



THE CENTURION

“The Voice of the Students”





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Wall Street Journal Editor Speaks to Journalism Students

Dante Campana
Centurion Staff

Paul Lupinacci, an editor working for the Wall Street Journal, visited Bucks County Community College on Oct. 17 to impart wisdom gained throughout his career, outlining various techniques other people can employ to get the most out of their career choices.

Lupinacci spoke of how his career path was nontraditional; he did not know what to do with his life for the longest time. He had begun working for a local paper and wrote obituaries, which was the beginning of him learning the job and communicating with others.

He worked in the business for a while and eventually decided to return to working on newspapers, which he has done ever since joining the Wall Street Journal as an editor. With over 18 years of experience at the WJS, Lupinacci learned valuable lessons that can apply to many fields of work.

According to Lupinacci, a part of the satisfaction of

being an editor is being a part of the paper’s success. Editing is his passion, and seeing the work of others do well is a great experience for him. Fine-tuning, although not being the main driving force of the paper, is still a critical role in ensuring its success.

He is a part of the digital platforms team, meaning he focuses on the Wall Street Journal’s mobile app and website, where he concentrates on stock market stories and other marketing topic stories. His job as an editor for this branch of the paper means he can edit stories on the fly, helping them to gain more traffic.

He mentions that the industry is very different from the way it used to be, now being able to change stories on a whim if they aren’t performing as well as his team would’ve hoped, thanks to analytics that modern technology provides. This flexibility and fluidity mean that the WJS continues to maintain its footing in current times, showing just how important it is to have



Photo Courtesy of Dante Campana

this structure.

This advice can carry over to other fields of work as well. The future of jobs and careers is forever changing and new technologies will always emerge. Being able

to adapt when such technologies emerge is crucial for keeping up with the times. This quality can be snowballed into any career

Read more on page 6 ...

Upcoming Events



2/23
Get Happy! - A Tribute to Judy Garland
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Zlock Performing Arts Center

2/27
Wellness & Life Hacks- Conquering Test-Taking Anxiety
12:15 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Zoom

2/28
Construction Time Again Artists' Talk and Discussion
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Zlock Performing Arts Center

2/28
Open Mic Night
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Newtown Campus: Dining Area

Who’s the Artist? Artificial Intelligence And The Future For Creatives

Arianna Keith
Graphic Designer

There’s a new big artist on the creative scene, they’re a quick learner, hardworking and improving rapidly. They may forget to correct the mistake of a hand with six fingers in their illustrations, and face a couple of lawsuits, but some believe that at the pace Artificial Intelligence is improving, talented creators now face a hazy future. One in which their competitors are not just fellow producers but AI as well.

A long, long time ago in a galaxy far far away...also known as 2022, striking and elaborate illustrations and images began popping up all over social media. Some were so realistic that it took more than a glance to determine whether or not they were real works of art created by an artist or ma-

chine-generated.

For many, this was cool and amazing. Anyone who couldn’t express their creativity through drawing or painting now could by typing in a simple prompt and waiting a couple of seconds. On the other hand, artists who spent countless hours and years improving their art began to feel more concerned about whether they could continue and find success in an art career – Myself included.

This AI art trend raised the question of what is considered “real artwork.” For thousands of years, artists have used their experiences, beliefs and imaginations to create masterpieces. AI uses algorithms and machine learning to create. But is that wrong?

Bucks Graphic Design Professor Micheal Kabbash said, “My initial opin-

ion of AI art is skeptical, as I have not done more than minor dabbling with some software. I have seen amazing works done with AI and others that are just embarrassing. Do I consider it “artwork”? As a digital artist, I would say yes, but the real question is, what is its value?”

“Marcel Duchamp [French painter and sculptor] faced criticism for his ready-mades. Andy Warhol [Visual artist influential in the pop art movement] was rebuffed by the fine art community for elevating commodities like soup cans to ‘high art.’ I doubt anyone who worked in the urinal manufacturing industry took offense to Duchamp placing one into his artwork. But in the case of AI, the question of authorship and originality comes into play more be-

Read more on page 8 ...

