

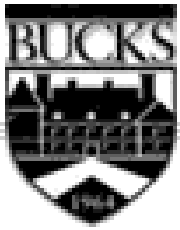
The Centurion

All the news--about Bucks--that's fit to print.

The week of April 14, 2008

www.bucks-news.com

Volume: 43 Issue:14



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WEATHER

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 56. North wind around 7 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 65. Northeast wind between 3 and 7 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 72.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

Saturday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 69. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Sunday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

WEATHER COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.

FASFA troubles ahead

AES is limited in awarding financial aid, & grant deadlines are approaching fast.

BY TOM ROWAN
Centurion Staff

American Education Services and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency have temporarily suspended financial aid, awarding only state grants to those students who have filed a FASFA form by May 1.

This decision does not mean an end to loans from the PHEAA, but it means that the PHEAA will no longer be the lender or bank from which students borrow money. This includes the Federal Family Educational Loan Program constituents Stafford, Parent PLUS, Graduate PLUS and Consolidation loans. Students are asked to choose from another bank or lender such as a credit union, or savings and loans association.

What has brought about this inconvenient change?

"The sub-prime mortgage mess has made it difficult for PHEAA to raise the cash it needs to fund student loans," it says on the AES official website. "Other banks and institutions who don't have this problem will continue

to work with PHEAA to ensure students and families have access to the money they need to pay for their education."

All loans issued at the beginning of the year are still viable; however AES/PHEAA will be sending all borrowers a letter asking them to quickly choose another lender.

Some Bucks students have already received their letters. "I got really scared," said Centurion Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin, 25. "I saw the letter come in the mail and my stomach back-flipped. The first thought I had was 'how am I going to go to school next semester?'"

The PHEAA has instituted two new federal grants.

The Teach Grant is worth up to \$4,000 for students intending to teach in a field with a high-demand for educators, such as public or private elementary or secondary schools that serve stu-



PHOTO BY JAY JONES

dents from low-income families.

And the second is the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent or SMART grant, available for juniors and seniors who are majoring in physical, life or computer sciences, mathematics, technology engineering or in a foreign language determined to be critical to national security. This grant can be worth up to \$4,000 to U.S. citizens, who are PELL eligible and full-time students in a four-year degree program with a

cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0, according to the AES website.

"PHEAA is still committed, as we have been for 44 years, to serve the financial aid needs for Pennsylvanians and other students from around the country," according to PHEAA.com.

If you have any questions concerning the status of your financial aid, you can contact AES customer service at 1-800-233-0557. Or call Bucks' Financial Aid Office at 215-968-8200.

Bucks is 'Covering the Police Beat'

BY SARA CROUSE
Centurion Staff

Whether a journalist is reporting on the war in Iraq or on a city council meeting, there are essential tools every good reporter should have. So Bucks' journalism program every year hosts speakers to discuss these career themes during the annual "Media Day" event.

This year, the topic is "Crime and Punishment: Covering the Police Beat," and features journalists Bill Moushey of The Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Erin O'Hearn of Channel 6 Action News and J.D. Mullane of The Bucks County Courier Times.

"The police beat is the essence of reporting, covering exciting breaking news, big stories and crime. It is a great beat for someone who works well under pressure and is capable of meeting deadlines. All of the speakers in the forum have covered the police beat and it is an exciting group of individuals including veteran print reporters and a broadcast news journalist," said Tony Rogers, journalism profes-

sor.

Moushey has been an investigative reporter for The Pittsburgh Post Gazette since 1985.

His stories have included a series revealing abuses within the federal witness protection program, uncovering corruption on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and revealing dreadful health care conditions in the state prison system.

Moushey is a 1976 journalism graduate of Kent State University. Before joining the Post-Gazette, he was an investigative reporter at WPXI-TV and editor of Pittsburgher Magazine.

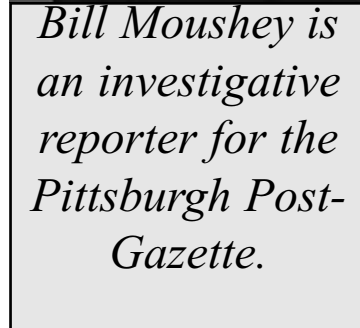
His 1996 series "Protected Witness" was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He was awarded the National Press Club's Freedom of Information Award, and received honorable mention for The Newspaper Guild's Heywood Broun Award for reporting about society's underprivileged.

Moushey is an associate pro-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Erin O'Hearn (left) is a reporter for Action news Channel 6 TV.



Bill Moushey is an investigative reporter for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.



J.D. Mullane (left) is a columnist for the Bucks County Courier Times.

Reading event draws a large crowd

BY SARA CROUSE
Centurion Staff

In honor of Women's History Month, Bucks hosted its fifth annual Reading and Writing Women event on March 26 in the Gateway Auditorium.

The open microphone event featured Bucks students speaking their minds through original poetry, song, short fiction, or essay. In addition

to their own work, many students approached the podium to share the words of other women writers.

A broad range of topics were discussed, including environmental degradation, death, sexual identity, friendships and inspiration.

Though many of the speakers talked about hope, not all messages were joyful, with readings of Joni Mitchell's, 'Bad Dreams Are Good.' A feature in the Sept. 17 2007 issue of The New Yorker, the poem addresses the ignorance of contemporary society towards nature, writing "Everyone's a victim here, nobody's hands are clean, there's so little left of

wild Eden Earth."

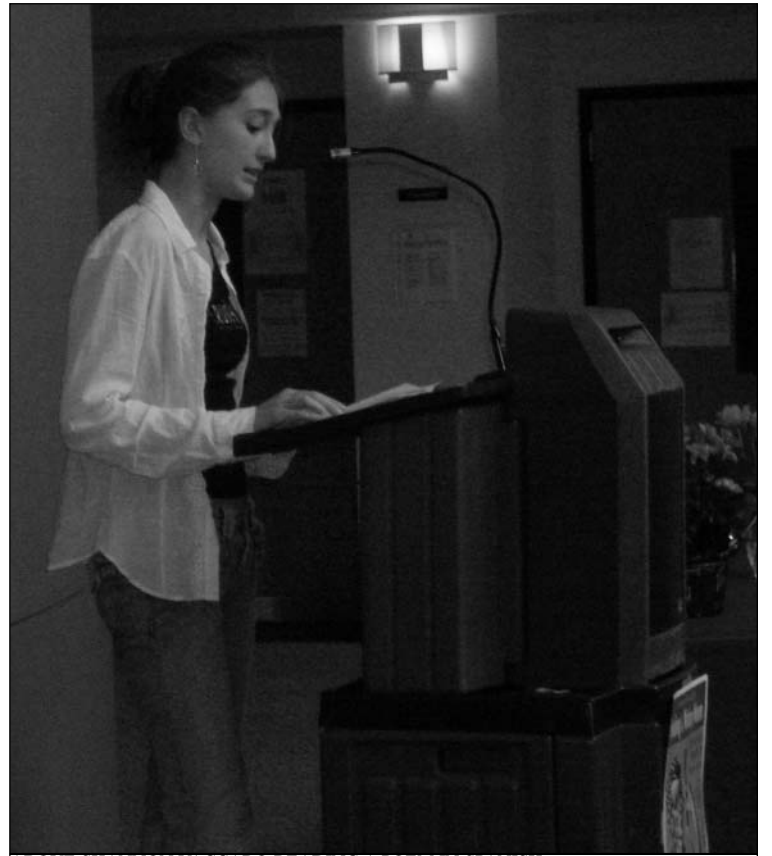
The event presented cultural issues specific to certain speakers at Bucks. Shannon Vaccaro, an English major from Trenton, N.J., read works by European poet Alfonsina Storni in both English and Spanish. As one of her favorite feminist writers, Vaccaro said, "I enjoy her work because she is not overly happy and she delves into the darker side of humanity by embracing death."

Although the event was intended to project the voices of women through artistic expression, several male students also read their own original works.

Bucks student, poet, and musician John Lennox presented an original poem and played acoustic guitar for the audience.

Lennox said he has been writing poetry, "on and off for all of his life." Lennox also read the famous poem, 'The Poison Tree,' by William Blake.

In addition to poetry and short fiction, snacks were available and prizes were given away in a raffle.



ABOVE: SHANNON VACCARO READING A POEM IN SPANISH
LEFT: STEPHANIE DRAIFINGER READING
PHOTO BY SARA CROUSE



The event was organized by all the first-year professors in the Language and Literature department.

Language and Literature department chair Susan

Darrah said, "This was the fifth annual reading and writing women's event and the best turnout yet." Hopefully next year there will be an even larger turnout.

Bucks' journalism program hosts Media Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

professor of journalism at Point Park, teaching classes in investigative reporting, and media law.

Erin O'Hearn joined the Action News Team as a general assignment reporter in January of 2006. Before arriving in Philadelphia, she worked for

6 ABC's sister station, WTVD, a station in Durham, North Carolina.

O'Hearn began her broadcasting career at Capital News 9 in her hometown of Albany, New York.

Before getting into news, O'Hearn spent time producing episodes of an MTV documentary called "True Life."

Mullane is a columnist for the Bucks County Courier Times and a blogger for Phillyburbs.com. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his crime series that examined the 1962 rape and murder of a 9-year-old girl in a Bristol Borough church.

He is the only reporter to interview bank robber William Alston, who shot a

Bristol Township sergeant and escaped to Africa, where Alston lived for a decade as a clean cut, soft-spoken university English professor.

He will appear on an upcoming episode of "Forensic Files" on Court TV where he discusses the 2000 murder case of Rachel Siani, a Bucks student and "gentlemen's club" stripper who was Mullane is a former Bucks student, and has a BA in journalism from Temple University.

