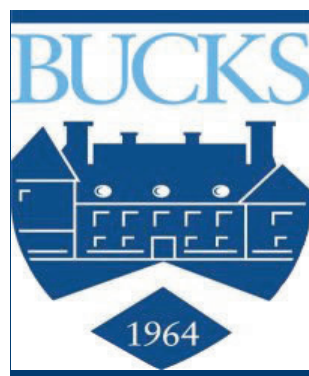


The Centurion



The Award-Winning, Student-Run Newspaper of Bucks County Community College

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Extra! Extra! The Centurion Is Back In Print

RAEANNE RACCAGNO

Centurion staff

“The Centurion,” the award-winning newspaper of Bucks County Community College, is back in print for the first time since March of 2020 when the College was first shut down because of Covid-19.

The Centurion is back and better than ever since the forced shutdown caused by the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020. The lockdown of the college forced the printers to run cold, leaving news boxes empty and stopping the Centurion from publishing for the student community.

“At the time everyone thought we’d be away for just a few weeks,” Tony Rogers, a professor and the journalism coordinator at BCCC, explained. “Obviously, there was no reason to print the paper when no one was on campus.”

When the two-week break soon turned into a months-long nightmare, everyone including Rogers realized “how wrong we were.” Nonetheless, the Centurion staff continued to report the news to the public by putting the stories on PDFs

that were emailed to students and faculty members.

“I’m very proud of the Centurion staff who kept putting out the paper even during the darkest days of the pandemic. Even when some other student clubs became inactive during this period, the Centurion never missed a beat,” Rogers expressed.

The Centurion is a completely student-run organization and club. The staff is composed of club members from various academic fields and students who are taking journalism courses at BCCC.

While the Centurion staff had high hopes for their return to campus last year, they were instead faced with various problems. “First, I spent months searching for a printer whose services we could afford since prices have been increasing recently,” Rogers explained.

As the Centurion is completely student-run, it is also the only club at BCCC that is financially self-sufficient. “Advertising revenue dropped pretty dramatically this past year, and I was worried that we’d empty out our savings if we resumed printing when so

little revenue was coming in.”

This was the case until recently when the first issue was distributed on campus on Feb. 9.

“Also, we have a crackerjack editor-in-chief at the moment, Max Mower, who I know is up to the challenge of doing this,” Rogers enthusiastically responds. Mower has taken on her new challenging role and helps lead and inspire the other writers and staff members.

While the newspaper staff is happy to be back in the press the general public has mixed reactions to the physical paper versus the digital version. Many ask, “Why print when no one uses paper anymore?”

“My answer is that on the professional level, hundreds of newspapers across the country continue printing because they still get a fair bit of revenue from doing so,” Rogers clarifies. “That means there are still jobs out there for people who can do the kind of graphic design and layout required for a newspaper. As long as that’s the case we will keep printing the Centurion because we’re providing students with the training they need if they want



Photo courtesy of Raeanne Raccagno

to do those kinds of jobs.”

The new editor-in-chief holds staff meetings every Thursday at 12:30 in the journalism newsroom at Rollins Center 127. Students can come and hang out while snacking on pizza as they work on edit-

ing stories, pitching new story ideas, and laying the graphic designs out of the newspaper.

Sincerely from the Centurion staff ... it’s good to be back.

Tyre Nichols’ Death and Police Brutality



AMANDA BELAI

Centurion staff

Tyre Nichols was a 29-year-old man who worked at FedEx, he also was a father. The father of a 4-year-old boy. Tyre Nichols was the youngest of four siblings and has been described as joyful and spiritual.

On January 7, in Memphis, Nichols was pulled over by police officers claiming a traffic violation. He died three days later in a hospital from injuries

sustained from the beatings.

Surveillance camera footage and footage attached to the officers’ uniforms show officers trying to bring Nichols down with tear gas and a stun gun. Nichols tried to run away, but the cops were eventually able to stop him.

Afterward, the young man is seen moaning in pain as officers repeatedly punch and kick him while he is lying on the ground.

The newspaper The New

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

York Times thoroughly analyzed the images of the incident and stated that Nichols received a barrage of orders that were impossible to follow.

“During the 13 minutes of martyrdom, there were 71 commands - mostly confused, conflicting, and unattainable.”

Orders were issued in two locations – next to the victim’s vehicle and in the area where he had fled and where he ended up being beaten.

