

The Centurion

“The Voice of the Students”



Volume 61 Issue 9

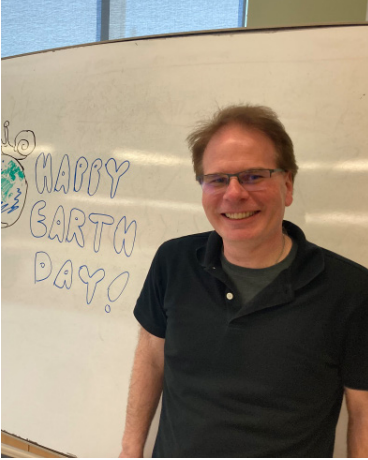
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More Than a Professor: A Thank You to Professor Rogers



Photo courtesy of Eme Yotko

Kassandra Castillo
Editor in Chief

Tucked away in the heart of the Rollins Building is Room 118, also known as “the newsroom.” This is where students and faculty can find The Centurion newspaper headquarters, under the advisement of Professor Tony Rogers.

While this is a student-run paper with an entirely student-run staff, as everyone knows, all clubs must have an advisor—and this is where Professor Rogers, or as most people know him, “Tony,” comes in.

Most likely sitting in dim lighting, listening to an array of jazz music ranging from John Coltrane to RAYE, with his grey Vans and dark colored jeans, Tony can be found relaxing at his desk with a Core Power chocolate protein shake—his usual breakfast—as he awaits the revolving door of students who pass through his classroom as if it were a study hall.

Tony wasn’t always the engaging advisor found in the hallways of Bucks. His story begins as a young boy in Wisconsin. After obtaining his B.A. in journalism from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, he went on to earn his M.S. in journalism from Columbia University and began his career as a full-time reporter, working for The Associated Press.

From 1993 to 1997, he worked at the New York Daily News, one of the nation’s largest newspapers, where he served as

the Long Island bureau chief and later the deputy national news editor. He has also been a reporter for The Associated Press, a copy editor for the Philadelphia Daily News, a police reporter and copy editor for The Capital Times in Madison, Wisconsin, and a reporter for the Auckland Star in New Zealand. He is the author of *Newswriting on Deadline*, published by Allyn & Bacon/Longman, and the founder of the “Jazz at Bucks” concert series. (Before you ask—yes, Professor, I stole all this information from your website.)

Somewhere in between all of that he met his wife, Minh who works as a highly rated doctor in the Temple network and they had two kids, Sean and Emma. Tony speaks very highly on his family, especially his wife who he loves to say is completely out of his league.

He has been teaching journalism at Bucks since 1997 and is the sole journalism professor at the college. Some might think one professor covering an entire degree program is a bit far-fetched, but those people clearly don’t know Professor Rogers like I do.

Yes, as a future writer and reporter, everyone knows I’m breaking the cardinal rule of writing in the first person. But it’s my last issue as editor in chief, and this is the first time I’ve broken that rule, and I’d say it’s for a pretty valid reason: to speak highly of the professor who changed my life.

To start off, pulling this off was not easy by any means. Just to give a quick

rundown of how The Centurion is submitted: I, as the editor, put the entire paper together (by myself) and submit the final pages to Professor Rogers, who then reviews them and decides whether it’s ready to send to the printer.

So, in order to pull this off, I had to create an entirely fake version of the paper with a different front-page story to send to Professor Rogers. Once he approved the “fake” version and revised it, I began working on the real one.

Not only would Professor Rogers not like me writing so informally for the paper, but he also wouldn’t like an entire story about himself as front-page news. But it’s my last issue as editor, so what can they do - fire me?

Anyway, I apologize for the back and forth between Tony and Professor Rogers. Everyone calls him Tony, but I call him Professor. It’s one of the few things I can do to show respect to the person who has believed in me more on certain days than I’ve believed in myself.

I’ve been the longest-running editor of The Centurion, and in that time, Professor Rogers has gone from my advisor, to my professor, to my mentor, to my dear friend.

Without Professor Rogers, I wouldn’t have learned the writing skills that helped me earn not only Student Keystone Awards, but also my summer internship. He’s pushed me when I needed it most. He’s listened to my countless rants about feeling old, washed up, and silly for still being in school.

He reminds me, and all of his students, that nothing is impossible if you truly go for it.

He is the glue behind the newspaper, whether he likes to admit it or not.

Communications major Eme Yotko views Tony as “An inspiration to the next era of journalists here at Bucks and having him as a teacher has been the greatest pleasure.

Although I’m very excited for the next chapter in my life, I’m also saddened that the shared space I have with Professor Rogers is coming to an end.

All I hope is that future editors of The Centurion, who will work closely with him like I have, will have the same experience. I hope they value his insight and take his advice seriously. After all, you got pretty big shoes to fill. (kidding)

Last week, Professor Rogers told me, “I hope we keep in contact after you’re gone.” As if he could ever get rid of me. Besides, who else would I send my future stories to for editing?

Professor Rogers, it’s been one hell of a long year, and I quite literally wouldn’t be as successful in my career if it weren’t for you. I am eternally grateful for all that you’ve done for me, and I hope that as I continue on my path, I make you nothing but proud.

Thank you definitely isn’t enough, but it’s a start. I hope I find even a fraction of you in every professor I meet going forward.

xoxo, your favorite Editor ever

Around Bucks

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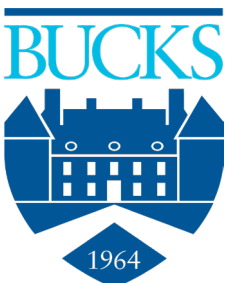
Email your letters to:
buckscenturion@gmail.com
Letters should be limited to 500 words. They will be edited for spelling, space and malicious or libelous statements. Letters must be the original work of the writer and must be signed. For identification purposes, letters must include the writer's full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

Want to join The Centurion?

Accepting all writers,
editors, and
graphic designers!

Come join us in our new
location in Rollins 118

Staff Meeting - Thursdays
12:30 p.m - 1:15 p.m.



A Look Back at the Centurion's Publication Through COVID-19

Brianna Glassey
Centurion Staff

More than five years ago, COVID-19 shut down most of the world's in-person processes. Bucks classes migrated online, and student clubs went on hiatus, all except one: The Centurion newspaper, led by the Editor-in-Chief at the time, Alyssa Moore, never stopped meeting deadlines despite worldwide isolation.

It was at the end of Moore's first year at Bucks in the Spring of 2020 when students were dismissed for a break that would seemingly never end, leaving the campus almost entirely deserted.

"I knew how to put the paper together, but I didn't have access to any of the notes of how to do everything since they were kept on campus," Moore said.