"What I've taken from my time covering the police beat in Boston, is that unfortunately in a big city most crimes occur in certain neighborhoods. For me as a dorky white kid from the Midwest, I

learned to go into a community with an open mind. And I've realized that most people in these areas aren't criminals, but hardworking individuals," said Rogers. "Although it takes someone who can handle dealing with emotionally draining subject matter, there are two sides to the police beat. Some stories can be very inspirational and rewarding for the reporter and the readers."

All are welcome and encouraged to attend and hear about

The forum will begin at 10 a.m. in the library auditorium on Wednesday, April 23 and it is free and open to the public.

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Hillary Clinton rallies local supporters

BY KRISTIN CALCIANO
Entertainment Editor

Sen. Hillary Clinton brought her campaign to Levittown on Monday, March 31. Clinton, along with Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, held a rally at the Keystone Industrial Park to explain her ideas and plans for the United States if she is elected.

She spoke about such issues as tax breaks for the wealthy, energy efficiency, and health care.

Clinton said, "I want us to feel as we've felt in the past when President Kennedy said 'We're going to send a man to the moon,' and we sure did."

Clinton also spoke about a free trade agreement to fix the North American Free Trade Alliance so that more American workers will be able to find employment.

"We can begin to re-shape the global economy so it is still possible for people to have the American dream," said Clinton.

On the issue of ending the tax breaks given to major oil

companies, Clinton said, "There is no justification under the sun for the oil companies to be given tax breaks. The oil companies don't need your taxes to be making this astronomical amount of money."

Clinton also aims to create 5 million new jobs within the clean energy industry in the next five years. She hopes to advance such technologies as bio-fuels, wind and solar energy, and increase gas mileage.

An ever-present platform for Clinton is healthcare. Clinton has always been a strong advocate for the idea of a universal healthcare system, and continues to stick to those values.

Clinton said, "I've met people who have no choice but to go to the emergency room because they can't afford to see a doctor regularly."

She also spoke about the rising interest rates that many college students face from loan companies. Clinton wishes to make college affordable for all students

who want to pursue higher education.

She said, "Student loan people are charging our children 22, 30, even 50 percent [interest] and that is criminal."

Clinton lightly touched on the subject of the War in Iraq, saying that she wants begin removing U.S. troops from that country within 60 days of her assuming the presidency.

"Our young men and women did everything they were asked to do," said Clinton. "They were told to get rid of Saddam Hussein and they did that. Then they were asked to give the Iraqis a free and democratic vote and they did that too."

Clinton added, "There is nothing left for the military to do."

In her closing statements, Clinton, who trails Sen. Barack Obama, assured voters that she will see the race through to the end no matter what. She said, "I see a sign out there that says, 'Please don't quit.' Well, one thing they know about me is I do not quit."



ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE ARE HILARY CLINTON AT A LOCAL RALLY
PHOTOS BY KRISTIN CALCIANO



Clinton contemplates vice-possibles

BY JOHN SKUDRIS
Centurion Staff

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton may be down in the count to Sen. Barack Obama, but she's not giving up yet.

Trailing the Illinois Senator by about 100 delegates, it is not out of the question that Clinton could still rally for the Democratic nomination. With that in mind, it's interesting to explore her running mate possibilities.

A vice presidential nominee should have certain, "electability factors."

According to Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, there are several things that a candidate should consider when choosing a vice president.

First, a vice president nominee should do no harm to the ticket. A candidate doesn't want to pick a vice president that has scandals swarming around his or her every move.

Second, the candidate should be able to carry his or her home state. It's even better if the presidential nominee were unlikely to win the state without choosing that person as vice president.

Third, the vice president should help unify the party by being from faction than the presidential nominee.

Finally, the vice president should bring something to the table that the candidate lacks. If the presidential nominee has little experience, then they could choose a vice

president with a lot of experience.

Clinton has four very viable contenders for the vice presidential spot, all with distinctive strengths.

Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh has been a Clinton supporter since December 2006.

The son of former senator Birch Bayh, he is in his second term as a member of the senate and is from Indiana, a traditionally Republican state. He is a moderate who in 1996 gave the keynote address at the Democratic convention nominating Bill Clinton.

Before becoming a two-term senator, Bayh was a two-term governor of Indiana. His ability to garner votes in such a Republican stronghold could bode well for a Clinton-Bayh ticket.

The thought of being able to grab Indiana's 11 electoral votes might be tempting enough for Clinton to select Bayh as her running mate. However, Bayh isn't without weakness.

Indiana wouldn't be a guarantee for Clinton even with Bayh on the ticket, and beyond his electoral strength, there isn't much else there.

Another Clinton supporter who could be a strong vice presidential nominee is Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell.

The former Philadelphia mayor and chairman of the Democratic National Committee could easily lock up PA's 21 electoral votes for Clinton. He has an easygoing

personality and strong political savvy that could make him a favorite of blue-collar and white-collar voters alike.

He endorsed Clinton in January 2008 and has been one of her staunchest supporters since.

However, he has previously announced that his 2006 reelection campaign would be the last of his career. Whether or not he changes this stance remains to be seen. But one would think that if offered a chance at the second most powerful seat in the world, he would eat his words and join Clinton for the long haul.

Whilst it doesn't look pretty now, a Clinton/Obama ticket would likely be the unifier that could stomp out any chance of McCain winning in the fall.

Obama brings youth and the ability to rally voters that usually aren't interested in politics. He wouldn't bring any states into play, since he hails from Democratic Illinois, but he would bring energy to the campaign that Clinton hasn't.

However, one major drawback is that the two are at each other's throats every day and likely will be for the next four months. Could the two really coexist even after ripping each other to shreds all summer?

Many may think that choosing Obama would be the best



choice for Clinton, but it isn't necessarily the wisest.

McCain doesn't hold much strength above Clinton. He doesn't have much more experience than her, nor does he have even close to the economic knowledge that she does. However, a strength he does have is his military experience.

This could be neutralized by choosing former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe Wesley Clark.

Clark commanded Operation Allied Force in Kosovo in the 90s, ending the genocide in Kosovo that eventually led to the nation's independence this year.

His strong military record, combined with his endorsement of Clinton in September, makes him a strong candidate for her vice presidential spot. He could potentially limit McCain's ability to preach of better national security and military credentials.

However, as evidenced by his failure in the 2004 presidential primary, Clark is a weak campaigner with little political experience. If Clinton is willing to take the risk on his campaigning and go with him, she could reap big rewards.

Clinton still has a long way to go to garner the Democratic nomination.

It would take a strong showing in the upcoming primaries and a gaffe or two by Obama to make the super delegates flock over to her.

If Clinton can pull it out, she would have a strong group of potential vice presidents.

Bayh, Obama, Rendell and Clark all have more strengths than weaknesses and could easily deliver for Clinton if called upon.

Her potential choices are strong, but it could be too late for her to come back and win the nomination.

Only time will tell.

Gas prices are outrageous by the gallon

BY JAY JONES
Op/Ed Editor

A full-time student at Bucks pays a pretty penny for classes, and it is nothing compared to a four-year school's tuition.

Even with a decent paying job, many students can barely afford to pay for their classes, books and lab fees.

And once tuition is paid for, where does any extra cash they have go to?

When it comes down to it and the bills are totaled, it's the last thing students could imagine. It's not food, friends or significant others, it's gas.

"Carpooling with my brother and neighbor helps," said Morrisville local Trent Russo. "But if prices keep going up we'll have to choose between the car and school."

According to www.unece.org, the U.S. has 765 cars per 1,000 people, the highest in the world, making it necessary to drive in order to make a living.

Bucks students should consider themselves lucky they don't live in Kodiak, Alaska, where gas prices are reported to be a choking \$4.33.

"I work 30 hours a week for \$8 an hour," said Shelly Bast of Yardley, chemistry major. "Half my paycheck goes into the gas I use to get to campus for 20 hours of classes."

According to a report by the Energy Information Administration as of May

2007, at a retail price of \$3.03 per gallon, 13 percent of what we pay for gas goes toward taxes, 10 percent to distribution and marketing, and 8 percent to refining and 69 percent to crude oil.

"When I go out I have to think what I can get all at one time," said Sarah Rambo, from Bensalem. "I try not to drive too much."

So, for those of us who are horrible at math, what does this mean?

Simple: supply and demand is the concept that is driving gas prices up.

The world's crude oil prices are increasing because the demand is outweighing the production.

"I actually laughed when

my grandparents tell me of when everything was cheaper," said Simon Peterson, chemistry major of Fairless Hills. "But it's not funny when I'm at the pumps."

In the U.S. job market, between 32 and 40 hours is considered full-time.

With a current minimum wage of \$7.15 in PA, increasing to \$7.25 in 2009, the average student can make less than \$224 a week.

With Bucks tuition at \$95 per credit and 12 credits needed to be considered a full-time student, full-time tuition starts at roughly \$1,200 a semester, not including books.

"I hope [the price of gas] goes down," said Sarah

Douglass, business administration major from Buckingham, adding that it probably won't because "summer is around the corner."

In the end, even though most college students enjoy independence from their parents, they can't afford to keep up with America's continuous demand for driving.

"I work for a company that owns cars," said Kevin McGinty, Trevese native majoring in finance, "and I have to put 75 bucks [of gas] into my car a week!"

As we complain, consider the reported prices in other countries for a single gallon of gas. Denmark, \$7.44, the United Kingdom, \$7.72 and a

staggering \$10.03 in Turkey, according to a report released in 2007 from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany.

The search for the cheapest gas in town has become such an issue that some well known, and enterprising, companies are getting in on the action.