They were often simultaneous and contradictory – they ordered him to show his hands, while they held his hands; they told him to stay on the ground, although he was already on the ground; ordered him to reposition himself even when he had no control of his body.

And even when he managed to do what he was asked, the officers responded with excessive force.

The point is, police in the US have been accused by human rights organizations of disproportionate use of violence against the black population in the country.

Nearly a third of all those killed by police in the US in 2021 were African Americans, even though they make up just 13 percent of the country’s population.

Matheus Fronza, an Economics/Latin American Studies major from Temple university shared a few of his thoughts on that with me.

“I think police brutality is one of the biggest civil rights issues in the United States, although segregation legally ended over half a century ago,

a lot of African Americans are still treated as second-class citizens.”

Fronza continued, “They are systematically and disproportionately targeted by the police and oftentimes innocent people are murdered by those who are supposed to protect them. The police do not have the right to carry out death sentences and they should be reformed.”

Nearly 32 years ago, the violent beating of Rodney King by the LAPD sparked national calls for change.

These demonstrations against police violence and for a change in the police culture in the country have been repeated at an incessant pace since then – among the most famous cases are the deaths of Amadou Diallo in New York, Oscar Grant in Oakland, Michael Brown in Ferguson, and George Floyd in Minneapolis.

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Letters to the editor:

Email your letters to :
Centurion@bucks.edu.

Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer’s full name and telephone number.

MEGAN PIZARRO
Centurion staff

The importance of Black History Month lies in everyone, of all races, educating themselves on Black history and its heavy meaning.

BCCC celebrated Black His-

The Celebration Of Black History Month



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

story Month by planning and sponsoring many educational events, occurring all throughout the month of February.

It helps bring insight to the injustices the Black community has endured worldwide, from degradation and discrimination to the inhumanity of American slavery.

Everyone should and has the opportunity to educate themselves on Black history.

The month kicked off with “Lord, Write My Name: From Slavery to Freedom” on Feb. 3, which depicted a musical tapestry interspersed with narratives, poetry, and letters penned by enslaved people and iconic Black figures through-

out history.

BCCC’s main campus, in Newtown, held an event on Feb. 16 at 12:30 p.m. presenting “The True Size of Africa”.

Kevin Antoine, Associate Vice President Government Relations, discussed how “it was no accident that, for more than 400 years, Africa has been depicted much larger than it is.”

Another event took place at the Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. Activist and community leader John Jordan presented “The History of Voting Rights in America”, discussing the women’s suffrage movement to the Voting Rights Act and

recent attacks on the right to vote.

These events are especially important to provide staff and students the opportunity to learn more about African Americans’ contributions to the survival of democracy in the United States.

Antoine gave much insight to why the celebration of Black History Month is so special.

He stated “God is good. Black History Month celebrates the trials and accomplishments of people who, by any stretch of the imagination, should not have survived the inhumanity it endured for over 400 years.”.

The importance of Black History is to correct segments of American history and educate people worldwide on the achievements and unearned suffering African Americans continue to endure in the United States.

“To me, Black History Month is a celebration of the complete history of African Americans in the United States.” said Antoine.

The celebration of Black History month is important for all backgrounds.

It inspires all mistreated people in their own countries with a blueprint for seeking redress to long-neglected injustice.

Even those who have never been mistreated, due to their backgrounds, can gain insight and support those being celebrated in Black History Month.

We are all humans who should celebrate the life and peace of other humans no matter the race!

“Human life as we know it started in Africa. When you get right down to the DNA, we are all Africans”. stated Antoine.

Happy Black History Month!

ZTSD Punk Bash Lights Up Fishtown

ONE
MOVE
CLOSER
TO TURNING
YOUR PASSION
INTO A PROFESSION



Photo courtesy of Colt Gunn

On-campus Transfer Information Session (4 p.m.):

March 28 *Highlights the process of transferring to KU. Includes a campus tour.*

On-campus Transfer Friday (11 a.m.):

March 10 *Learn about the transfer admission process, programs of study, credit evaluation, financial aid, campus housing, dining, student life, and more. Includes a campus tour.*

Virtual Transfer Information Session (4 p.m.):

March 20 *Provides an overview of the process and timeline for transfer students.*

COLT GUNN
Centurion staff

Sat, Jan. 21st – The Zembo Temple of Skate and Design located at 2011 Amber St. in Fishtown, Philadelphia hosted a gritty, underground punk show right in their own skate

shop.

The show was a blast - or in other words, a bash full of 6 packs, skateboarding, and knee high boots. How much more punk can you get?

