

Panel Focuses on Sex Harassment in Workplace

NICO CISNEROS

Centurion Staff

The #MeToo movement may have started over a year ago, but its impact is still being felt everywhere, from the classroom to the workplace. But do students have the tools to deal with being in a #MeToo situation?

A professor asked this of BC-CC's Business Studies department and the Center for Student Employment and Career Development (CSECD). Both departments quickly realized that while BCCC has plenty of resources to prepare students for getting a job-- such as resume editing and mock interviews-- there are no resources on how to handle an inappropriate encounter in the workplace.

So the departments teamed up to address the issue, and on Nov. 14, students gathered to hear a panel of professional address the issue of harassment at work. The panel included Dr. Dekia Smith, Director of BCCC Counseling Services, Peter Smith, an employment attorney; and Patti Soisson, the Director of Operations for Home Helpers of Southeast PA.

"I felt it was important for students in the current environment in which we live in, to really understand how this impacts them," noted Smith. "It's a very different world than it was not too

long ago."

Soisson agreed. "I thought it was a very powerful topic that needed to be addressed outside of the college, to have some outsiders come in and address it from our perspective," she said.

The first question addressed was one people typically find the most daunting: how do you define harassment? Smith clarified that harassment is not discrimination; instead, it is something actionable. This means an employees has been put in a compromising situation, such as being promised a promotion in exchange for sexual favors (quid pro quo); or being constantly made uncomfortable by explicit or alluding comments (hostile work environment); or have been physically attacked. All these scenarios can be reported to human resources or other authorities to be investigated.

But what if someone is scared to come forward? Soisson advised that they grab a friend. "Tell your story to someone you really trust," she said. "If you need to, take that friend with you to go to the proper channels." Also, students should realize that as employees, they have certain rights-- including protection from sexual harassment-- that is typically outlined in their employee handbook. "Read your manual," advised CSECD Director Sharon Stephens.

"Typically, employers only cover the benefits and time operations

during onboarding. They may not go through it page by page. But for you, as an employee, that is imperative."

An employee handbook is also key to how employees can report sexual harassment. All the panelists and organizers agreed that you should go through your chain of command as described in this manual. Typically, this starts with a manager or supervisor, or an human resources (HR) rep. If you feel you aren't being taken seriously, Smith said, then you can escalate it to the next level.

But what if you feel you can't afford the legal battle that may ensue? Smith assured the audience that you do not need a lawyer to file a complaint. Agencies like the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) can take your claim and investigate it, free of charge to you.

In fact, the (EEOC) has seen a spike in harassment cases this year: of the 66 lawsuits they filed regarding workplace harassment, 41 of them alleged sexual harassment. That's over 50 percent more sexual harassment suits than the previous year. The business world, it seems, is definitely taking sexual harassment seriously. Smith observed that more and more employers are asking him to help them develop more sexual harassment policies and manuals.



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

In the healthcare field, Soisson said, they noticed that they had to develop and implement more policies and procedures to protect their male nurses.

What was clear was that all panelists and even promoters believe people should come forward. "Just because it's someone with a lot of letters after their name or have a position of power, they're human and you shouldn't put up with [harassment]," explained

Soisson.

Smith agreed: "In the world that the students live in, that may be a professor, that may be a boss, they don't want to get in trouble, they don't want to make waves-- but the important thing is that they shouldn't just let it go," he said. "They should come forward, they should try to address the issues, they should speak up. Because otherwise, they're going to be part of the next MeToo movement."

Bucks Holds Annual Student Research Conference

SARAH SIOCK

Centurion Staff

Bucks students presented semester long group and solo research projects in front of their peers and the public at the bi-annual Student Research Conference (SRC) on Nov 30.

The Student Research Conference was held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in various classrooms throughout the campus. The conference allowed students to collaborate with others and showcase their projects in a setting different from the normal classroom. The conference was open to other Bucks students as well as the public.

The conference was originally created by the Language and Literature department for compositions courses but since it was such a success it has grown to now include presentations from every department at Bucks.

This year's conference was another success with presenters filling every time slot. Presentations covered topics ranging from government military spending, to the tax on feminine hygiene products, and even phycological experiments. Participants felt the conference was a great experience and very beneficial.

One presenter, Megan Burke, shared her thoughts on the conference, "I felt that the conference

really helped when it comes to group skills as you are working with people from your classes in order to create a successful presentation."

Burke also added, "I feel that I personally gained more confidence when it comes to presenting in front of others."

The conference also had a break for a free lunch where presenters could gather, relax, and talk about their presentation experience.

Professor and organizer of the event Sarahlyn Bruck described how the conference is a great way to bring the school together when she said, "The SRC is a great opportunity for students to meet with classmates, faculty, and administrators outside of class, which makes students feel less isolated and more connected to others and to Bucks."

Other participants from the conference shared the skills that they gained from being part of the event.

"The conference was a great way to improve on public speaking and learn how to gather research from reliable sources, it was a really great event," said presenter Makara Bastian.

Another participant Gracanne Rutecki added, "I really feel the conference helped my skills in working with a group to create a successful presentation."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH SIOCK

This year the conference had two more events in addition to the presentations. There was a "Field of Opportunity" display in the Gallagher Room which was presented by GUID 101 students. The display included the students research about career and academic fields they are interested in. There was also a Resource Fair with various offices around campus including the Academic Success Center, Transfer and

Advising, Student Life, Career Development, the Accessibility Office, Alumni Relations, and Counseling Services.