Google, one of the most-used search engines on the internet, provides a gas price search program in conjunction with their road maps site.

For those of you that are not tech savvy, that means that you can type in your home address and the program will search all local gas stations for the lowest possible price, according to the parent site Gasbuddy.com that runs the Google program.

As of April 10, the site reported the cheapest gas around Bucks \$3.12 at gas stations in Pennel, with the most expensive of \$3.39 in Lancaster.

But until the time comes when gas prices finally begin to drop, or the much talked about but rarely seen alternative fuel cars hit the mass market, Bucks students will have to continue finding ways to make do with the current drain on our bank accounts.

Sometimes cost-cutting can be for the best, but many times it's for the worse.



A BUCKS STUDENT DRIVES THROUGH CAMPUS
PHOTO BY KATE McDERMOTT

'Rock Band' captures the musically inclined

BY TOM ROWAN
Centurion Staff

The sweat pours off Travis Barker's poised face as he guides his seasoned hands strategically from one heart-breaking beat to another, mesmerizing the awed crowd into a euphoric trance.

It's not just the music resonating from his abused drum set that captures the audience's undivided attention; it's the manner in which the artist creates his magic.

Playing as if his unique hair style has been set on fire, Barker runs the barrels with such energy and enthusiasm, his individual effort alone is worth the price of admission.

It's Barker's talented display which inspires millions of Americans to take up the most difficult instrument on the stage.

But there is a reason not everyone plays the drums, so in lieu of learning a very complicated art form, teenagers and college students have settled on a computer simulation.

On Nov. 20, 2007, EA Games, in association with Harmonix Music Systems and MTV Games, released the

much anticipated virtual reality simulation Rock Band.

This designed rival of the popular guitar imitation, Guitar Hero, Rock Band, released first for Playstation 3 and Xbox 360, includes realistic controllers that resemble a guitar, drum set and microphone with the capability to add a fourth controller, a bass guitar.

With the addition of three other instruments, Rock Band offers a musical variety which is intriguing to those who choose to play with family and friends, as well as those who enjoy other instruments than guitar.

The microphone and drum set alone have made this system one of the best selling video games of the year. "When I play rock band I feel like the lead drummer for Led Zeppelin," said LaSalle University Student Brandon Hargraves, 20.

Guitar Hero does have the ability to include a second guitar, but with the new instruments involved Rock Band offers a more group friendly atmosphere and lots of fun.

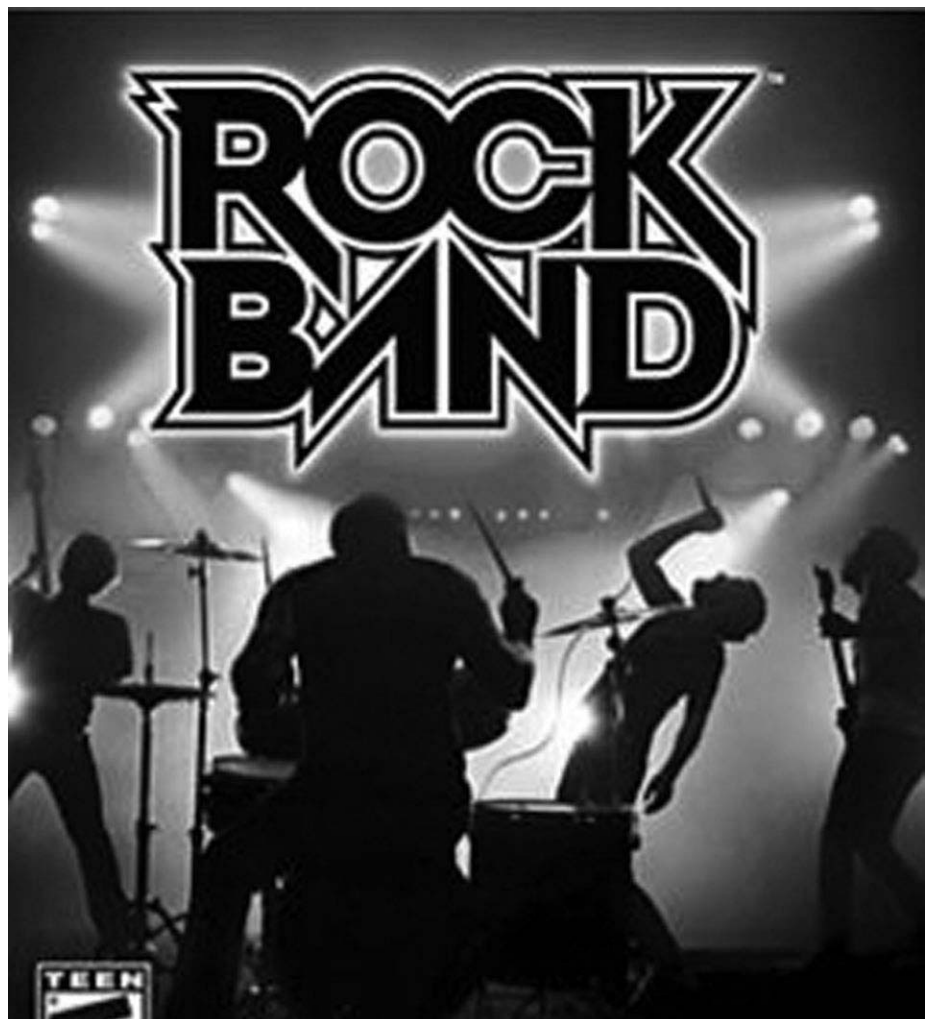
LaSalle University Student Matt Harner, 19, has fallen in

love with this new system that he and his four roommates bought to distract them from their daily stress and aggravations as both students and athletes.

"More people can play and it's got better songs [Than Guitar Hero]," said Harner. "Plus, I can download songs on Rock Band and I don't think you can do that for Guitar Hero."

True, Rock Band does offer buyers the opportunity to purchase additional songs for the system on their official website.

At this time, the website only offers track-by-track buying, but the future may include entire albums as well as popular bands such as Metallica,



debuting singles for upcoming albums for the game according to RollingStone.com.

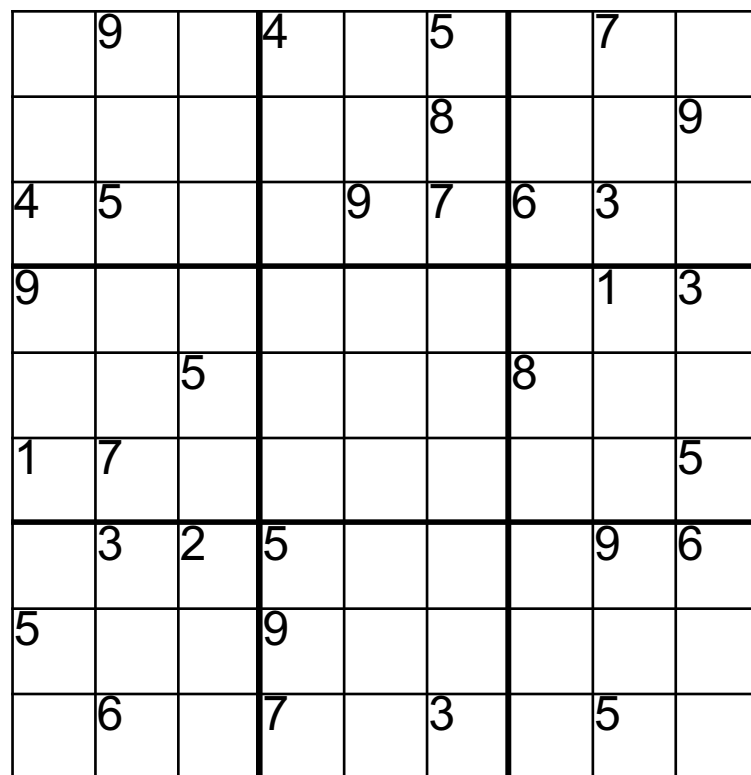
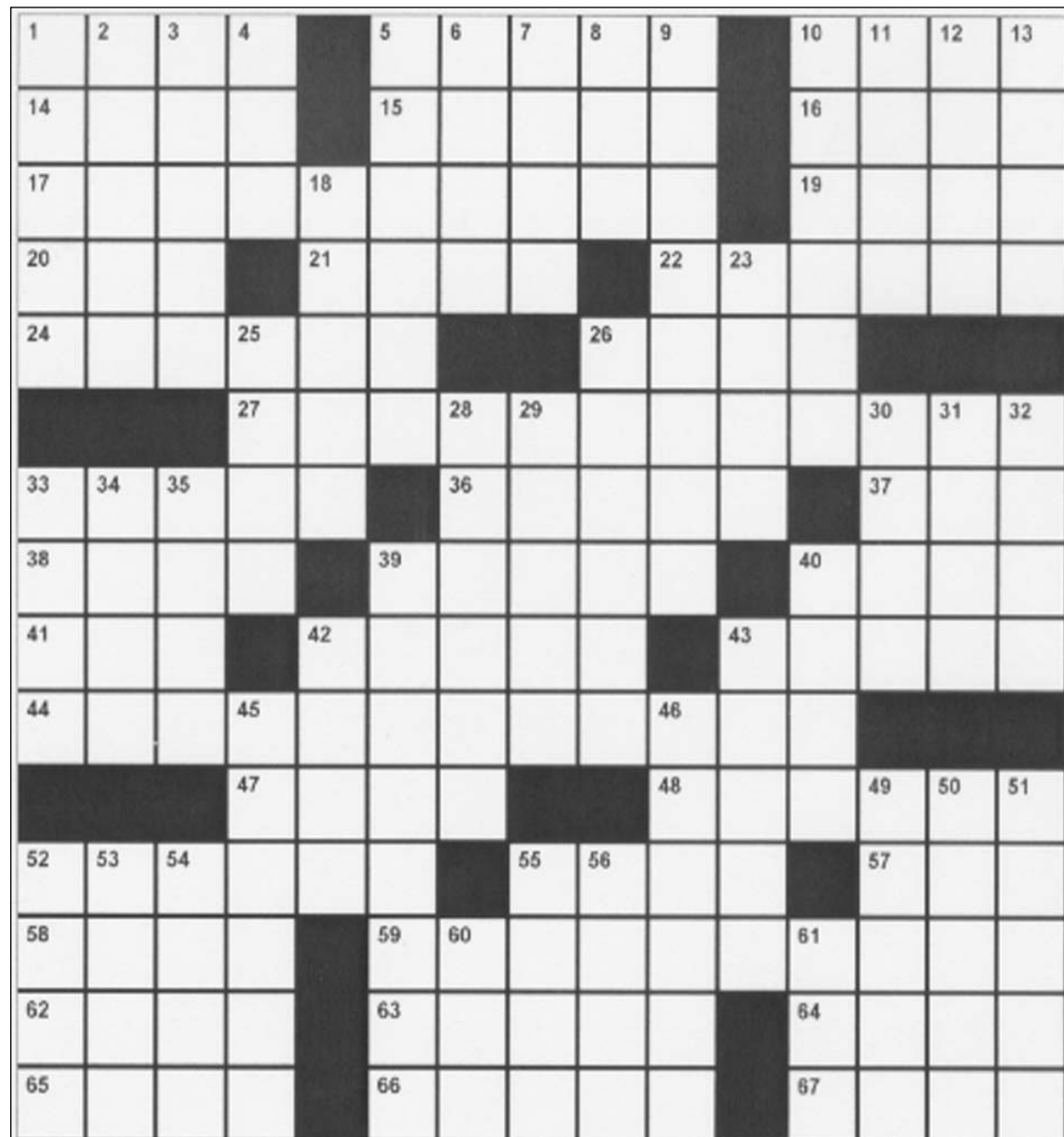
As of March 27, 2008, 70 songs were available for pur-