On arrival, the space for the band is front and center, right next to the shop. A half-pipe

for the skaters to drop in sits to the side.

The show starts right on time - according to punk time, where the set start time is never followed, and the band is always fashionably late.

The lights are turned off, and a distorted guitar riff rips through the store - that’s the cue.

The first band is Degenerate Scum, storming the stage with an already visibly intoxicated vocalist.

The drummer Josh lays down a fast beat and some excitable showgoers are moshing, but it remains a laid back session.

It was a small group, and an older crowd at that, with the exception of a couple kids including me.

A couple short songs are played, a lot of beers are downed, and they finish up their set.

Now it’s time for the smoke break in between sets.

During the break I was able to talk to the owner of the store, Chad Dravk, who said that the shop “plan(s) on hosting shows once a month.”

He also commented that “hosting shows is something new that they just started trying.”

Cigarettes are put out as people make their way inside as they are greeted by a synth, provoking some confused faces as the band Reckless Randy starts to perform.

The confused faces quickly turn to interest as we hear the synth come to life with the rest of the band.

We find out later in the set the guitarist and synth player are engaged - and it’s very cute.

The band’s sound evokes 80s psychedelic synth wave, like Suburban Lawns or Pere Ubu.

If you’re into that, they have music out on all platforms, you can find them on Instagram @kill_reckless_randy.

The headliner Pissed comes on next, coming all the way from Trenton, New Jersey.

They have a raw, punk sound that’s in your face.

A small circle pit ensues, boots flying in the air and two stepping all around.

A couple of the skaters make

their way into the pit on their boards while a blood curdling scream from the vocalist Tony Goggles engulfs the crowd, inciting cheers from everyone around.

People start to file out, some stayed behind to chat, and some stayed to check out the merch table.

ZTSD hosted a great opportunity to see live music and to come out to support local bands.

As for the venue, it’s very niche. A venue that your friends would be impressed by.

A venue that’s underground and helps you create contacts, get into the scene, and supports the community.

ZTSD is where it’s at. If interested, they have a website <https://zembo.square.site/> with updates on any upcoming shows.

Bucks News

Experience Words Coming Alive At Bucks



RAEANNE RACCAGNO
Centurion staff

The “Wordsmith Reading Series” stays active into the new year by continuing the traditional readings and keeping the cultural impact of the events alive since the 1960s. The first event of 2023 for the Wordsmith series will be taking place on Thursday, March 2 at 12:30 p.m. in Tyler Hall 142, where poets Megan Fernandes and Nicole Steinberg will be sharing their new work with the audience. A light lunch will be served afterward. Bucks County Community College is the proud founder

and home of the “Wordsmith Reading Series”. The series was organized by BCCC’s Cultural Programming Committee. The readings are celebrations of literature, where featured poets are invited to read their creations to an audience. Doctor Ethel Rackin, a language and literature professor at BCCC, is the current director of the Wordsmith Reading Series and Poet Laureate Program. Dr. Rackin has been organizing these public collaborations since 2010. This was shortly after she began her teaching career at Bucks County Community

College. The Wordsmith’s first meeting was in the 1960s, which featured Allen Ginsburg strumming on his guitar, and chanting verses to the audience as they swayed sitting on top of cushions on the floor. Since then, the series has featured outstanding and respected poets over time. In recent years, they’ve started inviting renowned fiction writers. Dr. Rackin stated, “For more than forty years, the Wordsmith Series has placed Bucks at the center of the literary arts scene in the region.” This has allowed the college to be recognized as the

leader of the illustrious series by many Philadelphia-area colleges and universities. “Literature lovers throughout the tri-state region and beyond are aware of our series.” Not only are the readings a way for the public to experience hearing a favored writer, but they are also an opportunity for students to use what they learn in the classroom during a wider world event. The series has become a home and community for a society of writers, poetry enthusiasts, and art lovers whose passion helps drive the continuation of the readings. “I think it’s fair to say that the public loves the series, as do I,” Dr.Rackin explains. “We count on it to introduce us to wonderful new writing in an inviting and comfortable environment.” Dr. Rackin invites the authors to the events herself. “I reach out mainly via email since I know some of the authors personally, many of them I don’t as well.” Hearing authors read their work out loud and in person is something new the literature-loving community has gotten to experience. “While it was definitely different, we continued to have the readings over zoom during quarantine,” Dr. Rackin explained. The Wordsmith reading

series started having its first in-person events this past Fall of 2022 since the Covid-19 virus. Dr.Rackin shared her thoughts about the difference between having the series in person versus over zoom, adding, “Hearing poetry in person brings it alive because public events are communal and shared by nature, whereas reading is generally a solitary act.” Keeping the community and culture alive during solitude helped maintain the popularity and attendance of the event. “Our events get quite a bit of attention right now.” Dr.Rackin added, “Plus, these events include food and conversation afterward!” All Wordsmith Reading Series events are free and open to the public! *Author Megan Fernandez, courtesy of the BCCC Website*

