

THE CENTURION

“The Voice of the Students”



@Centurion_Bucks

Volume 59 Issue 2

October 12, 2023

Bucks-News.com

U.S. Labor Unions Growing More Popular During Tough Times

Cristopher Ramirez
Centurion Staff

In recent times, labor unions have taken center stage due to the Hollywood and auto worker strikes, setting off a discussion about the impact of labor unions in today’s society.

According to data from the Pew Research Center from Sep. 2021, 55 percent of Americans view labor unions as having a positive effect on the nation.

Tyler McClure, a secondary education history major who is currently trying to unionize his workplace, said, “I believe that they (unions) are a force for good and empower and protect workers



in our society.

Without proper protections and organization, it is easy to be taken advantage of by the systems we have in place even when that is not the expressed intent of any party.”

Sharing related sentiments, 18-year-old Penn State Abington Student, Edwin Lackey, states, “I find labor unions to be positive for workers. Specifically, the

fact that they improve the conditions of the workplace and ensure a safer work environment.”

A Union Officer for the Bucks County Community College Federation of Teachers and Language and Literature Professor Jennie Diaz comments, “People unionize when they feel too vulnerable and unappreciated by their employer when they

Photo Courtesy Of Wikimedia Commons

have low wages and lack benefits. Frustrated workers band together, realizing that workers’ power is strength in numbers.”

Over the past few years, companies like Amazon have held an anti-union mindset because they feel it will affect their business.

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Upcoming Events



10/12
Fireside Social W/ S'mores
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Outside Quad
Newtown Campus

10/12
Comfort Dogs on Campus
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
North Building
Upper Campus

10/12
Latino Business Roundtable
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Lower Campus

10/12
How To Thrive In First Nursing Semester Part II
12 - 12:30 p.m.
Allied Health 100
Newtown Campus

2023 Record Breaking Year For Book Bans

Terrie Blair
Centurion Staff

Book banning has reached a record-breaking high as the American Library Association reports 695 attempts to ban 1,915 unique titles, more than what was reported in the same period last year.

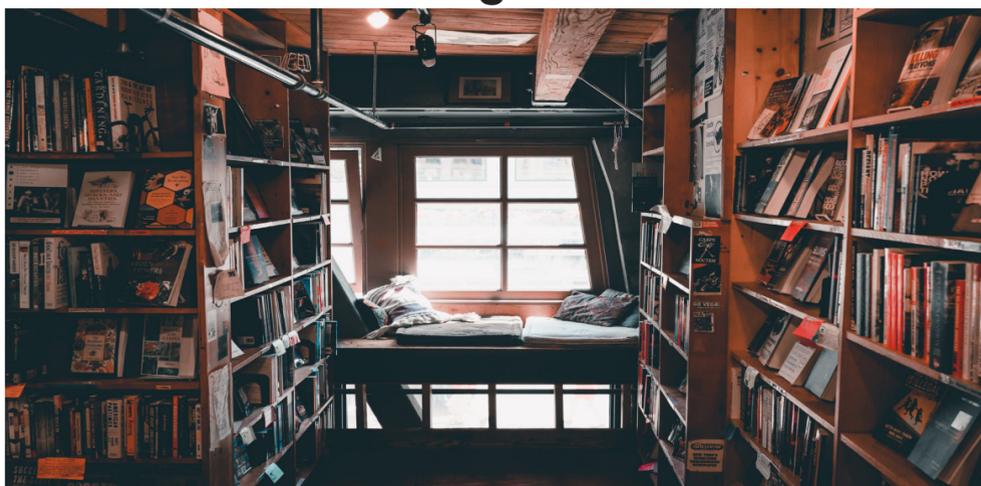
The American Library Association (ALA) is a non-profit organization that promotes libraries and library education internationally. The ALA said, “Most of the challenges were to books written by or about a person of color or a member of the LGBTQIA plus community.”

The association has reported that, so far, in 2023; 695 attempts have been made to ban books in public libraries, which is up from last year’s 681.

Sharon Estes, an English professor at Bucks County Community College, says that the staggering number of book bans in 2022-2023 is alarming. “I find particularly troubling the bans that target the books that include characters or themes from marginalized groups including topics like black history.” She says.

Read more on page 2 ...

Bucks Hosts Documentary And Panel On The “Right” To Read



Chris Lopez
Centurion Staff

On Sept. 21, the Bucks community was asked to consider how we teach our children to read, with the showing of a documentary entitled “The Right to Read” and a panel discussion thereafter in the Zlock Performing Arts Center on the Newtown campus.

The documentary followed Kareem Weaver—a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People activist and veteran of the Oakland, California school district—as he petitioned the district to change the curriculum it uses to teach children literacy.

The discussion panel comprised Dr. Brooks Imel, an education consultant who works with neurodiverse students; Kevin E. Leven,

an opinion columnist for the Bucks County Beacon; and Lynne B. Millard, the principal leadership coach and special advisor of school impact at the School District of Philadelphia.

“If you can’t read, you can’t access anything in our society. Imagine you’re in the Stone Age, and you don’t have any stone. Imagine you’re in the Bronze Age, but you don’t have any bronze. We’re in the Information Age. Without reading, you can’t get any information,” Weaver said in the film.

The film discusses a 1970s-era academic debate with modern ramifications called “The Reading Wars,” in which two opposing factions promoted a different method of reading instruction.

One side advocated for a

Photo Courtesy Of Unsplash

“whole language” approach in which students are taught whole words and sentences from the start, whereas the other advocated a phonetic approach in which words are first broken down into their component sounds.

The film and panel members argued mostly for the phonetic approach. Both, however, were quick to stress that in many districts, the whole language method pervades.