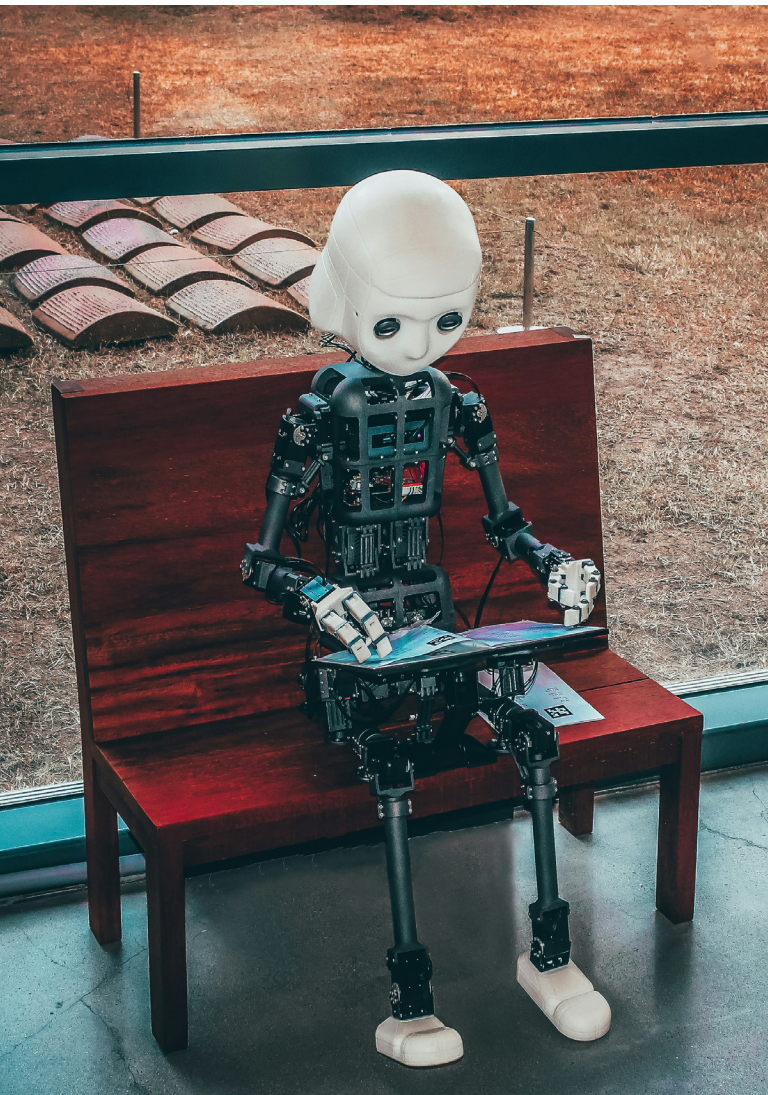


Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

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Editor-In-Chief

Raeanne Raccagno

Graphic Designer

Arianna Keith

Editors

Madison Kifolo

Jesse Fischer

Entertainment Section

Raymundo Varela-Urizar

Weather

Christian Grosso

Cartoonist

Connor Sturza

Advisor

Tony Rogers

Letters to the Editor:

Email your letters to:
buckscenturion@gmail.com

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

Weather

Thursday 2/22



Friday 2/23



Saturday 2/24



Sunday 2/25



Monday 2/26



Tuesday 2/27



Wednesday 2/28



8-14 Day Outlook

Temperatures: Above Normal
Precipitation: Above Normal

Forecast for Newtown, PA courtesy of weather.com, valid 2/20/2024 at 4:30 PM EST.

8-14 Day Outlook courtesy of NOAA National Weather Service, issued 2/20/2024.

Shapiro Offers Plan to Revamp State Colleges and Universities

Jesse Fischer
Editor

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro recently shared his new plans for higher education in PA, including plans that would affect Bucks County Community College and many other Pennsylvania colleges.

Gov. Shapiro hopes for this plan to make college more accessible and affordable for those looking to pursue higher education. On Feb 6, Shapiro proposed a plan with the help of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

PASSHE oversees several schools in Pennsylvania and has a mission statement dedicated to higher education and serving the Commonwealth. The joint effort intends to enact a new system where PA households that make up the median income will pay no more than \$1,000 in tuition and fees per semester at state-owned colleges and community colleges.

This means that Bucks would be one of several community colleges in the state involved in the Governor's new plan.

"Whether you want to take one course to brush up on your skills, earn a certificate to qualify for a promotion or pursue a degree that will lead to a new career – you

deserve accessible, affordable higher education options," Shapiro said.

Shapiro intends to have Pennsylvania embrace a performance-based funding model. This means that colleges would have funds distributed on an outcomes formula with the hope of incentivizing colleges of the commonwealth to achieve goals that benefit all of Pennsylvania. The performance-based funding is going to be pushed out through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Shapiro believes that this will help break a cycle of "political gamesmanship" that has held funds hostage. This will be accomplished because the plan will not need to receive a two-thirds vote in the legislature. "This blueprint will serve as the linchpin to our Commonwealth's economic success, setting us up for growth and prosperity for generations to come," said Shapiro.

The goal of this new plan is to keep young people in Pennsylvania, attract workers and companies to the state, help students gain skills and take high-paying jobs and ensure company employers that they will find good workers to benefit and grow the company. Pennsylvania currently ranks 49th in higher education but Shapiro plans to jump up to 22nd



Photo Courtesy of <https://www.governor.pa.gov/>

if his plans go accordingly.

A few major college presidents offered up their support for Shapiro's new plan. "We are very grateful to the Governor for his bold initiative in support of higher education in Pennsylvania," said Temple president Richard M. Englert.

Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi said, "I am extremely pleased to see that part of Gov. Shapiro's blueprint is a call to establish a predictable performance-based funding formula."

However, not everyone is fully on board with this

new plan. Some are hesitant about a proposed 25-campus system that is made up of two-year and four-year schools in the state. There are also questions surrounding a \$1,000 increase in the state grant maximum beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

This plan has turned a lot of heads, garnering both praise and criticism. It will be a while before the outcome of this plan is fully understood if it'll help Pennsylvania's higher education, and just how much it'll affect Bucks.

Democrats Win Special Election in Lower Bucks

Christian Grosso
Centurion Staff

Despite a snowy morning, voters braved the weather to cast their vote in a special election that helped Democrats maintain control of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Nearly 70 percent of voters chose Democrat Jim Prokopiak during the special election on Feb. 13, who will now represent the 140th Legislative District. The district covers the southeastern part of Middletown Township, all of Falls Township and Morrisville and Tullytown Boroughs.

At the Emmaus Road Lutheran Church in Middletown Townships Levittown section, voter turnout was slow at first, but when the snow stopped, the voters came out in full force. In Middletown's Lower fourth precinct, which covers the southern half of the Cobalt Ridge section, a total of 224 of the nearly 850 registered voters cast a ballot.

Prokopiak is a resident of Levittown and has been serving on the Pennsbury School District school board since 2021. Prior to this, he served on the Falls Township Board of Supervisors from 2002 to 2009, and on the board of the Bucks County Redevelopment

Authority. He works as an attorney with a degree from Temple University School of Law.

He won against Republican candidate Candace Cabanas, a resident of Falls Township. She is a restaurant server with past home healthcare experience. Cabanas moved to the area from Lancaster County five years ago and has no prior political experience.

The two were vying to fill a seat left vacant by former Democratic Rep. John Galloway, who had been serving the district since 2006. He vacated the seat in December 2023 to replace District Judge Jan Vislosky, who will be retiring soon.

Prokopiak and Cabanas were appointed candidates through a closed nomination process, where Bucks County executives from each candidate's respective party voted for a candidate to represent them in this race. Due to the sudden nature of the vacancy, a public primary was not held, as would be the case during a normal election.