Event organizer, Charlie Groth, shared the conferences growing success when he said, "Our conference is 10 years old AND it is a finalist for a Bellwether award, which is a prestigious award for innovation at community colleges.

The conference prepares

students with skills that they will continue to use in a professional setting. Organizers Sarahlyn Bucks encouraged students to sign up for the Spring conference when she highlighted the benefits of the conference, "Presenting at a conference shows transfer schools and potential employers that this student demonstrates a level of interest and commitment in a specific field that a transcript alone can't provide."

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Transfer Fair in Links



PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE WONOKAY

ZACH WILLITS & LESLIE WONOKAY
Centurion Staff

On Thursday various universities had representatives set up ready to talk at the Newtown Campus transfer fair. From Albright to Wilmington university, students had the opportunity to learn all about possible universities to transfer after finishing up at Bucks.

The world of universities can be overwhelming and even a little scary, so Bucks decided to make it easy for students to sort out their futures in the academic world with events like this. Whether they’re concerned about price, distance, accessibility, educational opportunities, or otherwise, students could have their questions

answered at the transfer fair.

The fair was from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and was held in the Links Pavilion. Some of the visiting colleges included Temple, West Chester, Rider, Holy Family, and Bloomsberg.

All throughout the linksz was a huge set up of different colleges and universities at their tables. The students and representatives alike were eager to learn and exchange information. Every college had a set-up of the college brochure, some had gifts like pens and magnets, and many had signs.

One of the colleges in attendance was Pierce college, a business college located in center city. The representative for Pierce college spoke about how flexible the college is and he explained that they offer a unique learning

format where students can choose to learn online from home or come to their city campus.

Sue-ann Robbins, Director of Graduate and Transfer Admissions for York college, explained “If you’re looking for a medium size class than this is for you York college has 4500 students and is two hours west from Bucks college community college.”

Robbins continued, “York college is very transfer friendly the campus has 190 acres of beautiful suburban campus and has 100 plus clubs and organizations.”

Many other schools were present at the fair and it is clear that Bucks students certainly had a wonderful opportunity at that fair, with many friendly and informative representatives ready to help curious students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRADLEY HARE

Gaming Club Hosts Flea Market

BRADLEY HARE
Centurion Staff

On Nov. 8, within the Solarium in the Rollins Center, Game Club took over from 1PM to 7PM to host a flea market. Students of the club were able to bring in their own items to trade or sell, mainly video game items.

President of the gaming club, Ricardo Ramirez, is a 24-year-old Multimedia major who lives in Sellersville. He was the leader of this even.

“The club earns money if you decide to have us sell the stuff for you,” Ramirez said.

The first available option was to

bring your items in early and give them to the club members, they would raise the original price and keep the difference between them. For example, if you have something for \$90 originally and they raised it to \$120, the club would keep the extra \$30 and you can keep the \$90.

Alternatively, if you sell by yourself without giving to the club, you have to pay for a \$5 registration free, and you lose a 10% difference. “For example, if you sell \$10, we keep \$1, and you take \$9.” Ramirez detailed.

“The money we earn through this event will go towards giving the club more games, newer consoles and also being able to

repair broken down consoles and supplies.” Ramirez promised.

Dylan Adams, a 20-year-old History Major from Yardley is taking part in selling some unwanted games alongside other members of the club. His most expensive item was a DS game called Pokémon Rangers that went for \$35.

“I would probably use the money on whatever I would need really.” Adams admitted. “I’m currently thinking of some sort of PC upgrades or stuff I can use around home.”

Jack Shoen from Doylestown, a 20-year-old with a major in Multimedia, is another one of these students. His most expensive item

was a bundle: Lost Planet 2 and 3, altogether for just \$35.

“I have my reasons as to what I plan on doing with the money.” Shoen said.

Eric Dubow, the 19-year-old Communications Studies major from Bensalem was selling a DS that went for a cheap \$30. “I don’t know what I will end up doing with my money, as part of it is going towards the club, so I need to see how much money I make first.” Dubow explained.

Abby Nisula, 18-year-old with a major in Bio-technology from South Hampton, provided a different and unique service; selling her own drawings. “I’ve been drawing since preschool. I’m not

looking for a career; I just like to draw.” Nisula stated. Full-Color colored pencil drawings were for \$20, and Monochrome drawings were for \$15. Simplified line art full body pictures were just \$8. She plans on using the money she made to buy more art supplies.

Despite all of this, the day was still considered slow and unsuccessful by President Ramirez. However, he plans on having another flea market day on Dec. 6, the same day of the Smash Brothers tournament, in the Links Pavilion. Be sure to stop by if you have the time and money!

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Bucks News

Blood Drive in Rollins Center



Photo Courtesy of Joesph Sheridan

JOSEPH SHERIDAN
Centurion Staff

Bucks County Community College hosted the American Red Cross blood drive on Friday Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Gallagher Room of the Rollins Center.

Unfortunately, the blood drive did not yield spectacular results. In the five hours that the drive was open, there were less than thirty people that showed up, a small percentage of that being students.

There was speculation amongst the workers and donors about the reason for the small turnout. Some blamed the inclement weather, while others presumed that maybe

students didn't seem to grasp the importance of donating blood.

In the United States, someone requires a blood donation every two seconds. Blood donation is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this life-saving care starts with one person making a generous donation.

Approximately 36,000 units of blood are needed every day in the U.S., and Red Cross has made it not only accessible, but also extremely simple for people to donate blood and provide it to those who need it.

