



A Chaotic Tradition: Pastor Aden Revisits Bucks



SKYLAR WOODFORD  
Centurion staff

“Pastor” Aden Rusfeldt and his followers of “Key of David” took Bucks’ Safety and Security officers by surprise, returning to the Newtown

campus to harass and vilify students he claimed were “fags” and “prostitutes”. Tuesday, Nov. 29, 12 p.m. - the “Key of David” group had set up their demonstration between the Gateway Center and Grupp Hall buildings

where they held up signs that read ‘Warning Obey Jesus or Hellfire’ and ‘Feminists are Witches’. Rusfeldt also made a series of comments to the crowd of students, such as, “That’s always what the fags say,” and, “A lot of you guys have gonorrhea and syphilis” while holding a ‘Jesus or Hellfire’ sign. Bucks’ Safety and Security department, which typically is notified prior to these visits, was left in the dark by Rusfeldt – requiring head of the department, Dennis McCauley, to release an emergency statement of his arrival and that “local police have been advised”. Rusfeldt has a mired history on campuses, having spent almost 6 years straight visiting mostly colleges as well as public events to hurl slurs and obscenities at passersby. Rusfeldt, his intentions clear, asked students to raise their hands if they were gay. One student, Jess Kepner, had and was baffled by his response. Kepner, a 19-year-old Criminal Justice Major at Bucks, recounted her experience, saying “I’m bisexual and I am

pretty open about it now, so I raised my hand”. “He didn’t say anything about it at first, but then proceeded to say, ‘I can tell because you’re wearing a pink hat’”. Shelby Wolf, a 21-year-old Radiology Major at Bucks County Community College, also had an unpleasant interaction with Rusfeldt. “[Aden Rusfeldt] called me a prostitute, and told me that if a man bought me Taco Bell, then that also made me a prostitute.” “He also said that if I was 15 years old when my father died, then it would be my fault because I’m a ‘ho’.” Many students were shocked to see young children holding signs that had messages such as “Women Belong in the Kitchen,” and “No Holiness, No Heaven” plastered onto them. Sydney Schultz, an 18-year-old Nursing Major at Bucks stated, “They have their kids, showing off these posters, and they probably don’t even know what it means. They literally look like they are five.” Aden Rusfeldt has made his appearance known these past few years on different col-

lege campuses and has built himself quite the reputation, especially in recent years’ incredibly heated political climate. Rusfeldt’s rise to infamy within the Philadelphia Area can be traced back six years ago, during the time of the 2016 Presidential Election. He has set up demonstrations at a number of cities, including the grounds of the Community College of Philadelphia, outside of the Lincoln Financial Field during the Eagles’ NFC Championship Victory in 2018, and so on. In June of 2021, Rusfeldt was arrested in New York by the NYPD for disorderly conduct during his protest of the 2021 Pride March in the city. Many theorize on the true reason for Rusfeldt’s displays of bigotry – may they be his true authentic beliefs or a source of joy in putting down those he deems as lesser. With a contentious past filled with fraud accusations and “professional” snowboarding, “Pastor” Aden will likely continue to be an unpredictable plague upon cities and campuses for years to come.

Photo courtesy of Skylar Woodford

Midterms Imply Difficult Path for White House

GRACE LEVY  
Centurion staff

The state of the American government will look very different for the next two years as President Joe Biden will have to work with a Democratic Senate and a Republican House after a run-off election in the swing state of Georgia. Historically, the party in office at the White House has not won enough seats in the midterms to keep control. However, this year’s midterms have changed the political landscape for the next two years. In the Senate, Democrats won 51 seats, while Republicans won 49 seats following a run-off election between incumbent Democrat Senator of Georgia Raphael Warnock and former NFL star running back Herschel Walker on Dec. 6. The Georgia win gave Democrats a welcome “lift,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said. The result will make it easier for Senate Democrats to organize and govern,

The AP reported. In the event that Republicans would also have won 50 votes, Vice President Kamala Harris’ tie-breaking vote would have secured Democratic control. A significant success from the Democratic Senate win would be if a Supreme Court seat became “vacant due to an unexpected retirement or death of a justice, the Republicans would not be able to block Mr. Biden’s choice,” reported the BBC. In 2016, when former President Barack Obama tried to fill Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia’s seat with nominee and now U.S Attorney General Merrick Garland, he was blocked by Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell. In the House, where 218 seats were needed to gain majority, the Republicans won 220 seats, while Democrats won 213 seats. According to Politico, not only is this the first time Republicans have regained control of the House since 2018, but they also won with “a far smaller margin than



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

anticipated.” Many polls and news organizations were reporting a “red wave” of Republican wins, however voters indicated that issues like “abortion rights and protecting democracy factored into their decisions at the ballot box,” reported NPR,

which may have influenced the Republican Party’s wins and losses. “I’m ready to compromise with the Republicans where it makes sense,” said President Biden. “The American people made it clear: They don’t want every day going forward to be

a constant political battle... The future of America is too promising- too promising to be trapped in an endless political warfare.”