According to the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC), a legislative campaign committee for Democrats, Prokopiak's goals will be to "prioritize codifying reproductive rights, funding education,



Photo Courtesy of <https://democrats.org/>

and helping working families by supporting legislation to increase access to affordable housing and living-wage jobs." 6abc Action News reported that the DLCC spent \$50,000 to protect the party's majority in the chamber.

The win gives Democrats temporary control of the legislature by two members. There is another vacancy in the 139th legislative district of northeast Pennsylvania, which was represented by

Republican Rep. Joseph Adams until he resigned on Feb. 9. This district has consistently voted Republican, so Republicans will likely win back this seat once a special election occurs, narrowing Democrats lead to just one additional representative.

Entertainment

The Warmth of “Wonka,” Leaving Viewers With Nostalgia and High Spirits

Jenna Lowenthal
Centurion Staff

“Welcome to the world of pure imagination” takes a spin on the new whole-some, heartfelt and whimsical film “Wonka” directed by Paul King, released on Dec. 15, 2023. This phrase might have taken you back to your childhood if you’ve seen “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory” (1971) and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” (2005).

Upon viewing the two other beloved classics, I found myself hesitating about the film’s potential of possibly taking away from the original story, but it effortlessly emerges as a narrative that is uniquely its own, flawless and splendid. With prequels, people are quick to think about comparison, but this film stands on its two feet, bringing out Roald Dahl’s world with magic, dreams and creativity.

In this musical fantasy, “Wonka” is based on a young man dedicated to fulfilling his childhood dream of selling his own chocolates and opening a chocolate shop.

Timothée Chalamet plays the main character(Willy Wonka) who leaves a spectacular and delightful performance. There’s more to this film than just chocolate and magic, it’s adorably humorous with an old-fashioned plot, cinematic stunning visuals and sincere heartfelt messages that will

leave you touched.

Going along with being dedicated to his dream, Wonka determinedly tries to pursue his goal, in hopes of being a chocolatier. “I have one sovereign and a hatful of dreams,” this line stood out to me not only because of its humorous irony but the drive and positive motive that is carried by the characters throughout the film.

The understanding of never giving up on your dreams, embracing the journey, learning in the process and seeing the good even when you only have “one sovereign in your pocket.”

Starting with his adventure, Wonka arrives in a European city prepared to start his dream with no shelter or place to stay his first night. He soon runs into a shady woman named Mrs. Scrubbit, played by Olivia Colman. Due to Wonka’s search for help, he gets tricked and ends up being stuck at a place where they manipulate people into taking on huge amounts of debt to turn them into laborers.

Wonka meets an orphan child that goes by Noodle who Calah Lane plays. The two characters uplift each other and play significant parts in each other’s roles.

One of my favorite elements of this film is the true value of character, the movie wouldn’t be the same if it wasn’t based on these empathetic, kind people. If it were based on the Choco-



late Cartel, which is greedy and selfish, that would be a different story. We see the treasure of having a passionate dream, sharing it with others along the way, and with the impact that others create for Wonka.

Wealth is a significant theme in “Wonka” as it plays a crucial role in the story’s narrative. The film blends playful fun family entertainment with a theme that addresses greed and the monopolistic nature of capitalism.

Through my eyes, I interpreted two values of chocolate. One is a sentimental delicious treat full of magic and love that brings people together. The second way I viewed it, was almost as if it were symbols of power and money because of the conflict between the chocolate cartel and Wonka’s dreams of being a

chocolatier and the hold that chocolate has surrounding the characters and the plot.

All the musical scenes were absolutely phenomenal, leaving you with great joy, the songs were incredibly catchy and upbeat, and they will definitely leave you humming. Of course, the lovely traditional songs were featured, including an interesting new edition of added songs.

The new song selection let the film step into a little more independence and structure. The soundtrack made me more in touch with the film, but if you can’t bear to watch people randomly break out into singing and dancing, this film might not be for you.

Watching this was a cinematic treat for me. The scenes take you on a visually stunning and artistic

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

journey through the whimsical world of Wonka. The motion picture masterfully captures the fantastical elements of the story, using vibrant colors and creative framing to bring the nature of Wonka to life.

Overall, Wonka was a fantastic film. With a delightful, exquisite and unexpected ending that will leave you warm-hearted. In the end, you get a real authentic emotion, a fantasy film that makes sense and surprisingly feels real and pure despite the funny crazy color coordination and delicious magical chocolate. The scenes will leave you genuinely smiling, embracing you with joy and warmth.

If you’re searching for a feel-good movie, “Wonka” is the film for you.

Entertainment: Movies, Television and Pop Culture Today

Raymundo Varela-Urizar
Entertainment Editor

The original “Twister” starring the late Bill Paxton and the late Philip Seymour Hoffman is an adventurous favorite to many of those who were born or grew up in the 1990’s. The life-like effects, non-stop heart-pumping soundtrack and its story about twisters that can be both so beautiful but so terrifying.

Now, more than two decades later, a new group of storm chasers is ready to take on dangerous storms, especially with changes in the weather climate. Despite not being a continuation of the original movie, fans of the original are anticipating nostalgia and an exciting time for the new “Twisters” film.