“It’s really strange that the Reading Wars are still going on. In academia, this is not debated. Only in policy is the debate alive,” Imel said. “This is just another example of us ignoring evidence-based science at our own peril. You see this also with climate change policy,” said Leven.

The documentary empha-

sized throughout that teachers are forced by the district to teach using apparently ineffective whole language curriculum whose inefficiency was demonstrated with several examples.

One such example showed an exercise prescribed by many curriculums in which a teacher shows students a sentence, one word of which is covered. Students are then asked to call out the covered word—guessing.

Another example shown came in the form of a home recording of a child completing school work on a laptop.

On the screen is an illustration of a girl painting a door purple with a paintbrush. Underneath appears the sentence, “She paints the door purple.”

When asked, the child
Read more on page 2 ...

Literature

2023 Has Become A Record Breaking Year For Book Bans

Continued from page 1 ...

The rise in book bans stems from polarization, and in particular the erosion of trust, among a small vocal minority and our social institutions and resources.

Largely, what we are seeing seems to be individuals or small groups of people targeting local libraries and schools, and even teacher's personal classroom libraries. Estes continued to say "Historically the good guys aren't the ones burning the books."

Often the people advocating for these bans haven't read the titles they are seeking to remove but are submitting lists of titles that they find aligning with specific themes. It is vital that people have the opportunity to both learn about the experiences of those different from themselves and also see themselves reflected in literature.

Children in state school districts and classrooms with bare shelves will lose those opportunities to build empathy and understanding. Public schools and libraries are dedicated to the principles of access to information and education for everyone and book challenges undermine these vital resources in our communities.

However, Estes also doesn't deny that there can be valid reasons to ban a book stating "I think valid reasons for true bans are extremely limited and



Photo Courtesy Of Wikimedia Commons

contextualized and honestly anyone with a smartphone can locate even truly banned books with ease"

She notes that instructions on building homemade bombs come to mind for this and instead of focusing on banning books we should be educating good readers and engaging in conversations around difficult texts in an appropriate context.

Some of the most shocking titles on the book ban list for Estes were "The Diary of Anne Frank" By Anne Frank Co-written by Otto Frank, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" By Martin Luther King Jr., and "To Kill a Mockingbird" By Harper Lee.

"For someone challenging a list of books with themes they disagree with, they may

feel that they are protecting children, however banning books that are widely used as classroom texts disempowers teachers and librarians and takes away the opportunity for young readers to encounter such things in a supportive context." She says.

She brings up "The Outsiders" by S.E Hilton and its depiction of gang culture and how we can ban the book but that doesn't mean students won't know that gangs exist. Young people today are well known to be tech-savvy when it comes to accessing information, anybody with a smartphone or Internet access can find materials that may be banned from individual libraries.

Estes says, "Honestly for

many teenagers, there's nothing like a band for making them curious about what's off limits." Most affected by these bans will be young children or students without support at home and "one of the quickest ways to demoralize good teachers and librarians is to remove books and signal that they can't be trusted to fill their shelves."

Libraries are already divided according to materials aimed at readers of different ages and school libraries should indeed steer their readers to materials that are appropriate for their age and levels. But the book challenges we are seeing don't seem to be prioritizing that.

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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 10/12



Friday 10/13



Saturday 10/14



Sunday 10/15



Monday 10/16



Tuesday 10/17



Wednesday 10/18



Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

"You are not lucky to be here. The world needs your perspective. They are lucky to have you."

- Antonio Tijerino, President & CEO of the Hispanic Heritage Foundation

Bucks Hosts Documentary And Panel On The "Right" To Read

Continued from page 1 ...

reads the sentence with ease. But when the parent covers the illustration above the sentence, "She paints the swing purple," the child babbles and is therefore not reading at all, merely looking at the picture and guessing.

The film and panel also emphasized how this issue is radicalized, describing an "illiteracy pipeline" and invoking antebellum slave codes in which punishments were levied on anyone who taught a Black person—free or enslaved—to read.

"This problem we are now dealing with is built on malintent. We are still recovering from that. There is a system of the haves and the have-nots," Millard said.

During the panel discussion, Imel described the method of teaching literacy that he said to be consensus in academia. "You teach it in stages. The first is phonemic awareness, which is getting students to be aware

of the sounds that make up words. The next stage is where students learn to associate these symbols, letters, with the sounds. This actually hijacks the brain's facial recognition circuitry," he said.

The film depicted several Black families over several years as they nurtured their children into educated

readers, noting the value of talking to babies and toddlers even when they can only respond with babbling.

Throughout the documentary, Weaver showed enmity toward the curriculum sold by a company called Lucy Calkins, which used the whole language approach.

By the end of the film, much of Weaver's petition

had been granted and Lucy Calkins had changed their methods yet admitted no wrongdoing.

"It's very difficult to stop something that is so profitable. But if your curriculum is used nationwide, it'll be profitable if it's good, too," said Leven.



Brooks Imel, Ph.D., is an independent educational consultant who works with neurodiverse students as an admissions counselor and executive function coach. His doctoral research focused on the cognitive processes involved in reading, and how comprehension differs when students read from screens versus paper.



Kevin E. Leven is co-leader of the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition, a nonprofit charity organization dedicated to educating, informing, and taking action on matters of racial justice. He is also a columnist for the Bucks County Beacon online publication, where he regularly contributes to the "Race Matters" monthly op-ed column.



Lynne B. Millard is Principal Leadership Coach and Special Advisor of School Impact with the School District of Philadelphia. In this dual role, the veteran educator develops and coaches new school leaders, and serves as a liaison between department leaders, key stakeholders, and the Deputy Superintendent.

Web Screenshot Courtesy Of BCCC Website

News

U.S. Labor Unions Growing More Popular During Tough Times

Continued from page 1 ...

When asked if unions hurt businesses, Shiloh Ruiz, 18, a nursing major from Levittown, said, “Absolutely not. They encourage camaraderie among workers and give them rights.”

