

The Centurion

“The Voice of the Students”



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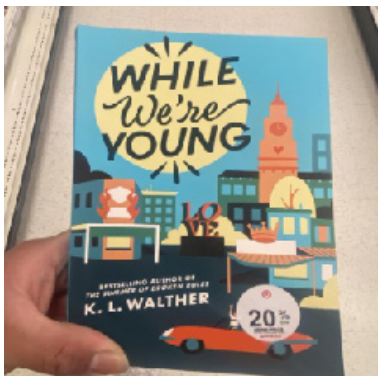
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Preparing for Upcoming Play “Making It”

Alex Bersenev

Centurion Staff

The Drama Club members are preparing and rehearsing for their upcoming play, “Making It.” The comedy-drama, written by Hindu Brooks, is a three-act play set in a high school for the performing arts. It focuses on a cast of students aspiring to break into the theater world.

The play presents a convincingly real story filled with frustrations, hope, and conflicts within the world of theater. It explores the challenges of personal and professional goals, exploring the sacrifices and strength that come with theatre acting to achieve success.

The story follows Alex, a former student who returns to his alma mater for his directing debut. He takes on the well-known play “Romeo and Juliet,” presented as a play within a play at Bucks. According to the synopsis on the Bucks website, “arguments over casting, costumes, and choreography may cause this classic love story [‘Romeo and Juliet’] to turn tragic before the show even hits the stage.” The production of “Making It” is expected to feature a cast of 15 to 17 actors.

The play is scheduled to run at the Zlocks Performance Arts Center at Newtown Bucks from April 30 to May 2, with performances each evening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The individuals who have taken the responsibility to direct the play are both Ambyr Thomas and Shane Laverty.

Ambyr Thomas and Shane Laverty have previously contributed to productions at Bucks, including “Night of One Acts,” “Centurion Night Live,” and “Monday Always Leads to Murder.” Work on the production of “Making It” began during the Spring 2025 semester.

Ambyr Thomas, a general science major at Bucks and the Drama Club’s president, is directing the upcoming show. A self-proclaimed theater enthusiast since the age of six or seven, she stepped away from acting after graduating high school. Fortunately, she returned to theater when the Drama Club resumed in Spring 2023, after being shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shane Laverty, a theater major at Bucks and the Drama Club’s treasurer, is the co-director of the upcoming



Photo courtesy of Gavin Galante

show. She has been acting since fourth grade and has continued for over 10 years. This marks her second time directing.

Last semester, in Fall 2024, she portrayed Harry Monday in “Monday Always Leads to Murder.” Reflecting on the experience, she said, “That has been my biggest role so far, and I am beyond grateful for that experience because it definitely helped me; one: as an actor and two: directing this semester.”

Ambyr Thomas was asked why this play was chosen for adaptation at Bucks. She explained, “It’s not pre-chosen, but you take a look at who you have, how many people you have, your split of genders, your split of age and experience.”

Ambyr elaborated, “You go, ‘What shows could we put on,’ so we looked for something with around this range of [amount of] actors, when she [Shane] and I were looking at plays, I found this one and it immediately caught my eye.” She explains that the reason why it caught her interest, it was a show that gave a relatable and real experience of theatre acting.

Ambyr Thomas was asked whether she preferred acting or directing plays. While she expressed her love for acting, she also detailed the unique satisfaction that directing brings, saying, “You get to see all the pieces come together.” She further shared her fondness for the club and the friendships she has formed within it. Describing her experience directing the play, she called it “crazy”—a challenge, but an enjoyable one.

When asked about the cast’s teamwork, both directors shared similar sentiments, noting that the cast works together well. Shane Laverty highlighted,

“They obviously have a very strong bond together. They help each other out no matter what.”

The two directors expressed their excitement about the show. Ambyr Thomas shared, “Oh my gosh, I’m so nervous I could die, but I’m really excited to see it.” Shane also shared that she was quite excited about it, “Oh 100%, yeah, I’m very excited about this.”

Additionally, they shared the most challenging elements of bringing the production to life. Ambyr Thomas noted, “Definitely time. With a lot of other productions, when you are in school, you go to rehearsal for two hours every single day after class because you may not have anything else to do. But now in college, we’re dealing with 15 people’s schedules, I have class time from xyz to xyz time, and I can only be here on two or three days.” She added, “We all have jobs and we all have lives, it’s really hard to get people into the Drama Club because it is a really big commitment but I think it’s very very worth it.”

When asked how they involved the cast and crew in shaping the play’s direction, Shane Laverty explained, “Having a team of management, I guess, is the best way. A team of leaders because it’s not just Ambyr and I, we have a stage manager, an assistant stage manager.”

Ambyr describes that she doesn’t entirely control how the cast and crew work together, but emphasizes that she trusts them to make their character decisions, and they trust her to pull them back if it doesn’t work for the show.

The lead actor, Ben Armagost, plays the character Alex. Ben, a theater major at Bucks, was asked about

his feelings regarding the upcoming show. “I am very excited and nervous for the show. This is my first time as a lead in any work I’ve done, so I’m looking forward to opening night!”

When asked how he felt about playing the lead role, Ben Armagost responded honestly, “Interesting to say the least. I feel like it’s almost my job to hype up the show, but I don’t want to come off as full of myself and end up downplaying my role whenever I’m talking about it.”

