



# THE CENTURION

Bucks County Community College  
The week of February 23, 2010  
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## Two Bucks students fall through ice



Aj Velichko stands by the creek PHOTO BY: DANIEL CARVALHO

BY: DANIEL CARVALHO  
Centurion Staff

On Monday, Feb. 1, two Bucks students were rushed to the hospital after they had been walking on the frozen surface of Neshaminy Creek in Tyler State Park when the ice collapsed from underneath them.

AJ Velichko, a 22-year-old communications student from Levittown along with his friend Jay Adonis, a 24-year-old nursing student from Yardley, were hiking on the frozen Neshaminy Creek at about 4:30 p.m. when the ice

suddenly broke sending them into the freezing water. The two students were sent to St. Mary Medical Center, after being rescued by the local fire departments, campus security, and rescue teams. Velichko suffered from hypothermia and shock after falling in the water and standing out on the ice for nearly 30 minutes until help came. He remained in the hospital with a 92.1 body temperature for nearly two hours before he was released.

Both students were in the middle of the creek, approximately 25 feet from the shore

when the ice gave out from underneath them. Velichko was the first to fall into the water when he suddenly vanished into the frigid abyss. “It felt like I stepped into a hole. I was surprised when I fell in and the water was up to my shoulders, but I was calm,” said Velichko.

Adonis didn’t know what had happened to his friend, “Next thing I know he’s gone.” Adonis said that Velichko started to yell his name and that he found him in the water. He then tried to make his first attempt at a rescue.

Adonis tried to pull his friend out of the water, but then suddenly fell into the creek himself. At this point, the two started screaming for help in hopes that someone would hear them.

Three students, two men and one women who were in the vicinity of the park, heard their calls and came to help the two. One of the three called 911, while another person ran back to Bucks to get help from campus security.

Dennis McCauley, director of security and safety at Bucks, was off-campus when the incident happened, but had heard

Record snowfall hits Bucks County  
BY: MICHAEL VESEL  
Centurion Staff

The white stuff could be seen for miles, from Bristol up to Perkasio. Traffic was staggered, the schools were closed and the horizon was obscured in a sea of snow. Bucks County received a gargantuan amount of snowfall in just a short two-week period, making the month of February one of the snowiest months for Bucks in 37 years.

Blizzard conditions choked the Northeast, with Bucks County in line to bear the brunt of the storm.

The expectations were 12 to 18 inches, with almost an inch an hour predicted to fall. Residents of the county locked themselves inside their homes and prepared to hunker down as the county declared a state of emergency, warning all residents to stay indoors and off the roads.

In the aftermath, the numbers were crunched and the totals were tallied. Philadelphia International Airport reported 16 inches of snowfall. According to the New Jersey Weather Service, Bucks County was trailing just behind the city of brotherly love with snowfall coming in at an estimated 15 inches average.

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Rosalie Napoli reviews one of the most recent love stories to hit theatres

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Dan Nuskey gives his insight to the Olympics and the chances of USA hockey

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# Easter Seals of Bucks County offers recreational activities to Bucks students and community members

BY: KRISTIN MEADE  
Centurion Staff

If you or someone you know has a physical disability, check out Easter Seals of Southeastern Pennsylvania for a great selection of fun, social activities. Popular activities for the college student include the Young Adults Social Club and Saturday Night Out.

If you're looking for a way to spend time with friends without spending money, the then Young Adults Social Club is for you! Come hang out and enjoy some arts and crafts, dancing, karaoke movies, games, and even pizza. This event is run on the first and third Friday night of each month, from 5:30 to 9:00, unless otherwise noted.

For those out-of county students, a Young adult Social

Club is also available in Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia. There is no charge to attend the Young Adults Social Club. If a trip is planned on a scheduled night, check out [www.easterseals.org](http://www.easterseals.org), or e-mail Easter Seals at [recreation@easterseals-sepa.org](mailto:recreation@easterseals-sepa.org). You can call Easter Seals at their main office (located in Philadelphia) at 215-879-1000.

If you want to get away for a weekend, and find it difficult to travel alone, then check out Easter Seals Respite Weekend. This supervised trip gives community members with disabilities a chance to explore local restaurants, and events and is a great chance to gain some independence and have fun with friends.

For specific information,



such as payment, where to meet, and what to bring, dates and times, and registration information, call the Easter Seals main office in Philadelphia or send an e-mail to [recreation@easterseals-sepa.org](mailto:recreation@easterseals-sepa.org).

Any available representative will be happy to answer any question you have.

Last but not least do you like dancing, but find it difficult or awkward in a large group set-

ting? As someone who also has Cerebral Palsy, I know I do. If you agree with me, then check out Easter Seals' newest activity Dance and Movement classes. Look for updates on the Easter Seals website in the coming weeks.

Please note these activities are held in the throughout the year in fall, winter, and spring. Keep an eye on the website for any weather updates or closings. Remember, all activities are open to any students, as long as spaces are available.

If you're looking for a way to unwind after your classes and work, in a comfortable, friendly environment, then check out some of Easter Seals activities. They are great places to meet new friends, try new things, or even find that special someone. Enjoy and hope to see you there!

## Two students survive fall into freezing water

► Continued from page 1

reports that two people were stuck on the ice. At that time, he did not know that the safety of two Bucks students was on the line.

Adonis had managed to get himself out of the water and again tried to rescue Velichko from the depths of the frozen creek. Adonis got out of the water and started to remove his clothing.

"I've seen enough shows on television that I knew I had to remove my wet clothes. I started to take off my hoodie," said Adonis.

Velichko was still in the water and was asking Adonis to relax. Velichko managed to stay afloat with a stick he was carrying and pushed off of the ice with his legs to escape the water.

Velichko couldn't make it to the shore. He was so cold that he couldn't manage to move

himself off the surface of the water and onto the shore.

"I could barely move, I was frozen, and I was terrified I'd fall through the ice again," said Velichko

Rescuers finally showed up and tried to tie a rope onto a tree with a stick attached and threw it out to Velichko but they were unsuccessful. About 15 to 20 minutes later the fire department had shown up and at least two helicopters observed the rescue.

The rescue teams finally sent out an inflatable boat onto the ice and brought Velichko safely onto the shore. Velichko said they cut his clothes off and put him on a stretcher. Blankets were provided to retain his body heat and he and Adonis got in the ambulance and were sent to the hospital and released two hours later.