Lackey also commented, “In economics, there is a trade to any action. When people unionize, it does mean that there are resources being pulled away from other places. Such as when petitioning for better working environments which include the monetary resources being used to create better working environments and resources being pulled from the company to better the workers.”

“There is always a lot of bloat in management or administration—too many unnecessary leadership positions and too high of pay compared to the workers’ pay,” commented Diaz.

“The gap has widened, and the businesses and schools can afford to put more money into the workers who actually carry the workload rather than merely supervise it. This sharing of profits with workers improves morale.”

According to the Associated Press, the Hollywood writers’ strike ended on Sep. 27 after almost five months. Striking actors have also recently started negotiations with studios.

The United Auto Workers started their monumental strike on Sep. 15, and in the following weeks, both President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump have shown up to endorse the strike.

“It is commendable that the auto workers are striking in support of the tiered or temporary employees who do the same work but have less pay and benefits,” stated Diaz.

Diaz added, “This hiring of contingent or two-tiered workers is a disturbing trend that you see in many businesses, even here at Bucks and other colleges, where part-time faculty earn less, have less benefits and less job security for teaching the same classes as full-time faculty. This inequity will be addressed in our upcoming contract negotiations.”

McClure said, “Good for them I hope they get a fair deal, all the big companies have admitted they’re losing money.”



Photo Courtesy Of Unsplash

Sharing similar feelings, Ruiz says, “I believe they are completely justified and I hope for them to succeed. More workers need to stand up for their rights and stop tolerating things that make their workplace miserable.”

Data from the Pew Research Center suggests that the number of American workers in unions has fallen from 20.1 percent to 10.1 percent in the past 40

years.

When asked if the Hollywood and auto worker strikes could inspire anybody to form a union or go on strike, Diaz said, “Seeing what kind of gains strikers can get should inspire workers both to unionize and to go on strike.”

Diaz continued, “When you negotiate, you need leverage, as you are trying to get something man-

agement does not want to give.

A work stoppage is a way to bring your issues into the public and to not allow work to happen until conditions are improved. Strikes are working these days, unions are forming, and we should keep the people’s momentum going!”



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Sports

Are The Philadelphia Flyers Making a Comeback?

Leila Kelley

Centurion Staff

Philadelphia Flyers fans are losing hope for the team's future after watching disappointing preseason results and raised suspicions of The National Hockey League refs' reliability.

The Flyers have been determined to complete the preseason on a high after their dreadful last season. As of Oct. 5, the Philadelphia Flyers have only won two of their five preseason games.

The two wins they have are against the Boston Bruins who are looking at a one-win record as of Oct. 5 after beating the New York Rangers 3-0. This doesn't make the Flyers look any better seeing as they beat a team who looks to not be in fighting shape.

Though the preseason games don't go against the team's record, if they lose it shows the other teams who to look out for and who can be steamrolled. The heavy favorite happens to be the Colorado Avalanche who won The Stanley Cup Finals in the 2022 season.

Fans can only hope the

preseason isn't a precursor for what's to come from the new season. Flyer fans are also in contempt for hoping the season will lead to a spot in The Stanley Cup Final or an ultimate win.

21-year-old, English Major Madison Kifolo of Doylestown said, "I do not believe the Flyers will do good. Philly sucks!"

When asked if the team is showing potential, Kifolo said, "If they get their stuff together," having little hope the team will get a spot in the Stanley Cup Finals. The last time the Flyers won the Stanley Cup was in 1974 and 1975.

Kifolo said, "Refs are always biased," and "There should be regulations and some sort of education along with someone to make sure decisions are correct and unbiased."

Kifolo believes refs are not reliable and should be replaced with a team of educated unbiased linesmen who don't make any bad calls.

Kifolo said, "They have a commitment to winning but it hasn't been shown."



Kifolo has little hope that the Flyers will win seeing as they have fallen short of showing their desire for wins by the results of the preseason games so far.

18-year-old Journalism Major Cristopher Ramirez from Bensalem said, "They could make it better."

The performance the team has shown has not impressed the fans who wish for more. Ramirez shared his thoughts on the team's chance of pulling through and getting a spot in the

finals saying, "Possibly. If they they get it together."

But when asked about their chance of a Stanley Cup he said, "Looking at the statistics absolutely no way."

Ramirez also said, "Refs can definitely be biased. They can be paid off." He believes that the refs are unreliable seeing as they can very easily be paid off and do a very good job at hiding it.

After hearing about the team's coaching and strat-

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

egies he feels they could most definitely find better in both categories, as they are severely lacking saying, "It doesn't seem very promising."

The Flyers fans are very disappointed with the team as they have done a very bad job at keeping the hopes alive this preseason. The fans are preparing to lose rather than excited for a 'possible' win from their team.

Are The Phillies Set To Win the World Series?



Madison Kifolo

Centurion Staff

The Phillies clutched a major win on Oct. 4 after a sixth-inning saving grace grand slam led them to win their first round of playoffs, and a Major League Baseball insider predicts a World Series win.

Philadelphia has had a long history of major highs and lows. Fans have a reputation for being the roughest and toughest around, especially during the low years. This past year has represented a huge disappointment for the city, but it hasn't always been this way.

The Phillies won the World Series in 2008 with major success. There had been a 28-year drought since their last victory, and

Philadelphia fans had finally regained some hope for their team.

Last year, the Phillies successfully made it through "Red October," and found themselves a spot in the 2022 World Series, much to fans' delight. Things were going well for the team; morale was at an all-time high.

That delight lasted about four games when the Houston Astros managed to tie the Phillies 2-2. It was all over by game six when our Fightin Phils were sent home to angry fans. The first-round win has given some fans hope for a better chance in the World Series this year.