CJ Srichillo, a psychology major at Bucks, plays the second lead, Lisa. When asked about their feelings toward the upcoming performance, they shared, “Very excited, I had directed our show last semester so I’m very excited to be back on the stage.”

Including what it’s like playing one of the three main leads, “I am honored to get to work with my other two leads, they are both so talented on stage and wonderful off stage. The cast as a whole are so amazing, with all the support we give each other.”

Zoe Mongiello, a health science major at Bucks, plays the third lead, Cindy. When asked about their feelings about the upcoming play, they shared, “I am pretty excited for the play as it is the second one, I will be performing in at Bucks.”

Especially how they felt playing one of the three main leads, “It is an honor to get a lead character but it does add some pressure making sure I really portray my character correctly.”

Tickets for “Making It” are available for purchase online through the Zlock Performing Arts Center section of the Bucks website, at the box office, or at the door. Tickets are priced at \$10 each.

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Around Bucks

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Paper or Pixel? The Poster Showdown

Eme Yotko
Centurion Staff

Physical media is once again at risk of being assumed by technology here at Bucks, with recent talk of turning the posters around campus into digital formats available online.

While walking down the halls of any of our three Bucks campuses, you'll see the walls covered with an array of colorful posters. These posters are a way to let students and faculty know about college events, important deadlines and gives us something (other than our phones) to look at while walking to class.

Chris Seifert, the director of Student Engagement & Leadership Development, wants to remove these posters and switch them to a digital format. Seifer said his main goals are "to reduce both the paper waste and the clutter that was existing around campus". And in hopes "to direct people to Bucks+ and both the college's and Student Life's social media platforms, like

Instagram, so that everyone can stay up to date on events".

But these posters are a direct display of our active student life here at Bucks and many feel this could cause less engagement for activities around campus.

At a commuter schools, many who attend are also working a job or have children and can't dedicate their time to extracurricular school activities. Many students will come to campus for class, leave after and never really get involved with college events.

With the posters conveniently displayed on the walls passed by students and faculty on the daily, it helps bring attention to important campus matters, even if one isn't seeking them out.

Our students are busy and shouldn't have to search online or on Bucks+ for information when it can be readily available in person.

Communication in the form of emails, text messages and press releases rely on viewer engagement. But the viewer must be interested



Photo courtesy of Zacchary Crain

in checking it out. I'm sure most people can remember a time when they received a text that didn't seem important so instead of answering they ignored it.

If we can ignore a text message, which is directly written and sent to us. We can ignore almost anything if it's digital because if you don't want to see it, you can turn it off. This is why it's important to exhibit these posters in real life. Because even when you aren't paying attention your subconscious still picks up on your surroundings, and you can't turn a poster off. So even if you don't intend to read it, you're still getting something.

It feels overwhelming being bombarded by too

many messages. In an era where everything printed is being transferred to a digital format, we are losing the eye-catching visual relief provided by physical media. The significance of the digital format has become mundane.

On the other hand, paper waste is a problem so it isn't absurd for the school, or Student Life to try to sway to a more environmentally friendly solution. Perhaps if there could be a way to work to ensure that these posters are properly recycled or even reused, we could lessen that amount of waste and let the posters continue to thrive on our walls.

But until then, let's not try to fix what's not broken.

Memoir Recalls Escape from Holocaust Horrors

Kassandra Castillo
Centurion Staff

In her detailed and captivating graphic memoir, Miriam Katin retells the story of her and her mother's resilience during their escape on foot from the Nazi invasion of Budapest during the 1940's.

This striking memoir was discussed in a recent panel hosted in the Gallagher Room of the Newtown campus. On April 9, the college presented: "We Are On Our Own: Holocaust Graphic Narrative Book" Talk, where Dr. Rachel Perry lead the discussion on the representation and memory of the Holocaust and World War II in visual culture, via Zoom.

Perry was the most qualified speaker for this event due to her current teaches at the Weiss-Livnat Graduate program in Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa and in the Holocaust and Human Rights program in Gratz College.

Perry received her doctorate in Art History at Harvard University, specializing in art in France during the Occupation and Reconstruction. Her research straddles the fields of Art History, Visual Culture, and Holocaust Studies while currently working on a manuscript and preparing on an exhibition on the Early Holocaust Graphic Narratives by Women Survivors ranging from 1944-1949.

Accompanying Perry on zoom was Sophie Don, the associate director of the Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation,

who has worked as a program coordinator, museum advocator and tour guide for many of the city's cultural institutions with her M.A. from Brown Universities in Public Humanities.

The in-person panel consisted of History Professors Paula Raimondo and poet and visual artist Bernadette Karpa, as well as the Dean of Social and Behavioral Science Samantha Gross who helped create this event.

For those in attendance, a copy of the book was available at the Office of Social and Behavioral Science. The memoir is 122-page comic book – illustrated in mostly black and white sketchy art, taking place in a memory that transformed Miriam Katin's life forever.

Throughout the discussion, Perry was given the floor to dissect the meaning behind this powerful memoir of testimonies of a young Miriam Katina and to answer any questions about the events unfolded.

Perry began the conversation on the usage of graphic art as a form retelling Holocaust stories by mentioning how It could not have been done without Graphic Novelist, Art Spiegelman paving the way.