The lake at Tyler State Park PHOTO BY DANIEL CARVALHO

### THE CENTURION

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The Centurion  
275 Swamp Rd  
Newtown, PA 18940  
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# The Centurion wins 13 awards for 2010

BY: ROSALIE NAPOLI  
Centurion Editor

The Centurion won 13 awards in the 2010 Collegiate Keystone Press Awards Contest, a competition for colleges and universities from across Pennsylvania.

It was the first year the contest had a separate division for the state’s 14 community colleges. In the past, all Pennsylvania colleges and universities had competed together in the annual contest.

Journalism Professor Tony Rogers said he had been pushing for some time for a separate division for community colleges. “It’s something that I’ve been advocating for, for a while,” said Rogers, faculty adviser for the Centurion.

Rogers said it was unfair to pit the Centurion with its tiny staff against the likes of the Daily Collegian student paper at Penn State, which has a staff upwards of 100 people. “This change puts us on a level playing field” Rogers said.

There are many rules that

writers need to follow when entering the contest. Each piece is judged by members of the Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors, so those who have firsthand experience can critique the young writers of America.

In the handbook of Collegiate Keystone Press Awards Contest Rules and Entry Categories, it states, “Entries will be evaluated based on the following: subject matter (worthiness, reader appeal, relevance, full development); presentation (pleasing style, literary excellence, incisiveness, research, enterprise, originality); effectiveness (objectivity, persuasiveness, reader identity, reader response).”

There are also 16 entry categories listing the qualifications for each individual section of writing along with additional rules to follow.

The contest judged work produced in the spring and fall semesters of 2009.

Although the Bucks Centurion did an outstanding performance when competing in the large pool



Issues from 2009 PHOTO BY LIAM MCKENNA

of participating schools, it does even when narrowing the contest into the two divisions: Division I – four-year colleges and universities; and Division II – two-year colleges.

The Centurion has been a part of this contest for many years. For the 2010 awards, the paper has received an exceptional 13 awards: five coming in at first place, six coming in at second place, and the other four received honorable or mention.

“We’ve won a lot of awards in the previous years, so I wasn’t surprised,” said Annmarie Ely, a 23-year-old journalism major from Doylestown

and an editor at the Centurion, commenting on the number of awards Bucks students won this year.

The awards won included stories, columns, photos, layouts/design, and profiles. The hard work and determination of the Centurion writers paid off.

The Scholastic and Collegiate Keystone Press

Hope Kumor	Second Place	Column	
Eric Nocito	Second Place	Feature Photo	Faculty seeks benefits
Annmarie Ely	First Place	Feature Story	If only they could
Rick Mauro	First Place	General News	How SEPTA affected Bucks
Annmarie Ely	Honorable Mention	General News	Buck geese problem solved
Liam McKenna	Second Place	General News	Fireside lounge open
Eric Nocito	First Place	Layout and Design	
Eric Nocito	Second Place	Layout and Design	
Diana Lee Groden	First Place	Personality Profile	retired principal
Jesse Trout	Honorable Mention	Personality Profile	inspiring story
Liam McKenna	Second Place	Photo Story	Truck crash
Staff	First Place	Public Service/Enterprise Package	economy
Liam McKenna	Second Place	Sports Story	End of the road



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# First year review of Obama

BY: JESSE TROUT

Centurion Editor

As today's media-driven society grows increasingly fascinated with politics, we also feel the growing need to choose sides and take a strong, unwavering stance either in absolute support of the president or in complete opposition to his actions and decisions.

In President Barack Obama's first year in office, he has witnessed firsthand the effects of this political "tug-of-war."

FOX News, for example, caters to conservatives whereas MSNBC's target audience is liberals, and both news outlets stick to their guns. These stations have portrayed Obama's first year as either an epic failure, which FOX would like to have you believe, or as the greatest first year any President has had since Franklin Roosevelt, MSNBC's position.

According to political science Professor Greg Pezza, it's still too early to jump to any type of conclusion: "Yes, the first year has been a rocky road at some points, but it's nothing out of the ordinary. Even Reagan and Clinton had similar numbers after their first years."

While the hosts at FOX and MSNBC battle to keep



their niche audiences, the reality and truth about Obama's presidency rests somewhere in between their two positions. Pezza believes that "alarmists" have made Obama's first year seem worse than it

really has been. But the lofty goals he set and his great ability to inspire could have caused Americans to "expect too much, too soon," resulting in the current doubt.

During every presidency

there are challenging and difficult decisions that have to be made, and Obama's first year was no different. Faced with an out of control economy and two wars, he had to respond almost immediately. Pezza feels that Obama's decision on the war in Afghanistan has been the issue he's handled best thus far. "He went against his own party (the Democrats) and made the tough decision that he felt was necessary," said Pezza.

Yet he was still getting ripped from both sides, by Democrats for sending even more troops and by Republicans for not sending enough troops. Both FOX and MSNBC played heavily on this issue.

Another hot-button issue that has been debated nationwide since Obama's first day in office is health-care reform. While Pezza thinks the details of the bill were acceptable, he feels that the entire administration dropped the ball when it came to detailing what they wanted to achieve, "by not laying out what they wanted; there was too much room left for interpretation." That open area for interpretation is what cast doubt in people's mind and led to rumors of "death panels" by those opposed to the bill.

What has put the health-care issue on the backburner for the time-being, however, is the state of the nation's economy and unemployment rate. After the president's State of the Union Address, many Americans were left wondering what initiatives will *really* be met head-on in the coming months and over the course of his term. Pezza believes it is all relative to the economy: "If jobs and money steadily improve we'll see a much more aggressive agenda, like the one he campaigned behind. If the money and jobs remain where they're at right now, their policies/agendas will be streamlined to focus primarily on the economy."

At the end of every marking period or semester in school, there are always grades handed out, and the same goes for every year you serve as president of the United States. Professor Pezza, who knows a thing or two about grading, hands out an 'I' for incomplete to Obama for his first year in office as president. He says, "there's simply too many initiatives that are going to take some time and will develop over the coming months."

## Bucks' Veterans' Club wants you

BY: JOHN MACDONALD

Centurion Editor

"The Veteran's Club wants you," that is the message from club adviser Matt Cipriano, a U.S. Army veteran and the director of Student Life Programs, to the approximately 150 military veterans enrolled at Bucks.

Over the past year there has been renewed interest in Veteran's issues and the Veteran's Club. The Veteran's Club is in the process of being revitalized after being dormant since 2000. Cipriano sees the Veteran's Club playing an important role in the academic and personal lives of veterans.

Although more and more military veterans have been taking advantage of the educational benefits available to them, Cipriano pointed out that veterans were largely isolated from each other here on campus. For a long time there was little focus on veteran's issues and veterans had yet to establish their presence on campus.