Sports Illustrated's Tom Verducci is said to have

predicted a similar World Series for 2023, but with a Phillies win instead.

He told FanNation in an article, "This is a tough-minded Phillies team with a deeper pitching staff than the one that could not stop Houston in the World Series last year. The lefty-heavy Marlins present a first-round threat to the Phillies but surviving that will put this team on a run." He claimed.

The next round of the playoffs will be against the Atlanta Braves, who they beat in the second round last year. Hopefully, their win last night keeps them on an upward trajectory.

Things are looking up in Philadelphia, but can it

Photo Courtesy to Unsplash

last? Bucks' Liberal Arts Student, 21-year-old Chris Lopez doesn't think so. "Braves have revenge on their mind," he said. "There are more odds that they can lose."

Overall, the Holland, PA native says that this round is unpredictable because this is exactly how the Phillies entered the playoffs last season. They have just as big of a chance to win as they have to lose, it is just a matter of their opponent's lust for the win.

Levittown native, 19-year-old Leila Kelley is a Bucks English student who still holds some hope for the Phillies. "I think they could do it," she says. "I think they can, they just need to

Upcoming Sports Events at Bucks

10/12
Men's Soccer VS Harrisburg Area CC
3 p.m.
Bucks Soccer Field

10/13
Women's Soccer VS Central Penn
3 p.m.
Skyline Sports Complex

10/14
Women & Men's Soccer VS Central Penn
W: 12 p.m.
M: 2 p.m.
Bucks Soccer Field

10/17
Men's Soccer VS Penn State Lehigh Valley
3 p.m.
Penn State Lehigh Valley

put in the work when they get there."

She says that last year the Phillies were "just happy to be there, and they didn't seem to care if they won or lost." She hopes that they play smart and try to win this year.

It appears the Phillies' chances of making it to the World Series really depend on the team's togetherness and need for a win. Morale means the world for our team's performance; it is all a matter of whether another team wants it more.

News

Bucks Starts New Progressive Program Aimed Toward Working Students



Rafael Melendez
Centurion Staff

To address the growing needs of working adults trying to balance work and higher education, Bucks has launched a progressive Weekend College Program that aims to provide greater flexibility for students while also sustaining the quality of education.

Jody Seutter M.A., J.D., interim associate provost and assistant vice president of academic affairs at Bucks, who is directing the initiative, explains “In my role as associate provost, I am

responsible for the oversight and maintenance of our curriculum.”

“As the Weekend College program would essentially repackage some of our course offerings in a format that would hopefully be more accessible to working adults, I was asked to develop a pilot,” he furthers.

The catalyst for this program, as Seutter tells us came from a recognition of student needs. “We know from student survey data that many of our students face non-academic barriers to success, one of the most

Photo Courtesy Of BCCC Website

pressing being challenges inherent in juggling both work and school so that they can afford to continue their studies,” he said.

“The Weekend College model was proposed as one option that might allow students more flexibility to work full-time during the week while continuing their collegiate studies on weekends.”

Currently, the program offers courses in three majors: Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice, Associate of Science in Health Science

and Paralegal Certificate.

However, Seutter suggests expanded possibilities for the future, stating, “If the program proves successful, we plan to expand it beyond the three initial majors.

For this initiative, we are particularly focused on programs of study that make students ‘job ready,’ and would probably start any expansion with a similar focus on occupational programs. That said, we’re also responsive to student feedback and open to considering the inclusion of any program where sufficient student interest exists.”

The key to the program’s success is its hybrid model, offering students a blend of in-person and remote learning. Seutter explained, “The hybrid model allows students to be physically present on campus for those times where content is best covered in-person, and work remotely (often asynchronously) for the remainder of their coursework. In this model, we can provide accessibility and flexibility, while also promoting a deeper connection between students, faculty, staff, and potential employers.”

A key feature of this unique program is the ability to accelerate graduation for ambitious students. Seutter says, “If a Weekend College student opts to

enroll in all courses that are part of that participating major’s cohort, the student could complete all required classes on an accelerated timeframe.”

Enrollment for the Weekend Program is in its early stages. Seutter reveals, “Promotion of the Weekend College program started rather late to impact enrollment for the fall semester, but we are planning for a more extensive push for the upcoming spring semester and/or Fall 2024. We are also continuing to respond to feedback from prospective students on ways in which we might make the program even more accessible, such as identifying reasonably priced options for childcare.”

It seems the Weekend Program is in the wise and capable hands of Seutter who demonstrates a keen understanding of Bucks students’ needs and a clear path to implementing improvements to the program that will benefit students in an evolving academic landscape.

With one full semester of the program underway, it will be interesting to see what new courses of study will be added, looking ahead in anticipation of an increase in student enrollment.

Fitness Center Provides Bucks Students With A Free Resource

Madison Kifolo
Centurion Staff

Making a commitment to your health and exploring new opportunities is exactly what Tina Permar, the director of the Bucks County Community College’s Fitness Center, is offering students this semester.

The Fitness Center is located at the front of the Links Pavilion on Bucks Newtown Campus and is filled with all the equipment you would need to get a good workout in. The entire wellness facility boasts two studio rooms and full locker rooms for students to keep their belongings.

Bucks Newtown Campus has been home to the current Wellness Center since 2003. Since Permar’s arrival 11 years ago, all the equipment has been updated, and they are continuing to improve every year.

All Bucks’ students and alumni can use this facility for free with a valid Bucks student ID. Before students can use the equipment, there is some protocol to follow: (Taken from the Fitness Center Flier)

- A current Health History and Agreement and Release of Liability Form on file
- All personal items are to be placed in the locker rooms
- Proper exercise attire

must be worn

- Use the equipment as it is intended to be used
- Weight collars must be on at all times when using free weights
- Allow others to work into your workout sets
- Return all equipment to the proper location when finished
- Only water is permitted with a lid in a non-glass container
- Excessive noise and the use of profanity are prohibited
- Wipe down all pieces of equipment to prevent Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and the Flu

Since it is a one-woman show, the hours of the facility are subject to change. “If I’m not here, we are closed,” Permar said.