"He really defined how comics about the Holocaust could be drawn and written. He became the trend setter with his novel which was written within a 13-year period." She referred to his Volume 1 Edition "Maus: A Survivor's Tale" where, similar to Katin's novel, he describes the relationship of

a Jewish father and son surviving the brutal conditions of the Holocaust.

Perry believes he set the bar and standard of not only what stories could be told but how they could be told; creating a somewhat revolution in visual story telling especially within the Holocaust.

The topic of visual story telling within the Holocaust cannot be discussed without acknowledging that this type of content originally had an underlying controversy when the original inception of "Maus" was published "It really rubbed people the wrong way. They felt this form was not appropriate to the context that something as serious and difficult as the Holocaust should not be represented in comics," said Perry.

But after years of fighting for the accuracy in his work, critics classified "Maus" as a memoir, biography, history, fiction, autobiography, and in 1992 it became the first and only graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Katin also attributes her work to Spiegelman, stating that artist like herself were "given permission" to tell their story and their memories because of all his perseverance.

After generations of stories continued down family lineages, this form of storytelling has become relevant due to societies way of attempting to grasp the attention of newer audience members. The rise in popularity in this form of storytelling has caught the attention of memorial

institutions such as the Auschwitz Museum and Anne Frank's House which have come up with their own series of graphic novels.

The practice has even sparked a new project at the University of Victoria in Canada where they pair Holocaust survivors with artists so they could create graphic novels of the Holocaust for the next generation, from people with real life testimonies.

This would create a new kind of archive for future readers interested in the topic while we embrace on the awareness of approaching a post witness era without living survivors.

Dissecting stories like "We are On Our Own" and "Maus: A Survivor's Tale"

is a way for the Holocaust to reach new audiences of students and community members alike.

Back in 2022, The New York Times published an article on the banning and censoring of the Holocaust in certain school districts. They found that the School Board in Tennessee banned the teaching of Holocaust graphic novel "Maus" due to its "swear words" according to minutes from the meeting.

This particular issue was brought up during the Q&A portion of the discussion, where an audience member asked the panel how they felt about the current climate of concern for high school students not being

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Photo courtesy of Kassandra Castillo



Around Bucks

Volunteer Income Tax Program Wraps Up

Najet Cherif
Centurion Staff

VITA is a free program that seeks to serve those with incomes of \$67,000 or less, are disabled, have limited English ability, and seniors with their taxes. VITA is a program ran through the Bucks County Opportunity Council, VITA volunteers help those eligible receive maximum returns on their taxes and helps clients understand their tax situations. VITA files Federal, State, and Local taxes, all for free. In 2024, the Bucks County Opportunity Council stated on the VITA section of their website that 1,433 Tax Returns were prepared resulting in a total of \$2.2 Million dollars in Tax Services, (refunds, saved filing fees, credits, property tax and rent rebates) being provided. As Tax season comes to a close, I am left to reflect on my time as a first time VITA volunteer. It was an amazing experience and opportunity to demystify taxes and have

a direct impact on people’s lives. It was definitely a journey becoming more confident in preparing taxes and I owe it all to Natasha Johnson for being such a beacon of light throughout. Natasha Johnson is a professor at Bucks that teaches various classes in relation to accounting and the site coordinator of the VITA site ran on the Bristol Bucks campus. Natasha was extremely kind and patient with me and I enjoyed the time I spent with her throughout the season. I had no experience in anything having to do with accounting or taxes, so I was fish straight out water. Having no familiarity with taxes should not scare you out joining VITA, in fact it should be a reason to join. VITA gave me a better understanding of taxes for free, both in the classes ran in January and in practice. I was initially scared that doing taxes would be an unenjoyable activity, as doing my own taxes was

overwhelming and stressful. However, I surprisingly found it to be quite relaxing and rewarding. I surprised myself with going hours without listening to music, without getting distracted, overwhelmed, or bored. I enjoyed the experience very much and plan on joining the team in the coming tax year in 2026. I encourage students of all majors to consider attending the free tax seminars either in person or on zoom. Recruiting will start in the Fall of 2025 for a new batch of volunteers for the 2025 tax season. The program begins with free tax education classes every Saturday of January. I highly recommend students of any major join this program for a multitude of reasons. This program offers hands-on experience that brings immediate change for clients. It is also helpful for building resumes, brushing up on your people and problem-solving skills, and exposes you to people of

walks of life. If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer <https://bcoc.org/volunteer-opportunities/> or email dbush@bcoc.org and natasha.johnson@bucks.edu for more information. Note that you will need clearances if you have not lived in PA for more than 10 years through FBI fingerprinting, otherwise, you’ll just sign a waiver. For those unfamiliar with the Bucks County Opportunity Council and their services, here is a quick blurb. BCOC has five major program areas: Housing, Food, Weatherization, Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) and the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Program. Housing includes street outreach, rental and move in aid, and utility shut-off prevention. Food services supply food directly to families through a network of 74 food pantries and distribution sites. Weatherization services help families in reducing

their energy costs. VITA provides free income tax preparation assistance. The ES Program assists individuals and families to leave poverty permanently through case management, education, and employment. For 60 years, the Opportunity Council has served low-income families in Bucks County by helping them to stabilize when in crisis, garner resources to achieve a livable wage, gain additional education and training, and work towards economic self-sufficiency