"That has changed over the past year. Now the veterans are coming together," says Cipriano.

Cipriano sees the revitalized Veterans' Club as a vehicle for providing veterans with information about the wide variety of services available to veterans. Veterans are unaware of the panoply of available services. Cipriano said that he went to a meeting on the topic at the Naval Yard and was shocked at the number of government agencies and programs available. "One of the things that I would like to do, is to bring various officials in to explain about their agency and the benefits it provides to veterans."

There has been much greater awareness of Veteran's issues on the community college level and a lot of resources are being made available to address those issues. Cipriano said that he has money made available by the Collegiate Consortium for programs that



benefit veterans.

One of the things that he would like the Veterans Club to do is to organize trips to broaden veteran's cultural perspective. "Something like a trip to Washington, D.C., perhaps. It wouldn't need to be wholly educational. It would be fun as well," said Cipriano.

Most importantly, the Veterans Club provides a venue for the veterans themselves to determine and address their own needs. Cipriano believes that by par-

ticipating with each other, "those needs will bubble out." One hopeful sign that veterans are coming together more on campus is found in the utilization of the Stars and Stripes Lounge, which utilized money provided by the College Consortium.

Since it opened last Fall, Cipriano sees an increase in the numbers of veterans using the Stars and Stripes Lounge to study or just chill out.

The Lounge is equipped with resources like a computer

and WiFi access for those that have their own laptops. "During the day, the Lounge is being used by 15 to 20 vets, some of whom are in and out several times a day." In the evening, the Lounge is mostly used before the start of classes at 6:30 pm, and Cipriano estimates that it is used by five to ten vets each night.

When they were on active duty, veterans were used to receiving the support from their fellow servicepeople.

The Veterans' Club offers an opportunity to meet with new comrades on matters of common interest and to benefit from each other's support.

Cipriano invites veterans that are interested in joining the Veterans Club or with questions about other veterans' issues to either email him at [ciprianomatt@bucks.edu](mailto:ciprianomatt@bucks.edu) or call him at 215-986-8257. Cipriano's office and the Stars and Stripes Lounge can be found across from the cafeteria in the Student Life offices.



# Bucks Night Owls has club through Facebook

BY: WADE BORSAVAGE

Centurion Staff

A club for students enrolled in night classes

Many things can interfere with school, whether it is work, family responsibilities, or travel restrictions. However, night classes offer flexibility for time-constrained students.

The Night Owls is a club directed toward the many students at Bucks that take night classes. Campus activities are often difficult to attend, given the rigors of balancing work, class, family, and free time. Also, night students have a much lesser chance of meeting other students outside the classroom. The Night Owls offers a unique chance to form a connection with the school and other students.

The primary goal of Night Owls is to give students who don't have the chance to be involved in social networking on the campus, for whatever reason, that very opportunity through Facebook.

Anyone can join- just search "Night Owls UBC" on Facebook.

The group is in its early stages of progress. Last fall, Jim Fillman, the coordinator of campus services at Upper Bucks Campus and a former "night owl" himself, came up with the idea. "As coordinator of campus services at the UBC I saw myself to be in an excellent position to remedy the problem, so I became proactive in starting a club for evening

students," said Fillman. "Few evening students would be available to meet consistently for campus club events, so I decided to make use of technology and begin a Facebook club (at least to start)." A few weeks later, he contacted Brian Henson, who is now the faculty adviser for the group.

The use of technology could be a real asset to Night Owls. It essentially allows members to meet at their leisure. Being confined to set meeting times is exactly the kind of restriction this group was created to overcome, and the Facebook group gives night owls the freedom to be as involved as they want, as often as they want.

The Night Owls have only a handful of members at the moment, but the club is looking for students to join in.

"We're looking for students to get involved, and make something out of it," said Henson. "It's the beginning of an organization."

Opportunities abound, as Henson envisions the group going where the students take it. Officers and ideas are needed to get the group off the ground.

Facebook is the starting point, but Night Owls could be taken in whatever direction the members decide. Face to face meetings can be arranged for those available and interested. While it started at the Upper

Bucks Campus, any Bucks student is welcome to join in, and now is the perfect time.

An email list is constantly being updated, and posters were placed throughout campuses last semester. "At first the response from students was slow, but interest is now beginning to pick up," said Fillman.

If you would like to get involved, join the group on Facebook (Bucks County Community College Nightowls – UBC)and inform Henson that you are interested in taking this unique club to the next level.

## Biggest total snowfall since the infamous blizzard of 1996 hits Bucks hard

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For Philadelphia, the new blizzard tipped the scale for the largest snowfall in the city's history. The previous wearer of that belt was the infamous "Blizzard of '96" which wreaked havoc on Philadelphia and its neighboring suburbs with a total snowfall of 65.4 inches, just 6 less than this year's total accumulation.

The maelstrom of nasty stuff has been attributed to a high pressure system off the coast of Greenland which pushed down the conditions to produce powerful winter storms farther south than they usually go.

While the city saw a new record buster, Bucks County received considerably less. Reports from the local branch of the National Weather service indicated that total precipitation tallying just shy of 49 inches, considerably less than the '96 blizzard's record.

Even though the worst is behind us, future blips on the radar force the region to be reminded that the winter storm season is still upon us.



Mountain of snow at Bucks PHOTO BY LIAM McKENNA

## Habitat for Humanity does good for many

BY: ELIZABETH HECKENBERGER

Centurion Staff

Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful organization that helps thousands of people. At Bucks, anyone can join Habitat for Humanity as a club. The club meets every Monday at 1 pm, at the Perkasio Campus.

The adviser, Sandi McLaughlin and the treasurer, Tim Marvill of Habitat for Humanity said they enjoy being involved in this very helpful organization.

Habitat for Humanity has been around since 1976. It was founded by Millard and Linda Fuller in Americus, Georgia. To date, Habitat has built well over 300,000 homes for the less fortunate. And not only

in the United States, but all over the world as well.

Every year, the Habitat club of Bucks fundraises to go on a build during spring break. This year, the club is going to Lexington, Virginia. To raise money for the trip, members go to different locations such as Wal-Mart and ask for donations for Habitat. They also raise money through selling lollipops, pretzels and more. Around eight to nine people go on the trip, and are the trip lasts anywhere from four days to a week.

During this time, the members, along with other volunteers, help to build houses for the less fortunate. Tim Mavill, the club treasurer, says he mostly paints, landscapes, and dry-walls. For the more chal-

lenging work, Habitat has their own crew that they hire. This staff consists of plumbers, construction workers, etc...