chase with prices ranging from \$1 to \$5.

Rock Band will be released for the Nintendo Wii system on June 22, 2008.

April Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bucks Baseball Home Game vs. Delaware	2 Read the Centurion Newspaper!	3 Men's Baseball vs. Camden 3:30 p.m. (away)	4 Aquatics Fitness Instructor Classes from 5-9 p.m.	5 Bucks Tennis vs. Central Penn 1pm (home)
6 Bucks County High School Art Exhibition, thru April 12	7 Art Exhibition	8 Social Science club trip: Ben Franklin Bridge: Up and Over	9 Men's Baseball vs. Northampton 2pm (away)	10 Bucks' book group discusses Finn: A novel by John Clinch	11 Jimmy Bruno Jazz concert 8pm/Professor Freeman reads from latest book	12 Bucks Tennis vs. Philadelphia 1pm (away)
13 See the movie "Street Kings" starring Forrest Whitaker and Keanu Reeves	14 Jobs: Getting Your Foot in the Door Workshop 11a.m.-12p.m.	15 Social Science club trip: Isiah Zagar and the Magic Garden	16 Lower Bucks campus evening transfer fair 5-6:30 p.m.	17 Counseling Workshops: How to be successful at Bucks 11a.m.-12p.m.	18 The Leane play Trocodero Main Stage	19 Men's Baseball vs. Delaware 12 noon (away)
20 Random sobriety checkpoints scheduled all over Bucks County	21 Team Tennis Bucks vs. Central Penn 3 p.m. (away)	22 Foreign Film "Cache" 7p.m. Library Auditorium	23 MLB: Phillies vs. Milwaukee Brewers 8:05 p.m. (away)	24 Men's Baseball vs. Lackawanna 1:30 p.m. (home)	25 American Red Cross Lifeguard Training from 6-9 p.m.	26 The NFL holds its annual collegiate draft E-A-G-L-E-S!
27 See the movie Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay	28 Watch 2 hours of Family Guy on TBS 8-10 p.m.	29 Men's Baseball Bucks vs. Lehigh-Carbon 2 p.m. (home)	30 MLB Phillies vs. San Diego Padres 7:05 p.m. (home)			



PTVLBO LP BQNSVFP GQI

WR PQILBO, "XFN'P TQVNI!"

VWALB GLXXLQCP

Across

1- Easy stride; 5- Hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, e.g.; 10- Helper; 14- Egg-shaped; 15- First showing; 16- Donkey cry; 17- Oppressively heavy; 19- Religious ceremony or ritual; 20- Biblical high priest; 21- Spouse; 22- Mistreats; 24- Autocrat; 26- Radar screen element; 27- Act of sneezing; 33- Wrong; 36- Vows; 37- Owing; 38- Civil disturbance; 39- Quick raid; 40- Small gull; 41- Name of a feudal Japanese clan; 42- Memento; 43- Break off; 44- French governess; 47- Network of nerves; 48- Bother; 52- Discovers; 55- Terrible time?; 57- Graffiti; 58- ___ Minor; 59- Competitor in a triathlon; 62- Demeanor; 63- Merits; 64- Singles; 65- Heating fuel; 66- Golfer Calvin; 67- Harbor;

Down

1- Like ears; 2- Small egg; 3- Seine spot; 4- Antiquity, old-style; 5- Congenitally attached; 6- Trial; 7- Thin woodwind instrument; 8- Silent; 9- Furtive; 10- Sudden; 11- Pupil's place; 12- Go out with; 13- Stares at; 18- Engage in histrionics; 23- Prejudice; 25- Attention-getter; 26- Colorless flammable gas; 28- Novice; 29- Nostrils; 30- Notion; 31- Belonging to us; 32- Branta sandvicensis; 33- Whence; 34- Verdi opera; 35- Burden; 39- Footfall; 40- Driving aids; 42- Revenuers, for short; 43- Conflict; 45- Off-course; 46- Fourth highest peak in the world; 49- Shorthand taker; 50- "See ya!"; 51- Toss, as one's cookies?; 52- Aggregation; 53- Part of HOMES; 54- On the briny; 55- It may become bald; 56- Wish for; 60- ___ Dawn Chong; 61- Cut (off);

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In every era there are fads, crazes and trends

BY JAY JONES
Op/Ed Editor

Webster's Dictionary defines fad as a temporary fashion trend, one followed enthusiastically by a group.

In the 1930s stamp collecting had kids going bonkers, in the 1920s flag pole sitting was sweeping the nation, and the 1960s was when every hippie had to have a tie-dye shirt. In the 1990s there were those mutant creatures called Furbies and Beanie Babies.

In an age of computer technology and high-speed internet the media plays a critical role in the way we are informed of the latest trends. Indeed, it is a trend unto itself.

Fifty years ago, poodle skirts were what every girl was wearing and every student would have loved nothing more than for the 'Red Menace' to be gone.

The Centurion staff wanted to get a handle on college culture by understanding the

trends, fads and crazes that drive most students our age. Sending out a team of reporters we canvassed the campus to get a handle on the what's hot in 2008 among Bucks students.

The millennium years are no different from earlier decades in having plenty of fads. Low-carb diets, reality television, Roller-shoes and "American Idol" are all examples of 0-something trends and fads.

The 90s were the times when Bucks students were enjoying the Spice Girls and watching their parents battle over one of the most coveted items on the market at that time, the Furby.

For those who don't know, Furbies were one of the first truly interactive toys. They were released in 1998 and sold over 27 million units, according to CNN.com.

The main focus of this craze in the media were the parents trying to purchase this item for their children, leading to

numerous fights and riots between customers when supplies ran low.

There are also fads in language. Not so long ago a common fad was the frequent use of the word "Not." Used to mean "just kidding," the phrase was used in many sarcastic statements or jokes.

Rewind even further and you find yourself in the 1930s, a time of highly advanced technology like the radio. "The Wizard of Oz" was the blockbuster movie and the big fad was goldfish eating.

This craze was started in 1939 by Harvard freshman Lothrop Withington, who, acting on a dare, swallowed a living goldfish with a mash potato chaser. This soon became a sensation among college men.

"I can't believe someone would find swallowing fish cool!" exclaimed Stephanie Mintz, a liberal arts major from Yardley. "That's just gross."

Forward 10 years and people had moved on to one of the most inventive toys every created, the Slinky. Invented in Philadelphia by Richard James, the Slinky was basically 87-feet of flat wire coiled into a 2-foot spiral. With its ability to 'walk' down stairs it was one of the favorite toys of children during the 40s. It however would lose its hold on the top fad spot with the invention of the hula-hoop a few years later.

Trends are part of what our society and economy are based around and sometimes they work to change history in ways we could never imagine.

"We probably think it's strange now," said Dean Johnson, a biology major from New Hope. "But maybe in 50 years people will think shows like 'American Idol' are just as weird."

Did you watch 'Power Rangers,' 'Reading Rainbow,' 'Pee Wee's Playhouse,' 'Bill Nye the Science Guy,' 'Anamaniacs,' 'Get Smart,' and 'Fraggle Rock?'

Reading is on the decline

BY PHIL COLES
Sports Editor

If you are reading this article, congratulations, you are among the very few 18-to 24-year-old college students who still read a newspaper. In fact, getting students to read anything other than their required textbooks seems like a challenge anymore.