continued from page 2...
educated on serious genocidal historical events such as slavery and the Holocaust. History teacher Paula Raimondo answered with “reading is literacy. Literacy is an act of resilience. If somebody wants to ban books, how can you resist? Just read it anyway. You could assemble a room full of people to talk about it. This goes deep into Holocaust denial and extortion – certainly on many levels. Is it being instrumentalized for political purposes? Yeah absolutely.” The almost two-hour long discussion followed up with the panelists encouraging the community to stay tuned to newsletters as they tend to orchestrate a history program that takes every semester. The event, which was supported by a grant from the Mark Schonwetter Holocaust Education Foundation was brought to campus to

not only give the community an in person and online open discussion forum to learn more about Holocaust graphic novels, but also to bring more awareness to Holocaust studies at Bucks. The Department of Social and Behavioral Science have open enrollment for the Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Certificate Program. HGNS110 History of the Holocaust is an online learning class being held in the 2025 Fall Semester. This class explores the history of Holocaust through multiple perspectives and as an outline for understanding current genocide. If learning about Katin’s memoir left you wanting more, perhaps HGNS110 is for you. For more information about the “We Are On Our Own: Holocaust Graphic Narrative Book” Talk or about history class registration, contact the Department of Social and Behavioral Science at sb@bucks.edu

On-campus Transfer Friday (11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.):

April 25 *Learn about the transfer admission process, programs of study, credit evaluation, financial aid, campus housing, dining, student life, and more. Includes a campus tour.*

Golden Bear Guidance Session (6-7 p.m.):

May 22 *Transfer student services overview.*



www.kutztown.edu/transfer

Entertainment

The Revival of Vinyl: The Black Discs Are Back

Milo Condran
Centurion Staff

Vinyl appeared to be a contemporary dinosaur when compact discs emerged during the early 90s. The appeal was evident. CDs are easier to store, contain more music than vinyl and are less likely to be damaged. By 2007 more than 200 billion CDs were sold.

However, vinyl reemerged just as CDs hit that sales milestone. The reason is that music fans longed for the warmth of vinyl and a tangible product with full art.

There’s no question the art and sound are much better with vinyl,” Siren Records owner Blair Elliot said.

Siren, which has been a Doylestown staple since Elliot graduated from NYU to run the record shop in 1990, sells vinyl on the town’s idyllic Main Street and via mail.

According to Elliot, all genres are pushing vinyl. “Country artists make a

point of telling fans to buy vinyl,” Elliot said. “The great thing for us is that they tell fans to buy from independent record shops. It’s really been good since pop artists have encouraged fans to buy vinyl and now there is a new generation of fans buying vinyl. The artists influence fans and we see it in the store.”

In June 2017, Sony Music announced that it would start producing vinyl records in house for the first time since easing production in 1989. Taylor Swift’s popularity pushed vinyl to new levels over recent years.

The Recording Industry Association of America reported that vinyl is flourishing. According to RIAOA in 2022, revenues from vinyl records grew 17 percent to \$1.2 billion, That was the 16th consecutive year of growth and accounted for 71 percent of physical format revenues. For the first time since 1987, vinyl albums outsold CDs in units, 41 million to 33 million.



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

When CDs became popular a generation ago some believed that new vinyl would vanish. However, there is no such talk for CDs, which are making a comeback. “People are buying more CDs these days,” Elliot said.

However, vinyl remains the source for dedicated music aficionados. Flat sounding downloads remain popular for casual fans. There’s a format for every music lover but vinyl is what it’s all about on Record Store Day, which is slated for Saturday, April 12.

The bi-annual event, which started in 2008, is held one Saturday every April and every Black Friday in November.

The event unites fans, artists and thousands of independent record stores around the world. It’s a day that keeps Elliott and the Siren staff very busy the week before the event. “It’s something we always look forward to,” Elliot said.

A concert for Elliot is President Trump’s tariffs, since American manufacturers of records tap into materials from other countries,

which might impact the cost of albums.

But ardent fans may pay the increase since they’re passionate about music. Concert ticket prices over recent years have soared but shows are routinely sold out.

“It seems as though if you love music you’ll come out and support the recording artists by buying albums or tickets to their shows,” Elliot said. “I completely understand that.”

Bucks Beach Guide!

Kassandra Castillo
Centurion Staff

Hey Bucks students, plan on heading to the beach this summer? Well, plan to spend more money as the Jersey Shore beach pricing for the 2025 season has been revealed.

For those who might not be familiar, most New Jersey beaches require a paid badge or tag in order to step foot onto the beach. Although many beaches offer discounts or free entry to veterans, seniors, and children, regular admission can still be expensive for others, with some beach tags costing as much as \$14 per person, per day.

If some of these double-digit prices for a day in the sun have you feeling discouraged, don’t worry—not all beaches require badges for entry.

With summer right around the corner, let’s breakdown some shore towns daily, weekly, and seasonal badge price.

The list below reflects the beaches closest to the Bucks Newtown Campus with travel time based during non-traffic hours.