The current hours are Monday and Wednesday 10-6 p.m. (closed 12:15-1:20 p.m.), and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 7 – 3 p.m. (closed 11:30-12 p.m.). If the facility hours have changed due to scheduling conflicts and/or family emergencies, there will be a sign posted at the door.

The Fitness Center offers a free drop-in 30-minute ab class in Gym C on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:50-1:20 p.m. Permar wants to encourage students to try something new and



Photo Courtesy Of BCCC Website

stop by one of these classes. Before becoming the college’s director of the Fitness Center, Permar had a long career of being a strength and conditioning coach. She was employed by universities such as Michigan State, Princeton University, Rutgers and Stony Brook University.

She knew she wanted to be a strength and conditioning coach from a young age, especially after being involved in many sports programs. As a child, her coaches instilled a belief in herself that she wanted to help students have for themselves.

“Everything I do is stuff I believe in,” she said. Permar wants every student who walks through her facility to have the same opportunity to truly believe that they can do whatever they set their minds to.

Her biggest piece of advice for students is to “use college to your advantage. Join clubs, find your niche and get to know someone. You will be successful.”

At the Fitness Center, safety is a priority. Permar is there to help if students are unsure of how to use a piece of equipment. Once you have gone three times and made a commitment, she

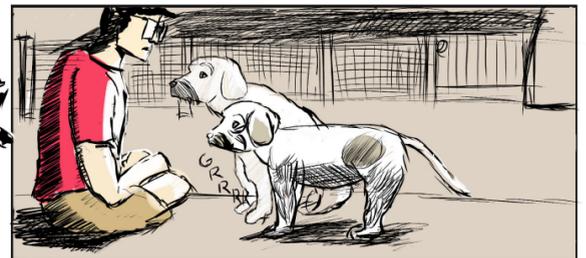
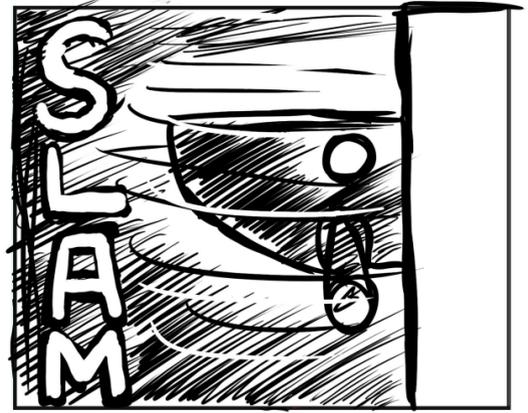
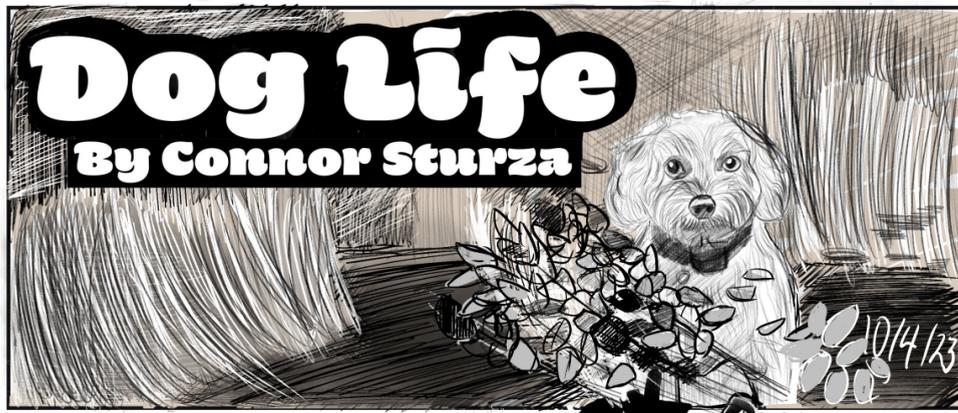
will even help you make a workout plan to reach your goals.

She also focuses on injury prevention and having fun. “You never know who you will meet here,” she said. Permar stresses the importance of trying new things and meeting new people will get you where you want to be.

Haven’t been to the fitness center yet? Stop in and ask Permar what her “secret sauce” is.

To find out more about the fitness center, contact Tina Permar at tina.permar@bucks.edu.

Arts



Think And Ink, The Return Of Inktober!

Dante Campana
Centurion Staff

It's the beginning of October, which also means it's the start of Inktober, an annual art event held throughout various communities to promote the creation of artwork and encourage the sharing of art with others.

Inktober was started by Jake Parker back in 2009, his goal being to develop positive art habits for himself and hone his creative skills further. The event has gained popularity and thousands of people participate in the event, endeavoring to produce art and share their handiwork with other aspiring and participating artists via social media.

The Inktober rules are rather simple: ink your artwork, share it, and repeat it again for the next prompt.

Artists of all levels of skill and experience can take on this challenge of constant creativity. Although nobody is forced to complete all the

prompts, consistency and commitment to the event is encouraged.

Traditionally, Inktober is for people to use ink-based mediums to produce artwork that embodies the one-word theme of the given day. Each day of the 31-day month of October is assigned its own word and artists must use the provided word as the foundation for the work they create for that day.

It can be tricky at times for someone to decide what to begin drawing for some of the words, but forcing oneself to complete more difficult prompts along with the easier ones allows for more practice with idea generation. The one-word nature of the prompts allows for a lot of room for freedom with what one decides to draw, allowing for both looser and stricter interpretations alike.