However, the abrupt change in routine didn't stop Moore from producing the newspaper.

Working together with the journalism students who continued at Bucks during this time, The Centurion never lost a beat. "So many clubs had to stop, but we were able to keep going," Moore said.

"Some of the editions were pretty skimpy, but we were always able to put something out," Moore said.

COVID-19 was a truly independent time for the students; for the vast majority, it was their introduction to online courses, and meant getting accustomed to the loss of the in-person interactions they were used to on campus.



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Moore

Being stuck at home, many students didn't know what to do besides spending more time in bed.

Moore was grateful to have The Centurion to run. "It kept me entertained and doing something during that time when we were all stuck at home," she said.

With new editions due every two weeks, the pandemic taught Moore "the importance of deadlines, and shockingly, we never missed a single one," she said. A great feat when navigating somewhat unfamiliar software with a small number of writers.

When the pandemic was about to come to an end, Moore's final semester was nearing completion as well.

Moore said working on The Centurion "was almost like a dream, like it never happened. There was no final meeting or anything; it was just over. I never got the closure," Moore said.

The final time Moore was on the Bucks' campus was for graduation, which was held while social distanc-

ing in the parking lot with around 100 students.

After her time at Bucks, Moore graduated from Temple University after continuing to study journalism and now works with the Bucks County Courts.

Tony Rogers, the faculty advisor for The Centurion, reflected on that time of uncertainty with pride in his students' work ethic.

"With the pandemic, we were in uncharted waters. But I knew the students, particularly Alyssa, were capable of producing the newspaper," Rogers said.

With a gut feeling that if Moore said she'd keep the paper going, she would, Rogers trusted her word. Moore met every deadline, and with all the staff, created an iconic cover for The Centurion's Volume 56 Issue 9 issue that walked through each major milestone of the pandemic.

"It was one of my proudest moments in my 29 years of teaching at Bucks," Rogers said.

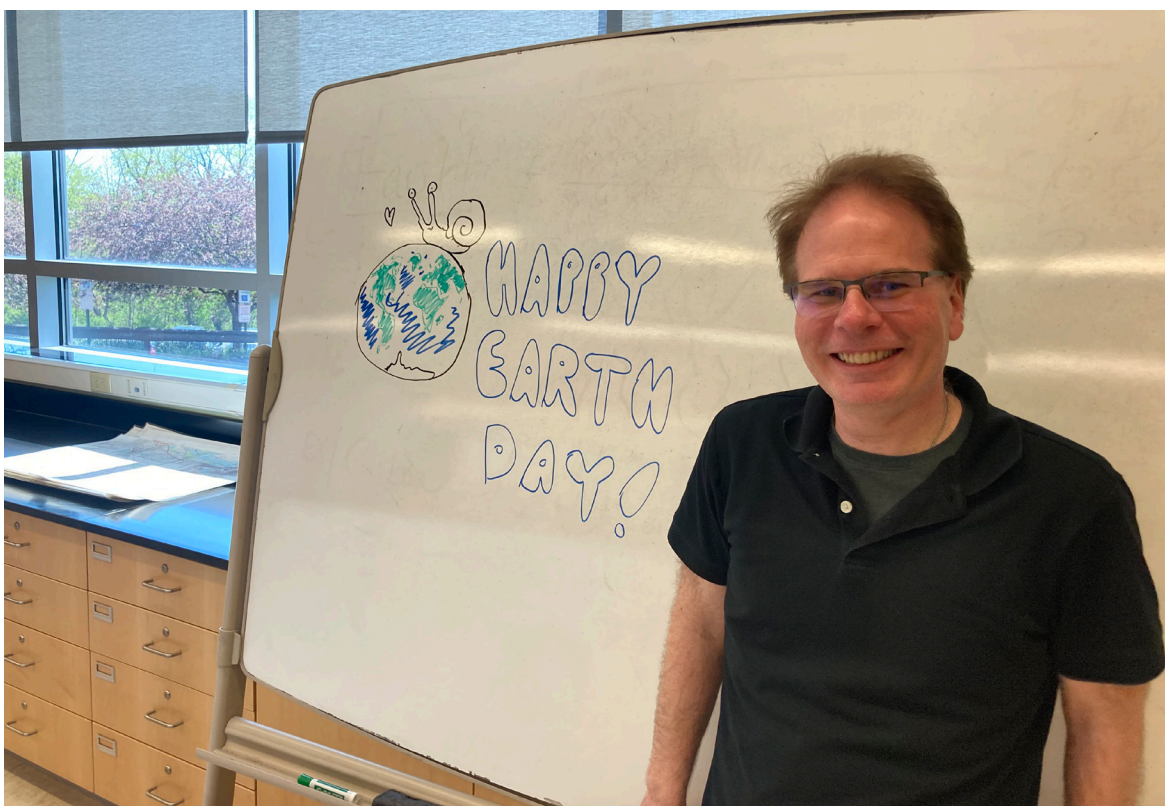
Rogers said he believes, "It's the journalists who are rushing into the eye of the hurricane when everyone else is running away," and it's their job to cover unprecedented news like COVID-19.

"In a sense, that's what Alyssa and the other Centurion staffers did," Rogers said, reflecting on a student who worked as a stocker in a grocery store during the pandemic and saw the effects of it first-hand as co-workers became ill.

The COVID-19 pandemic never stopped The Centurion's staff, even during the darkest days. Rogers continues to be proud of his students for all their efforts in creating the paper as "the Centurion just kept going, which is what news organizations are supposed to do," he said.

He continued, "The Centurion, like any other student newspaper, is a place for young people to train to become professional journalists. That was its purpose then and its purpose now."

Professor Michael Babij's Steady Approach to Teaching



Professor Michael Babij - Photo courtesy of Alexander Bersenev

Alexander Bersenev
Centurion Staff

Professor Michael Babij and his courses aren't just classes to take for credits — they are opportunities for students to learn much about science.

On quiet afternoons in Geology, SCIE103, Babij's voice fills the room with steady rhythms. His tone

is calm and relaxed — the kind that can make students relax and lean in to the lecture rather than tune out. Even though afternoons can feel tiring after a morning full of classes, his discussions bring a sense of focus and ease.

There's no rush, no booming lecture and no traditional lecture-only format. Babij

takes his time teaching and gives students space to absorb the material. He guides his class slowly, aware that students can't jot down long notes in seconds. He gives them time to see, visualize and understand each topic — ensuring they have everything they need written down.

At the start of the spring

semester, Babij helped students relax about the fear of failing his class. He joked about the idea of a future career being jeopardized by doing terribly on one geology exam. The room laughed and understood that this class wasn't a way to gain credits for whatever major you had, it was a chance to learn about fascinating world of science and the way Earth works.