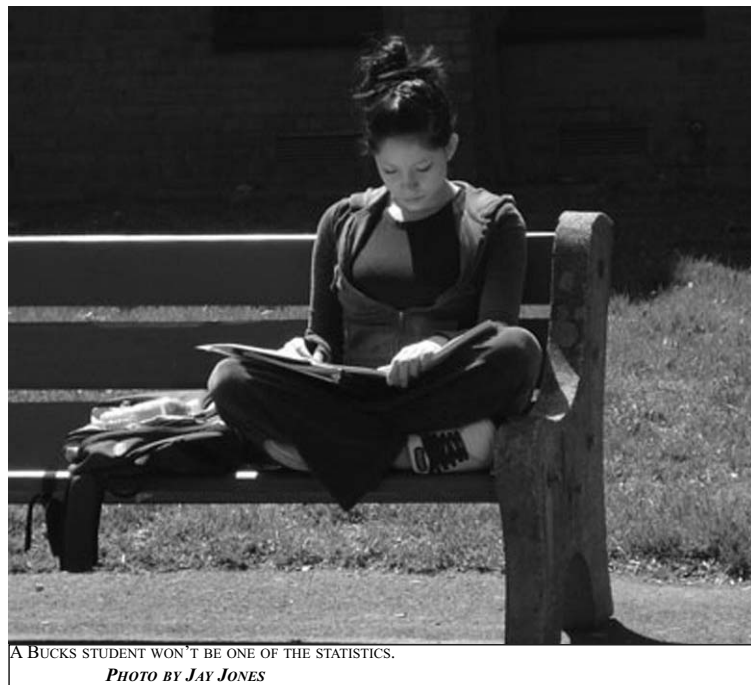
So why is it that so few students read newspapers or books?

"I can answer that with one word," said Bucks History Professor Ward Vincent. "Television. [Also] related stuff like video games. We became a visual nation rather than a reading one."

Many people agree that technology is to blame for the decline in college-age readers. It may be that it is just easier to turn on the TV, or surf the net, rather than open up a book and digest a couple hundred pages. Or could it be something else that is keeping students away from books?

"I'm reading books for school, not for leisure," said Anaida Badalyan, 26, a nursing major and Philadelphia resident. "I don't have time to read, and I don't watch TV."

In a study conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts, the conclusion was that literary reading is in dramatic decline, with fewer than half of American adults now reading literature. According to the NEA, the steepest decline is among young adults aged 18-24. The rate of decline has nearly tripled in the past decade.



A BUCKS STUDENT WON'T BE ONE OF THE STATISTICS.
PHOTO BY JAY JONES

"This report documents a national crisis," said NEA chairman Dana Gioia. "Reading develops a capacity for focused attention and imaginative growth that enriches both private and public life."

Not all college students have neglected the wonderful world of books. "Right now I'm out of books [to read]," said Caitlin Cumiskey, 18, a journalism major from Levittown. "When I go to Borders, I get six books."

Newspaper readership is also in decline among 18-25 year olds, according to Bucks Journalism Professor Tony Rogers. "One of the first things I do to start the semester is ask how many students in the class read a newspaper," said Rogers. "Maybe less than half the class raises their hands, and this is a journalism class!"

"I just talked to two people who didn't know we had a

school newspaper [at Bucks]," said Alexander Neu, 20, a journalism major from Bensalem. "When they heard [there was a newspaper] they got really excited [to read it]."

This brings us to another problem that this lack of reading creates. Many college students don't know what's going on in the world around them because they don't read.

"I think it's our responsibility as a citizen to be well-informed," said Rogers. "And young people are not very well-informed about current events."

Rogers said the other problem is that newspapers are run primarily by baby boomers in their 40s and 50s. Not surprisingly, they tend to create publications that sound like they were written by, well, a bunch of 50-year-olds who know little about people in their late teens and early 20s.

Gamers galore

BY LIOR SHULMAN
Centurion Staff

There is no shortage of video game players at Bucks.

Dave Geldner, a 19-year-old education major, said there was a time when he played Nintendo's Super Smash Bros at least five hours a day. Geldner reminisces on the Fall Festival at Council Rock South where he partook in a Nintendo Super Smash Bros. tournament.

"I was there!" chimed in Dave Feinman, an 18-year-old liberal arts major and chronic gamer of Grand Theft Auto San Andreas. Feinman has been in love with the game since it came out three years ago and plays about two hours a day.

"I don't do anything because I play my game," Feinman said, agreeing that his schoolwork is affected. Feinman is hooked on World of Warcraft, and has been known to stay up 'till 3 a.m. playing.

Feinman and Geldner led me to The Hub, a room tucked away in Founders where you can expect to find people playing video games when no class is in session.

"People get too into it," said

Danielle Serota, a liberal arts major who has also been playing World of Warcraft for a year and a half. She estimates she plays seven hours a week, and thinks most people, like her, play in moderation.

"WoW [World of Warcraft] is better than other video games because of the objectives," Serota said, adding that the game makes you think, and by doing so, is more stimulating than watching television.

Serota said the \$15 a month for World of Warcraft is quality entertainment compared to other games like Halo 3, Time magazine's top game of 2007.

A virtual world has been created, where players know each other by their character names, such as "Wiz," from Super Smash Bros. Even when they do not know each other's real name, players are familiar with each other's game names.

But video gaming can become a problem "when you lose track of the real world," said Feinman.

For Geldner, "There was nothing else that mattered. If I had a dream, it was in Asheron's Call."



PHOTO BY JAY JONES

Txt msg phenomenon: r u in2 it?

BY ANDREW BROWN
Centurion Staff

Justin Derry doesn't consider himself as much of a text fiend. The 19-year-old Langhorne native said, "A lot of my friends don't have text messaging. Plus, my fingers are big, so it takes me forever to send one. I'd say I only send about 50 a day."

Derry's daily output may still seem high to some, especially to the parents paying cellular bills. But the truth is that to avid texters, 50 a day is at the low end of the spectrum. For better or worse, text messaging has become an integral part of many lives.

According to Acision, the messaging and charging company of choice for over 300 network operators and service providers worldwide, the number of text messages sent during New Year's 2008 increased 30 percent from the previous year. People sent a staggering 43 billion texts to wish their loved ones a happy New Year. It appears that college-aged students are among the most fervent texters.

By simply performing a

Google search for "college text messaging," it becomes apparent that this is a means of communications that is ubiquitous on college campuses. Articles pop up regarding the numerous ways institutions are using texting. Colleges are using SMS for emergency alerts, athletic recruitment—albeit illegally so—and in a multitude of other ways. However, while this means of communication can be a great tool, many college students do not recognize it as such.

Journalism major Jay Jones provides an excellent example of how young people often use text messaging. Jones, who bought a Blackberry specifically for its text messaging capabilities, says he and his 16-year-old brother often exchange texts during the course of the day. Jones said, "At the beginning of [my class today] he sent me a text that just said 'Yo.'"

Jones' interaction with his younger brother provides a window into the text habits of most college students. A majority of the texts that students exchange seem to be

largely superfluous. It really just seems to be a way for students to have constant interaction with one another,



no matter how unnecessary this interaction may be. Essentially, it seems that SMS has become a modern way for students to pass notes. Often, it takes place during class, which has created a major conflict between teachers and students.

Caitlin Cummiskey, an 18-year-old journalism major, knows this firsthand. "One time I was texting my friend in the back of the class while I was sitting in the front. The teacher noticed me and proceeded to stop the class and just stare at me for a couple minutes. It was really embarrassing. Now I'm more careful if I text in class."

Cummiskey's teacher isn't the only one who has been bothered by in-class text messaging. Jennifer Erb Caramenico, a professor of

psychology at both Bucks and Temple, has noticed countless students texting during her classes. This is not something that Caramenico particularly enjoys.

"When you've got your phone out while someone is talking, it's a blatant disregard for what that person is saying," she fumed. "At least if you're daydreaming you can at least pretend like you're paying attention. But when you're visibly playing with your phone, it's insulting. I really can't stand it."

Some professors have been so bothered by it that they have decided to take a stand. Syracuse University Professor Laurence Thomas has begun leaving class if he notices a student texting while he is speaking. It doesn't matter if

it's only one student in a lecture hall of hundreds. He has stated that he will no longer stand for "such brazen disrespect." He has even gone as far as threatening to resign from Syracuse altogether if things do not improve.

Thomas might just have to grin and bear it. It seems that texting is a trend that is here to stay. It's just another way to pass the time for most students, including psychology major Maureen Quinlan.

The 19-year-old Levittown resident said she sends a few hundred texts a day, mostly "out of boredom." However, she insists she never sends them during class. This might be a compromise all students will have to make if they want their professors to keep their sanity.

Did you see 'Jurassic Park,' 'Star Wars,' 'Ghostbusters,' or 'Harry Potter?'

Online dating is a convenient but pricey option

BY ALEXANDRA NEU
Centurion Staff

Bucks Student Cory Walters, 20, a sports management major, says it's not easy to find dates at Bucks.

"I've tried to get to know people on campus, but it being a commuter school, schedules are different and nothing ever matches up. Students just go home after classes and it would be much easier to date someone if away at a four-year college."

It may be difficult to time your schedule around dating when you're too busy with classes, homework and work. Now, from the luxury of your very own home, you can search for love on the internet. Online dating has become an option more college students are looking at.

Mike Spatola, 22, a sports management major from Warrington said, "I think it's ok as long as you're not pretending to be something else. It's not like you're dating just online, you eventually meet in person if you're ok with that, if not you'd be forcing yourself into an awkward situation."

So is online dating the new trend of 2008?

Websites such as eharmony.com, match.com and chemistry.com let people of all ages create an online profile of themselves, including the proper search criteria in which you want to be presented. These dating sites pull your attention to them with their catchy phrases and lovey-dovey TV commercials.