Chris Lopez, a 21-year-old liberal arts major from Holland, PA, said, "I've never

heard of Inktober, but I'm an avid doodler who enjoys using ink to create sketches and doodles."

In particular, he enjoys sketching people and faces. After learning about Inktober, he said, "I like the idea of prompts being used to guide people's art because it allows them to focus their creativity on producing one thing." He also stated he would consider taking on the challenge himself in the future.

Jesse Fischer, a 19-year-old journalism major from Bensalem, says he enjoys consuming art such as reading books and viewing the work of other artists. Although he would consider himself more right-brained and creative, he prefers writing more than drawing.

Fischer admits that he has tried drawing before, but wasn't particularly satisfied with the outcome. When asked whether he would be interested in partaking in



OFFICIAL 2023 PROMPT LIST

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. DREAM | 11. WANDER | 21. CHAINS |
| 2. SPIDERS | 12. SPICEY | 22. SCRATCHY |
| 3. PATH | 13. RISE | 23. CELESTIAL |
| 4. DODGE | 14. CASTLE | 24. SHALLOW |
| 5. MAP | 15. DAGGER | 25. DANGEROUS |
| 6. GOLDEN | 16. ANGEL | 26. REMOVE |
| 7. DRIP | 17. DEMON | 27. BEAST |
| 8. TOAD | 18. SADDLE | 28. SPARKLE |
| 9. BOUNCE | 19. PLUMP | 29. MASSIVE |
| 10. FORTUNE | 20. FROST | 30. RUSH |
| | | 31. FIRE |

@INKTOBER #INKTOBER #INKTOBER2023

Inktober, he said "I would consider it because investing yourself into working towards an end goal is a great way to get out of your comfort zone and self-improve."

Inktober's 2023 prompts can be found online for anybody to look up if they wish to participate in the event for themselves. All can participate so long as they

Photo Courtesy of Inktober Instagram

possess a little bit of creativity, something to draw with and a place to draw!

Those who find themselves unsure of whether this activity is good for them or not should give it a go anyway; they could produce something they are proud of that they otherwise wouldn't have.

SEXTORTION AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A SESSION

MONDAY
OCT. 16
12:30 -2:30 p.m.
Bucks County Community College, Gallagher Room
275 Swamp Rd, Newtown, PA, 18940

Many students, educators and other community members may have a limited understanding of the issues of sexual extortion and how it impacts families and communities.

Join us for a free live discussion and hear from experts in the fields of victim advocacy and prevention education to learn about what sextortion is, how to identify it and how to prevent it from occurring.

FEATURED PANELISTS



Jamie Pfister
Training Coordinator
NOVA



Brianna Dion
Victim Advocate
NOVA



Tory Baram
Prevention Educator
NOVA

REGISTER AT:
bit.ly/sextortionpanel



News

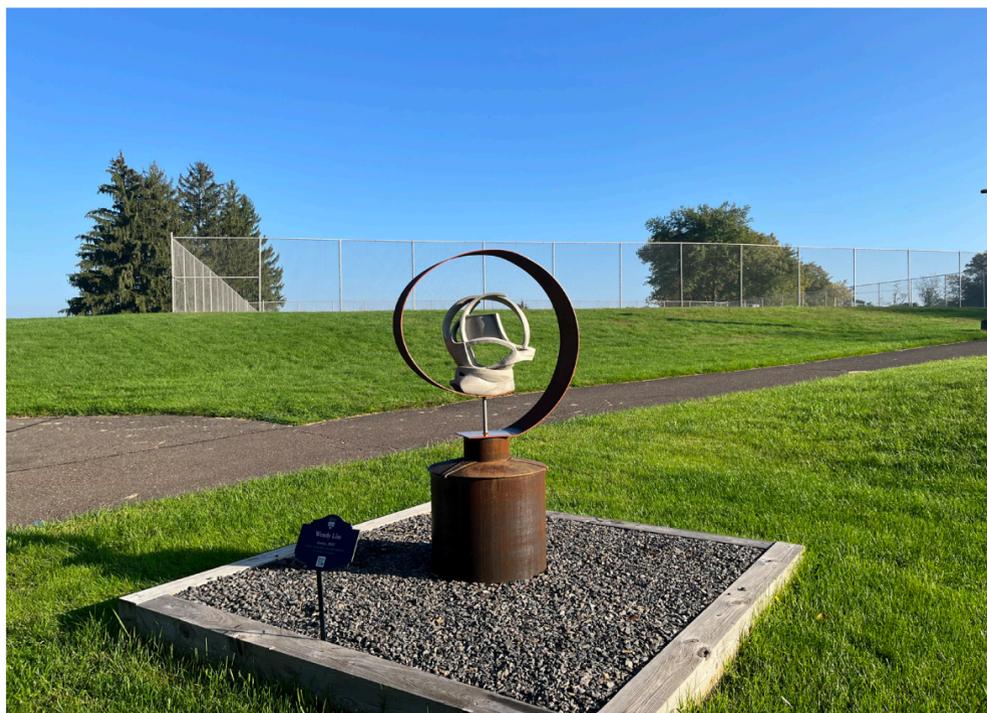
HAPPY NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The start of #pinktober when we show support by wearing pink for those currently going through with their difficult cancer journey and for those we have lost. No rest until a cure is found and more awareness is shown.

RISE



The Evolve Piece's Unique Place On The Bucks Sculpture Walk



A ceramic orb-like piece is centered inside the steel ring, which was found in a scrap yard.

The attention to detail of this piece was prevalent in the sculpture. Draining holes were added to the orb of the sculpture to stop water from collecting under the ring of the sculpture which would erode it. The spatial awareness of the piece was also taken into consideration. "With the sculpture's position, it can be seen a lot of ways at different angles by people walking or driving past," Eberly said.