The American Red Cross provides about 40 percent of our

nation's blood and blood components. According to their website, one donation of blood can potentially save up to three people. But the only way they're able to provide it is through generous volunteer donors.

While over 60 percent of the population is eligible to give blood, supply can't always meet demand because only about 10 percent of eligible people donate blood yearly.

Yet the weight of the issue doesn't seem to be what lost students. Instead , it appears students were unaware of the opportunity to make a difference. While asking other students about the blood drive, it became obvious why the turnout was so low: the students

didn't know it was happening.

With the lack of promotion and the limited courses offered on Fridays, it was less likely that someone would stumble upon the event accidentally.

Wandering around campus looking for students to interview, it became obvious that the Gallagher room was not unique in its desolation: only a handful of students were on the property as a whole.

Matthew G., an 18-year old studio video production major, was one of the few students who was able to stop by and donate.

He discovered the drive just walking by on his way to his English comp class. Upon seeing the blood drive, he decided that

moment was as good as any to donate blood for the first time.

"I was glad that I did it," he said. "It's definitely something I would do again. I would even say I enjoyed it."

"It's for a good cause," Matthew advised his fellow students. "Just a few minutes out of your day." Wise words from a truly selfless hero -- not to mention he looked great in the free t-shirt he received for volunteering!

A blood drive will be held on the Upper Bucks Campus Thursday Dec. 6th. The next blood drive at Newtown Campus will be held Tuesday, February 19th.

Take Advantage of BCCC Internship Opportunities

MADISON PICKUL
Centurion Staff

Internships are offered to all Bucks students, both full and part-time. In addition to that, students that are over 18 in a dual enrollment program, who are in high school taking courses at the college, are eligible to apply for an internship.

Professor Brenda Seibert is in charge of the internships and is also the job developer for creating internships. Seibert's job is to bridge the gap between the perspective employers and the students at Bucks.

When a student fills out a form, Seibert reviews the form and then

takes that information to match them with a potential employer.

There's a number of internships offered ranging from political campaigns to business and even journalism. "There's a lot more employers interested in our students than students to connect [employers] to," said Seibert, who focuses her energy on reaching out to students.

Applying for an internship is a quick and easy process. All a student needs to do is go the Bucks website to find the Student Employment and Career Development page. Once there, click on the internship icon, then the student icon, and then follow the student internship toolkit link and

fill out the student interest form at the bottom of that page.

"A lot of students equate internships with not being paid," remarked Seibert, when asked if a lot of students knew about the internships program. Not being paid is actually not the case for most internships offered by Bucks: the pay can range from \$8 to \$14 an hour.

Being paid all depends on the type of industry. For instance, someone with an internship involving sociology or psychology most likely will not receive payment because those fields are primarily nonprofit organizations.

Seibert's job doesn't just include matching students and

employers to existing jobs. It's also up to her to find an internship that might not be offered. If the student is looking for something not offered, Seibert will call the local business within the area that the student is interested in. At times, Seibert will reach out to different faculty members to find students.

"I think it is my job to make sure all of my students get a good job," said Seibert. "I think internships can play a huge role in that. I wouldn't be doing this otherwise."

Internships can have an important part in getting a job. Since a lot of jobs want people with experience, someone who has

completed an internship becomes a perfect candidate. According to Seibert ,about 2-3 years ago, every student in the paralegal program who completed an internship received a job offer from their internship employer.

For more information on internships, you can check out the flyers around campus or contact Professor Seibert at brenda.seibert@bucks.edu or stop by her office in the Center for Student Employment and Career Development on Wednesday's between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Students can also stop by the Center during the week.



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Winter Break

Students Conflicted Over Long Winter Breaks

NICOLE AQUINO
Centurion Staff

BCCC Students are 50-50 when deciding if they prefer a break in between semesters or having it continue to get off earlier in the spring. BCCC students are the same with wanting a shorter or longer winter break.

It’s that time of year when students start to count the days left. And anticipate for all the school-work to be done.

The winter break goes from Dec. 12- Jan. 22, the day before

the start of the spring semester. Students have the opportunity to relax and get ready for another semester.

20-year-old, Molly Daniels is an English major at bucks, she says, “For me personally, I like to enjoy a little time off especially with the fall semester being near the holidays. It lets me take some time for myself and not have to worry about a paper being due the next week.”

21-year-old science major, Tom Donovan disagrees. He wishes the semesters were all together and there wasn’t a big gap in between.

Donovan states, “I just want to get all my classes done so I can transfer. I feel the break in between drags out the year and it seems much longer.”

19-year-old Lauren Bixby agrees with Donovan and prefers to get out early in May. “I prefer the spring weather because I hate walking to class in the cold. I wish I can have more time in the summer to hang out with my friends. With all of our busy schedules it makes it hard.”

Christmas and New Years are two big holidays that occur during Winter break. 20-year-old Nursing

major Michelle Gomez says, “I love this time of year with all the holidays. I don’t have to worry about school and I get to spend quality time with my family.”

Some students think the amount of time given during the break is sufficient enough to enjoy the holidays.

18-year-old freshman at BCCC Brad Fox, says “I’m so used to the short break we got in High School so I’m glad to have a month to relax. Christmas break went so fast last year and I want to make the most of it this year. So I think the winter break is just right.”

20-year-old business major Kelly Davis, disagrees with Fox, she said, “I wish the winter break was longer. It goes way too fast. When I went my first semester in the fall last year I didn’t realize how the time would fly. I’m definitely going to try to make the most of it this year!”

Overall, Bucks students either want the semester to be over early so they can have a longer summer or have breaks to relax and get ready for the start of the next semester.