To qualify for a Habitat built home, nominees are chosen according to a few

characteristics: willingness they have to be involved with Habitat, ability to repay the no prophet, affordable mortgage, and their personal needs. The home owners are expected to lend at least 500 hours

of their own time working on their new home (although this may vary by the number of people in the home, their age and health).

Another great attribute that Habitat for Humanity has is that they have taken the steps to go green. They have partnered with such companies as Electric (PG&E) and Pacific Gas to try and provide complete solar grids for some of the houses built.

Habitat is a wonderful organization, and a great club to join while being a Bucks student. It has been around for many years and with every ones help, will continue on for many more.



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# Professor profile: David Bates

A longtime Bucks professor who tries to teach his students to see things as they really are

**BY: JOHN MACDONALD**

Centurion Editor

According to his students, Professor David Bates, from the Department of Language and English, is an educator with something very important to teach no matter what your major: to think for yourself and see things as they really are. The view of Ashley Wunder, a History Major from Levittown is typical: "His class really opens your eyes and puts everyday life into a different perspective." She added, "I've been lucky to have taken courses taught by many really brilliant and inspiring teachers, but I've taken two courses with Prof Bates and he has always been my favorite."

The theme that one learns a lot about life is found in many of the favorable reviews by former students found on RateMyProfessor.com. For instance, a comment, posted on Feb. 2, 2009, reads: "Bates was the most influential professor I have ever had. I had him for literature and he opened up my mind on so many levels. To this day I take the lessons he taught us in class and use them on a daily basis."

Bates currently teaches writing and composition courses at Bucks. One reason that students get so much out of his writing and composition classes is that Bates has an exceptionally broad scope of knowledge to draw from, with BAs in History and Literature (Virginia Commonwealth University and George Mason University, respectively), MAs in History, Education, and Literature (The University of Florida (a dual major in History and Education), and Miami University), and an expected doctorate in American Studies from The University of Texas, where he will be defending his dissertation and expects to receive his PhD. this Spring.

In a career that spans 30-some years, Bates has taught in a variety of disciplines: "math, literature, composition, history, social psychology, mythology, and probably several other topics..." He has taught in the ghettos of Cincinnati, in Eastern Connecticut (where

"45 percent of the community lived on welfare"), and in universities such as The University of Texas, The University of Florida, Miami University, and Temple University. He also teaches "short seminars for my peers on Lewis Mumford (his philosophy), Hermann Melville ("Bartleby the Scrivener"), and William Carlos Williams (How to teach Williams from a feminist perspective)," said Bates.

Bates chose American Studies because he wanted to understand "why things had unfolded the way that they had." American Studies is an interdisciplinary study that "encompasses History, Literature, Sociology, Psychology, and Linguistics, among others."

Rather than pursue a narrower discipline that would have made it easier to get employment, Bates says he

was after broader knowledge. He neatly encapsulated his point of view on education, his students' as well as his own, by offering this quote from Lewis Mumford, noted American historian, philosopher and literary critic: "'To know more and more about less and less is, ultimately to know less and less.'"

## Racing on Wheelchairs to Get to His Class

There are a lot of reasons that motivate Bates to put so much thought, caring and effort into teaching, but the following anecdote he related ranks high among them. Bates was teaching in Connecticut. He used to arrive early in the dark morning to prepare for class: "The asphalt was obsidian slick with the veneer of ice, and the bus which brought the wards of the State to the College each morning

guess that's what I would say that I teach."

A 2008 Literature student advised online: "Whether its academic writing, critical thinking or life lessons - YOU'LL BENEFIT!" Although most on-line posters gave him high marks, a few didn't. Those few that wouldn't recommend him typically complained about having to work hard. None of the students interviewed for this article felt that Bates worked his students overly hard.

## Bates Emphasizes Issues That Are Current in Students' Lives

Bates selects "texts that reflect issues current in my students' lives today." Addressing his use of texts, another Literature student posted this on Aug. 15, 2008, "Professor Bates offers an eye opening look into the world through the selected text. Well known authors' works are examined in such a way that it strips to the raw truth about people and how they function within their environment."

As a for instance, he pointed out that one of his classes is currently reading Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*, a book about war. "We've been at war for a decade. So I try to get my students to look at the issue of what war really means. Not the fictions that they see on TV, but the human reality, and the human cost of war."

The realities of war are sometimes brought home by the students themselves. One of Bates' students last year had just returned from Iraq: "[H]e stood in tears and spoke of what he had seen and how he carried those experiences with him day to day and from night through sleepless night. I had a mother almost my age several years ago who spoke, in tears, of her son who had died in the war." **Using Mock Trials to Create a Supportive Community of Students**

His methods of teaching *Catch-22*, as well as other some other texts are unique. He has his literature class self-divide into judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. After several weeks of preparation, two-and-a-half hours of class time are devoted to mock trials of several key characters.

Bates studied teaching by way of simulation during graduate school in Education: "The idea in the trials is to get people involved in their own education, to get them to see the texts and ideas as part of their lives and not just some abstract memorization project." Jacob Madrack, a Journalism Major from Bensalem, said that the mock trial "was one of the best aspects of the class as a whole in my opinion."

Another purpose of the trials is to create a community of students. "The research in Education says that ... if [students] see themselves as studying within a community of students, their chances of educational success skyrocket. If, on the other hand, they see themselves as standing alone, isolated and alienated, they become ripe candidates for either failure or self-selecting out of education."

"Preparing for the trials absolutely brought my classmates closer to one another," observed Madrack. On the other hand, Gary Rubin, also from Bensalem and who is thinking of picking teaching as his major, found that the trials only "somewhat" promoted the bonding. He said, "I believe that since the course had a lot of dialogue a certain bonding emanated from the classroom discussions."

## An Opportunity that Shouldn't be Missed

In the viewpoints of the students that I have interviewed and the scores of on-line evaluations by former students that I have read, one theme is particularly evident; David Bates says and teaches a lot of important things. This writer has taken Bates' American Literature from 1865 course and continues to discuss Literature and various aspects of the human condition with him on a regular basis. In this writer's opinion, supported by the opinions of a large number of former students, no matter what your interests or major are, if you are really interested in learning, taking a course with David Bates will greatly enrich your education and your life.