Director: Lee Isaac Chung (Minari and Abigail Harm)
Writers: Michael Crichton (Author of the novel Jurassic Park and writer of the original Twister), Mark L. Smith (Writer of Vacancy and The Hole)
Producers: Patrick Crowley (Jurassic World: Dominion and Bourne Ultimatum) and Frank Marshall



Photo Courtesy of Unsplash

(Jurassic World, Hook, and Signs)
Cinematography: Dan Mindel
Editing By: Terilyn A. Shropshire
Cast: Katy O’Brian (Love Lies Bleeding, Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania), Glen Powell (Anyone But You, Top Gun: Maverick and Devotion), Daisy Edgar Jones (Pond Life, Where the Crawdads Sing)
Genre: Thriller, Adventure
Rated: PG-13 (For intense sequences of violent elements, some language, action images)
Release Date: July 19



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

“Joker: Folie à Deux” is the sequel to Todd Phillips’s successful but controversial “Joker.” The film has won many awards including “Best Original Score” and grossed over \$1 billion.
The anticipated sequel is going to be a musical with an appearance by the iconic Harley Quinn (Lady Gaga) and a few returning cast members from the first film. The movie is set to take place in Arkham with ramped-up violence to stir up the audience.
Director: Todd Phillips (Director of The Hangover

Franchise and Due Date)
Writers: Scott Silver, Todd Phillips
Music By: Hildur Guðnadóttir
Producers: Emma Tillinger Koskoff (Producer of The Wolf of Wallstreet and Daddio), James Gunn (Producer of The Belko Project and Avengers: Endgame) and Peter Safran (Producer of The Aquaman and The Suicide Squad)
Cinematography By: Lawrence Sher
Editing By: Jeff Groth
Cast: Joaquin Phoenix (Brother Bear, Beau is Afraid), Lady Gaga (Ma-

chete Kills, A Star is Born, House of Gucci), Zazie Beetz (Deadpool 2, Nine Days)
Genre: Superheroes, Action
Rated: TBD
Distributed By: Warner Bros. Pictures
Release Date: Oct. 4

Entertainment

“The Iron Claw” Makes for a Gripping Cinema Experience

Cristopher Ramirez
Centurion Staff

The story of the Von Erich professional wrestling family is a tragic tale, and Sean Durkin’s biopic “The Iron Claw” tells it in a wonderfully compelling and respectful manner.

Writer and Director Sean Durkin’s other films include “The Nest” and “Martha Marcy May Marlene,” but “The Iron Claw” is by far his magnum opus. Although “The Iron Claw” is a wrestling-centric drama, it will leave you wanting to learn more about the legacy of the Von Erich family and will most certainly bring you to tears.

Set in 1980s Dallas, Texas, the film focuses on Kevin Von Erich, played by Zac Efron, and his brothers, Kerry Von Erich, played by Jeremy Allen White, David Von Erich, played by Harris Dickinson and Mike Von Erich, played by Stanley Simmons as they try to climb the proverbial wrestling ladder to make their father, Fritz Von Erich, played

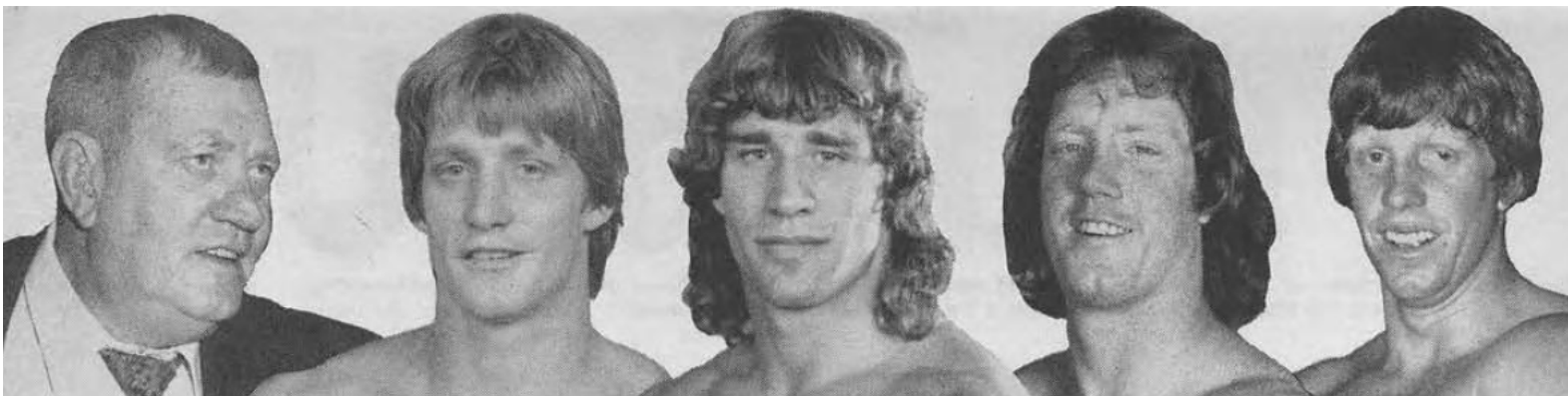


Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Picture of the Von Erich family. From left to right: Fritz, Kevin, Kerry, David and Mike

by Holt McCallany, proud. Fritz Von Erich never became a world champion, so he pushed his dream onto his sons and pressured them into competition with each other. Despite all that Fritz puts his sons through, they still loved him.

Kevin Von Erich is portrayed as the older brother who wants what’s best for his brothers and family as a whole. David Von Erich is a natural athlete and entertainer.

Kerry Von Erich is reckless and sometimes hotheaded. Mike Von Erich doesn’t want to wrestle, but he also doesn’t want to disappoint his father. The familial bonds, particularly the brotherly love, are shown thoroughly throughout the film. The amount that the Von Erich brothers genuinely care about each other and want each other to succeed is felt by the audience.

McCallany had a great performance as the old-school Fritz Von Erich, who shows his sternness and authority in a way that makes it look like Fritz really believes that everything he does is for the good of his sons.

Efron’s performance as Kevin Von Erich made the film. His body language and facial expressions were on point. He brought raw emotion to the role that made you feel what the character was experiencing.

There were several scenes where the characters wrestled, which were fast-paced and entertaining. Chavo Guerrero, a pro wrestler and the stunt coordinator for the film, trained the actors to wrestle to make it look more authentic. In an interview with Chris Van Vliet, Guerrero said that he would wrestle Efron in 12-minute matches about 10-12 times.