He blends assignments and note-taking effectively through labs. After a full session of notes, the labs connect directly to that day's topic. Depending on how much there is to learn, students can sometimes leave class early once they finish.

At the same time, he doesn't overload his students with work. He gives a fair amount that can ensure that the students learn something for that day.

His teaching journey into geology began right here at Bucks. As a student unsure of his path, he enrolled in an earth science elective simply

because he'd always liked weather as a kid. "I ended up taking it and thought, yes — I really am still interested in this," Babij said.

This was enough to send him to Millersville University, where he got a degree in Earth and Space Science Education with a meteorology minor and eventually to Mississippi State University for his Master's.

Babij was born in Bristol, Pennsylvania, in 1976. He began working in Bucks' Testing Center in October 2006 and has been teaching since January 2009. His calm, relaxing tone may come from something deeper. Babij described himself as "a very shy and private person." With that comes the fears he mentioned: public speaking and being in front of people. "I don't like to be the center of things," Babij said. "But with teaching, it's kind of different because there's a purpose to it and everything."

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Around Bucks

Professor Michael Babij's Steady Approach to Teaching

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His teaching philosophy goes far beyond memorizing just facts about rocks and volcanoes; what he wants the most is for students, regardless of their major, to appreciate the world around them. "You don't have to be a scientist to appreciate nature," he said. "Even noticing a rock layer or how a stream flows means you're seeing the Earth differently."

His classes strongly reflect this belief. Babij trims away the unnecessary details, focusing on core concepts and using visuals, including analogies — like comparing volcanic convection to a lava lamp or sedimentary rocks with melted play-doughs of different colors — to make complex topics feel familiar and simple.

Students can feel intimidated by the kind of science course they take. His goal is to break down that wall and replace it with curiosity.

That empathy comes from experience, Babij remembers his first semester teaching back in 2009. The class wasn't clicking; their first test didn't go well. Babij offered an opportunity to do test corrections since it was his first ever semester and at that time, tests were worth a huge portion of a grade. Once Babij had a survey for the students to fill out, and the opportunity for the students to get a 2nd chance helped relieve some of the tension. "Once we broke the ice, everything changed," he said. "By the end, I thought, okay — I can do this."

He added, "It gave me some insight into how I

might need to adjust some of the material and assignments, and better prepare students for the next tests. I noticed that I started to become more comfortable with myself and my personality in the classroom, which helped to strengthen the teacher-student connection and continued to build a sense of community in the classroom throughout the semester."

Babij expressed how much he loves geology. "When I teach this class, I really do feel a connection to it, like I do with all my classes. So, you know, I don't know if I can necessarily put any kind of quantity on it — I think it's a pretty amazing thing. Like, I really do enjoy teaching this class, even though it may not have been my main focus when I was

going through college, but I just think it's really cool to be able to, again, bring all these different things together and present them to students," he said.

Today, Babij teaches geology, weather and climate, astronomy and physics. Across all of them, he emphasizes scientific literacy — not just learning facts, but understanding how science works. Anytime people have questions, Babij helps and tries to help them understand what the real answer is. In a world that often demands answers immediately, he encourages students to slow down, think and embrace uncertainty. "Sometimes the answer isn't always the clearest path — and that's just something that we have to work with because it is a process,"

Babij said.

Babij's teaching style makes him one of Bucks' most respected and loved professors. His classroom isn't a place to just earn credits — it's a place to spark wonder. Whether he's explaining tectonic plates or how clouds form, his lessons remind students that science isn't just about memorizing; it's about observation, curiosity and connection.

He may not seek the spotlight, but in the quiet, steady ways that he helps students see science more clearly, Professor Michael Babij has become exactly what he once hoped to be: a great teacher.

Bucks Music Department Hits All The Right Notes



Photo courtesy of Music Dept.

Nicole Morrow
Centurion Staff

Around every corner, talent can be found within Bucks: The school is flooded with artists, dancers, performers, but perhaps one that seems to stand out happens to be the music department.

Many people are aware that Bucks has a music department, however, they are not always aware of just how progressive the department is.

Rochelle Reed, the head of the music program, teaches Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers, World Music, musicianship courses, and all the private voice lessons.

"Bucks is one of 20 community colleges nationwide whose music degree program of study is NASM-accredited (National Association of Schools of Music) and one of three commu-

nity colleges in the nation with the dual distinction of having both NASM-accreditation and All-Steinway School (90% or more of our pianos are made by Steinway) status," Reed states.

"We have a rigorous associate's degree in music that is commensurate with the first two years of a bachelor's degree in music at a four-year college or university, with regard to music theory, ear training, history/literature and performing. Our students have transferred smoothly to West Chester University, Temple University, Rider College, Mansfield University, Berklee College of Music, to name a few" Reed states.

"If you want instant friends at Bucks, join one or more of our ensembles" Reed said.

The music department is a very close-knit group of people. Gracie Postorino, a

music major at Bucks, says "you really get to work with people one on one. Everyone knows everyone, which works well because we all know each other's abilities which helps with collaboration."

The classes are not only open to music majors, but you can also be a part of the classes even if your major is not related.

Enrollment and participation means everything to smaller departments at Bucks. Six years ago, the music department faced the possibility of layoffs due to competition, lack of state funding, and declining numbers of high school graduates in Bucks County.

Now, the music department is on better footing, and the notion from six years ago remains today: The music department will remain active at Bucks regardless of layoffs.

"Try it out! A successful career in the music field while seemingly sounding like one needs to be a virtuoso pianist, or headed for the Metropolitan Opera, or has 37,000 followers, can actually be accomplished with varying degrees of musical talent," Reed states.

"Traditionally, most folks think that the music major is destined for only two choices: stardom or teaching. When, in reality, there are so many choices for music majors these days: music technology, music therapy, music business, music law, music library, lighting and sound design, etc." Reed explains.

"A music student graduating from Bucks could embark on a career ranging from a world-famous guitarist to a successful talent agent in the music industry." Reed advises students who may not be sure if music is

the route for them.

An example of different professions with musical background would be Bucks' own President & CEO, Dr. Patrick M. Jones.

Dr. Jones' is no stranger to music, an extensive resume would show the president having a doctorate and bachelor's degree in music education, master's degree in conducting, and a diploma in wind conducting and literature.

Dr. Jones also went on to educate at several high schools, community colleges, and universities before overseeing Bucks.

"It really broadens the horizons to the music field" Postorino shares.

The music department has plenty of performances coming up with high quality performances.

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Around Bucks

Bucks Music Department Hits All The Right Notes

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Recently they performed “Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis” at Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Madrigal Singers also had a performance.