Since 2018, the sculpture walk has evolved heavily to where it is today. The walk currently boasts 33 pieces with some of the first being made by Stella Elkins Tyler who was part of the Tyler family and lived in the home that is now Tyler Hall today.

The sculpture walk has also seen a lot of art loaned to it by local artists which helped in the evolution of the walk.

Evolve can be seen 24/7 on campus. Tours of the sculpture walk are free and can be scheduled by emailing Clifford Eberly at gallery@bucks.edu.

vantage points that the piece could be seen from on campus. She began working on what would be known as the "Evolve" piece in the Fall of 2022.

Working very efficiently, Liss had finished the project in just six months, with the sculpture being installed on campus last Spring. "I learned a lot from Wendy," Eberly said. "It was great to see her unique outlook."

The sculpture is on top of concrete and held in place by a bolt, assembled here on campus. The piece consists of a metal base with a steel ring on top. Steel was chosen for this base due to its ability to rust, allowing for the colors of the sculpture to change over time while simultaneously being able to withstand the elements.

Photos Courtesy Of Jesse Fischer

Jesse Fischer
Centurion Staff

The "Evolve Piece" at Bucks County Community College is the first ceramic piece to be installed on Bucks' sculpture walk, created by Wendy Liss; this abstract piece was added to the sculpture walk last Spring.

Clifford Eberly, exhibition associate at Bucks, began talks with Wendy Liss last Fall about creating a new sculpture to replace a loaned

sculpture that the artist had recently removed.

Eberly said, "I first learned of Wendy after coming across some of her work online." Eberly had visited Liss at her studio to discuss creating a sculpture for the walk that would be a new permanent edition.

Liss had previously created a sculpture called "InLiquid" which was made in collaboration with the Friends of the Glen. Heavily inspired by nature and surroundings, Liss created

this sculpture after being inspired by a tree trunk in the surrounding area where the artwork would be placed.

After conversing with Eberly, Liss visited the Bucks campus and looked at where her potential future sculpture would be placed. Liss then agreed to create a piece for the sculpture walk that would be a permanent edition.

Like her InLiquid sculpture, Liss was inspired by the area where her sculpture would be and the different

Students Blase On Trump's Indictments & Re-Run For President

Rafael Melendez
Centurion Staff

Many would say that a presidential candidate running a campaign under indictment is quite strange and we are indeed living in strange times.

As former President Donald Trump is campaigning for the Republican party(-GOP) nomination under several indictments, at both the state and federal levels, in more than one state.

Surprisingly, he also retains a stranglehold on the national polls; head and shoulders above his GOP opponents where, according to ABC News' Project 538, Mr. Trump is currently enjoying a 41 percent lead among Republican voters over his closest rival Ron Desantis, with numbers of 55.3 percent against 14.2 percent, respectively.

This is a truly astonishing feat when we consider the challenges of merely running a campaign, let alone staving off multiple indictments in both New York and Georgia, as well as two federal indictments regarding the Jan. 6 "insurrection," and classified documents found in his sprawling Mar-a-Lago estate.

Arguably as difficult as Mr. Trump's legal issues, are the ramifications these allegations have for the

American voter. If Mr. Trump is found guilty of one, or all, of the charges, is he still able to run for office?

MJ Jordan, a second-year business major from Morrisville, felt that these allegations were a negative for Mr. Trump. However, he stated "I think his MAGA(-Make America Great Again) base is loyal" and that "voting Republicans love his business savvy." Furthermore, Jordan said he doesn't expect any convictions because the cases are weak and will only serve to energize his base.

Maddie Devine, a second-year childhood education major from Bristol, is impressed with Trump's resilience in the face of these allegations and expressed that she feels these legal issues will only serve to "fuel the fire" for both Republicans and Democrats and lead to unprecedented voter turnout.

She also feels the New York indictment, concerning the falsifying of business records regarding hush money paid to Stormy Daniels, is the strongest case. In any event, Maddie said that disenchanted

voters "could always vote for me!"

On the more cynical side, Tatiana Bodden, a second-year business major from Morrisville, stated these looming charges "don't bother me one way or the other." She feels that these legal proceedings are "out of her hands" and don't really affect her.

Leana Thomas, a first-year criminal law major from Philadelphia, wondered "Why does Trump even keep on running for office?" She believes he will be strongly supported by his loyal base and, inter-

estingly, doesn't expect any of the charges to stick.

Opinions on these looming indictments, and their effect on the upcoming presidential election, are varied. Add to this the fact that incumbent President Joe Biden is currently under an impeachment inquiry from House Republicans, for his alleged involvement in his son Hunter Biden's shady overseas business dealings, and this election is shaping up to be one for the ages, indeed.