Unfortunately, these sites are not free. To apply you must register and pay a monthly or annual fee. Chemistry.com and eharmony.com are \$49.95 per month while match.com is \$19.95 per month. The question is, do busy students have time or the money to pay these fees?

Jenna Slivka, 20, an education major said, "E-harmony and those websites I feel are a big hit with the older generation, they're expensive and weird. Teenagers don't need to be spending their money on that we have more important stuff to pay for."

Social networking websites Facebook and Myspace are also places where college students can meet other college students, but it pays to be

cautious about who you meet there.

Desiree Sanders, 20, psychology major from Langhorne said, "Facebook and Myspace are great ways to meet and talk to people and they're free, but I would never date anyone off there. It pays to be cautious when so many people on these websites could be either lying or giving false information. There are so many creeps anymore, you never know."

Unlike online dating services, Facebook and Myspace are free. You can make your information private so people such as "creepers" or "stalkers" are more easily avoided. Many people use them to find long-lost classmates or friends.

Justin Biacono, 19, a business major from Warrington said, "I think if you can't socially approach someone you got a problem. On the internet I can say my name is Mike and I'm 54-years-old, use someone's picture, and lie, it can be some creepy stuff."

If you don't want to resort to the internet and are afraid that people you meet online

may be lying about themselves, how else can you score a date?

Believe it or not, there are opportunities and events at Bucks where students can meet other students and, maybe, just maybe, find someone to date.

Student life Information Center Coordinator David Colello outlines some of the options available.

"Around Valentine's Day we had a dance last year, there was a spring fling out in the quad on a nice day where there was free giveaways and games. A lot of clubs are what put these events together."

Did you get caught up with catch phrases like, '...not!' and 'Where's the beef?'

There are places to hangout on campus such as the Fireside Lounge, cafeteria, and Solarium, which students put to good use."

But Cortney Pitcher, 23, an education major from Levittown, said it's still tough to find dates at Bucks.

"There are three different Bucks campuses, the students go to classes, get their stuff done and leave to do other activities such as work," she said.

"It's difficult to hold conversation with anyone let alone have a connection being held."

If Bucks wasn't a commuter school I would find it easier to make friends. When you're away, it's not an option to meet new people, it's inevitable," she added.

So is online dating the hot trend of 2008? Perhaps it is. For some, it has proved to be a somewhat effective way of meeting new people, depending on the time and interest they have in giving it a go.

But for many college students, online dating may be just too expensive to be a realistic option.

The Myspace and Facebook generation

BY KYLE CRAWFORD
Centurion Staff

Facebook, the newest technological masterpiece to grace the world with its presence is ubiquitous across not only our nation, but the world. It is a public way to communicate with friends from other schools by leaving a comment on their personal web-page.

While at work and home, Chris Pennington goes on his computer and accesses different websites, including Facebook.

"At nights ... I would say the first thing I really do is go on the computer and check my sites. I think everyone has a series of sites they check for updates on," said Pennington, 20, architecture major from Holland.

Over the past couple years, kids, adults, teenagers, bands, movies and fan sites have become a new online breed. The days of email are becoming obsolete as time goes on, however a new phenomenon in communication has emerged, online social networking.

Originally called The Facebook, former Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg founded it as a hobby back on Feb. 4, 2004. He kept it up during his time at school, as an easier way for Harvard students to communicate, word of its existence soon spread to other colleges. The website soon became accessible to anyone who is part of more than 30,000 colleges and

other organizations. The website now has more than 69 million active users.

Students seem to have an obsession with this trend in public conversation. The website also lets you upload pictures of yourself to your page, making it accessible to everyone to see what you look like.

Locations ranging from work, to home, to school or even their cell phones. In fact, a number of students confessed to checking their account from school computers.

Alyese Reilly, a 20-year-old elementary education major from Langhorne said jokingly, "Isn't that the only reason for the library?" Although joking at the time, there was a certain amount of seriousness to the statement.

She is not alone; many students use the library more for personal activities than research. Walking around the upper level of the library at Bucks for only a short amount a time, numerous computers were plastered with the unmistakable deep blue top of a Facebook page.

There are so many various reasons to check your Facebook, called notifications; these checkable items on your account push students toward addiction.

There are many applications available to add to your page making it more interesting when others are looking at it. "I am completely addicted to the Lord of the

Ring's Application on there, I go on it each time I sign on," said Melissa Jerome, a visual arts major from Newtown.

There are also private messages which are personal e-mails to accounts, new comments on the page itself or comments on photos uploaded onto your account.

The mere sight of a new notification alert is enough for anyone to sign onto their account. However, new features have emerged turning this communication standard into a form of stalking.

The new term for stalking called "lurking" is unfortunately more common than most people would think. Lurking is a polite way to say that you were staring at another person's photos behind their back or looking at the people they talk to and what they said to each other, without them knowing.

Even though Facebook, Myspace and other websites like it are extremely popular among teenagers and young adults, some students don't bother with the latest crazes in internet communication. Phil Coles, 25, journalism major from Quakertown has both a Myspace and Facebook account, however he never uses them. "I only started a Facebook account so I could watch what my girlfriend was doing."

This has been a social downfall for some, who



STUDENTS IN THE LIBRARY CHECK OUT THEIR FAVORITE SITES
PHOTO BY KATE McDERMOTT

might have said the wrong thing in the public eye, and got caught for it.

"I really use Facebook to talk to my friends, but I also lurk people" said 20-year-old Shannon Ladden, a liberal arts major from Richboro. "I get lost with time when I search from person to person."

Many students also admitted to looking at people's pictures that they might be friends with on Facebook but have not talked to in years.

"When I sign on, I look at the pictures of all the people I graduated with that got knocked up, but I don't really lurk unless something catches

my eye," said Reilly.

Whether or not it is healthy for this website to be so popular is under discussion; however, many universities nationwide are offering internet support groups for those who have become addicted.

Among the topics to discuss, MySpace and Facebook are the top two among the list; these sites have become a staple of American life. People sign on constantly to check for updates, notifications or new friend requests.

Facebook seems to be here to stay, whether or not it's good is currently under debate, but a lot of people sure like it.

'Hannah Montana' is the tween craze

BY KEVIN YORKE
Student Life Editor

When you were younger, what was your favorite show? Might it have been the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles or possibly the Power Rangers? Look out - young people in America are going crazy over a girl whose father was famous for having an "Achy Breaky Heart."

Miley Cyrus, daughter of country star Billy Ray Cyrus, has made a huge impression on the younger age group commonly referred to as tweens. Kids in grade school have taken to the 16-year-old pop star.

The girl has her own show, her own clothing line, her own movie, multiple hit albums and reportedly earns around \$3.5 million a year. She has had performances on Good Morning America, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and The Oprah Winfrey Show. Not bad for a girl who doesn't even have her driver's license yet.

While millions of 'tweens' are flocking to the Hannah Montana craze, it's different

for teenagers and college students. Back in the day, millions of 18-24 year olds were unified in their love for bands like the Beatles or bell-bottomed jeans.

But those days of a unified youth culture are long gone. No one trend has really caught on with young adults for many reasons. Today's 18-24 age market tends to seek out its own brand of individualism. "Everyone likes that? Oh, well then I'll find my own niche," might be a typical response.

But Cyrus, otherwise known as Hannah Montana, has really caught on with the younger crowd, mainly children 6-14. Montana's public appeal and popularity have skyrocketed since her original episode aired March 24, 2006 on the Disney Channel. The series premiere registered hit ratings for Disney, as 5.4 million little ones turned on their television sets to watch the pop star with the double life.

Disney's marketing campaign didn't hurt, either. There's the clothing line, where you can buy shirts with Hannah's giant face, cre-

ating a walking advertisement for the show. There are multiple consumer products that carry the Hannah Montana name, including age-appropriate video games, Hannah Montana accessories and home décor. And, of course, there's the show.

The popular show is based on the premise that Cyrus, as a teenager, lives a double life. She is able to live her normal life as a teenager but also live lavishly as a pop star, when she turns into her alter-ego, the blonde-haired Hannah Montana.

The only people who know of this transformation are her friends in the show - and millions of viewers at home.

The kids like the singing, dancing and the 'tween' comedy. But what the parents like is the lack of racy or inappropriate dialog and positive influence the show has, if nothing else. Better to have the kids watching Hannah Montana than playing Grand Theft Auto, if you ask parents, who are happy to allow their kids to watch a girl who says goofy things and is a relatively good role model. That

is why the Hannah Montana and Cyrus name are so marketable.

The show has turned into a huge cash cow for Disney and Cyrus. Disney has apparently picked a winner.

And Cyrus makes an attempt to be a role model. "I'm not letting any stupid decisions get in my way," said Cyrus. "I want to be a role model, letting girls know that they can follow their dreams," she said in a recent television interview.

Now it looks as if the kids that don't like Hannah Montana are becoming the minority. Emma, a 9-year-old in fourth grade, told the Centurion, "I was the only girl in my class that didn't like Hannah Montana. It was kind of scary."

What's even scarier is the public scrutiny that Cyrus now faces. Of course, the life of a pop culture icon can get dissected and criticized for even the smallest things.

For instance, during a scene in her movie, "Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert," she and her father forgot to buck-

le their safety belts when driving.

This prompted a public backlash from parents who didn't like the disregard for safety. Cyrus' father made a public apology.

Many stars with kids have made special appearances on Hannah Montana, due, in part, to the fact that when they are on the show they know their own kids will be watching.

Big name guests include Larry David from "Seinfeld" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm," former WWE wrestler and movie star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and Heather Locklear.

The show has begun to seep into the public consciousness. With constant airplay and a plethora of products to fill stores, Cyrus' stardom looks limitless.