Belmar Beach: 1 Hour Away
Daily: (\$12) (last season \$10)
Season Badge: \$80
Season Badge Senior (65+): \$32

Point Pleasant at Jenkinson’s Boardwalk: 1 Hour Away
Daily: Mon-Fri \$13 / Weekends & Holidays \$14
Season Badge: \$130
Seniors (65+): \$95

Spring Lake Beach: 1 Hour Away
Daily: \$12
Seasonal Badge: \$110
Senior(65+): \$80

Asbury Park: 1 hour & 10 Minutes Away
Daily: Mon-Fri \$7 (Used to be \$6 last season) / Weekends & Holidays \$10
Seasonal: \$70
Seniors (62+): \$20

Seaside Heights: 1 Hour & 20 Minutes away
Daily: \$13 (Used to be \$10 last season)
Seasonal: \$75
Seniors (65+): \$15

Atlantic City: 1 Hour & 30 Minutes Away
Free

Sandy Hook Beach: 1 Hour & 30 Minutes Away
Free

Long Beach Island: 1 Hour & 30 Minutes
Daily: \$10
Seasonal: \$50
Seniors 65+: \$5

Island Beach State Park: 1 Hour & 35 Minutes Away
Free

Ocean City: 1 Hour & 40 Minutes Away
Daily: \$10 (Used to be \$5 in 2022)
Seasonal: \$35

Wildwood Beach: 2 Hours Away
Free

Cape May Beach: 2 Hours Away
Daily: \$10
Seasonal: \$40

Beach badge prices have been increasing in New Jersey to keep up with the rising costs and to help ensure a clean and safe beach experience to all visitors according to nj.com

Some beaches choose to gain its revenue by charging for parking because they are state and federally owned. Island Beach State Park is state owned and Sandy Hook Beach is federally owned so they are excluded from charging individual beach tags and badges.

When asked what his favorite beach to go to is, 29-year-old Bucks County resident Adler Love said, “Honestly it depends the mood I’m in. If I want to have some fun I’ll go to Wildwood, if I want to relax I’ll do Belmar since it’s the closest.” but even he is not a fan of badge fees. “I’m not paying \$14 to enter a beach for one day. There are plenty of free good beaches or beaches with lower tag prices that are at least worth it.”

Charging beachgoers a fee to enjoy the ocean breeze and warm sand dates back to 88 years ago – in 1929 at Bradly Beach where the first ever beach tag was issued in New Jersey. The bronze Bradley Beach badge is on display at the Bradly Beach Historical Museum.

Mayor of Bradley Beach at the time, Frank C. Borden Jr. felt the need to keep the beaches “Seclusive for our residents if the property owners expect to make advantageous rentals in the future” so he created the beach tag which was basically a way to keep non-Bradley Beach resi-



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

dents off the beaches.

Shortly after more shore towns began molding after this program, creating their own beach rules and fees which resulted in a grand revenue generating method.

By 1955 the New Jersey law, the Municipal Beach Act was passed which allowed towns “bordering the Atlantic Ocean, tidal water bays or rivers to charge a fee to beachgoers in order to account for maintenance and safety costs associated with them.”

These beach access fees are used to for beach maintenance such as beach cleaning, trash removal, restroom clean up, and lifeguard stations.

Though paying \$14 for a single day at the beach is absolutely absurd, no one should attempt any slick

moves as beach tag checkers tend to patrol paid-access beaches, so make sure you purchase a tag prior to entering the beach and that its visible.

We are officially 39 days away from Memorial Day weekend, also known as the beginning of summer (even though the official start of summer is actually June 29, but who’s counting) so you all have plenty of time to decide which beach is right for you.

While the fees aren’t the most ideal situation for any struggling college student, at least the closest free beach to a broke Bucks student, is only an hour and a half away.

Entertainment

Ray’s Reviews: Movies, Television, and Books

Raymundo Varela-Urizar
Centurion Staff

CALLING ALL HUNGER GAME FANS!

Book number five of the “Hunger Games” book series has arrived on our shelves at our local book stores and retail shops! Fans of both the book and movie franchise are in for a treat as this book explores more of the years before we meet Katniss, Peeta, and Gale. Set 24 years before the events of the first Hunger Games book, the book is set to revisit the world of Panem. As the citizens prepare for the 50th Hunger Games which is also called “The Second Quarter Quell”, it has been said that there will be more tributes than ever stripped from their homes to be forced to participate in the games. Two boys and two girls from each district. One particular character (a fan favorite) known as Haymitch Abernathy is a rather anxious one. Haymitch, born on July 4, is an average person with hopes, dreams, and plans to explore and share his life with the girl of his dreams Lenore Dove. Haymitch’s ambitions are put on a massive hold after he has been called to be tribute along with Maysilee Donner, Louella McCoy both female tributes from District 12 and Wyatt Callowan the other male from District 12. Despite the deadly circumstances, Haymitch is not only determined to make it home alive but to also fight for what is right. “Sunrise of the Reaping” is out now.