# News

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**HANNAH BOSCOLA**  
*Centurion staff*

Thieves have been targeting catalytic converters on a daily basis in Bensalem, and the devices are expensive to replace. Catalytic converter thefts, which have become a national issue, are a growing trend across Bensalem. Lieutenant Michael Schum of the Bensalem Township Police Department says there have been

## Police Search for Catalytic Converter Thieves Continues

“28 catalytic converters stolen in the month of October in Bensalem.”

Catalytic converters are easy to steal and contain metals with skyrocketing values that can be sold for profit. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), catalytic converter theft has spiked dramatically due to three precious metals found inside them: palladium, rhodium, and platinum. When they’re removed, vehicles are generally undrivable.

Bensalem Police are still searching for multiple catalytic converter thieves in Bensalem, including the theft of multiple catalytic converters that occurred off State Road at Stone World Kitchen and Bath, on August 18.

According to the Bensalem Police Department, the converters were lifted from vehicles parked in the Stone World parking lot at 520 State Rd.

It was reported that an unknown white male arrived on the property with a possible hand-held pipe cutter at approximately 11:00 p.m. An older model blue Jeep Cherokee also arrived on the property in the same area as the suspect.

“Converters are being sold for \$300,” says Schum. The profit, however, is just a fraction of the cost to replace the stolen part for some.

The theft at Stone World occurred just a few months after a theft in March, when two subjects removed a catalytic



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

converter from a vehicle while it was parked in the parking lot at Bensalem Commons Apartments.

Police are still in search of the suspects that fled the area towards Woodhaven Road.

Converters can be stolen in less than one minute, often lack identification details that can make them easier to track. Thieves may also target taller cars that are easier to get underneath.

Schum commented on the influx of thieves targeting Honda Accords, “previously thieves were targeting Hondas, and foreign vehicles, due to their expensive parts. But there’s no rhyme or reason.”

The U.S. Justice Department

announced on Nov. 2 a take-down of nationwide catalytic converter theft ring. They said, many stolen converters were sold to DG Auto Parts LLC in Freehold, New Jersey. The company allegedly sold precious metal powders it extracted from the devices to a metal refinery for more than \$545 million.

NICB reports, the increase in catalytic converter thefts has been dramatic. In 2018, there were 1,298 catalytic converter thefts for which a claim was filed. In 2019, it was 3,389 thefts with a claim. In 2020, catalytic converter theft claims jumped massively to 14,433, a 325% increase in a single year.

Bensalem police are also

searching for a pair of brazen thieves who allegedly stole 10 catalytic converters from transportation vans over a year ago. The vans were located at the LIFE Saint Mary senior center on August 13, 2021.

Surveillance video shows the two suspects arriving in a maroon minivan with a paper temporary tag, backing into a parking spot at the back of the building around 2 a.m.

If you have any information regarding the identity of these suspects, Bensalem Police Department asks you to contact them or submit an anonymous tip.

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# News

## Pastor Aden and Co.’s “Good Christian Values”



Photos courtesy of Skylar Woodford

## Bucks County’s Increase in Carjackings and Vehicle Thefts



**CHRISTIAN L. GROSSO**  
*Centurion staff*

With the number of stolen vehicles increasing over 100 percent in Philadelphia alone, the influx of crime has also found its way into many of the major city’s surrounding neighborhoods in recent months.

Just this past September, Kerri Hampshire of Northeast Philadelphia was returning to her car after a walk at Benjamin Rush State Park around 6 p.m., when she realized her car windows had been shat-

tered.

Upon further inspection, Kerri found that her vehicle had been burglarized as well.

“I was super upset. I cried a little. I was just having a good day, and it was just heart wrenching to come to my car broken into,” she said.

In the end, the thieves made off with Hampshire’s purse, wallet, credit cards, cash, and personal items. Losses totaled over \$1,000.

Kerri Hampshire’s experience is unfortunately becoming a much more

normal occurrence. Recent numbers from The National Insurance Crime Bureau show that car thefts in the U.S. rose 17 percent from 2019 to 2021.

On top of this, carjackings are also increasing. According to NBC10 Philadelphia, carjackings rose by 108.3 percent between 2020 and 2021.

With a majority of car thefts being rooted in finance, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration lists some common items taken from cars as doors, engines, transmis-

sions, ari bags, radios, GPS units, cell phones, iPads, laptops, and purses.

One of the hardest things is to track down stolen items. Many car thieves will resort to pawn shops to unload merchandise.

In Kerri’s case, the thieves used her debit card to buy \$800 in lottery tickets, which are basically impossible to trace.

Here in Bucks County, 6ABC reported this past June that police were urging motorists to be on alert, especially at gas stations in the area after a violent carjack-

ing took place at a Lukoil in Warrington Township.

Police said that incident turned violent, after the thieves strangled the car owner, and led police on a chase that ended with the vehicle crashing into a home in nearby Chalfont.

When it comes to car thefts as of lately, it hasn’t just been what’s inside the car, but also what’s on the outside of it. Thieves have been targeting parked cars for parts that are made out of valuable metals, copper and other materials.