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* National Public Radio, September 2015

The Holidays

A Guide to Surviving Xmas Morning

JEN ABELE
Centurion Staff

Next to Halloween, Christmas morning is a magical event for all children. For me, not so much.

People speak of the joy that is Christmas morning in their house, but my house is a natural disaster. Dec. 25, 9 a.m., bright and early, family members commute to my Grandma’s house. All the children buzz with excitement to see what their family and Santa have left them. When my immediate family shows up, 25 people descend through the door, and it can be mass hysteria.

But the silver lining is that I’m able to share some of my hard-won wisdom with you so that maybe, just maybe, you can enjoy the holiday, too. This is a survival guide of how to better tame the chaos that is Christmas morning.

1. Get comfy--or classy! Just make sure you wear shoes. Nothing beats opening your presents in your jammies. If you’re wondering if you should wear the Grinch onesie or not, remember: it’s Christmas! Alternatively, if your family might appreciate nicer outfits, ask your parents how you should dress. Keep shoes or slippers on at all times to avoid stepping on small parts like Legos.

2. Keep a slight schedule- but not too strict
Christmas is a time for family and memories, but needs some organization. If you’re having Christmas at home, let the kids take lead of the schedule once everyone is awake. If you’re waiting on house guests, promote the idea of breakfast, a Christmas movie, or a game to the kids to wait patiently for presents.

3. Make sure presents are labeled...
One Christmas, my Granny forgot where little Grace’s gift was. Her solution? She unwrapped every present to find Grace’s, then rewrapped them all to their former glory before anyone noticed. Learn from Granny, folks!

4. and that everybody gets the right gift...
After eating breakfast as a family, the children lunge for their presents under the tree. (Remember when I said there was mass hysteria?) To avoid kids opening the wrong present, choose a spot and use a specific wrapping paper or color to distinguish each child’s gift under the tree.

5. and no gift gets trashed!
Be sure that the kids do not throw out cards, gift cards, money, receipts, and small pieces of jewelry. To avoid losing money or gift cards in the trash, give cards containing money or gift cards to their parent. Also be wary of

small toy products such as, Hatchimals, LOL Toys, Polly Pocket, Barbie shoes, or Legos. Everyone hates stepping on a stray Lego!

6. Speaking of trash: make sure you have trash bags handy!
Now that the chaos of unwrapping presents has commenced, paper will be piling up. Appoint a few family members with trash bags to collect all that wrapping paper. Remember some wrapping paper can be recycled as long as it isn’t glittery or made of foil.

7. Don’t forget to take pictures!
This is a holiday where family comes far and wide to spend time together. Capture those moments for the entire family to enjoy. Designate 2 people to take pictures of the kids with their Christmas present to get the best angle, and then post on Facebook for your family to see. Taking the pictures helps extended family who weren’t able to attend feel included in the holiday festivities.

After festivities settle down, curl up next to the fire with your eggnog, find the mistletoe before your significant other does, and sing Christmas songs. And yes, you’ll probably get tired of the kids singing “Jingle bells, Batman smells, Robin laid an egg, the Batmobile lost a wheel, and we’re never the same again” on loop. But what the heck-- it’s Christmas! Join in!



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Spot Feature

Life After the Liberian Civil War: A Native Tells All



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

LESLIE WONOKAY
Centurion Staff

Liberia is a country in West Africa which was founded, established, colonized, and controlled by citizens of the United States and ex-Caribbean slaves as a colony for former African American slaves and their free black descendants.

In its history, Liberia has had two civil wars. The First Liberian Civil War was an internal conflict in Liberia from 1989 until 1997. The conflict killed about 250,000 people and eventually led to the involvement of the Economic Community of West African States and of the United Nations. The second civil war began in 1999 and ended in 2003.

Paul Koimene, a 63-year-old Liberian immigrant talked about his life after the civil war in Liberia. Mr. Koimene tells us that The Liberian civil crises started somewhere in the middle of December 1989. “This period is significant for two reasons: first it was the time when the Rebel forces of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, NPFL which was loyal to Mr. Charles Taylor entered Liberia

from the neighboring country of Côte d’Ivoire.

Their entry into the country was reported by the state media. That same day, the government of the late Samuel Doe who was then the President of Liberia imposed curfew and the security forces were put on alert and advised everyone to leave the streets and go home.”

“Secondly, the night of the entry of the Rebels was a night of celebration for me and my wife after our wedding earlier in the day. Just two days before that time, I had arrived from the Hague where I obtained a Master’s Arts Degree in Development with emphasis on Labor Relations from the International Institute of Development Studies.”

Discussing the impact of the Liberian War on his life, Mr. Koimene continued, “Actually, as someone who had lived in Europe for almost two consecutive years before the entry of the NPLF into Liberia, I did not have any comprehensive understanding of the war. As a matter of fact, there were incoherent and conflicting information emanating from the state media to the general public.

The media continued to tell the public that the rebel fighters were disgruntled people who were bent on causing insurrection in the country and that the armed Forces of the country would be able to defeat them in time for normal life to resume in the country,”

Koimene continued, “On the other hand, the rebel fighters boasted through some international media especially the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), that it had trained thousands of men and women and was recruiting citizen fighters to unseat the government of Samuel Doe and put in place a democratically elected government. But none of this happened and the war continued for the whole year.