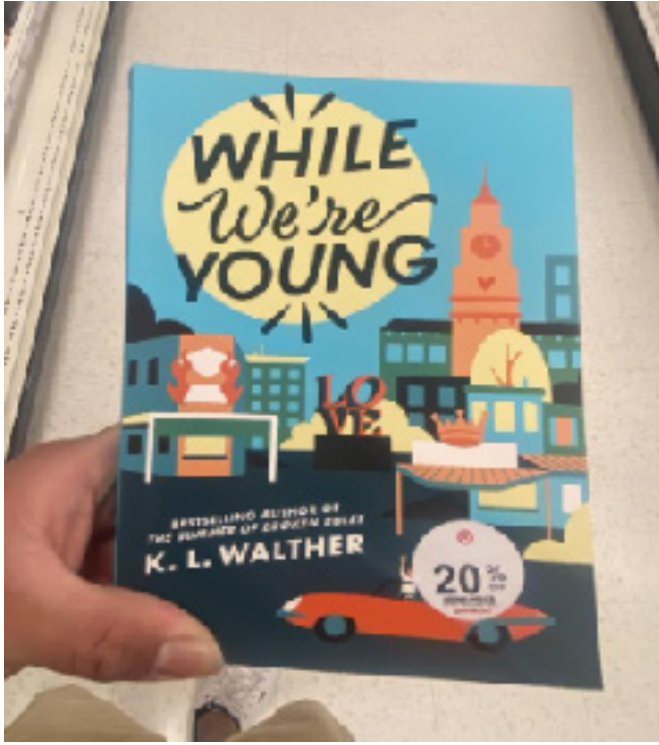
Author: Suzanne Collins (Author of “The Hunger Games”, “Catching Fire” and “Mockingjay”)
Audio book narration: Jefferson White
Publisher: Scholastic Press (March 18, 2025)
Language: English
Hardcover: 400 pages
ISBN-10: 546171460
ISBN-13: 978-1546171461
Reading age: 12 years and up



SENIOR SKIP DAY..IN PHILLY!

With the love of “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” and those that enjoy city adventures, “While We’re Young” centers around high school seniors Grace, Isa, and Everett. Before graduation, the friends are on a “mission” to experience senior skip day from school. The mission is to spend time in the city of Philadelphia also known as “The City of Brotherly Love”. These three friends also learn to push through the awkwardness of the love triangle within the trio. Readers who enjoy romantic comedies will find humor and heartwarming moments throughout the book. Those who know Philly will catch the subcultures of what makes Philadelphia..Philadelphia from the delicious cheesesteaks and the Philadelphia art museum to name a few. A fun read for everyone.

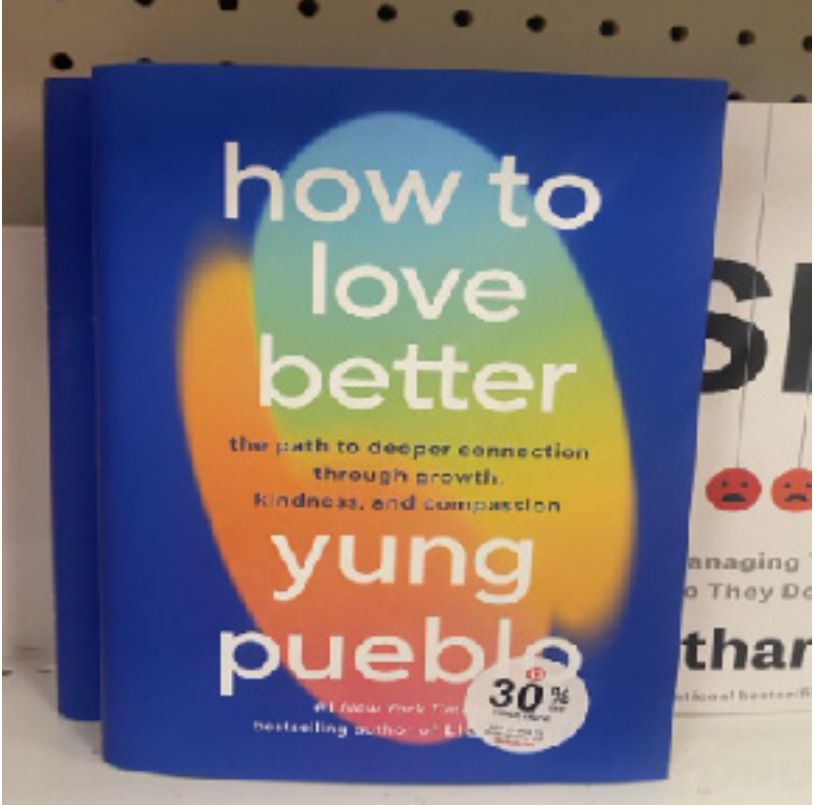
Author: K. L. Walther (Author of “First Time for Everything” and “Pumpkin Spice and Everything Nice”)
Publication Date: March 4, 2025
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0593813952
ISBN-13 : 978-0593813959
Reading age: 13 and up



LOVE AND HEAL.

Yung Pueblo is one of the many authors who write about how we as readers and human beings can become our best selves. In this book, Yung illustrates how the relationships we find or seek are based on the love we have for ourselves, in our mind, body, and soul. The way we communicate with ourselves, the way we talk about ourselves, and the flaws we have impact our friendships, and also the people we choose to love. The main challenge examined by Pueblo is how we heal from our scorns and mistakes. Heartbreaks, commitments, how we argue, life changes, and how we learn about ourselves in and out of relationships are just a few of the key factors that Pueblo discusses. May we all heal in the right way so that we may be the best version of ourselves in a world of fakeness.