However, there are still plenty of performances that you can still see. Monday, May 4, you are able to see the percussion ensemble perform at 7 p.m. in the Zlock.

Be sure to check out the Cover Band and Jazz En-

semble on May 5 at 7 p.m. in the Zlock. “Cover band will be performing music from every era. There is something in it for everyone” Postorino says.

Reed has nothing but wonderful things to say about the department and her students.

“Imagine what it is like on your day off, where you get to do what you love, talk about what is most interesting to you, share that with others who have an investment in being there, and sur-

round yourself with people who understand that music is a gateway to something else and somewhere else” Reed shares about what it’s like to be a professor to such a wonderful art.

To her students, Reed says “believe in your passion and pour the best parts of yourself into it: All of your love, your strength, your intelligence, your sensibilities, and do it with your best manners because remember you will be sharing the stage of life with people who are

different from you, and that is a good thing.”

The music department is always dedicated to their passion.

Reed shares why it’s so important that we as a community go out and support the arts, saying: “Music, like many of the arts, heals our brains, bodies and hearts. From the listener to the performer, when you receive music, there is a physical, mental, emotional, and psychological effect.”

“Remaining curious about

those effects builds audiences. Encouraging a young developing person to pursue music in any fashion is giving them the lifetime gifts of focus, self-regulation, awareness of others, and heightened listening skills - tools which our world could certainly use right now,” Reed stated

Former Bucks Student Among Teens Facing Federal Charges in N.Y.C Bombing Attempt



Photos courtesy of Department of Justice

Kassandra Castillo

Editor in Chief

The two Bucks County teens who allegedly lit homemade explosive devices in front of the New York Mayor’s house have begun their court room battles with an eight-count indictment including, Attempted Use of a Weapon of Mass Destruction, Transportation of Explosive Materials, and Unlawful possession of Destructive Devices.

Emir Balat, an 18-year-old from Middletown Township and former Neshaminy High School student, and Ibrahim Kayumi, 19, of Newtown Township and a former student at Bucks Community College had their car seized where officials found detailed notes

and instructions on their terror attack plans ahead of March 7.

According to the indictment, within one of the recovered notebooks was an outline of alternate plans that included a vehicle attack on several possible locations in the area such a local parade and festivals.

“The alleged notes and instructions recovered from their vehicle demonstrate just how much cruelty they had planned,” said FBI Assistant Director in Charge, James C. Barnacle Jr.

A dashcam audio recording caught the duo describing their vision for the bombing as a target toward the government and civilians.

“All I know is I want to start terror, bro. I want

to petrify these people.” Kayumi was heard saying on audio. Balat responded, “Just for safety, as soon as you light it, just do it as soon as possible.”

In the most recent court documents, prosecutors said Balat was recorded telling Kayumi that he had “calculated” the homemade devices were “going to kill about 8 to 16 people.”

With the indictment, the federal government has formally charged the two teenagers in connection with an alleged “Isis-inspired” terrorist attack on an anti-Muslim rally hosted by Jake Lang, a far-right activist.

Balat and Kayumi drove from Bucks County to Manhattan and parked near Gracie Mansion. At 12:15

p.m. they walked to the site of the protest where Balat ignited then threw their homemade explosive device – which contained the explosive TATP and shrapnel - toward the crown of protesters, according to the indictment.

After throwing the first device, Balat ran down the block and threw a second explosive device that was past to him by Kayumi.

The second ignited device was dropped near several NYPD officers. Balat then attempted to flee the scene by jumping over barricades but was tackled by NYPD officers shortly after.

Kayumi was arrested nearby according to the indictment.

Both are being held without bail on charges that in-

clude attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and using a weapon of mass destruction. They were not required to enter a plea.

NYPD Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch. Thanked the NYPD in a press conference stating, “What they allegedly set in motion was an ISIS-inspired act of terrorism with the potential for mass casualties. It was stopped because of the quick-thinking, decisive actions of the men and women of the NYPD, who moved toward the threat and took these individuals into custody before more lives were put at risk.”

Pennsylvania Joins States Suing Trump Over Federal Election Executive Order

Mike Hartline

Centurion Staff

Rumblings in Harrisburg grew louder as Governor Josh Shapiro joined a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration over Executive Order 14399, a move critics say attempts to nationalize federal elections.

Shapiro joined 17 other states in the suit, led by California, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Washington. He argued the order oversteps constitutional limits on federal power.

“The U.S. Constitution makes it clear that elections

are to be run by the states,” Shapiro said. “Here in Pennsylvania, we believe election administration should be nonpartisan.”

He added, “Pennsylvanians will vote, whether in person or by mail, their votes will be counted, and the will of the people will be respected. Pennsylvanians will choose their representatives, not Donald Trump.”

Filed in federal court in Massachusetts on April 3, the lawsuit calls the order’s creation of an “Absentee Participation List” a “shocking and unprecedented

power grab.” The list would track voters who use mail-in ballots through USPS.

Executive Order 14399, titled Ensuring Citizenship Verification and Integrity in Federal Elections, was issued March 31. It restricts voting in federal elections to U.S. citizens using the SAVE program, a federal system that verifies citizenship and immigration status through the Department of Homeland Security.

The order also gives the U.S. Postal Service and Postmaster General David P. Steiner a greater role in reg-

ulating mail-in voting, citing authority under federal law.

The SAVE program, formally known as the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements is an online federal tool used to confirm immigration status for government purposes.

Through the order, the administration is using existing federal agencies, including DHS and USPS, to expand its role in election oversight, an approach that has sparked legal challenges over the balance of power between federal and state governments



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Student Spotlight

From Member to Leader: Ryan Gregory's Rise on Campus

Ethan Greco
Centurion Staff

Meet Ryan Gregory. Some of you reading may have already, in fact. Ryan is a commonly known face in events around campus and also runs/has run/is an officer of several student organizations/clubs.

Previous and current ventures include being the previous President of the Music Society, current President of the Introverts Club (though many find it hard to believe he is one), as well as Vice-President of the Disability Pride Club. He also is an active member in the Tabletop Games Club and Astronomy Club.

Ryan is one of those faces you meet and never forget, cobbled with an attitude that once you get to know him, you may as well have known him your whole life. Ever since starting here at Bucks in the Fall of 2024 as a Music major, Ryan has worked hard to welcome students just like he had been.

"I've spent a lot of my time here involved with student organizations, whether it be the Introverts Club or Disability Pride or Music Society or Tabletop games or any of them. But, through those I've done a lot of really cool things, but if I were to pinpoint any, it'd have to be the Introverts Club, joining probably a week after I

started classes at Bucks."