A Brief History of Wordsmiths

Since the 1960s, Bucks County Community College’s Wordsmiths Reading Series has featured some of the most distinguished and admired poets of our times. The awards bestowed on our featured writers are too numerous to name, and include the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book award, and the PEN Literary Award.

Courtesy of the BCCC Website



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Sports

Devastating Loss for Eagles At Super Bowl

RAYMUNDO VARELA-URIZAR
Centurion staff

The Philadelphia Eagles are not on the road to victory. The flying birds won their first Lombardi Trophy in 2018 after 85 years and after a Superbowl loss in 2004, but have lost this year in 2023.

The mighty birds faced off against the Kansas City Chiefs in Arizona on Sunday Feb. 12th.

The Kansas City Chiefs have two rings, but have 4 won championships. Their last ring was won in Feb. 2020, just right before the pandemic shut the stadium’s doors to fans - but have now reigned victorious and received another Super Bowl ring.

Despite a loss on the bird’s side, Philadelphia fans still took to City Hall and climbed the poles while chanting a resounding cry of “Let’s go Eagles” that could be heard in echoes between city buildings.

Fans were sad, depressed, angry, and dreading the loss of the birds with a score of 38-35 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs.

City trains were mostly silent, fans leaving bars early, angry twitter posts, and plain frustration led to violence between Eagles and Chiefs fans in the streets of Philadelphia.

Officially, the Eagles and Chiefs have faced off each other on the field ten times.

Despite the defeat, there were still highlights of the game - such as Jalen Hurts be-

coming the first quarterback in Super Bowl history to rush for 2 touchdowns and throw for another, along with opening the scoring with a 1 yard QB sneak for TD with a 7-7 after the first quarter.

Along with the excitement, this was the first ever Super Bowl where two brothers faced off against each other.

Philadelphia Eagles’s Jason Kelce took on his brother Travis Kelce of the Kansas City Chiefs with mutual support from their mother Donna Kelce.

As for another first time, this was Nick Sirianni’s first Super Bowl appearance after having a 23-11 record in the helm and with a 2-1 of the postseason.

Former Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid will officially hit the mark of becoming the fifth coach to face his former team in the Super Bowl. Other coaches in the same position included Weeb Ewbank, Dan Reeves, Jon Gruden, and Pete Carroll.

Let’s not forget the performance by Rihanna who sang and danced while 8 months pregnant, and the Super Bowl commercials that bring us laughs through advertising.

Just days after the Super Bowl, Jonathan Gannon departed from the Philadelphia Eagles to become the head coach to the Arizona Cardinals for the upcoming football season.

Another addition to the de-

parture is Shane Steichen, the former offensive coordinator for the Philadelphia Eagles, who has been named head coach for the Colts.

Despite losing two coaches, Head Coach of the Eagles Nick Sirianni says “We have great options in house”. One of the potential coaches could be defensive coordinator Vance Joseph of the Arizona Cardinals.

After media highlighted conferences from Nick Sirani, Jason Kelce, and Jalen Hurts, few Eagles fans had opinions.

Philadelphia Eagles fan Steven Giller of Doylestown, Pennsylvania says “Obviously we all wish the birds could’ve finished it out and brought home our second ring, but after hearing everything Jalen Hurts and coach Nick had to say, we are hungrier than ever and we will be back.”

“With Brady out of the picture and Rodgers in his final years, Hurts is easily going to be the best QB in the conference, and we have the 10th freaking pick in the draft! Schedule will be hard but always in it with a QB and building through trenches.” Says Giller.

American football will be back soon but despite the loss, Eagles fans still remain to Bleed Green and White! Be sure to watch the NFL draft later this season!



Photo courtesy of Raymundo Varela-Urizar



Transfer and Transform

Undergraduate Women’s College –
Transfer options for full-time students

Now offering exclusive merit scholarships from \$17,000 – 19,000 for
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