Author: Yung Pueblo (Author of “Lighter” and the “Inward” trilogy)
Book length: 352 pages
Language:English
Publisher: Harmony
Publication Date: March 11, 2025
ISBN-10: 0593582276
ISBN-13: 978-0593582275
Reading age: 18 and up





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Sports

Looking at the Flyers’ Trades

Grace Hill

Centurion Staff

If one thing has been made clear in the past few weeks, is that the Flyers are not a good team. When managing a team that is one of the worst in the NHL, Flyers general manager Danny Briere had to make a lot of decisions leading up to the trade deadline to help the team out in the future. Here’s what those decisions look like as of right now:

January 31, 2025: Flyers trade Morgan Frost and Joel Farabee to Calgary Flames in exchange for Andrei Kuzmenko, Jakob Pelletier, a 2025 2nd round pick, and a 2028 7th round pick

Frost and Farabee have been in the Flyers organization since 2017 and 2018, so it was a major decision to move on from the 24- and 25-year old’s who had become mainstays on the team. Regardless, many benefits came from this trade. The biggest upside to this trade doesn’t come from the assets the Flyers acquired in return, but from what Frost and Farabee’s absence does to the team’s position.

The most important thing was that the Flyers are no longer responsible for Farabee’s contract, which would have had them paying him five million dollars annually until the end of the 2027-28 season. Even though the cap is going up, paying a player that much when he didn’t necessarily have a future on the team or produce much is not ideal. Looking at Frost, he was due for a new contract at the end of this season, and like Farabee, there was no real place on this team for him moving forward.

Both players were not bad by any means, but they weren’t above average producers either. Considering that both players are entering their mid-to-late twenties, there was no point in holding onto them in the hopes that they would

dramatically improve their on-ice production.

The 2nd round pick is another valuable asset to have, whether they use it to draft a player or use it as ammo to trade for a player.

Pelletier is a good, hard-working player who gets a fresh start on a very young Philadelphia team. He’s not going to blow anyone away, but he provides a lot of energy and has played well so far with the Flyers, even if the points haven’t followed.

Kuzmenko showed flashes in Philly, but he was later flipped the day of the trade deadline.

March 7, 2025: Flyers trade Andrei Kuzmenko at 50% retained and a 2025 7th round pick to the Los Angeles Kings in return for a 2027 3rd round pick

As previously mentioned, Kuzmenko showed flashes in his short time with the Flyers, but losing him isn’t super significant. The 29-year-old hasn’t produced the same since he had a 39 goal season with Vancouver in 2022-23. Considering his inconsistencies, trading him for any assets at all is a win. The Flyers retained 50% of his contract, but it expires at the end of the season, so it’s kind of a moot point.

March 7, 2025: Flyers trade Scott Laughton at 50% retained, a 2025 4th round pick, and a 2027 6th round pick to the Toronto Maple Leafs in return for Nikita Grebenkin and a 2027 first round pick

This was probably the biggest win for the Flyers. After his name swirled around in trade rumors for years, Scott Laughton got traded. Though he was an incredibly valuable leader in the locker room, it was time the Flyers moved him while they still could. The 30-year-old did not produce much this season or the last, and though he will be dearly missed in the community, it was clear he would not be a part of the team’s future.

Laughton’s contract lasts for another year with the Flyers paying half of his



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

three million dollar per year salary. Eating 1.5 million for a year is a drop in the bucket, and likely had to be done to get the return that they did. The forward the Flyers got in return, Nikita Grebenkin, has a lot of potential.

At 21 years old, Grebenkin has played a few games in the NHL with the Toronto Maple Leafs and has spent his time in the Flyers organization playing for the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, the Flyers’ AHL affiliate. Grebenkin’s collected 3 points in 4 games with the Phantoms with 2 goals scored, and at 6’2”, he provides some much-needed height to the Flyers’ prospect tool. The Russian also has history playing with 20-year-old Flyers forward Matvei Michkov, so having that chemistry can be a huge benefit in the future. The other exciting aspect of this trade is the first rounder acquired in return. Though it won’t be used for another two years, a first-round pick is always incredibly valuable and makes the return much sweeter.

March 7, 2025: Flyers trade Erik Johnson to the Colorado Avalanche in return for Givani Smith

There’s nothing super exciting to this trade. Erik

Johnson is 37-year-old defensemen whose role on the team was mostly to be a veteran presence, and Smith is a player who will likely spend his career in the AHL. However, this trade does provide something important. Johnson had played for the Avalanche for 13 years and won the Stanley Cup with the team back in 2022. Leaving the team was incredibly emotional for him as he had spent so much time there and created such deep bonds with the city and the franchise.

There really wasn’t a pressing need to trade Johnson. There was no high demand for him. Being traded back there was done as a favor by Briere. The Flyers have not been a good team for some time now, and when Danny Briere took over as GM back in March 2023, there were a lot of bad decisions that needed to be undone.

Doing right by the players is something that is noticed by others in the league. The NHL is tough business where people are constantly being moved from team to team, sometimes with no say in where they go. Having a GM that respects their players is very appealing, and that can make the Flyers an appealing destination for

free agents in the future, something that hasn’t been true in quite some time now.

Overall, this deadline could be considered consider a massive success for the Flyers. Part of the reason why they have been bad for so long is because they held onto players for too long, only losing them when the players were past their prime and would get them nothing valuable in return.

Briere has made it clear that this regime will not make those same mistakes. Those who do not fit the timeline will be traded if the offer is right. An underrated part of this trade is that losing all of these players made the team as it is right now much, much worse. Though that sounds bad, the Flyers losing more and getting a high draft pick in the first round would do wonders for the franchise’s future.