Already freshly a college student, he was welcomed with open arms relatively quickly to the point you would have thought he had been there for quite some time. "Jun [Spector], who was President at the time, was very inviting when I came here and right from the get go I was provided with the really wonderful safe space. I could just be myself, make friends, and the warmth I felt from there eventually manifested into me assuming the Presidency come November. And from that point forward up until now, and even when I'm going to be graduating in after, it's been my pride and joy."

The Introverts Club has gone many trips since Ryan took over the Presidency, starting student leadership with a bang. They've previously gone to Peddler's Village multiple times, picnicked multiple times, went to the beach, mini golfing, going out to dinner together, etc.

They also meet thrice weekly and have other miscellaneous events and collaborations with different clubs. When asked to name his favorite, Ryan had a clear answer. "I'm going to have to say Pokémon Week. Back in February, Introverts Club was planning on doing a series of events commemorating the 30th anniversary of Pokémon and, well, I



Photo courtesy of Ryan Gregory

obviously am in love with Pokémon. I have for many years. It's one of those things that I hold very near to my heart and I wanted to celebrate it. So I worked probably a lot harder on that then I should have to get a bunch of really fun events together for that occasion."

Despite Ryan's enthusiasm and very clear passion, he was initially worried it would be 'too nerdy', and no one would be interested. Luckily, that wasn't the case. "Here it was a smash hit! We posted an interest table right at the top of the Rollins stairs. People from all over the school came over to be a part of this. I

couldn't believe it at the time. My club grew at an alarming rate, the likes which I probably could never have imagined. I think we gained like 10-12 members, in our Discord server [a social media platform] alone through that; some members even have stuck around. I feel like a testament to everything I've been able to accomplish here at Bucks."

Ryan really savored those little moments as well, not just events. The times in between, the day to day. It made an impact on his life, to the point he feels forever changed by his experience at Bucks.

"Random rendezvous with

people, getting called late at night to do something for someone. Everything that my journey here has represented for me, wherein I can be true to myself and outgoing and people's lives are made better for it. I've made friends through that, and I know other people have made friends through that. People have been welcomed into our social space as a result and it's something I look back fondly on." Ryan says, speaking proudly of the connections he was able to make himself or foster amongst others, building a community.

COMICS BY CONNOR



Reviews

The Web Slinging Friendly Neighbor Returns and His Next Adventure Has Fans Obsessed



Poster courtesy of Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios

Chelsea King
Centurion Staff

Spider-Man is swinging back onto the big screen, with the next film set to release on July 31, 2026. Fans are buzzing with excitement, eagerly following every rumor, teaser and casting hint. As with any Spider-Man project, excitement isn't just about what's confirmed—it's also the possibilities.

Spider-Man, also known as Peter Parker, has long been one of the most beloved superheroes in cinema, and each new installment carries the weight of decades of storytelling. Following the massive success of recent entries, expectations are sky-high.

Fans are eager to see how the next chapter builds on prior emotional arcs, especially after the multiverse-shaking events that redefined Peter Parker's world.

Early industry buzz suggests the film may scale things back, focusing more on a grounded, street-level narrative. This potential shift has sparked lively debate within the fandom. Some fans welcome a return

to a “friendly neighborhood” tone, while others hope the spectacle of multiverse storytelling isn't left behind.

If there's one thing Spider-Man fans excel at, it's theorizing. Social media platforms and forums are packed with speculation about possible villains, surprise cameos and storyline directions.

One popular theory suggests the introduction of classic street-level antagonists—characters who challenge Spider-Man not just physically, but morally. Others believe the film could quietly set up larger future crossovers, planting seeds without going full multiverse again.

There's also ongoing discussion about character development. Fans are particularly invested in how Peter Parker evolves after recent hardships.

After the events that left everyone, that Peter knew, without memories, their absence in his life could become one of the story's most powerful driving forces. Fans are eager to see whether MJ begins to rediscover pieces of her connection to

Peter or remains just out of reach, creating a bittersweet tension pulling on our heartstrings.

Meanwhile, Ned's arc has sparked heavy speculation, with some theories suggesting he could evolve in unexpected ways, possibly leaning into more significant comic-inspired storylines.

Together, MJ and Ned represent the life Peter lost, grounding the film's action in real emotional stakes and reinforcing the theme that being Spider-Man often comes at a deeply personal cost.

In the end, this new Spider-Man story isn't just about action, it's about what Peter has lost and what he might get back. With him separated from MJ and Ned, the film can focus more deeply into its narrative about who he is, what he's sacrificed and the chance to start again.

Whether their paths cross again or remain painfully distant, their connection continues to define Peter's journey, reminding audiences that behind the mask is someone still learning what it truly means to hold on—and when to let go.

Paramount Hit by a Massive Security Breach as the Full Film of “Legend of Aang” Leaks Online

Gary Griggs
Centurion Staff

The return of Aang and friends with the new movie “The Legend of Aang: The Last Airbender” was set to release this year, on October 9. But on April 13, the entire film was leaked online by hackers who had breached Paramount's media server.

The same individual responsible for this major leak was later arrested in Singapore, gaining unauthorized access and stealing the high-quality film.

The original series began back in 2005 and ended in 2008. The popular animated series would later get a sequel, “The Legend of Korra,” which was neglected by Nickelodeon and later concluded in 2014.

Unfortunately, this franchise lied dormant for a decade until Nickelodeon's Avatar Studios announced the animated movie for Aang back in 2021, Netflix streaming both of the animated series on their platform and Netflix's live action adaptation “Avatar: The Last Airbender” that released in 2024 and a new sequel series in the works “Avatar: Seven Havens,” set to release in 2027, all of this had ignited new excitement

for the franchise from both new and old fans.

With this newfound hype and a new movie on the horizon, everything seemed to be going perfectly for the comeback of this beloved franchise, that is, until the entirety of the film was leaked on X, a.k.a. Twitter.

The incident began on April 12, when a Twitter user, ImStillDissin, claimed to have received the movie by accident through an email from Nickelodeon, which posted clips of the film, initially just trolling Paramount.

This user posted 2 separate clips of the film as proof that he really did receive the movie. The user had apparently received the full-length film from a friend of his; this friend was a hacker in their earlier days and somehow had obtained a copy of the full film.

The clips that the user posted had watermarks, #PeggleCrew, a nod to the association the hacker is related to, that had sent him the full movie. Including the fact that PeggleCrew is a hacker group known for several high-profile hacking incidents in the past.

The film was originally set to release in theaters, but this decision was later annulled by Paramount and

instead decided that it would only stream the film on their streaming service, Paramount

The clips received millions of views, reaching the deepest parts of the internet, such as 4Chan, a large community of superfan hackers. Users would try to convince ImStillDissin to leak the entire film, but he refused.