Catalytic converters, a part of a car that converts toxic gasses into clean air, is a common target because they are made out of platinum, and are located on a part of the car that is easy to access from the outside, allowing the thief to cut it off quickly.

According to The National Insurance Crime Bureau, the number of catalytic converter thefts reported in claims to insurance companies increased by 326 percent in 2020, and increased another 353 percent in 2021.

“Through further investigation, a total of nine stolen vehicles, 17 car engines associated with stolen vehicles and miscellaneous vehicle parts associated with stolen vehicles were recovered,” Pennsylvania State Police declared.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash



# Bucks News

## New Queer Studies Class at Bucks in Spring 2023



**PARKER DeStefano**  
*Centurion staff*

Introduction to Gender Studies, SOCI143, will be led by Professor Max Probst starting this spring at the Bucks Newtown campus.

As the fall semester comes to a close, many Bucks students have a lot on

their minds. Final grades, overdue assignments, and of course, what classes to schedule for next semester.

Look no further! A new class is being introduced at Bucks this upcoming the Spring Semester, titled “Introduction to Queer Studies”, SOCI143, worth three credits.

The diverse opportunity will be hybrid course involving both in class and online components. The class, which has no prerequisites, will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Newtown campus.

In this informative course, students will explore his-

torical and contemporary ways that gender and sexuality have been regulated by cultural norms and social institutions. Students will have the opportunity to examine how homophobia and transphobia are inextricably linked to racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression.

After the devastating mass shooting at Club Q, an LGBTQ+ nightclub, many hope to fight the misinformation that often leads to violence against the community, and instead create a positive and safe environment for LGBTQ+ individuals.

The in-class portion of the class is going to be a discussion-based, student led conversation, which will give students the ability to discuss the LGBTQ+ community and its impact.

According to Professor Max Probst, the professor for SOCI143, “course materials will be Open Education Resources with original works by Queer theorists, historical readings on the LGBTQ rights movements and autobiographical works by Queer writers from the 19th century to current day.”

The course will also be a great transfer as a general elective or required course for those wishing to major or minor in Gender Studies or Queer Studies at universities or institutions that offer those majors.

If students are interested in enrolling this Spring, they can talk to their advisor or contact Professor Probst at [Max.Probst@bucks.edu](mailto:Max.Probst@bucks.edu).

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

## Bucks Students Balance Coursework and Employment

**HANNAH BOSCOLA**  
*Centurion staff*

A typical day for Criminal justice major, Bridgette Cinque, 23, starts when she clocks into her full-time job as an accountant at Seko and ends when she finishes her work for school and workout routine.

Cinque, who will be graduating from Bucks this January, says her time as a student hasn’t always been easy, especially when balancing multiple obligations.

The most stressful part of working full time, and even over time, while attending school “is when professors don’t acknowledge some students work,” Cinque said.

For over a year, Cinque has balanced schoolwork, a fulltime job, and volunteering as a firefighter, along with her social life and trying to go to the gym.

“I’ve used sick and vacation time from my job to call out a few times so I could complete some assignments for school,” Cinque said.

Cinque is not alone. As the cost of college attendance continues to rise faster than family incomes, many Bucks students face the tricky act of balancing school involvement, personal lives, and shifts.

According to Mental

Health America, about half of all full-time college students have jobs outside of school; this number jumps to 80 percent when it comes to part-time students.

For the students responsible for their own finances, or even those of their families, working a job while in college can help supplement expenses, but at what cost?

“I personally am lucky enough to have a job that has a set schedule, so scheduling my schoolwork is much easier,” commented Jared Byer, 19, social science major, who works as a custodian at local school district.

“In some ways, I personally feel that going to work allows me to have a more productive life. However, if I needed to live on my own, I would need another job, and I could see that balancing between much longer work hours as a full-time student would definitely feel impossible,” Byer said.

It is recommended that students dedicate at least 3 hours, if not more, of outside classwork for every course. For full-time college student, 12 hours or more of outside classwork, is recommended to succeed, leaving students with little leeway.

Aileen Leong, said her greatest challenge as a student is “time allocation.” Balancing schoolwork and



her career as a freelance writer, while taking care of her two children who go to separate schools, leaves her with little time to lose, Leong commented.

Many students voiced how being overwhelmed is not a good way to learn. Cheyenne O’Neill, 18, business administration major, said while working at Forever 21 she struggles with time management and a drained social battery.

When there are multiple commitments competing

for your time, your mental bandwidth can get stretched, according to Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences Samantha Gross.

Gross explained time management is very important but emphasizes this includes taking time for your physical and mental health.

“Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Use our faculty’s office hours, use our counseling center, use our career center, use our academic success center. These are all services that are of no cost

to the student and can really be valuable,” said Gross.

Counselor Vicki Mansure hosts “Talk About it Tuesday with Vicki”, an online discussion at 12:15 p.m. about current counseling topics, such as how to silence negativity, how to get started and stay motivated, and self-care 101.

“It is important to check in with yourself, and know that it’s okay to take a break,” said Gross.

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