Professor David Bates PHOTO BY JOHN MACDONALD

arrived as I was sliding out of my car. The bus decanted the young men in their wheelchairs, the amputees without any legs, and at 30 below they raced each other across the parking lot, leaning into the wind. I've often thought that if legless men could race in the dark in the joy of the endeavor, waiting for the chance to listen to me, then I at least could pick up the challenge and work to say something important."

Whatever the reasons, it is evident that Bates puts a lot of effort and feeling into his classes. "I would rate professor Bates at the top of my list of teachers because most of my other teachers didn't care as much and were not as passionate and enthusiastic about what they do," was the way Scott Noyes, a Liberal Arts and American Studies major from Morrisville put it.

## Focusing on Proof, Logic and Reason

Bates eschews straight lectures, preferring the back and forth questioning and answering of the Socratic Method, "which places an emphasis on flexibility," and allows him to "focus in on a student's or class' interest." He wants his students to be able to "step away from the abstractions of life and address the reality in terms of what they really see, feel, taste, experience and believe, instead of what they have been told to believe." One Comp. student wrote on RateMyProfessor.com on May 28, 2008 that, "David Bates teaches his students to stare the universe in the eye with unwavering clarity."

"I focus on proof, logic, and reason" Bates says. "I want them to see that they need [to] think for their own reasons and not another's. I



# It's Mac's manic musings

Do you get lost on the Newtown campus? Believe it or not, that's all part of one man's plan.

**BY: JOHN MACDONALD**

Centurion editor

Fellow Students:

Have you ever been hopelessly lost on the Newtown Campus, feeling like a rat trapped in a maze? Did you think that the campus was designed by a madman, a sadist, an incompetent, or all three combined? My recent interview with the designer of the campus, Sir Cumnavay Gashun, reveals that getting lost is all part of a grand scheme:

Mac: Sir, what was the thought process behind your design of the Newtown Campus?

Gashun: I wanted to create a new kind of educational facility, one that organically incorporated and enhanced the purposes of a college education.

A recent survey revealed that the number one question asked at Newtown was, "do you know how to get to \_\_\_\_\_ from here?" The most usual response to this question was, "I don't know. Do you have any idea where we are now?"

That's great news. It confirms that the design achieves its purposes.

Achieves its purposes...? At any given time there are scores of students wandering around campus without the faintest idea of where they are or how to get to where they are going. Getting people hopelessly lost is the only thing that your design seems to have achieved. It seems almost intentional.

It is. If that was my only purpose, I agree that it would be pretty damn weird. Ask yourself, "what are some of the purposes of higher education?" Do they not include challenging the mind? Stimulation of and integration of right- and left-brain?

Well, ...aah, ... I guess....That was a rhetorical question. My design purposefully incorporates elements of the labyrinth and the maze.

Um, aren't they the same thing?

Certainly not. A labyrinth takes you on a circuitous path that has only one way in and one way out, stimulating the right-brain functions of imagery, creativity and intuition. A maze is like a puzzle to with lots of twists, turns and blind alleys. Navigating a maze stimulates the left-brain functions of logical, sequen-

tial, analytic thinking.

By making navigation of the campus unbelievably complicated and convoluted, students are being forced into getting a.....

A whole-brain workout!!! That's amazing. Precisely. The hours and hours of disorientation and frustration that students experience are not wasted; they are a crucial part of the students' educational experience and mental development.

What other educational purposes are served by the design of the Newtown campus?

The design makes it inevitable that the student will show up late at some of the classes, and will have to explain their lateness in front of the entire class. This forces them to engage in public speaking and rhetoric. They are forced to confront their fears of being embarrassed or chastised. Being lost on campus and having to ask other students, many of whom are hopelessly lost themselves, for directions, encourages social interaction and creates the bonding of a shared traumatic experience. It forces you to learn about other parts of the

campus that you probably might not otherwise have come across. Granted, you probably won't be able to find them again, but at least you know that they are there.

Why is the Campus Security Office located at the far end of one side of the campus, well away from the areas where the students are?

The Campus Security Office is the one logical place that most students would go to when they are lost. Like the provision of campus maps, which I unsuccessfully argued against, locating the Campus Security Office in the central part of the campus would be antithetical to the educational purposes of getting lost on campus.

We have a little time left. Is there anything else about the benefits of the campus design that we should know about?

Part of the design was inspired by the ideas of Aristotle, who pointed out the need for balanced development of the mind and body. He also mentioned the soul, but there is very little room for a soul in modern academic life.

The convoluted design significantly multiplies the

amount of physical effort that students have to travel to get to class. This increases muscle mass and cardiovascular health, an effect that is often increased by to sprint to make up lost time.

The parking lots are set up to force students to undergo even more physical exertion.

They are placed on terraced inclines and most students have to drive to the far end of the lots in order to find a parking space.

The increased physical effort also has a financial benefit to the college. The College provides classes free to residents over the age of 65. Making the campus physically challenging, thereby discouraging many older students, is seen as a benefit to the bean-counters who go apoplectic at the thought of providing a free college education to anyone.

End of this week's interview

There you have it, fellow students. Throw away your maps and enjoy the previously unrecognized benefits provided to you by Sir Cumnavay Gashun at the Newtown Campus. Who would have thought?

## Entertainment by Radio BUX

**BY: ANDREW FISHER**

Centurion Staff

The Bucks College club known as Radio BUX has been meeting at the college since the Fall 2009 semester, giving students who have a knack for talking in a microphone the chance to deliver news as well as music to both the college and the Newtown area.

John Sheridan, the club adviser, meets with the 25-30 member club about twice a week for two hour meetings, and may expand to as much as five hours due to the desire to work harder to meet the many goals and tasks that Radio BUX intends to accomplish.

The club has made improvements of great value since its inception and has not slowed down thanks to technological achievement and availability. "The club is usually a favorite of music and video production majors, but anyone who has the guts to get in front of a



microphone is worth it," said student club president Kyle Salmon.

One of Radio BUX's biggest accomplishments was getting its first podcast off-air, which happened near the end of this past January.

This pod-casting method is mainly used instead of broadcasting for the club at the present time. Its biggest future accomplishment will be to get at least five 45 minute shows

on radio broadcast. The club has expressed a mission to get a variety of news stories as well as different genres of music and entertainment out to the students of Bucks, while simultaneously giving all club members the studio production time they need. "We intend to start out with one radio show a month, but we eventually want to do it weekly," Sheridan said.

Radio BUX is currently

doing podcasts from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. but it is also currently attempting to present shows at every other hour of the college day.

The club aspires to do web-radio and AM broadcasting in just a few months as well as the live shows.