The film leaves out a whole brother, Chris Von Erich, which at first feels like a disservice because the entire point of the film is the bond of brothers. The movie is already over two hours, and Durkin said, in an interview with Today, that Kevin Von Erich understood his reasoning and was okay with it. However, taking

Chris Von Erich out of the film leaves a bad taste after discovering what happened to him.

Chris Von Erich faced struggles in his wrestling career due to his asthma and brittle bone condition. The left-out brother died of suicide at the age of 21 in 1991.

Nonetheless, “The Iron Claw” beautifully captures the essence of brotherly love and how families cope with tragedy. In a Hollywood landscape filled with unoriginal remakes, cinematic universes and cash grabs, “The Iron Claw” is a shining light.

“The Iron Claw” is currently available to rent or buy on Amazon Prime.

Wordsmiths Series Continues With Spring Readings at Bucks

Emily Saab
Centurion Staff

The Bucks Wordsmiths Series returns to campus featuring author Jared Har el on March 7 in Tyler Hall 142 at 12:30 p.m. and is open to anyone in the community who is interested.

The Wordsmith Reading Series is an event that has been going on at Bucks since the opening of the school in the 1960s, which presents local and visiting

writers. This event, which usually takes place twice in a semester, brings in writers to read original works and interact with students and community members.

Ethel Rackin, Professor of Language and Literature at Bucks, has been the director of the series since around 2019. She explained that usually the guests are chosen based on books that are actively being taught in classes on campus. When that is not the case, guests

are chosen based on what has recently been released, what authors are available, or what the audience wants to hear.

Rackin believes that The Wordsmith Series is significant because “it is important for students and community members to have an opportunity to see world-class writers live and for free.” Rackin also described the valued tradition of oral poetry, as before it was written, it was always read aloud,

“it retains its roots, whether it’s slam poetry or academic poetry.”

At these events, there is time divided up between hearing the work, and then conversation between the writer and audience. There are also usually refreshments, snacks and copies of the work being sold, which gives you the option to get it signed.

These events have been highly successful in the past which Rackin attributes to

the flourishing of Bucks County and its relationship with the arts, “There are so many people, not just at the community college but in the county at large, who are writing and reading and interested in these sorts of things.”

For more information on the Wordsmith Series, contact Ethel Rackin at Ethel.Rackin@bucks.edu, or visit <https://www.bucks.edu/academics/departments/lang-lit/wordsmiths/>.



JARED HAR EL is the author of *Let Our Bodies Change the Subject*, which won the 2022 Raz/Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry (University of Nebraska Press, 2023) and *Go Because I Love You* (Diode Editions, 2018.) He’s been awarded the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *American Poetry Review*, as well as the William Matthews Poetry Prize from *Asheville Poetry Review*. Har el’s poems

have recently appeared in such journals as *32 Poems*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Electric Literature*, *Ploughshares*, *Poem-a-Day*, *The Southern Review* and *The Sun*. He teaches writing, plays drums, and lives in Westchester, NY with his wife and two kids.

THE SWEET SPOT

On better days, I can tell this is it: we are well inside it; that *misfortune* implies a fortune to lose. I can see, despite it all, we have hit our sweet spot, the best it’s gonna get, and yet someone out there dreams she’s a hummingbird, and is fighting like hell not to wake up.

News

Bucks' First Annual Paranormal Conference With Star Speakers

Abby Palmieri
Centurion Staff

Bucks County will host its first annual Paranormal Conference at the Bucks County Community College Zlock Performing Arts Center featuring host Eric Mintel, and other guest speakers Nick Pope, Dominic Sattelle, Bill Birnes, Tom Carey, Eric Spinner and Jim Krug on March 9 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m..

The event started to come together this past summer when paranormal expert Mintel and Peter Chiovarou, director of the Zlock Performing Arts Center, began discussing what the event might look like and when it should take place. Ultimately, the two agreed that Bucks would be a great venue to host.

Chiovarou expresses, “Being that there are so many paranormal stories and sightings in Bucks County, we came up with the idea to hold a Paracon to bring many of our community members together to meet, talk and listen to the industry’s top paranormal pros.” Chiovarou continues, “This kind of event has never been done here in Bucks County, and between Eric’s connections regarding the speakers

and the great location of the Zlock Performing Arts Center, we knew it would be a perfect match.”

Mintel shares a similar view, “I’ve seen a lot of paranormal conferences around the country, and Bucks County doesn’t have one. This is the prime time now to start a convention.” And it’s true, the paranormal seems to be involved in our lives and thoughts now more than ever, and a social event that extracts these topics to the top-of-mind and allows experts in the field to share their understandings is not only exciting but important to the community as a whole.

Mintel, whose connections in the paranormal world have made this event a possibility, says that “people know me as a jazz musician ... but in 2016, I had started my own TV show called Eric Mintel Investigates ... the natural progression is putting on a local convention.”

Mintel maintains a large network of fellow paranormal enthusiasts, so putting together the list of speakers was fairly straightforward. “I reached out to Nick Pope who is seen on Ancient Aliens on the History Chan-

nel all the time, he is our featured speaker. Thankfully, his schedule allowed him to be here.”

Pope is a former civil servant and employee at the British Government’s Ministry of Defense. He is known for his investigations of UFO phenomena in terms of assessing “the defense and national security implications of the phenomenon.”

Pope notes that following his retirement, he was “involved in a government



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

program to declassify and release most of the UK’s documents on UFOs, many of which I wrote. That meant that ... I was free to discuss this material. The media comes to me now when they run UFO stories and want to get an insider’s perspective on how this subject is handled in the government.”

“I’m looking forward to ... sharing information about some of the exciting developments we’ve seen

recently. Many of these developments involve Congressional hearings on some extraordinary claims made by whistleblowers who have looked at this subject from inside the US government, military and Intelligence Community,” Pope said.