A day later, April 13, a different X user posted the full film, garnering tens of millions of views, leading to the movie being shared and spread across the internet months before its theatrical release, and before a first teaser trailer even dropped.

Many fans were upset at the leaks as Paramount, the distributor of the movie, has already hindered multiple animated movies in recent years with their lack of promotion for the films, most notably being “Transformers One,” but this time, a leak occurred on top of zero promotion for the film being done, including the film having already wrapped production back in early March 2026.

This leak is monumental as it not only hurt the fans who wanted to support this project from a franchise they love, but more importantly, it hurt the artists,

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Poster courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Reviews

Paramount Hit by a Massive Security Breach as the Full Film of “Legend of Aang” Leaks Online

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writers and other staff who worked on creating this film and working on it for years, only for the entire film to be leaked online.

Many Artists who worked on the film went to X to speak about the situation and how they feel about it. Tom Berkel, being one of them, took to X to state, “I worked on this film as an artist too. So incredibly proud of it. I understand fans who engage in leaks once they’re out there, I get it. The issue is the release,

the one we all worked towards for years, being neutered by both Paramount and the leakers...”

Fans and the artists alike have been looking forward to the movie’s release in theaters, but Paramount, seemingly trying to cripple another animated film of theirs, decided to pull it from theaters just before the leaks, and some fans speculated that’s why the leakers may have leaked it.

Another artist for the film, Julia Schoel, took to X to speak on her feeling of the

movie being leaked and people trying to justify it saying that, “We worked on the Aang movie for years with the expectation that we’d get to celebrate all of our hard work in theaters... just to see people unceremoniously leak the film and pass our shots around on twitter like candy... I don’t like seeing people use Paramount’s awful decision to remove the movie from theaters to justify leaking it. I totally understand folks not wanting to pay for/support Paramount+, but

pirating the movie after its release would have at least been better than this. This is incredibly disrespectful to all of the hard work the artists put in.”

One user on 4Chan praised the film’s animation and said that the movie “Deserved to be in theaters,” they said. They also criticized Paramount, though, “You fund animation like this, and you throw it on a dead platform without any f—king advertising? The leak is deserved.”

Others also said that the

film wouldn’t be watched on the streaming service anyway, as it would easily be pirated on the very first day of its release.

Once “The Legend of Aang: The Last Airbender” is released, animators for the movie urge fans to avoid watching the leaked film. Please support the movie for the artists who dedicated their passion for the past 5 years towards making this film for the fans to enjoy, and to see their hard work on screen pay off.

Ryan Gosling Anchors “Project Hail Mary” With Heart and Humanity



Fan art courtesy of Photography major Brendan Krause

ery. We meet one human aboard a spaceship, the Hail Mary. Ryan Gosling plays Dr. Ryland Grace, a teacher and scientist who awakens alone, with amnesia and confused as to how he got there.

Earth’s sun is dying, dimmed by a microorganism called the Astrophage and Grace has been sent to the Tau Ceti system to find a solution.

Then comes Rocky—an Eridian engineer and, in many ways, the film’s most memorable character. Rocky’s rock-like structure and a spider-like form are striking, but it’s his personality, logical, loyal and emotional honesty, that defines him and makes him unforgettable.

The film changes the novel’s slow, painstaking language-barrier sequence. Here, Rocky understands Grace early on and Grace uses a translator to understand Rocky. Rocky was voiced by Jenna Ortiz, which enhanced the emotion between the two during their heartwarming scenes.

Gosling delivers a terrific performance as Grace, someone who, at the start, was confused, then slowly adapts and reflects on the past and the person he is now. However, his past is much sadder and more unfortunate. Around the third act in the film, Grace seemingly remembered how he ended up in space.

Eva Strat, performed by Sandra Hüller, forces Grace into the Hail Mary due to an incident before launch; it’s not spite, it’s desperation. Grace feels betrayed and Ryan’s performance was heartwrenching.

This one moment felt so disturbing, violating, disgusting, unconsensual and heartbreaking; at the same time, it’s understandable. Grace was Earth’s last hope. Seeing him cry and beg even one of his closest friend at the time not to let this happen as he’s forcefully restrained and sedated.

Grace was reluctant to the idea of going to space and

never coming back, terrified of dying. Despite wanting to save Earth, he didn’t have it in him to make the sacrifice for Earth in the past.

This memory becomes the emotional fulcrum of the film. Grace sees the difference between who he was—a man avoiding responsibility—and who he has evolved into: someone willing to give up their life to save both Earth and Rocky.

Grace and Rocky’s bond is the highlight and central part of the film. The humor between the two as they interact, even in the earliest part of the film, when Grace discovers Rocky’s ship approaching him, Grace’s first instinct was to fly away from Rocky, terrified of this unknown ship. hilariously, Rocky keeps following Grace, as Grace even tests the alien ship by moving the Hail Mary forward a bit, to which Rocky, again, follows. A way to introduce the kind of fun and personality of the two characters without having them interact as of yet.

As they bond, Grace, who was once isolated from people, avoiding the past, rediscovers purpose through connection thanks to Rocky.

Rocky’s loyalty and honesty push Grace to change, to be courageous and self-sacrificing. Rocky isn’t just a sidekick; he’s just as much of a protagonist in the film.

The story really depicts that survival depends on collaboration with others. Rocky and Grace’s friendship transcends biology, culture and communication barriers, highlighting a theme that empathy is a universal language for survival.

During a mission to collect samples that could defeat the Astrophage, Grace is badly injured and knocked unconscious. Rocky makes a sacrifice. He breaks free from his glass ball, which shields him from oxygen, as it is deadly to Eridians. Rocky does this knowing that he may die.

This one moment that

even comes full circle later in the film.

Once Grace had discovered a solution to the Astrophage, they celebrated in their own cultural ways and attire.

Though they are different, they bond and accept each other’s culture. As they depart from each other to head back home, they both have one last moment to dance and mess with each other. Grace even learns the Eridian gesture for goodbye. Their shared gestures, their mutual acceptance—these moments are the film at its most human.

But Grace later discovers that the Astrophage-killing material can rip through the very substance Rocky’s ship is made of. First, he sends out the data and samples of the solution, using probes, to Earth to save his dying star. Now he needed to save Rocky’s.

Grace’s arc from a coward to courageous and sacrificing, shows that even flawed people can still choose to do the right thing. Grace gives up on going home and instead saves Rocky, using the Hail Mary to go to Rocky’s planet. Despite Grace’s emotional turmoil over the realization of not coming back to Earth, he chooses his best friend over selfishness.