Koimene says the impact of the war was enormous. “By August of the following year, 1990, I walked from Monrovia, the capital of Liberia to the Sierra Leone border. It took me and dependents two weeks. I left behind my family and everything I ever worked for including cars, and other possessions. I entered Sierra Leone as a refugee. While in Sierra Leone, my wife and children got on a refugee ship and were taken to

Ghana. Eventually, through the assistance of the All Africa Teachers Organizations, AATO. I joined my family in Accra Ghana.”

Paul says his life has never been the same since the war. He had goals and ambitions and all had to be reformulated to stay in the United Sates. Arriving in the United States in 1997, Paul wanted to have a safe place for his children.

Some of the struggles Koimene faced is a typical immigrant story. That all or maybe some immigrants have to retrain to fit into or adjust to the American way of life. That is, although he arrived in the United States with a Master’s Degree and driven in many countries including Europe. He could not get a Driver License and the immediate place he could work was at a Walmart where he was paid \$6.00 an hour.

More struggles for Paul began with the acculturation which is the process of trying to fit in the American society and culture. This includes the learning of the language to enable you face employers and be accepted. This process is much easier for young immigrants than for the old ones.

Another problem he faced is the fact that not many Americans and employers are conversant with educational systems outside of the American system.

Therefore, once one does not mention the name of the colleges that are common to them, the degree you have as an immigrant is not respected. This situation forces many immigrants to go back to college for retraining with the hope that they will get a better job.

Paul says “Consequently, it is common to see many very academically immigrants doing a low paying jobs.”

“The physical war may be over but the emotional scar and memory of love ones who died still linger, besides reconstructing the personal infrastructure that were damaged remain a major burden for some of us. Concerning his family, “We are doing well, especially for my children. Most of them have completed college or some professional training and have career paths.”

Political Ads: What’s the Truth?



ADRIANNA WOLF
Centurion Staff

NBC and Fox news refused to air one of Trump’s anti-immigrant campaign ads after harsh backlash due to its racist nature, after millions had already viewed it.

NBC decided to air the ad

during a Sunday night football commercial break. Their action received a wave of negative feedback.

The ad references the caravan, or “migrant invasion,” making its way to the U.S. border. But the ad states the caravan includes 7,000 people, which is an exaggeration. It then cuts to a scene of a large

group of people assumed to be immigrants, violently pushing against a fence, assumed to be the U.S. border.

It also references Luis Bracamontes, from Mexico, who was convicted of murdering two U.S. police officers. The ad highlights him stating, “Only thing that I regret is that I only killed two,” during his trial.

The ad references Luis Bracamontes to say, “Immigrants do not care about our laws.”

After all of this questionable content, inspirational music begins and an array of Donald Trump images are shown. It states Donald Trump will protect the U.S. and its borders.

It goes on to say “America’s future depends on you. Vote Republican.” At the end, Donald Trump states, “I am Donald Trump and I approve this message.”

After NBC and other news sources such as CNN refused to air the ad, Trump took to his twitter page stating, “CNN refused to

run this ad, I guess they only run fake news and won’t talk about real threats that don’t suit their agenda. Enjoy. Remember this on Tuesday. #vote #voterepublican.”

Political ads have always been a large part of campaigning. Especially since the beginning of political parties.

Professor Jerry Millevoi, who teaches History at BCCC, directed me to multiple examples of political ads and their progression over time in the U.S.

Millevoi stated, “It is interesting to look at campaign ads before television and after television.”

Before television, politicians could only get information about themselves to the public through newspaper. Instead of using television, politicians were forced to actually go out and meet the people they were trying to win over in person.

A good example of this would be Harry S. Truman who ran for president in 1948. According to thebalancecareers.com, he shook

over half a million hands while touring America.

Once television came around, voters could rely on image to determine their political votes. For example, the debate between Kennedy and Nixon. Many decided not to vote for Nixon because he looked ill while on camera.

“A lot of people do use image to form political opinions. Image has always been important,” stated Millevoi.

Society often makes conclusions based on image whether it’s about political figures or family members.

A little after Kennedy, the first negative ad came to light in the 1960s. Lyndon B. Johnson ran an ad which became known as “The Daisy Girl.”

The ad portrays a young girl counting petals on a daisy and associates it with the countdown to a nuclear explosion.

Continued on Page 7...

Pop Culture

Political Ads...



Continued From Page 6...

Johnson is saying, “Vote for me and the U.S. will be safe from nuclear attacks.”

Even today, negative ads are a common part of political campaigns. It becomes difficult to know what is true and what is just blown out of proportion.

As shown in the racist Trump ad, it is not difficult to take current events and twist them into events that have potential to end the world. It is also an easy assumption to make that a lot of voters fall for these ads.



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Remembering Stephen Hillenburg

FRANCIS KLINGENBERG
Centurion Staff

Students all around BCCC are mourning after discovering cartoonist Stephen Hillenburg, the creator of “SpongeBob SquarePants,” died on Monday, Nov. 26, from Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Hillenburg, 57, passed away after a long fight with Lou Gehrig’s disease, more commonly known as ALS. It is a disease that attacks the nervous system, weakening muscles and preventing many physical functions.

Nickelodeon released a statement on Hillenburg’s passing: “We are incredibly saddened by the news that Hillenburg has passed away following a battle with ALS. He was a beloved friend and long-time creative partner to everyone at Nickelodeon, and our hearts go out to his entire family.”

English Theoretical Physicist Stephen Hawking is a famous example of somebody affected with ALS. Hawking passed away on March 14, 2018, after having been paralyzed for decades because of this disease.