The signal from the studio will not go any farther than Newtown, but with future technology looking up and technological improvements on the way Radio BUX may have a lot more potential. The addition by the college of new equipment has also helped greatly, according to Professor Sheridan.

Sheridan, who has digital recording experience and teaches digital audio and digital recording, says that the club has progressed far and makes it clear that the club strives to present accurate news,

"We make sure we get our sources right whenever we are going to do a news report on

our show. If we want to do a news story about the Bucks baseball team, we make sure that we get information from someone on the baseball team and not some secondary source, and we make sure to talk to lots of people to get our information right. Just looking at the Internet for information usually isn't good enough for a good radio broadcast," Sheridan stated.

Once the news sources have been checked for information and the broadcast is planned, it is recorded in a recording studio by Salmon, then edited and put in the podcast.

Technology has taken many people far in history, and with upcoming improvements, Bucks County Community College and eventually all of Newtown and beyond will soon be getting all kinds of great news, entertainment, and music thanks to the people of Bucks' Radio BUX club!



# Dear John, your movie was great

BY: ROSALIE NAPOLI

Centurion Editor

“Dear John” is centered on the unexpected love between an all-around good girl, Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried), and an Army boy with a troubled past, John Tyree (Channing Tatum). Through the good times and the difficult times, only time will tell if the couple’s love is strong enough for them to last. After saving her purse when it fell under the dock, John and Savannah meet for the first time, and an unexpected love blossoms. They spend the next few days getting to know one another over spring break and quickly become inseparable.

The couple shares a romantic first kiss in the rain that warms the hearts throughout the theater. Two weeks later, John’s

Army leave comes to an end, leaving the fate of the couple in letters shipped across seas.

It is a struggle, but the long-distance relationship lives in their hearts. A portion of the story is told through letters that

are written, and the love is felt more than ever.

The letters are poured with all the emotions the two are going through without each other, and John finally makes a trip home to see Savannah. He

doesn’t have long, and when he leaves once again, Savannah is filled with doubt.

Two months pass as John attentively waits for mail. Nothing ever comes for him and he begins to wonder why. Eventually he receives a letter from Savannah, although it was not what he was anticipating. With an unexpected twist, the love they share is burdened, but never lost.

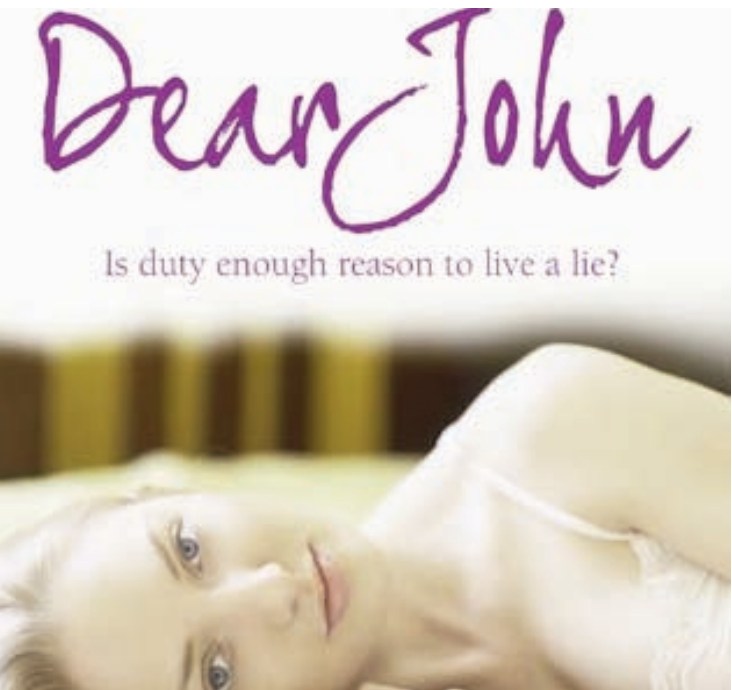
Director Lasse Hallström did a masterful job along with screenplay writer Jamie Linden to bring to life another one of Nicholas Sparks’ romantic novels. Having the ambiance of an old-fashioned love story come to present time, the tearjerker puts the audience in the couple’s romance.

Whether it is the romantic chemistry the couple shares,

the longing for a soldier overseas, or relating to the past decade’s tragedies, every audience member will be able to relate to the film.

Although both Seyfried and Tatum’s acting made for an amazing film, Seyfried’s outstanding performance surpassed expectations for her passionate acting. She made the audience feel for her character, and it will be no surprise to see Seyfried in many upcoming films, such as Boogie Woogie, Chloe, and Letters to Juliet all for the year of 2010.

With the exceptional acting and the chemistry between Seyfried and Tatum, the story is very emotional and relatable for viewers to watch. Dear John is definitely a movie that every romantic movie lover will have in their collection.



## Bristol comedy club offers a good time for Bucks students

BY: NATALIE WEINTRAUB

Centurion Staff

Due to the usual mall and movie night becoming repetitive, Bucks students have steered their way to a local comedy show known as “The Comedy Works,” located at Georgine’s Restaurant in Bristol.

Each show features three comedians, and there is always a waiter/waitress on the floor, serving food and drinks. Because of the experience of each comedian, there is never less than a chuckle throughout

the show. The cost of admission for the Friday or Saturday show only is \$15 per person, and \$35 for the Friday night dinner and show special. Seating for dinner is 7 p.m.; the show begins promptly at 9:30 p.m. and concludes around 11:30 p.m.

The show is not like the kind one would find in Atlantic City or New York City: the club is much smaller, seating only 225 people.

Carly Abramson, 19, a criminal justice major from Newtown says, “It’s just an enjoyable time. The fact that there is a much smaller audi-

ence allows for a more personal show between the individual and the performer on stage.”

The atmosphere allows for a fun night out, while at the same time making it romantic for couples. There are large tables in the back of the room for bigger parties, and smaller, candlelit tables closer to the stage.

Sarah Vitale, 18, a chef apprenticeship/pastry emphasis major from Newtown, went there with her boyfriend for their two-month anniversary. “We ate dinner at the restaurant, and then got a nice round of laughs at the show,” she said.

When the show is over, comedians are available for meet-and-greets. Most comedians also have DVDs or other works which they offer for sale.

For the dinner and show special, the menu includes entrées such as prime rib, beef-au jus, chicken or veal parmigiana, boneless stuffed chicken breast, broiled flounder stuffed with crab meat, or a vegetarian platter. The show- only menu includes hot sandwiches, hoagies, wings, chicken tenders, mozzarella sticks, and other small snacks. One can expect to be greeted at the front door

of the room where the show is held, and then guided to a table soon after. Reservations are recommended; however, one can enter on a first come-first serve basis. Parking for Georgine’s is free, and it is handicapped accessible. With adult supervision, “The Comedy Works” permits kids ages 13-17 to enter; students ages 17-21 are allowed in with identification.