Kids are fine with this. It's the parents who hope that she stays as innocent as she looks, and doesn't morph into another Britney Spears.

Maybe older teens will jump on the bandwagon in the process.

'In Flames' newest album rocks

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Centurion Staff

Metal is an undeniable part of today's music scene. You can hear everything from the sounds of Metallica's "Black Album" to the strains of Killswitch Engage's cover of "Holy Diver."

Metal is an important genre of music and In Flames new album "A Sense of Purpose" is no exception. With its hard-driving guitar riffs and explosive drums, it's an album any metal head should have.

The album was released April 1, and the special edition of the album flew off the shelves the first day.

On top of the regular edition of the album, only 1,500 limited edition copies were made, which contained a 160-minute DVD showing the making of the album and scenes of the band members' personal lives.

The album artwork was done by Alex Pardee, whose work may be familiar to fans of the Used as he also did the artwork for their albums.

Lead singer Anders Friden's dreadlocked per-

formance on this album is no different than previous albums, using his unique vocal stylings to capture the attention of the listener. His high-pitched, almost "scream-o," vocal style makes you hold on to every word. However, it should be noted that the entire album is not just him screaming, and he does use softer tones in the band's longest song "The Chosen Pessimist," which is actually a metal ballad of sorts.

The noticeable difference, however, is the use of different reverbs and sound effects on the guitars to create an eerie sense of amusement and a strange sense of being lost.

One of the most noticeably different tracks on the album is "Alias," which has a unique sound to it in that the opening riff sounds distinctly like an orchestra.

The rest of the album uses the guitars to their fullest extent whether it's the hard driving sound of "The Mirror's Truth" to the soft ballad sounds of "The Chosen Pessimist."

On top of this new album



and having the single "The Mirror's Truth" playing on the radio, as well as having the video on *Headbangers Ball* on MTV2, *In Flames* is also on *Gigatour*, an alternative tour to *Ozzfest*.

They are currently headlining with metal great

Megadeth, along with fellow Scandinavian band *Children of Bodom*, who also released a new album, "Blooddrunk" on April 7.

Both *In Flames* and *Children of Bodom* are coming to the *Electric Factory* on April 24.

While infinitely different than previous albums, "A Sense of Purpose" should be added to any Scandinavian metal fan's collection.

Its sound and style should make any true metal fan want to headbang.

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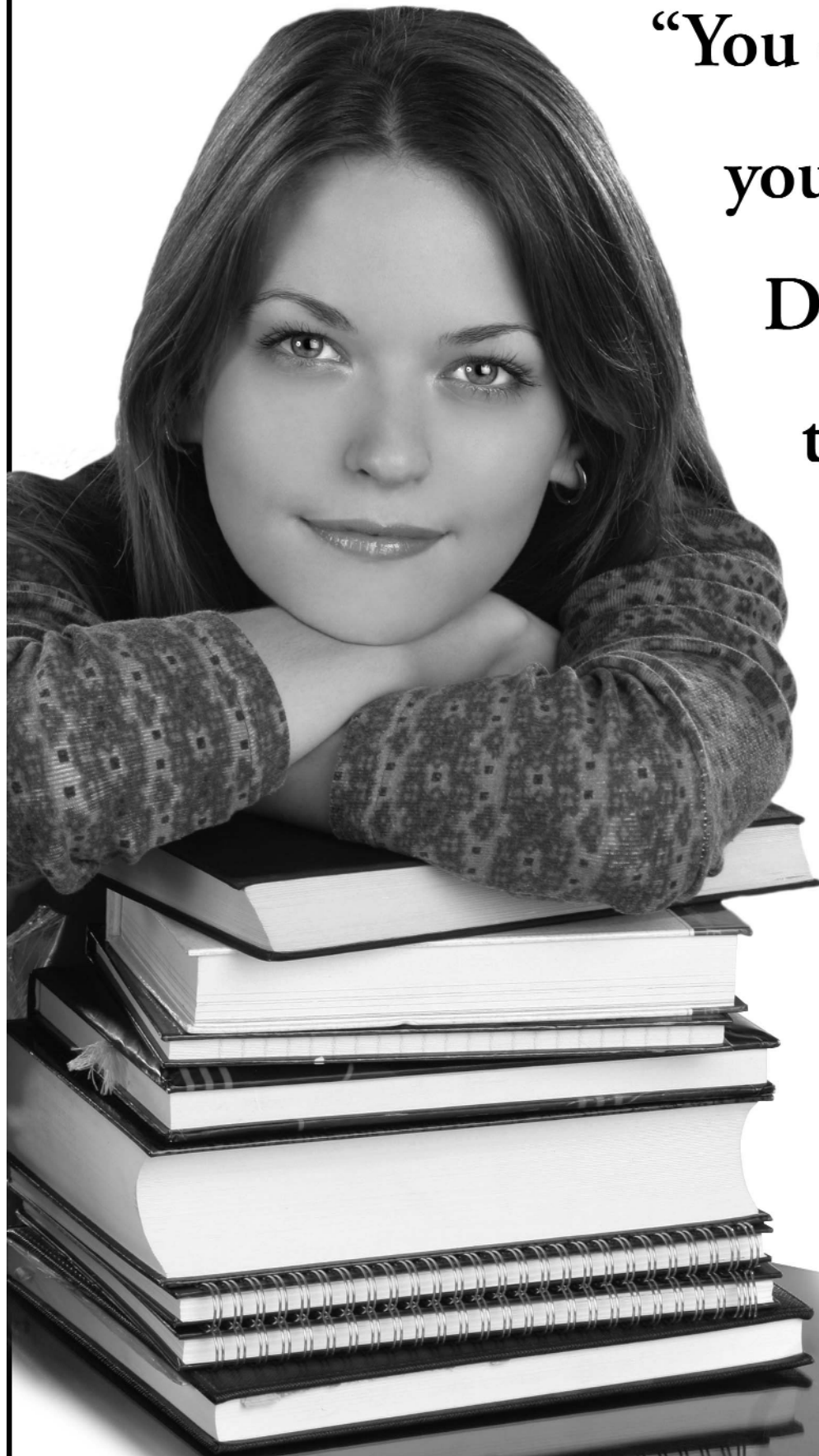
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A Piece of my Mind

A weekly column by Centurion Editor Mark Bennett

Last Thursday I thought to myself, "has spring finally sprung?"

For those of you that somehow don't know, last Thursday was absolutely beautiful. It was warm, there was a slight breeze, and there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

I love days like that, just being outside in weather like that feels great, even though I was at the Centurion for most of the day doing this. And after the dark, cold and gloomy winter we've had, the sun on your skin feels like a sweet tasting medicine for your soul.

I hope it stays like this for a while and even though I try to think positively I can't help but have the feeling that winter is playing a trick on me.

As much as I want to think spring is finally here I wonder if old man winter is just letting me get my hopes up so my fall will be that much harder.

Every year it happens, and every year I fall for it.

I get these little purple wild flowers in my front yard when it's not warm but not freezing, about 40 or 50 degrees outside.

And when I come home from work or school and notice those little patches of color and I think, "Finally, it will be warm soon."



Those flowers come up at the beginning of March, and I know full well that winter will still be here for at least another month, but I tell myself and others, "Soon, give it another week."

Over the years that's how it has been. We'll have a really nice day, downright gorgeous, and then followed by cold miserable weather.

I could watch the weather on the news, but all they do is stick their head out the window and guess; I can do that but without having to watch the 6 o'clock body count.

Whenever I'm presented with a day like this, I just try to not think about the cold, depressing days still remaining and put it in the back of my head, but it's always back there.

I wouldn't trade these lone, lovely days for anything; they get me thinking about the

days only a few weeks away.

Bonfires and barbecues at night; football, paintball or hiking during the day.

The hiking is probably the best. Nothing beats going to Tyler or Five Mile Woods with a few of my buddies and just walking around being outrageous without having to worry that someone you're trying to impress is watching you act like an idiot.

Wondering around, someone would spot a deer, and then another one, and another, and another.

Sometimes it would seem like we stumbled right into the middle of a herd.

Skipping stones on the creek, knocking over a dead tree, changing the signs around so people get lost.

I've had some great times.

A place called Quaker Penn Park near Tullytown is good if you're not so much into hiking and would just like to screw around in a nice, peaceful shaded area.

A word to the wise, the metal trash-can lids around the park look just like giant Frisbees... and share the same aero-dynamics.

So if you find yourself bored the next sunny day try heading to a park, you'd be surprised how much fun you can have.

Oh Baby! *A weekly column by Centurion Managing Editor Janine Logue*

It is pretty funny but when you become visibly pregnant people, as in absolute strangers, start to randomly approach you.

They touch your belly and tell you long personal stories about when they had their kids or the time that their sister's-husband's-cousin had a terrible breech labor.

I was at a large public event over the weekend and many people did just that.

Everyone seems to have a theory about my pregnancy.

Again, these are absolute strangers whom I have never met before in my life.

They know nothing of my life, my husband or our medical histories.

Most people think my belly is too small, others are sure that I have gained way too much weight. A lot of people declared that I am having a boy because of my "I swallowed a basketball" look.

Those people are right, I am having a boy, but the scientist in me says that my shape has more to do with my genetics, diet and activity level than

the sex of my baby.

Speaking of the sex of my baby—I had a 3D ultrasound and there is really no doubt about it, we are definitely having a boy.

Not only are we having a boy, we are having a boy who takes after his mother.

When the ultrasound first started the baby stuck out his tongue at us. My mother said, in a joking fashion, that he is just like me.

I told her that, if he were really just like me, he would have given us the finger. Sure enough, about 15-minutes later, he gave us the finger.