Hillenburg was most known for creating “SpongeBob SquarePants,” an American animated television series that has been running for 12 seasons since 1999. He had also made three movies about SpongeBob, the third one set to be released in 2020.

“SpongeBob SquarePants” revolves around a yellow, square sponge named SpongeBob that lives in a pineapple under the sea. This goofy character with square pants and a squeaky laugh has impacted hundreds of millions of children around the world.

Nickelodeon said, “Steve imbued ‘SpongeBob SquarePants’ with a unique sense of humor and innocence that has brought joy to generations of kids and families everywhere. His utterly original characters and the world of Bikini Bottom will long stand as a reminder of the value of optimism, friendship and the limitless power of imagination.”

For some students, SpongeBob was a means to spend time. It offered enjoyment and laughter. Emily Carpenter from Warminster said that Hillenburg’s death affected her greatly. “I was sad,” she confessed, “I used to watch a lot of SpongeBob when I was a kid. Days’ worth.”

She admitted that she watched the show to pass the time. She added, “SpongeBob was good for some quick laughs.”

For Hillenburg, this is exactly what he wanted. During an interview, he said, “It seems like we’re aiming at a child audience, but everyone can laugh at the basic human traits that are funny. It’s playful, the humor is playful, the world is playful. You can kind of let go.”

Hillenburg’s goal was to offer an escape from reality for anybody who needed it, like Dan McNamee from Southampton. He said that he loved SpongeBob and stated “It was my favorite childhood TV show”

“It was always on, always there,” he continued. Whenever he needed a pick-me-up, SpongeBob was there for him, “It was really funny, and laugh-able.”

Hillenburg’s death was a shock to Dan when he heard, and he said “It is such a sad thing.” He compared Hillenburg to Marvel

Comics Creator Stan Lee, “They had the same goal, and they impacted so many people.”

For some Bucks’ students, they haven’t even heard about Hillenburg’s passing. Jovani Hernandez from Warminster was shocked. “Really? Oh wow,” said Hernandez. “When I was a kid, I watched the show every day.”

While he didn’t know anything about Hillenburg as a person, he had a lot to say about the show. “I always looked forward to the new episodes,” he said. “They were fun and exciting.”

When asked about SpongeBob’s influence, Hernandez thought for a moment and said, “I think he left an impression on other creators. You can see all these new cartoons popping up everywhere.”

He smiled a bit and said, “SpongeBob just had that magic to him.”

Daniel Sayers from Morrisville agrees that SpongeBob “had that magic.”

“I used to watch that show every single day since I was 3!”

When asked how SpongeBob impacted his life, Sayers said, “It was an inspiration.” He continued, “It showed many kids a story of success, and it gave many smiles too.”

Sayers was surprised when he heard of Hillenburg’s passing. “I didn’t see a single article, but one of my friends on Discord told me about it.” Discord is an instant messaging application for computers and mobile phones.

Sayers was depressed after he was told. “It was just like Stan Lee,” he said. He mentioned that, “They both created a world that influenced a generation, and they both suddenly died.”

He lamented about Hillenburg, “He showed, through SpongeBob, that anybody can work his way up in the world. He was a life-changer.”

To everyone, Hillenburg is known as the creator of “SpongeBob SquarePants.” To many, he was known to be funny and unique. To his family, he was a curious and gentle visionary. To us here at Bucks, we see him as an inspiration.

He left his mark on countless generations, and his work will live on in our hearts. Whether it’s just a funny meme we see on the internet or a life-lesson we learned through SpongeBob, Hillenburg will be remembered.

We at the Centurion send our best wishes to his friends and family.



Entertainment

‘Walking Dead’ is Still Alive

LESLIE WONOKAY

Centurion Staff

After being on television for roughly 9 years, there is only so much material you can use to keep the show fresh. AMC’s “The Walking Dead” seems to have cracked the code with the Ninth Season of the popular zombie Drama.

A lot has happened in those 9 years. What started out as a small group of survivors fighting every day to stay alive, has evolved into constant conflict with other people. When we first met our ragtag group of survivors, we fell in love with each and every one of them.

The show today looks completely different from what it did in season 1. For example, from the original season, only 2 characters remain alive. Nobody is safe in this show, and in every interview you see with the actors, they always speak about “a call” that the showrunner gives them to inform them of their characters demise.

One controversial death that caused the show to spiral downhill was the death of Rick Grimes’ son, Carl.

Carl was such a prominent character and went through a lot in 8 seasons. From getting shot in the eye and to losing his mother, his character was the textbook definition of survivor. His death was incredibly sad, partly because we’ve watched Carl grow from a little boy into a young man over the past eight years, we saw him

evolve from a child to a survivor.

Whenever we would see Carl, he was always the hope of the better future ahead. We have seen his character evolve so much in the 8 seasons that when he died, most of the viewers left along with the actor.

Now, let’s fast forward to season 9 big highlights.

Season 9 focuses on life after the war with Negan, the show’s most predominant antagonist. Negan is locked up at Alexandria, the home of the main characters, and the other communities are working in unison.

Prior to this season airing, Andrew Lincoln, the actor who has played main character Rick Grimes, informed everyone that he would be leaving the show after 9 years. In episode 5 of the shows ninth season, he gets hurt really bad and is believed to be dead.

However, Rick is not dead and is lifted off to an unknown location. It was also revealed that Rick Grimes would be getting his own solo movies premiering on AMC to finish out his story.

Most of the fans feel that losing Rick Grimes is completely insane and the show will never go on without him. Well the show must go on.