Another guest speaker scheduled for the conference is Spinner. “By day,” he says, “I’m a health food store owner and nutritional consultant. By night, I’m a Bigfoot researcher. I have been researching these elusive individuals for 20 years, and I am an investigator with the Big Foot Field Researcher’s Organization. I also have led over a dozen expeditions into the field and have traveled to investigate reports in surrounding states.” Spinner adds, “I am looking forward to sharing some of my experiences with the crowd, and hopefully raising a few eyebrows and maybe some interest in the topic.”

Birnes, another scheduled speaker, has been writing about and researching UFOs since the 1980’s but really got involved when working with an army intel officer who handled the UFO debris from Roswell. Similarly, Birnes is “looking forward to meeting folks

and talking about things out of the ordinary.”

Host Mintel states, “The Bucks County community, I love it. I travel all over the country but it’s always great to come home. And as I was growing up, I had heard so many stories of ghosts and other paranormal activity here in Bucks County, so to me, there is no better place to hold this event.”

Speakers’ times are as follows for the First Annual Bucks County Paracon:

Speakers:
1-1:45 p.m. James Krug
2-2:45 p.m. Eric Mintel and Dominic Sattelle
3-4 p.m. Nick Pope
4:15 - 5 p.m. Bill William Birnes
5:15- 6 p.m. Tom Carey
6:15- 7 p.m. Eric M. Spinner

Tickets for the conference are \$45 and will be available at the box office on the day of the event. Current Bucks students with a valid student ID receive one free admission. Parking is free. Various vendors will be located in the lobby and there will be food trucks outside of the theater.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the First Annual Paranormal Conference, visit bucks.edu/tickets.



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News

Wall Street Journal Editor Speaks to Journalism Students

Continued from page 1...

that needs to keep up with modern technology. Lupinacci says the Wall Street Journal has taught him how to communicate with people in a face-to-face manner, which is incredibly useful. Communication with people in person helps build rapport, an essential for networking. Being able to communicate with people and building relationships is valuable because it allows for future collaboration and opportunities to arise.

For writing in specific, he talks about writing in a tight manner; that is to say, being efficient with your choice of words to convey messages in a brief yet effective matter. Average view times for these articles fall under a minute, and it is critical to talk about what needs to be mentioned before it is

passed over by a disinterested reader.

Condensing complex ideas into a few words is critical in all fields of work. He mentions poets as being able to do this especially well, packing so much meaning into a couple of well-used words.

When looking for candidates at work, Lupinacci says people want smart, aggressive and diligent new hires, people hungry for growth and self-improvement. Companies and businesses are willing to invest their time and resources into people if they are willing to give back by providing their time and energy.

If you thrive, businesses likewise thrive, so often it is in their best interest to help people become the best versions of themselves. They are willing to teach

people who are willing to learn new things and change their lives.

Lupinacci also recommends taking internships to gain actual job experience while making sure your employers learn about you as a person too, building relationships so they can help you find job opportunities in the future.

The main takeaways are that people should be willing to try out new things, branch out and meet new people, and have new experiences. This flexibility and networking are essential for getting stable footing before starting a good career path, no matter where that path will eventually take you. Do not be afraid to take the next steps and progress!

Photo Courtesy of Unsplash



Resource Evolution and Sustainability in “Construction Time Again”

Ava Grimm
Centurion Staff

A new exhibit comes to Bucks Newtown Campus, creatively displaying responses to social, cultural, architectural, ecological and environmental sustainability throughout urban and rural environments.

From Jan. 19 until March 9, 2024, “Construction Time Again” will be on view at the Hicks Art Center Gallery on the Newtown Buck’s Campus. The initial idea came from a student film about litter to show environmental decline and gentrification.

The title “Construction Time Again” was coined by all participating artists and architects. The exhibit is named after the title of the 1983 studio album by Depeche Mode. Clifford Eberly, an exhibit associate at Bucks highlighted these Depeche Mode lyrics that are important to the meaning of the exhibit, “The landscape is changing ... Now we’re re-arranging, there’s no use denying, Mountains and valleys, can’t you hear them sighing.”

The artists use a diverse range of materials, subjects and media to address the impacts of construction and demolition using a variety of materials such as glass, sand, seaweed, photography and even borrowed objects from the local Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. The idea was to use objects to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The “Construction Time Again” exhibit is made up of various art, media styles and genres. Many of the artists are local, including students’ and past professors’ works.

Eberly said, “The objects and works in the exhibition challenge us to evaluate our

collective responses and responsibilities to outcomes of our presence on Earth and seek new ways of sustainable resourcefulness.”

This exhibit challenges the audience, “to fully understand and interpret what is going on around you through senses, observation, and perspective” said Eberly, who added seeing the exhibition through air, water and trceries of building sites helps viewers to interpret the constantly changing environments.

One of the artists, Gwendolyn Kerber, an American painter based in Berline and Newtown, PA, created a piece for the exhibit called, “Wading; Field of Vision Looking Down at a 45-Degree Angle from About Two Feet Away.” This piece uses grids, color and vantage points, while also using different materials like wood and wire to create structure. She wanted to help the audience visualize how we see the natural world along with man-made environments like buildings. Taking a step back by two feet while looking at her piece, the viewer could look into her structure as if it were water.

Another artist collaborator Arden Bendler Browning, a Philadelphia-based artist, created an augmented reality video/painting that collides with gestural, abstract paintings of buildings and landscapes. Using sight and observation the exhibit allows the audience to understand movements in our surroundings that can be life threatening or affirming according to Eberly.

Daine Burko’s paintings, “Deforestation 1” and “Deforestation 2” display the rapid loss of the Amazon rainforest. Burko wanted to represent the current Brazilian government’s lack



Kristen Neville Taylor’s “End-of-Days and Workers Wake Up” installation view, pate de verre (cast glass) 2022

of responsibility for our environment. The paintings showcase corporate greed and the proliferation of fossil fuels. The viewer is given the perspective of having no escape from these tragedies as the government controls our surroundings. Eberly said, “We’ve seen and smelled these effects of Wildfires on accident and by governments. It shows we can not control what happens around us even if it affects us.”