To contact “The Comedy Works” at Georgine’s, visit their website at [www.comedyworksbristol.com](http://www.comedyworksbristol.com) or call 215-741-1661.

## THE WEEK IN TV/MOVIES/MUSIC

TV

**Tuesday 2/23**  
Lost- ABC- 8.00  
American Idol- Fox- 8.00

**Wednesday 2/24**  
Ghost Hunters- Syfy- 8.00  
American Idol- Fox- 8.00

**Thursday 2/25**  
Survivor- CBS- 8.00  
Supernatural- CW- 9.00

**Friday 2/26**  
Smallville- CW- 8.00  
Ghost Whisperer- CBS- 8.00

**Sunday 2/28**  
Extreme Makeover-Home Edition- ABC- 8.00  
Undercover Boss- CBS- 9.00

**Monday 3/1**  
The Bachelor- ABC- 8.00  
Chuck- NBC- 8.00

Movies




### Cop Out (R)

A comedy about a veteran NYPD cop whose rare baseball card is stolen. Since it's his only hope to pay for his daughter's upcoming wedding, he recruits his partner to track down the thief, a memorabilia-obsessed gangster. (IMDB)

**Directed by:** Kevin Smith  
**Starring:** Bruce Willis, Tracy Morgan  
**Release date:** 26 February

Music



**Ludacris**  
New album “Battle of the Sexes”  
9 March

**Alkaline Trio**  
New album “This Addiction”  
23 February



# Valentine's Day

BY HOPE KUMOR  
Centurion Editor

What does Valentine's Day mean to you? Gender makes a difference in how this question is answered. A local male student opened his heart to explain his definition of the day of love,

"Valentine's Day to me means spending time with the one that you love and care about. It is about showing your partner how much they mean to you and what you would do for them," said Roger Prioleau, 20 of Levittown.

He also added, "Valentine's Day is a time for a couples to enjoy the day with each other and not have to worry about everything else."

This was Prioleau's first Valentine's Day with his girlfriend Nicole, of three months.

"I will be spending Valentine's Day with my girl, making her feel so special because she deserves it. She means everything to me and I am going to show

her how much I love her."

What a nice guy.

Last week I was browsing for Valentine's Day ideas.

I typed "Valentine's Day" into Google which led me to many sites. The movie "Valentine's Day," which came out last week, looks like a movie I would enjoy seeing, just not on the first date. If you have read my past column, I mentioned that a movie is not an ideal first date idea ('issue 6,' if you want to check it out).

While searching the sites for cupid's date ideas, I realized that the main theme of most Valentine's sites was simply how to please your significant other on the day of love. People should be celebrating, even on days that aren't national holidays of love.

You do not need to save your romantic plans for just Valentine's Day. Let your partner know that they are love and cherished on a Wednesday, for example,



Hope with boyfriend Reggie

just because.

I became curious about the true meaning of Valentine's Day, so I started a new search. I clicked on a site that really stood out to me. It was about a woman who believes that everyone has lost sight of the holiday. She mentioned how men used to go out in the fields and search for the perfect flowers instead rushing to the store to grab the last bouquet of wilted roses. She also explains that men would write their own cards, but now they are all made by computers.

A woman would cook dinner for two in the comfort of her own home, but now it's all about going out to dinner and waiting in a long line.

After reading her story, I began to agree with her. Our society is based on money, therefore buying a sentimental gift versus

making one is usually the outcome of on gift giving holidays.

Maybe in some ways, we have lost the meaning of the day. Next year think outside the box and remember Valentine's Day can be every day, if you want. Think about this in the years to come.

So now that the day has passed, how did it pan out? Did the day amount to your expectations? I spent my Valentine's on the slopes at Bear creek and had a blast.

Remember if you didn't get to join in all the excitement of this holiday, there's always next year.

Your time will come soon enough and when it does it will be amazing.

This is the day when we can celebrate and appreciate the people who love us. Our partners, family, friends etc. We can express more than ever how much we love and

care for them.

Like I said before, every-day can be Valentine's Day if you chose. So even if you didn't get a chance to spend time with the ones most important to you, take the time to do it on another day. There are many activities you can choose from to ensure a perfect day for those special to you.

Here are some ideas: Go out to a romantic restaurant, converse and then take a relaxing walk. Or sit at home and cuddle up in front of the fire. Also, you can be a little adventurous and go horseback riding. Another is writing down all the things you like about that person and then exchanging notes; you will be pleasantly surprised at the results of such an exercise I'm sure.

I would love to hear what your Valentine's Day entailed. What activities you did or are planning to do, or if you just have a thought please contact me.

E-mail me; I would love to hear about it.

Happy belated Valentine's Day everyone.

I hope you will read my articles and stick with me. **Hope "2" Help.**

# An unexpected love story

BY HOPE KUMOR  
Centurion Editor

The funny thing is sometimes when you meet someone, you may not find them attractive, but maybe they will grow on you. That's what happened to this couple.

"I asked him if he would ever date me and he said no, not really," said Jamie Taylor, 20, an elementary education major at Kutztown. Some may know her, since she lives around the Levittown area. "The first time I saw Michael he had blue hair and I thought he was geeky-looking. I wanted [to date] the preppy guy who wore Hollister," said Jamie.

Mike Irwin, 22, a social work major at Kutztown; had a roommate who was trying to get the two together. Constantly saying they looked cute together.

After his roommate put a note under Jamie's door saying 'Jamie come over,' she started hanging out with them. Eventually Mike and

Jamie began to get closer.

"We saw each other every day," said Jamie.

Since this was Mike's first girlfriend, Jamie asked him out.

"I asked him 'Do you want to give it a try' and Michael agreed," said Jamie. That was October



Mike Irwin and Jamie Taylor

20, 2009.

Some guys are too shy when asking a girl out. Here's a tip guys: If you like her and you know she likes you, make the first move.

Jamie and Mike's relationship was pretty serious in the beginning. They quickly became comfortable with each other. That's a rarity with some couples

and it may take others a while.

"My relationship started fast. For a guy that never had a girlfriend, he was pulling all the moves, it wasn't me," said Jamie.

The special thing about Mike and Jamie is they're both Christians.

"We try to go by the Bible which most couples don't do," said Jamie.