Lincoln’s Rick Grimes went on an emotional trip down memory lane, temporarily meeting dead characters like Hershel, played by Scott Wilson; Sasha, played by Sonequa Martin-Green and Shane; played by Jon Bernthal, in

his close-to-death mind.

In brilliant fashion, they focused not only on Rick’s final journey within the TV series but also packed tremendous character interactions between Maggie and Michonne before Maggie and Negan into the episode.

The show wisely put an unexpected tag on the end of Rick’s last episode. Now, Rick’s daughter, Judith is all grown up after Rick had flown away in a helicopter launching the show into

its narrative future taking place six-years later.

With the Mid-Season finale, The Walking Dead proved there may just be hope for the show, setting the final scene in a foggy graveyard, a true sense of the horror was on display. For the first time in years, the show felt scary and uneasy, and the cherry on top was the death of another main character.

The death was both shocking and terrifying, taking out another

major character who fans had become considerably fond of.

If you haven’t tuned in yet to a mid-season finale, you should! The moment was shocking and true to The Walking Dead’s roots, proving that the AMC show can have a comeback. In fact, despite losing its core characters, new developments have shown The Walking Dead could be on its way to having its best season, ever.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

‘Fantastic Beasts’ is Back



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

JENNIFER ABELE

Centurion Staff

“Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald” focuses on Newt Scamander’s quest, provided by Albus Dumbledore, to kill Grindelwald because Grindelwald is using magical creatures against oblivious and defenseless muggles in London.

The Fantastic Beasts series focuses on muggles being cut off from the Wizard World before Voldemort rose to power and takes place 60 years before Harry Potter was born, and incorporates the various fictional creatures in the Wizard World.

The film is about Albus Dumbledore’s past with Grindelwald. The plot focuses on their friendship, seeking the elder wand,

and the complications of Albus Dumbledore taking care of his younger sister Ariana, who experiences uncontrollable violent magical outbursts.

Grindelwald, played by Johnny Depp, wants Dumbledore, played by Jude Law, to accompany him to seek the elder wand, but Dumbledore was committed to take care of Ariana. The two get into a violent duel, and Ariana is killed from a curse.

This explains Dumbledore’s lifelong regret, mentioned by his older brother Aberforth Dumbledore in the “Deathly Hallows Part Two”. Aberforth explains that it was Albus who was at fault for Ariana’s death.

Grindelwald obtains the Elder Wand, described in the “Deathly Hallows” as the most powerful wand in existence.

Dumbledore and Grindelwald duel later on in the 1940s, leading to Dumbledore’s victory. This explains how Dumbledore obtained the Elder Wand.

Dumbledore became the head teacher at Hogwarts of course, and Grindelwald terrorized New York, London, and Paris.

Credence Barebone, played by Ezra Miller, will reappear to aid Grindelwald as the eldest obscurus to live: he has reached adulthood and most don’t survive after 10 years. An obscurus is a dark force inside a wizard who has experienced a trauma with magic it is created out of pain, torment, and violence. This is definitely someone that Grindelwald wants to be a part of his army.

In “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” it is inferred that

Credence’s dark force was created due to his adoptive mother, Mary Lou Barebone.

Mary Lou Barebone also joins Grindelwald because she’s against wizards and magic. Mary Lou Barebone was especially abusive to Credence because his birth family were the Lestrangle family that consisted of pureblood wizards.

Nagini, played Claudia Kim, is also going to appear in “Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald.”

Harry Potter fans assumed that Nagini was able to shapeshift like Peter Pettigrew, Ron’s pet rat.

However, J. K. Rowling explained that Nagini wasn’t a wizard, but was able to shapeshift from human to snake. But one day she couldn’t shift back into a human, and was forced to remain

a snake. This led her to becoming a Horcrux and Lord Voldemort’s prized possession. A Horcrux is an object in which a Dark wizard or witch has hidden a fragment of his or her soul for the purpose of attaining immortality. Horcruxes can only be created after committing murder, the supreme act of evil.

Although, the casting for Nagini did cause a massive amount of controversy among fans. The casting was seen as a racial issue. The fans didn’t understand why that ethnicity was chosen to serve the Dark Lord.

“Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald” is proving to be a very interesting prequel to the popular Harry Potter franchise. I would recommend anyone who’s a fan of the Harry Potter series go check it out!

