban date set for Sep. 27 that will remove the app from the App Store, and TikTok has asked judges to block the date as a last attempt to save the app.



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Sports

The Eagles Are Off to a Rough Start

HUNTER SLEPPY
Centurion Staff

The Eagles are a train wreck, a 0-2 train wreck to start out the season, losing games to Washington and the L.A. Rams.

There was so much hype surrounding the Eagles heading into the 2020 season. With the 76ers getting swept in the playoffs, the Flyers getting shutout in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup playoffs, and the Phillies currently going downhill with the possibility of missing the playoffs, surely the Eagles would lift everyone’s spirits and provide hope for fans.

Well, we were wrong about that. Carson Wentz doesn’t look like himself, responsible for turning the ball over five out of the six turnovers the team has given up.

But the blame isn’t entirely on Wentz, it doesn’t help him any when he’s being sacked eight times in the first game of the year. The offensive line has been shaken up due to injuries.

In fact, the entire team has been reshaped due to injuries. As mentioned earlier, the offensive line is suffering without the presence of Lane Johnson. The oldest tackle for the Eagles, Jason Peters, is battling a knee injury and the team is already cautious with that.

The team’s #1 wideout in Alshon Jeffery is still out due to a foot injury, leading to the first round pick, Jalen Reagor, tearing a UCL ligament in his thumb. He’s going to be out for multiple weeks.

On the defensive side, Fletcher Cox has an abdomen injury and



Courtesy Of Wikimedia Commons

Rudy Ford has a groin injury. All in all, this team just has a magnet with drawing players who are injury prone.

Besides injuries, the Eagles have sloppy play throughout the field, going back to Wentz, throwing more interceptions than touchdowns. His only touchdowns being thrown to his tight ends, Zach Ertz and Dallas Goedert.

Goedert leads the team in receiving yards with 131, with the second highest receiver being DeSean Jackson at 110 yards, who’s had quite an offseason. Along with Jackson, Zach Ertz has the 2nd most receptions on the team with eight.

As for the running backs, Miles Sanders is the #1 running back on the roster with 95 rushing yards on the year, Boston Scott trails him with 54 yards.

Now the defense hasn’t been the best, it might not even be the worst, like the Falcons blowing a 28-3 lead in the Super Bowl and then blowing a 15-point lead to your rival in the Dallas Cowboys.

But your defense doesn’t look good when they blow a 17-point lead and allow 27 unanswered points to a team with no name, the Washington Football team. At least they didn’t blow a lead against the Rams, considering they were never winning to begin with.

It’s only the beginning of the

year, but the team has shown plenty of signs that this year will not be the year for the Eagles. It’s only a matter of time before Jalen Hurts comes in to replace an injury riddled Carson Wentz. It’s going to be a long season for the Eagles.

However, on Sunday the Eagles couldn’t help themselves tying with the Cincinnati Bengals and their 1st overall pick, Joe Burrow. The Eagles forced overtime and had a good chance to win after getting into field goal range.

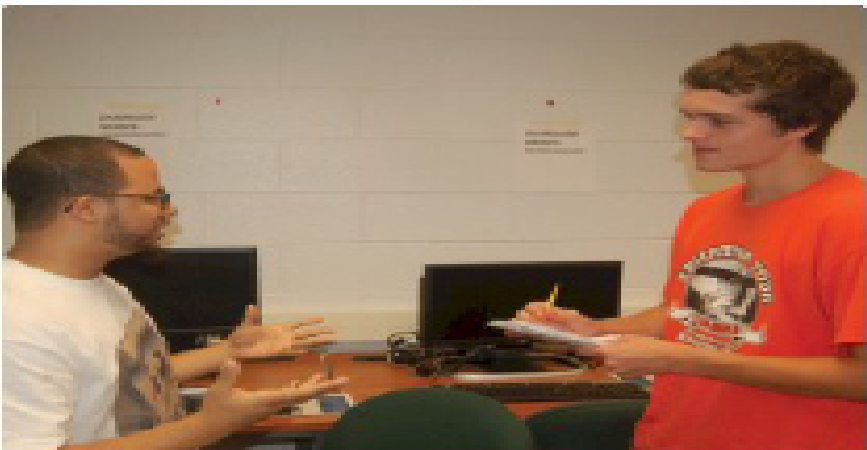
But a holding penalty changed that, putting kicker Jake Elliott in a situation to make a game winning 59- yard field goal. He made all three of his kicks earlier in

the game, kicking a 54-yard field goal, and with his career long field goal being 61-yards, there was a good chance he was going to make that kick.

The Eagles held him back though, after a false start penalty was called and Doug Pederson making the wise decision to punt the football rather than going for the win.

It’s only the beginning of the year, but the team has shown plenty of signs that this year will not be the year for the Eagles. It’s only a matter of time before Jalen Hurts comes in to replace an injury riddled Carson Wentz. It’s going to be a long season for this team.

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