That's my boy, and I even have it on DVD.

I am sure that the DVD will come in handy when, in about 13 years or so, I am explaining to some school administrator that Alex has always had an attitude problem.

Alex is the name that we have picked for the baby. We don't have a middle name quite yet, but there are a few possibilities on the table.

That is another thing people

do when you are pregnant; they ask you about the name.

First, there are a bunch of questions about why you chose that name.

Then, they give you their opinion of the name, like you are ever going to see them again and really care what they think of the name you picked for your child.

Next, you get to hear the story of every person they have even known with that name, what the person did for a living, whether or not they were handsome or pretty, the whole nine yards.

The whole stranger dynamic changes when you are pregnant.

No one walks up to someone who is not pregnant and starts asking a bunch of personal questions or tries to touch their belly.

If a stranger did that to me at any other time in my life I would react much differently.

Most people would probably call the police.

Pregnancy is such a weird time in a person's life.

A Modern Hypocrisy



A weekly column by Centurion Editor-in-Chief Laura Irwin

So, I have this cat...

When my roommate was given Kirra as a gift, we were told, "she is an awesome, cute female kitten. Here you go."

So little and petite and dainty.

So despite the fact that I hate cats and am an avid "dog person," I went over to the dark side, I grew very much attached to the cat.

You can say I've spent a lot of time with Kirra, and that we've gotten to know each other pretty well. And that basically started when I realized Kirra is male.

Not to mention utterly confused by his name-to-gender situation.

It would have been weird to just change his name after a few months, so we kept it. My roommate and I have an unspoken battle of how to spell his name. She always writes "Kyra" which I think is girly and stupid. I figure writing it as "Kirra" at least gives him the benefit of being named after a skateboarding company, something slightly more emasculating.

Whatever, poor guy.

Kirra is cuddly and soft. He always likes you to hold him or pet him and is a major attention-seeker, especially from men. Whenever a man in nice cologne stops by, he forgets I'm his best pal and takes no time jumping up into their laps and curling into a ball to fall asleep.

If you refuse to sit and let him do this, well you'll still know he wants to sit on you because he'll reach up with those tiny little cat paws and stare at your face until you pet his furry little head.

The thing about pets is that they really don't care about social taboos the way we do. I call his pestering moments, "Now's a good time to play with the cat."

It also helps that cats do really weird things. And as someone who has grown up around dogs, I find their behavior amazing and entertaining to watch.

The other day I was getting dressed for class, when I heard a huge crash followed by an "uh-oh" sounding meow.

I went to investigate, but not only could I not find a disturbance, but my cat was MIA too.

Fifteen-minutes pass with me hunting for him, worried and shaking a bag of kitty treats, before I give up and finish getting dressed. Once I get back to my room, I hear a long, very unhappy, "Meeeeeooooooooowwwwww."

This makes me worried and I go into my living room to see my cat on the floor, splayed out and stuck half-way at his abdomen in a paper bag handle.

I debated whether or not to film his predicament, but I decided against it because he was super peeved about his situation. Instead, I scooped him up, carried him into my room and took a pair of scissors to that mean-old-paper-bag-handle.

I did catch on film many of his freak-out moments of running with near super-hero strength around my apartment.

The 8-foot jump into the air to slap a ceiling-hanging decoration.

The time he got his head stuck in a tissue box.

The time he crawled up into the shade of my lamp and popped out the top.

The time he balanced on the top of a chair to catch his tail.

The time he Matrix-style ran up the wall to sit on the highest possible ledge of the window.

How he always lays on the crossword puzzle I'm doing or the book I'm reading.

"Hey," I think he thinks to himself, "now's a good time to play with the cat."



PHOTO BY LAURA IRWIN

Got something to say? Send a letter to the Editor at centurion@bucks.edu!



Bucks baseball is back in full swing

BY TOM ROWAN
Centurion Staff

The names Utley, Rollins and Howard have become synonymous with the Philadelphia Phillies. Their trials and tribulations have been broadcast across the world. If the team fails, these players failed.

Unfair?

That's the burden superstar athletes carry. They are identified by the red pinstripes and vice-versa. The pressure is almost a requirement for a professional athlete; but what about the amateurs? Are players at the collegiate level asked to carry their team through thick and thin?

Here at Bucks, a two-year institution, attracting star athletes warranting that amount of attention is not commonplace. However, under the supervision of new assistant coach Gregg

Wilson, Bucks baseball has given rise to a band of backyard brawlers that have identified themselves as the next big thing.

"I don't see us doing worse than first or second [in the EPCC Conference]" said Wilson, "as long as the team sticks together."

Wilson, a former player for Bucks and transfer student from Holy Family University, has tailored his lineup to extract the talents from his versatile players and use them cohesively to build a winner on the geese-ridden Bucks diamond.

His lineup features Mark Hughes, center fielder and lead-off hitter who, just recently against the Community College of Philadelphia, went 2-4 with two doubles. Second baseman Sean Bizzle, 3-4 with a walk and 3 doubles and third baseman Ryan Herrmann who, according to Wilson, "holds down third base both figuratively and liter-



ally."

His ace is left-handed pitcher Craig Kieffer, who is 2-0 with 17 strikeouts in 12 innings, and his big bat in the lineup is Jay Sechowicz, the clean-up power hitter who, against CCP, hit a

towering 425 foot homerun.

In their conference, Bucks is 2-0 with a bright future ahead of them. From the looks of their strong makeup, the Centurions have the ability and talent to not only make the playoffs, but to go

as deep as their mighty bats can take them.

The team lost 10-11 in the ninth Saturday, April 12, at Lehigh-Carbon. Their next game is home on Tuesday, April 15.

Tennis team looks forward to new successes

BY STEVEN LAWSON
Centurion Staff

With a new team and new coach, Bucks' tennis team hopes for great results this season.

The Bucks coed tennis team started their season on March 25.

It is a season of new beginnings.

A new head coach and a young team with very little experience make up a team that is trying to put a winning product onto the court.

"I am very optimistic. We are a very young team including several players with no real experience to speak of," said Head Coach Steven Coyne, who is in his first season replacing Dr. Barry Sysler after he retired at the end of last season.

Coyne is very optimistic about his team's upcoming season and also looking forward to being the head coach. "I am extremely

excited about this season (being my first) and would like to be able to be as successful as former coach, Dr. Barry Sysler."

Coyne is also very excited to see how his young inexperienced tennis players grow and hopeful-

ly succeed. With inexperience comes a learning curve that sometimes may take some time to get over, but the team is hopeful that they can establish themselves into formidable opponents in the Eastern Pennsylvania

Community College Conference, where they compete.

The team has two players who Coyne believes are vital to their success this year. "I have high expectations for Adam D'Alonzo and Marc Krum. Both of these young men played high school tennis and they are the cornerstone of this team."

The team will need these players' leadership to succeed this season en route to the PCAA State Championships at the Hershey Racquet Club in Harrisburg, PA on April 26.

Other team members are Keshia Liverpool, Megan Bradshaw, Jen Owens, Diana Altobelli, Steve Herold, Greg Allebach and Alex Konig. These players are practicing hard and are all excited about their season and the chance to compete for the titles in their various match types, whether it is singles or doubles.

Time will tell if the tennis team can succeed with the young nucleus that they have to compete with. Coyne is very optimistic and excited to coach this team for the first time. Hopefully we will see a state championship from our Buck tennis team.

The student body should all go out and support your Bucks tennis men and women. Every cheer from the crowd can help a player immensely. Anyone can join the tennis team; maybe keep this in mind for next year if you are a student looking for a club that you can call home. Information about the team, including a schedule, can be found at bucks.edu/athletics/tennis

The team's next match is at 3 p.m. this Tuesday, April 15 on the Bucks campus, when they face Northampton. On Saturday, April 19, they play at Harrisburg.



PHOTO BY TOM ROWAN

Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for the Fall 2008 semester. Criteria for this scholarship is as follows:

1. U.S. Citizen or permanent resident.
2. Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 at the time of nomination.
3. Must have engaged in community service in the 12 months prior to nomination and be able to provide documentation or be employed full-time or part-time.
4. Must plan to enroll in at least two (2) courses during the Fall 2008 semester at a two-year degree granting institution.
5. May not be children or grandchildren of Coca-Cola employees.

Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office. The application deadline is May 9, 2008. Please pass the word about this opportunity!

Par for the course at Masters

By The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) Trevor Immelman gave Tiger Woods an impressive number to shoot at.

Showing that 4-under 68 in the opening round was no fluke, Immelman put up the same score Friday with birdies on the final two holes to break a logjam atop the leaderboard at Augusta National.

The South African was at 8-under 136 heading to the weekend and one stroke ahead of unheralded Brandt Snedeker, though Woods and Justin Rose had just teed off in the second round and several other top con-

tenders were still on the course.

Immelman bounced back from his only mistake, a bogey at the par-3 sixth, and finished strong with birdies at Nos. 17 and 18.

He rolled in a 15-footer on the final hole, appearing fully recovered from some scary health issues over the past year.

Immelman lost 20 pounds because of a stomach parasite after last year's Masters, and late in the year a benign tumor was removed from his diaphragm. Still on the mend, he missed the cut in half his events this season, and his best showing in a stroke-play event is a tie for 40th.

"I realized that it can be taken

away from you real fast," said Immelman, who shared the first-round lead with Rose. "I feel like I've been loaned a talent. I'm trying to do as well as I can."

He took advantage of another warm, sunny day — a striking contrast to the frigid temperatures and biting wind that plagued the tournament a year ago. With the threat of rain in the forecast, Immelman knew it was important to put up low numbers while they could be had.

"The course is going to show its teeth," he said. "You've got to make some good scores while you can."