Jean-François Delorme, who worked as a wood tuner with a focus on production and exhibited individual items in ceramics and glass, created, “Broken.”

This sculpture consists of crutches holding up a half-wooden sphere breaking apart. This exhibit is meant to represent Earth’s environmental suffering and breakdown while barely being held up.

Bucks Part-Time Fine Arts Professor Deborah Riccardi’s family faced devastation after an accidental fire in an auto body shop her father owned which destroyed his

property. They had to fight with the local government in Ambler Pennsylvania to get eminent domain. Riccardi and her sister took photos of her father on the property and displayed the photos in “Construction Time Again.” The family was able to properly recycle the remains.

Santa Monica City Hall and Guyot Hall at Princeton University were redesigned by Frederick Fisher and Partners. The videos and plans for these projects are on display in the exhibit. The Architects are able to create renovated buildings in sustainable ways.

Korean-American Artist and Photographer Soo Kim’s piece, “Study, City Beautiful #1” are stacked, sliced and cut images to create rural and urban landscapes. She “calls attention to the Western Influence of the master-planned city,” said Eberly.

Nicolo Gentile, a Philadelphia-based artist, created sculptures using melted-down metals from the now-demolished “12th

Street Gym” in Philadelphia. This gym was a vital part of the gay community and had over 4,000 members at one point according to Eberly. His sculptures show a sustainable use of resources and a historical lens in the 12th Street Gym community.

Kristen Neville Taylor, a Philadelphia-based artist, “End of Days” explores, “the myths and lore around the evolution of the sand mines in New Jersey Pine Barrens that have mostly vanished” according to Eberly. Her videos and sculptures represent the depletion of natural resources.

For more information about “Construction Time Again” visit <https://www.bucks.edu/culture/hicks/>.

News

MVP Joel Embiid Goes Down with a Torn Meniscus - How Will the Sixers do?

Daulton Parry
Centurion Staff

With the sudden failure of the Philadelphia Phillies in the National League Championship Series and the collapse of the Eagles late in the season, there was a bright spot to look at in the 76ers for Philly fans. The bright spot became tarnished when the Sixers were fined \$75,000 by the NBA because Joel Embiid was not reported to be injured when they faced off against the Denver Nuggets. When Embiid was playing this year, he was the MVP, no questions asked, averaging over 30 points and 10 rebounds a game. That fine may have scared the Sixers into playing Embiid against the Golden State Warriors on Jan. 30. During the game, Embiid wasn't looking very mobile, and late in the fourth quarter, boom, Embiid got his knee sat on by Golden State player Jonathan Kuminga. Embiid immediately appeared to be in pain when his knee was hit and bent too far down straight onto the hardwood. With 31 games left on the season, it is confirmed that Embiid did tear the meniscus in his left knee and will be out for at least a month. For a big man with a lengthy list of previous injuries, especially in his knees, Embiid could easily miss more than a month. Injuries

never come at a good time. With two months left on the season, losing the star player is bad news for the Sixers, who are currently in fifth place in the Eastern Conference. If Embiid takes a month to return from Feb. 9, he could play 19 games and be back for the last month which is a must-have for the Sixers going into the playoffs. If given time to get back into the rhythm of the game Embiid will be able to go into the playoffs without the rust from his injury. Brandon Morgan, a Bucks County Community College student said, "There will be a large hole on both defense and offense that they will have to make up for in the absence of the MVP." The trade deadline was an important day for the Sixers. They added two players: a point guard and a shooting guard. They only gave up some meaningless second-round picks, and Furkan Korkmaz, who wanted out due to not getting playing time in the normal rotation. They also traded fan favorite Patrick Beverly, a deep rotation player in Jayden Springer and the guy Philadelphia gave the keys to the city, hometown player Marcus Morris Sr. Losing Beverly and Morris is not ideal, since they supplied toughness. But the Sixers got a major player who can score in any situation and has always had the eye of



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

the Sixers in Buddy Hield, and a solid defensive backup point guard in Cameron Payne. Jordan Denis, a Bucks County Community College student, said, of the additions, "I was skeptical at first but watching Buddy Hield and Cam Payne the last couple nights I like the trades." The Sixers had a busy trade deadline but didn't get everything they needed without Embiid. They needed a reliable backup center who could have rotated into the starting spot while Embiid is out. The Sixers had Andre Drummond before, a rebounding machine who likes competing with Embiid and doesn't mind being his backup if it can lead to a championship. They did not add a true point guard who could start and facilitate the ball but did wait for a buyout. They

added a native Philadelphian who can start in Kyle Lowry. He is at the very end of his career and his production has dropped off, but he can still set up the offense for Embiid and Tyrese Maxey to get to the right spots. He has also run the Nick Nurse offense and won the championship with him. Denis said, "I don't mind the Lowry pickup, I just want to see how he is utilized." If all goes right, Embiid will return in a month and everyone will be healthy, then the Sixers rotation will look like this: point guard Lowry, shooting guard Maxey, small forward Hield, power forward Tobias Harris and Embiid. This is a very good starting five that can compete with the best teams in the league but what will set them apart is the depth on the bench. Most teams in

the playoffs will give fewer bench players a chance to play, cutting it to only about eight guys. The Sixers bench players will mainly be De'Anthony Melton, who can shoot an amazing three-ball and rotate the guards out so guys can rest. Robert Covington or Nic Batum are there for their three-pointers and defense, and Paul Reed can give a breather to Embiid and in his own right has been a great rebounder and has improved his offensive game this year. They also have the new additions, Payne and Kelly Oubre Jr., and all can easily play and rotate in for the starters. Denis speaks for many Sixers fans by saying, "I think we will finish as the sixth seed or worse but make the playoffs. When and if Joel Embiid comes back I like our odds on a decent playoff run."

How Can Others Connect Without the Enthusiasm of Sports?