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Sports

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIJAH PITTMAN

ROBERT SIMMONS
Centurion Staff

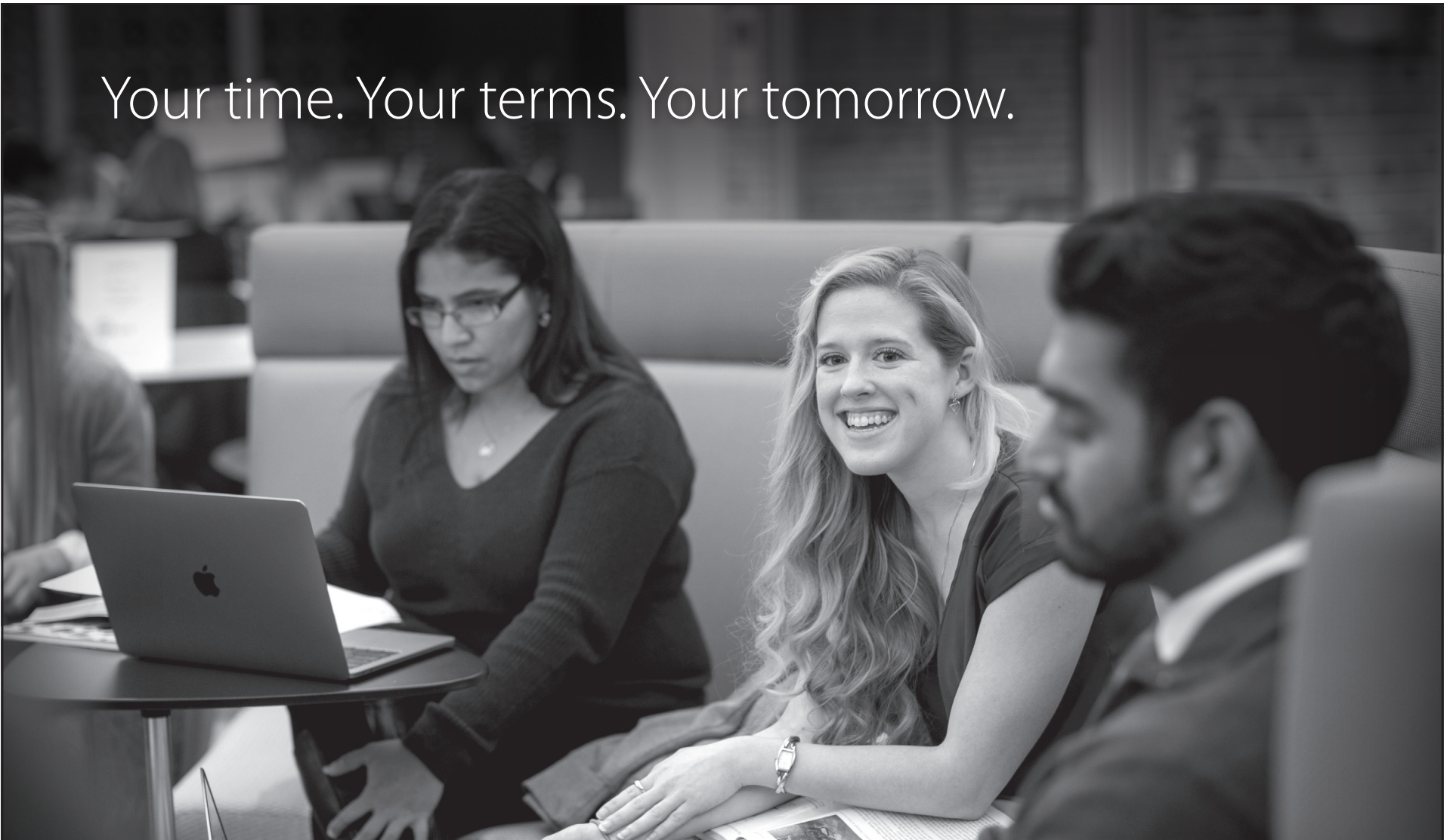
The Men’s basketball team at Bucks will look to build upon what was a positive season in 2017/2018 in which they made the playoffs for the first time under Coach Dominic Farrello. The 2017/2018 season saw Bucks improve from a 9-16 (7-11) record in Farrello’s first year as coach to 12-13 (9-7) as well as a visit to the first round of the conference playoffs. This season, however, things will be looking a lot different for the Centurions on the court. Dominic Farrello is still the head coach and they will be returning a solid core of players, but Farrello is looking to rebrand the program while still sticking with what worked last season.

This season he’s looking to move the team away from a more guard-oriented system into a game plan that revolves more around the play of his big men, “This season we are actually look for a new identity from the past two seasons,” Farrello told me. “We have been primarily a guard oriented team. We will still rely heavily on guard play, but this season we have some size to work with and be more effective in the paint.” The size that he referred to will be coming from freshman forward Keith Howard and six-foot-six sophomore forward Elijah Pittman, who returns for his second season with the team. Both are players that coach Farrello will rely heavily on to make an impact in the paint this season. “Last year was rough for me. I believe I could have done more for my

team and this year it’s my goal to show that,” said Pittman. Farrello noted that this season the roster isn’t nearly as deep as it was in years past, only carrying nine players on the team. The three returning student athletes are going to have to carry a leadership role and help elevate the play of the first year players. He will need each and every player, both new and old, to play a role in order to repeat last season’s success, “Our returning players we will look for leadership from are Ronnie Garrison, Adjewoda Sanoumega, and Elijah Pittman.” “All three had an excellent season last year and are projected to do well again this season,” He continued. “I think all of our first year players are going to make an impact. Our roster is small and we will be looking for contributions

from everyone,” said the young coach. “It’s our responsibility as second year players to show the new guys the right way to play in order to help them develop.” said the second year big. Even though there is a strong class of returning and incoming players on the roster, the Centurions will have their work cut out for them with a difficult out of conference schedule to begin the season. They have already dropped their first five games of the season, making each game from here on out that much more important. “We look forward to every game,” Farrello said on how the team is going to approach the season. “Every game is a ‘statement game’ in one way or another.” Despite the rocky start, Bucks will look to rebound one game at

a time. Another trip to the playoffs is of course on everyone’s mind here at Bucks, but approaching the season one game at a time is something that the coaching staff heavily preaches to its squad, “We do not develop goals that are cut and dry. We take each game as an individual competition,” he said. “A lot of things can happen between now and the end of the year,” he continued. “Mentally, I find it to be healthier to take it one game at a time.” The Centurions will play Mercer College next and will look to get there first win of the season. The team returned home on Tuesday, Dec. 4 for a matchup with Rowan College at Burlington County. With only a few games left before winter break, the Centurions will try and get a winning streak going to make up for the bad start.



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