The Flyers for as long as one can remember have been an average team, middling between the playoffs and the draft lottery. Missing the playoffs and picking 12th overall each year will do nothing in moving the needle for the future. Sometimes you have to suck in order to get better, and the Flyers have finally learned that.

Free Agent Signings of the 2025 NFL Season

Shane Swan

Centurion Staff

March 12 marked the start of the new league year in the NFL when deals can become official and teams hope to better themselves through free agency and trades.

The Super Bowl winning Philadelphia Eagles, local to the Bucks County Community made a lot of moves this offseason.

They lost players like Darius Slay, James Bradberry IV, Josh Sweat, Milton Williams, and Kenneth Gainwell. However, they re-signed important pieces to their Super Bowl victory

like Lane Johnson, Saquon Barkley, and Zack Baun.

The Eagles also brought in new players to help spots that they lost through free agency, such as: Dorian Thompson-Robinson, A.J Dillion, and Azeez Ojulari. They hope to fill in places through the draft where they have the last pick in the first round.

Life-long Eagles fan Josh Doré says that “The Eagles free agency was pretty good, considering how little cap we had initially, we will see how it translates to next season, to hopefully go back to back”

Looking at the rest of the NFC east, Dallas signed Dante Fowler Jr, Miles Sanders, and Bryan Anger in hope to

put themselves back in play-off contention.

The Giants signed two quarterbacks in Jameis Winston and Russell Wilson to hopefully give their team a better record than their attempt last year. The Giants also holds the third overall pick in this years draft.

The last team in the NFC east that also played the Eagles in the NFC championship game were the Washington “cardiac” Commanders. They made big moves this offseason trading for Deebo Samuel and Laremy Tunsil.

The Commanders also resigned very important veterans like Bobby Wagner and Zach Ertz. They signed

many important role players like Javon Kinlaw, Jonathan Jones, and Will Harris in hopes of returning to the NFC championship game.

Another team local to Bucks County Community College is the New York Jets. They lost their experimental hopeful players in Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams. Although they made moves to help their roster for the upcoming year, like Justin Fields and hopefully he will be the franchise quarterback for the foreseeable future.

Other big moves that happened this offseason include Stefon Diggs going to the New England Patriots, the

49ers moving on from 17 players during free agency, and D.J. Reed joining the Detroit Lions to help out their secondary

Divisional opponents of the Philadelphia Eagles, the Los Angeles Rams made two huge moves this offseason, they had to move on from their star wide receiver Cooper Kupp, former offensive player of the year and Super Bowl MVP.

However, they signed another star studded wide receiver in Davante Adams which will give them a great second choice receiver beside Puca Nacua, they are also trying to recreate their previous success from last season.

Arounds Bucks

Bucks Says Good-bye to Beloved Custodian

Samantha Davidson
Centurion Staff

On Thursday, April 10th, Bucks students and staff gathered in the Gallagher at the Newtown Campus to offer farewell wishes to one of our own.

Robert “Bob” Buchholz, a custodial employee of the college, has decided to retire after 12 years of service to the campus and its students - leaving a large void to fill, left behind.

In his role, Buchholz regularly set up and organized events that make the college so special- which is why he wasn’t surprised to get a page from Student Life Director Chris Seifert on April 10th.

Buchholz was under the pretenses that there was a “set up” emergency during the students “Brunch and Bingo” hour where students played bingo for a winning gift card prize, with

various cereal and milk options available.

Students participating the event played Bingo and ate cereal as they awaited Bobs arrival. Due to the Gallaghers room constant event hosting, this was nothing out of the ordinary for our beloved Physical Plan worker.

When he arrived, cleaning cart in hand- he found - not a party that needed help setting up, but a party held in his honor. Students filled the Gallagher room with cheers and applause for one of the valuable links in the chain of Bucks County Community College.

Chris Seifert honored him, saying “They [Bob] do the work that often doesn’t get seen. Bob is someone’s name I want you to remember. He’s made such an impact in this college now and all the years before you for the last twelve years”.


Buchholz was in charge of setting up all indoor and outdoor college events with tasks ranging from tables and chair set up and removal to putting up signs and banners. “That man has probably put up and taken down more tables and chairs than anyone on earth” said a playful Siefert.


In response to his surprise retirement party, a shocked and emotional Bob said “I’m going to miss this. But it’s time to retire. I appreciate this, seriously, from everyone”.

At the date of publication, Bob Buchholz will have been retired for a little over a week. Maybe he’s out enjoying the nice weather. Maybe he’s taking a trip. Whatever Bob is up to, the students and staff wish him well and are thankful for his years of labor and hard work.



Photo courtesy of Gavin Galante





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Panel 2: 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Panel 3: Noon to 1:15 p.m.

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For more information contact SRC committee at BucksSRC@gmail.com

All students who submit an application will be accepted as presenters. PAPERS AND OTHER MEDIA ACCEPTED! Share your research and hear about others’ work at Bucks’ Student Research Conference.

The deadline for submissions is **Thursday, April 17 at 11:59pm.** All presenters will be notified of their confirmed presentation time(s). We look forward to hearing about your research.

Submissions should be sent to bucks.edu/SRC

Presented by the Composition Committee
Department of Language & Literature