Dante Campana
Centurion Staff

Oftentimes after the latest big sports game, the infectious passion radiating off the fans after a win cannot help but make someone who does not partake in the viewing of sports a little isolated. So, what about the folks who do not watch sports on a consistent basis; are they a minority in a college full of sports-crazed fans? Not only was it the goal to find this out, but also to discover what the folks who did not watch sports do instead in their free time. To gauge just how many folks are sports enjoyers, a survey of some Bucks students was conducted in the cafeteria and asked questions regarding the frequency of sports watching. Out of 40 people, 26 responded saying they did not watch sports at least once a week, while 14 said they did, resulting in a 35 percent to 65 percent split in favor of those who do not watch sports consistently. For Bucks students who responded "yes," they were asked how often they partook in the viewing of

sports. Answers varied between once and three times a week and included all sorts of sports such as basketball, UFC, baseball and basketball to name a few. Major Philadelphia teams such as the Phillies and the Eagles were significant contributors to this. It is also interesting to note that a lot of sports watchers also said that they grew up watching sports with their families, which likely results in a lifelong love for sports and frequent viewership of games. The interviewees who responded "no" were asked what alternative activities they did instead of watching sports. Answers consisted of activities such as reading books, watching other digital content such as movies, TV shows, YouTube videos, documentaries on subscription-based networks and spending time with family. Jakob Sinclair, a 21-year-old secondary history education student from Philadelphia, explained that he avoids watching sports, noticing a trend between him watching sports and the team he roots for unfortunately losing. Even though

he does wish to watch sports, he avoids doing so as not to jinx his team. Instead, Jakob watches documentaries and enjoys collecting antiques for his personal collection. He talks about how sports create a sense of community that is enjoyable to see. The superstition of not watching a big game only adds to the magic of what makes the sports so fun to follow. Katie Alexindrenko, a 19-year-old environmental science major from Bucks County, says school takes up a lot of her time, meaning she doesn't have time to go out of her way to watch sports herself often. She also describes herself as being a part of a foreign family, resulting in her never growing up watching sports and getting attached to the local teams. She does, however, spend time watching sports with her boyfriend and his family. Alexindrenko describes other activities she enjoys doing, including reading and watching movies and TV shows. She says she watches some big games such as the Olympics and the big sporting events due to the



energy they create. Even though the impassioned sports fans may be more vocal than the folks who do not watch sports regularly, there are still many people who are more passionate about other hobbies and activities instead, or even folks who simply prioritize other things over sporting events. Just because one is not a consistent sports fan does not mean that they cannot enjoy other activities and vice versa. Anyone can go and enjoy the wondrous rollercoaster of emotions associated with

News

Who’s the Artist? Artificial Intelligence And The Future For Creatives

Continued from page 1...
cause AI feeds off work that has already been created and filters it into another work. We spend time stressing to our students not to steal images or plagiarize, yet that is exactly what AI does.”
Popular AI image generators like OpenAI, Midjourney and Stable Diffusion have lawsuits against them for copyright infringement. AI image generative models are trained on large datasets of digital images paired with captions describing the image’s subject. Using a machine learning algorithm to pick up certain patterns, concepts and artistic styles to create a new image.
So if a user were to type in a text prompt like “Medieval robot being painted

by an artist, oil painting, detailed armor and weaponry, realistic style, high quality, traditional and warm tones,” into an image-generative model based on the style of Alphonse Mucha, a Czech artist known for his work in the Art Nouveau period. The AI model would create a work inspired by those descriptive words.
In January 2023 several artists filed lawsuits against Stability AI, DeviantArt and Midjourney for their works being used without their consent to train AI models. More information and updates on their cases are posted on StableDiffusion-Litigation.com. It’s important that artists fight for the value and credit of their art, so rules and regulations can

be put in place to prevent companies from profiting off their creativity and hard work.
AI isn’t entirely bad. The advancement of this technology can be very helpful in the creative community. Such as being used as a means of brainstorming and giving artists unique compositions to then change and adapt to their style. In the animation field, AI algorithms can reduce production time and automate repetitive tasks.
Bucks Fine Arts Professor Chris Martino said, “I believe it could be helpful, as far as speeding up the process of completing a project. Typically, a project is hours of modeling, cleaning up the geometry, assign-

ing materials and textures, lighting, and rendering and then if animating, many more hours. Automated rendering can automatically assign materials and textures, and set up lighting – saving many hours of work. AI can also generate realistic textures and materials by learning from existing examples.”
However because of this many jobs face being replaced with AI. Of course, these changes will not happen anytime soon but it is a possibility to consider. I would like to believe that the fine arts and other creative careers will not experience complete extinction by technology.
There is so much that the human mind has to offer;

abstract and unique ideas that could only come from the realm of imagination. Kabbash said it best, “I have always stressed this to my design students: the only thing separating you from someone with all the same tools is your creativity and your persistence. Just because someone can operate software does not make them a great artist — creativity, eye for design, color, composition, creation of a mood and communicating a message will always be in demand.”
P.S. For those who actually watch the commercials during the Super Bowl. The Minions could be the evil masterminds behind it all...

Black History Month

Feb. 1- March 1



“No man or woman who tries to pursue an ideal in his or her own way is without enemies.”

Daisy Bates (November 11, 1914–November 4, 1999) was a journalist, newspaper publisher, and civil rights activist known for her role in supporting the 1957 integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Bates and her husband were activists who devoted their lives to the civil rights movement, creating and running a newspaper called the Arkansas State Press that would function as a mouthpiece for Black Americans across the country and call attention to and condemn racism, segregation, and other systems of inequality.
Information taken from <https://www.thoughtco.com/daisy-bates-biography-3528278>

Comics by Connor Sturza



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

MARCH 22

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

Virtual Transfer Information Session (4:30 p.m.):

MARCH 27

Provides an overview of the process and timeline for transfer students.

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

www.kutztown.edu/transfer