The ending is beautiful. Grace and Rocky survive. When Grace is offered a chance to return home, he asks Rocky if he can think about it. Rocky tells him to think about it for a long time—a moment both hilarious and deeply affectionate. A companionship that will last for ages.

Grace ends where he belongs: teaching Eridian children the same way he taught human children back home, no longer alone, no longer afraid, living with the friendship that saved and changed him.

Once again: amaze, amaze, amaze.

Alexander Bersenev

Centurion Staff

Three, two, one—liftoff. A long shot to save Earth, or as we like to call it: a Hail Mary. Ryan Gosling’s new film, “Project Hail Mary,” adapted from Andy Weir’s best-selling novel and directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, is an emotional and visually stunning experience, anchored by the extraordinary bond between one human scientist and one alien engineer.

The film was released on March 22 in theaters.

If you haven’t read the novel or watched the movie and wish to avoid spoilers, this review will contain some spoilers. So turn back while you still can.

The film was a phenomenal to experience in Dolby Cinema.

Amaze, amaze, amaze. Thumbs down.

The cinematography and visuals by Greig Fraser, known for his work on “Dune,” “The Batman” and “Dark Zero Thirty,” are just astounding. Fraser brings a sense of scale and texture that elevates the film’s most

ambitious moments.

One of the film’s most breathtaking moments is Grace’s spacewalk as he deploys a steel sampling probe to collect Astrophage. The still shot of the planet Adrian, its scale and color slowly revealed, is suddenly consumed by swarms of red light. Daniel Pemberton’s score elevates the moment into something transcendent.

“A moment,” Grace said to his companion while admiring this view, and the film gives us many.

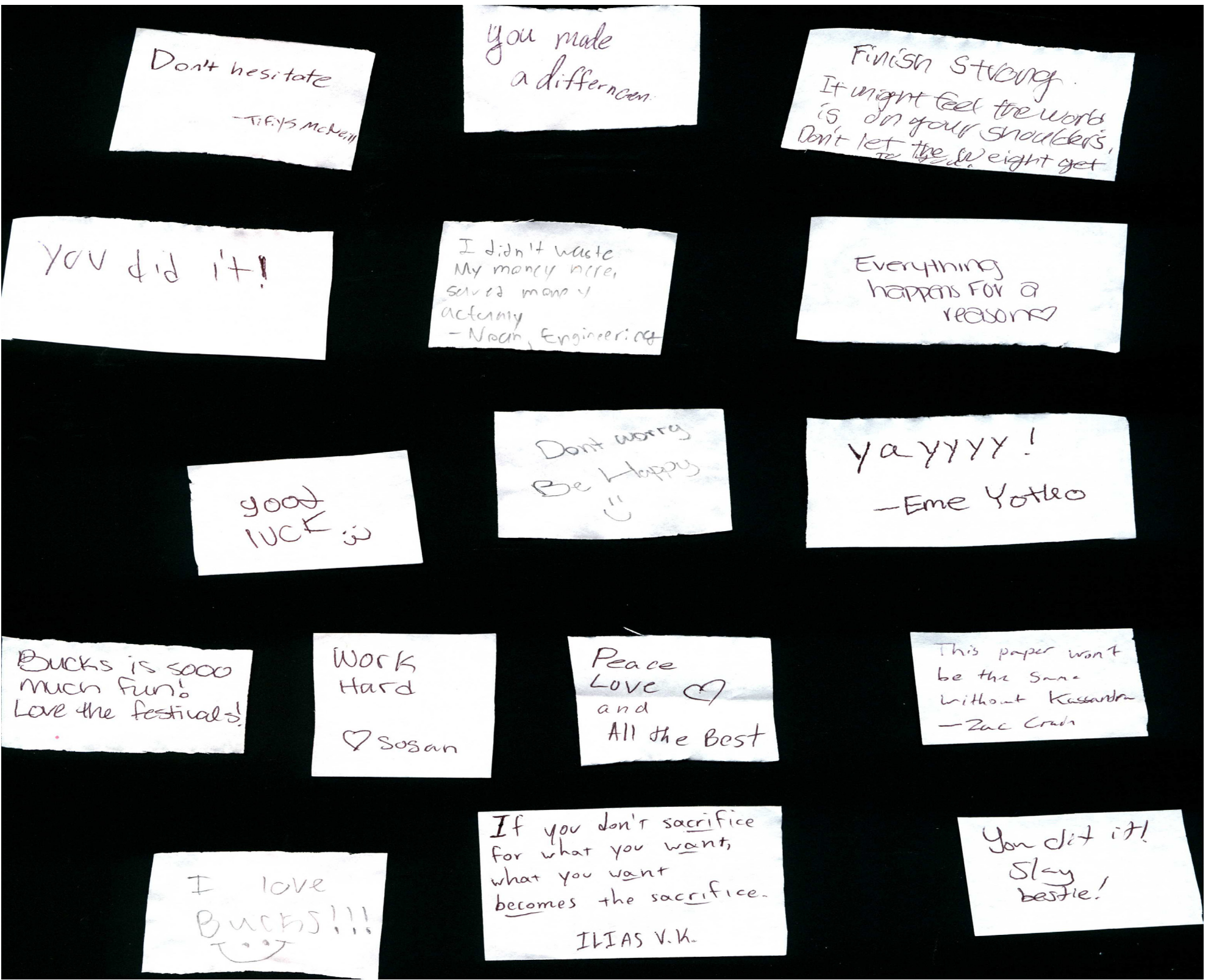
Pemberton’s score is captivating and full of life; it made many moments feel both heartwarming, emotional and tense. His score can bring out the tears during some of the best and visually beautiful scenes.

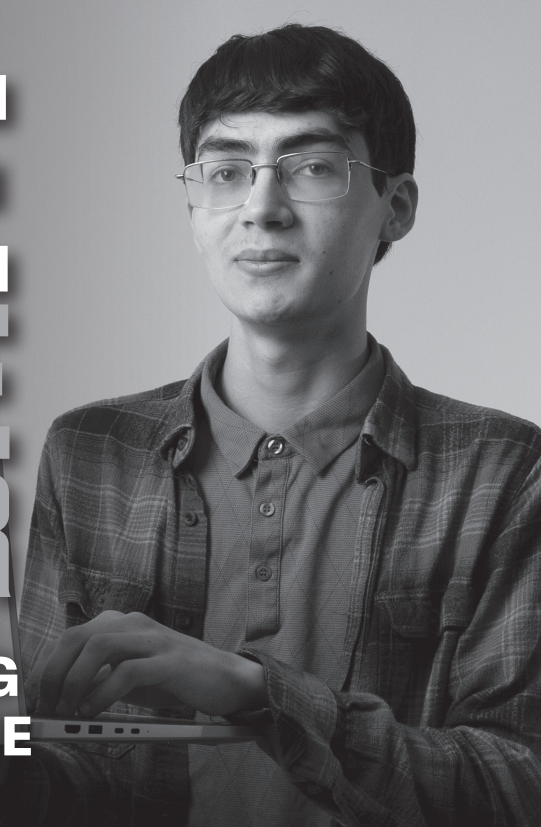
The film also included tracks by Harry Styles, Neil Diamond and The Beatles.