Some people may think they fell in love too quickly, but if you care for someone that much, it's possible.

"I think I fell in love with him within three months, it was early. I didn't want to say it first. I would just say 'I really, really like you'," said

Jamie.

One day when they were laying down, **Mike looked at Jamie and said, "I love you."**

**"I was ecstatic and happy when he said it," said Jamie.**

Now the cute thing about them is it's their first relationship. Sometimes people get lucky and have great firsts.

One of the problems they face is distance. They both go to Kutztown, but Mike lives in Boyertown. This past summer was their first summer as a couple and they were only together once every week.

"It wasn't difficult because I have friends and I talked to him on the phone every night, which made it better," said Jamie.

Their first kiss was in Mike's room.

"I asked him 'how come you haven't kissed me yet?' He told me he never kissed anyone before. When we kissed, it was just a peck," said Jamie.

Jamie's favorite activity they've done so far is

Creation, which is a huge Christian concert that lasts 4 days.

"This was the first time we were away without parents. My car battery died, but we did have a good time there together," said Jamie.

Basically, for them everything came natural.

"We know each other better now, the likes and dislikes. We're having more fun because we're more comfortable," said Jamie.

Unfortunately they didn't get to see each other on Valentine's Day, but they celebrated it the Thursday before.

Jamie wants to marry him one day, and they've talked about having kids.

"Love is blind. That sums up our relationship. I guess you could say we were blinded," said Jamie, smiling brightly.

## QUESTIONS

Have a love question or comment? Email Hope at **hopeandlove89@gmail.com**



# Olympic hockey insight

BY DANIEL NUSKEY  
Centurion Staff

With the 2010 winter Olympics underway, many events will be enjoyed by viewers. However, there is only one event that truly brings out the competitive spirit of every nation that participates: men’s Olympic hockey.

Many countries participate in this event, but only the elite survive. There are many teams that are considered the elite such as Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, and, the most elite, Canada

Yet there’s one team that is more unique than the rest. You either love them, or you hate them with a fiery and unruly passion: the Americans.

The U.S. men’s hockey team is very different from in years past. The U.S. has a very young nucleus, losing their veteran leadership with Chris Chelios and Mike Modano retiring.

Now it is time for the new generation to step up, and leading the way is the New Jersey Devils’ forward Jamie Langenbrunner as captain. He gets help from the Chicago Blackhawks’ right winger Patrick Kane,

Devils’ left winger Zach Parise, the Los Angeles Kings’ right winger Dustin Brown, the Detroit Red Wings’ defensemen Brian Rafalski, and goalie Ryan Miller of the Buffalo Sabres.

These young players fill their roles very well on their NHL Squads, and they will have to translate that to their Olympic team if they hope to beat Canada and win the gold. In order to do so, goaltending is the area the team will have to be most solid at.

This makes Miller the team’s pivotal player. During the current NHL season, Miller is posting a 2.16 goals against average, saving 1486 shots, and a low save percentage.

The one negative that could hinder the U.S.’s chances of winning the gold is cohesiveness and the potential for some selfish hockey. The U.S. men’s hockey team is made up entirely of NHL players, and all these players are stars on their teams.

The team has also not played a lot together before the start of the Olympics. Surely the team will make things work as well as pos



AP Photo

PHOTO BY JULIE JACOBSEN

sible, but it will be tough in the first few games of the tournament. Langenbrunner is a solid captain for the team. He sums up America in his style of play he is tough, gritty, and always puts his team first over himself. Langenbrunner is also distributor with 37 assists on the NHL year.

While he is a great captain, it’s not him who will lead the USA to the gold.

The pressure to score will be on the shoulders of the young Kane. He has 25 goals and 42 assists this year, and he is leading his

Chicago Blackhawks to the best record in the NHL. For being a 21-year-old, Kane has the poise of a veteran and the hockey knowledge that only the greats have.

The U.S. hockey team will only go as far as Kane takes them, and that should be in the top three of the tournament.

The Men’s team will take home the silver this year, because even though the U.S. is 3-0 in the preliminary round of the Olympics, and defeated the big bad Canadian team 5-3 in a statement game for the

young hockey club, Canada has great talent and the U.S. does not have the firepower to withstand the run they will have to make for the gold. The best team in the Olympics is Canada and they will ride the ship of this demoralizing loss in front of their home crowd. Canada will grab the gold, with USA winning silver, and Russia winning bronze. USA will have to wait patiently until 2014 in Russia to get another shot at glory and the satisfaction of knowing they are the best in the world.

# Bucks tennis team optimistic

After a successful 2009 season, Coach Bradshaw hopes for even better things in the coming year

BY MATT KINSEY  
Centurion Staff

Last year, Bucks’ tennis team made it to states, but fell short of winning it all. Expectations are set high for this year’s team with many sophomores returning for another year with experience, as well as talented freshmen that they have added.

“We have a good team especially with the ones returning,” Coach Wendy

Bradshaw said. Those returning include: sophomore Alex Naylor, who finished second all-state last year, and sophomore Evan Morris, who finished third all state.

The team is also getting some help with the addition of freshman James Haywood, who was number one in his high school.

“Winning states would be great goal,” Bradshaw said. That is not the only goal she

would like to see accomplished this year.

Bradshaw would like to see her team go out every game this season and try their hardest to win every match. Also, she would be fine if they go out every match and just have fun, and play the game the way they know how to play.

The team is the strongest it has ever looked in along time, and there is no reason they should not make a

strong push toward states.

The team is always looking for good new talent to add to the already explosive roster; therefore, the team will be holding tryouts in the beginning of March.

“Try your hardest, work your hardest, and just have fun,” Bradshaw says to anyone who will like to come and tryout. Sign ups will be in the athletic director’s office, at the Newtown Campus; to reach Bradshaw

call: (215) 350-2317. The team’s first match will be on Saturday, March 27 at 1 p.m. at home against Harrisburg. Harrisburg had a very strong team last year and always gave the Bucks team a run for their money; it should be a very interesting and exciting match up. So make plans to come out and support Bucks’ tennis team as they begin their road to states once more.

WEATHERForecast for 18940

<b>TUE Feb 23</b> 40°   33° Mostly sunny	<b>WED Feb 24</b> 44°   31° Cloudy	<b>THU Feb25</b> 40°   31° Possible flurries	<b>FRI Feb 26</b> 39°   30° Possible flurries	<b>SAT Feb 27</b> 41°   28° Partly sunny	<b>SUN Feb 28</b> 43°   29° Sunny	<b>MON March 1</b> 42°   30° Sunny
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