Don’t expect this film to be the next “Interstellar.” Despite its emotional weight, the sci-fi elements are looser, more creative, less logical and less strictly scientific, but interesting nonetheless.

The story centers mostly on isolation and rediscov-

Final Words for the 2026 Spring Semester






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2026 Spring Fling



News

Fitzpatrick Slams Trumps for “Absurd” Claims About Pope Leo



Photo courtesy of House.gov

Alexander Bersenev
Centurion Staff

Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick sharply criticized President Donald Trump on April 13, after Trump claimed that Pope Leo owed his position to Trump’s political influence. Fitzpatrick called the remarks “beneath

the dignity of the presidency” and “an affront to the faithful.”

The statement came several days after increasingly sharp criticism from Trump, who has repeatedly targeted Pope Leo over his comments on the war in Iran, immigration policy and the administration’s

mass deportation operations. Trump’s remarks — through Truth Social posts, interviews and exchanges with reporters — have drawn widespread attention and backlash from Catholic leaders in the United States and abroad.

On Truth Social, Trump posted on April 12 that Pope Leo was “WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy,” adding, “I don’t want a Pope who thinks it’s ok for Iran to have a Nuclear Weapon.” He added, “And I don’t want a Pope who criticizes the President of the United States because I’m doing exactly what I was elected, IN A LANDSLIDE, to do, setting Record Low Numbers in Crime, and creating the Greatest Stock Market in History.”

Trump also claimed that his return to the White House influenced Leo’s election as the pope, writing, “He wasn’t on any list to be Pope, and was only put there by the Church because he was an American, and they thought that would be the best way to deal with President Donald J. Trump... If I wasn’t in the White House, Leo wouldn’t be in the Vatican.”

Later that day, Trump faced major backlash for posting an AI-generated image depicting himself as

Jesus Christ. Hours later, he deleted the post, telling CBS News he “didn’t want to have anybody be confused” and insisted the image showed him “as a doctor.”

Fitzpatrick, a lifelong Catholic representing Pennsylvania’s first Congressional District, condemned Trump’s posts. “I condemn President Trump’s remarks about Pope Leo in the strongest possible terms,” Fitzpatrick said. “The Holy Father is the successor to Saint Peter, the shepherd of the Church and a moral voice for more than 1.4 billion Catholics around the world. He is not a partisan figure, and the papacy is not an institution to be mocked, politicized or diminished. To suggest that a Pope somehow owes his place to a politician is absurd.”

Fitzpatrick said that Trump’s remarks mischaracterize the role of the papacy, which has long spoken on matters of war, peace and human dignity. “Pope Leo has every right — and indeed the solemn responsibility — to speak clearly on matters of faith, conscience, war and peace and human dignity. That is his role. And no one — president, politician or public figure — can intimidate, demean or bully the Church for carrying out its mission.”

Fitzpatrick urged Trump to retract his statements and reaffirm respect for religious institutions. “President Trump’s comments were disgraceful, beneath the dignity of the presidency and offensive to Catholics in every corner of the world. He should withdraw them and apologize,” Fitzpatrick said.

Pope Leo had responded to Trump’s remarks, saying, “The things that I say are certainly not meant as attacks on anyone, and the message of the Gospel is very clear: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers.’”

He added, “I have no fear of the Trump administration, or speaking out loudly of the message of the Gospel, which is what I believe I am here to do, what the church is here to do. We are not politicians, we don’t deal with foreign policy with the same perspective he might understand it, but I do believe in the message of the Gospel, as a peacemaker.”

Philadelphia on Edge Over Potential ICE Actions

Mike Hartline
Centurion Staff

Philadelphia residents say if ICE comes to the City of Brotherly Love and acts the way it did in Minneapolis, there will be riots bigger than when the Eagles won their first Super Bowl.

Former and current residents of Philadelphia believe that ICE’s presence in Philly would be met with backlash, and not just because of the city’s hard Democrat leanings but because the city where people threw snowballs at Santa Claus has a reputation for being, well, feisty.

An older resident of Philadelphia, Yvonne Cheeseman, said, “it would be met with humongous protests and intense legal battles between the city of Philadelphia and the federal government.”

Minneapolis residents Renee Good and Alex Pretti were gunned down by ICE agents during protests sparked by aggressive ICE tactics in the city. Minneapolis officials blasted

the federal occupation and called for agents to leave the city, and the deaths sparked outrage nationwide.

The overall opinion of ICE and the Trump administration is unsurprisingly low in Philly. There is no end to that in the foreseeable future. ICE and Philadelphia officials communicated about the potential of ICE’s presence when Trump took office.

ICE has had a presence in Philadelphia, but not in the same way that it has in areas like Boston and Minneapolis. Philly’s mayor, Cherelle Parker, had agreed to increasingly police activity in regards to street crime and undocumented people.

After ICE agents were deployed to more than a dozen airports nationwide to help with TSA lines, Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner warned that agents committing crimes at the airport would be put in “handcuffs” and “a jail cell.”

“If any ICE agent comes to Philly to commit a crime, then you can get the F--- out



Photo courtesy of ice.gov

of here,” Krasner said in an Instagram video.

ICE has been active in other areas of Pennsylvania and in the greater Philly area, such as Bucks County and particularly in lower Bucks. The former sheriff of Bucks County, Fred Harran, was open about working with the federal agency, but was voted out of office by a candidate who vowed to take the opposite approach.

However, Bucks is not Philly, and Philly residents

have a reputation for making their voices heard when they feel ignored, upset, or just want change.

Philly resident and Bucks student Cassandra Castillo has seen ICE affecting both areas. “Its an interesting dynamic to see the difference between the way Bucks county handles ICE vs how Philadelphia handles it. I prefer Philly’s approach on the matter. Philly fights back and while outsiders think we’re rowdy, Philadelphians

see that as solidarity and within that solidarity we’re not going to let anything terrorize this city.”

A former Philly resident, Nick Bobst, age 19 who now lives in Bensalem, said, “I don’t know actually, Philadelphia can be very a complicated place.”

It seems safe to say that Philly residents aren’t likely to meekly accept ICE agents engaging in the kind of aggressive tactics they have pursued elsewhere.