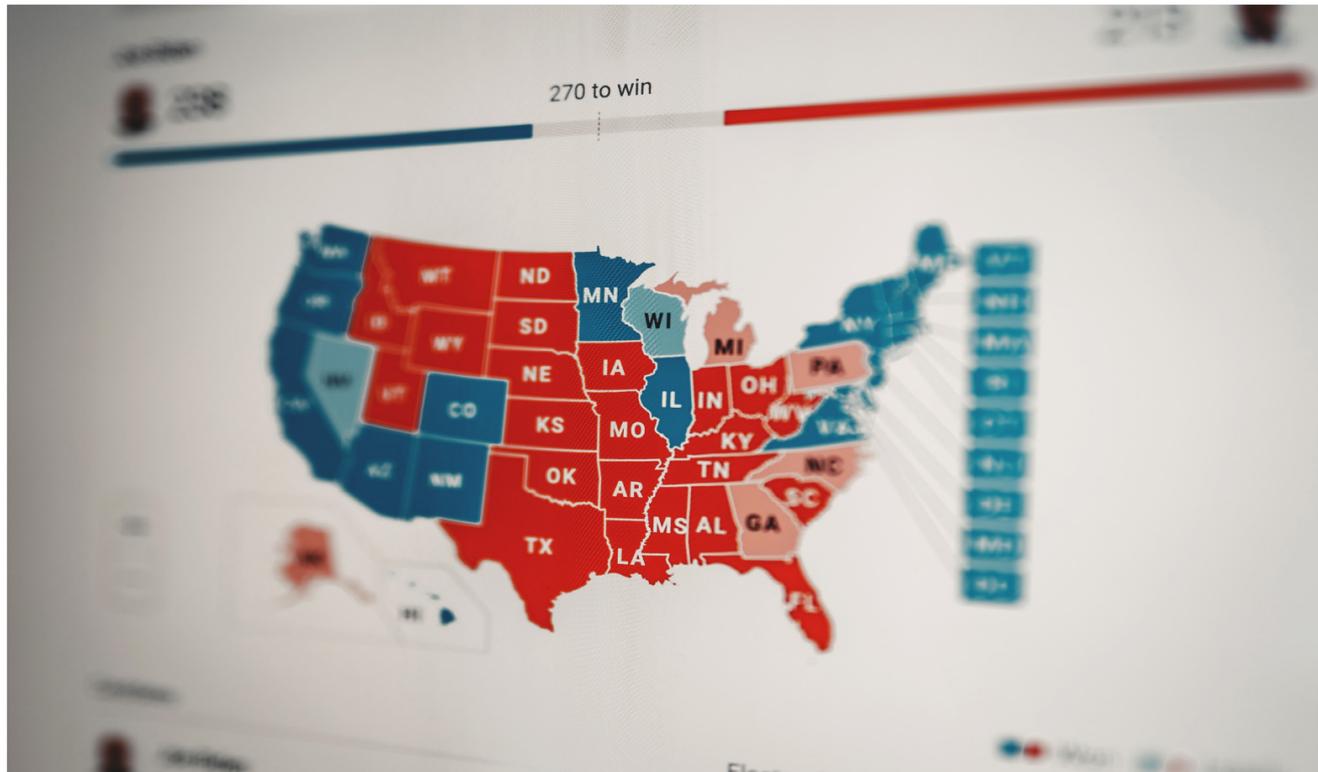


Photo Courtesy Of Unsplash

Entertainment

Movies, Television, and Pop Culture:

Raymundo Varela-Urizar
Centurion Staff



“I hope you enjoyed my visit. I got a special delivery, just for you.”

“Five Nights at Freddy’s” started out as a simple idea to make money, Scott Cawthon created the popular video game series that has become a phenomenon among children, teenagers and adults of all ages.

Freddy, Chica, Foxy, Toy Bonnie and many of the not so friendly friends make their way to theaters on Oct.

27 2023.

“Five Nights at Freddy’s” is to be viewed on the big screens and Peacock streaming service.

You may not want to return to Chuck E Cheeses after seeing this one!

Director: Emma Tammi
Cast: Josh Hutcherson (Zathura, The Hunger Games and Journey to the Center of the Earth), Matthew Lillard (Scream, Scooby-Doo and Without a Paddle) and Mary Stuart Masterson (Bad Girls and ABC’S For Life).



Photo Courtesy to Unsplash

I WANT TO PLAY A GAME

Saw has returned once again with Halloween just around the corner.

This not only means candy and pumpkin spice but also blood, guts and scares for the big and small screens!

The Saw horror movie franchise began in the year 2004 and has captured audience’s attention with Jigsaw’s sadistic traps and games.

After eight movies and

one spinoff, Jigsaw (Tobin Bell) is back to torture new victims into his murderous schemes.

Known for his tating phrase, “Those that don’t appreciate life don’t deserve life.”

After going to Mexico to remove a tumor that was never removed, Jigsaw takes revenge on those that were supposed to save his life.

“Saw X” was released in movie theaters on Sept. 29 this year. The movie’s pre-view sale passed the sum for

the two previous Saw titles. The movie is just under two hours long and has received an 81 percent rating from Rotten Tomatoes’s website, and 90 percent from the audience’s perspective compiled from more than 500 verified watchers.

Director: Kevin Greuter
Cast: Tobin Bell (Mississippi Burning and Haunting Hour: Don’t Think About It), Shawnee Smith (The Grudge 3 and The Blob) and Steven Brand (Teen Wolf and Scorpion King).



Wordsmiths

– Fall 2023 –

Patricia Smith & Hayden Saunier

Friday, December 1 • 7:30 p.m.
(Please note new date.)

Tyler Hall 142, Newtown Campus



PATRICIA SMITH is the 2021 recipient of the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize for Lifetime Achievement, presented by the Poetry Foundation, and a 2022 inductee of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. She is the author of nine books of poetry, including *Unshattered* (2023); *Incendiary Art*, winner of the 2018 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, the 2017 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the 2018 NAACP Image Award, and finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize; *Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah*, winner of the Lenore Marshall Prize from the

Academy of American Poets; *Blood Dazzler*, a National Book Award finalist; and *Gotta Go, Gotta Flow*, a collaboration with award-winning Chicago photographer Michael Abramson. Her other books include the poetry volumes *Teahouse of the Almighty*, *Close to Death*, *Big Towns Big Talk*, *Life According to Motown*; the children’s book *Janna and the Kings* and the *History Africans in America*, a companion book to the award-winning PBS series. She teaches at Princeton University.

INCENDIARY ART: THE BODY

I’ve nightmared your writhe, glum fists punching their way out of your own body, the blind stumble through the buckled vein of your throat as your nerve endings sputtered and blew. I’ve dipped my finger into a vaporous pool of your skin. The heat blessed your whole new self with horizon, square-jawed boy. With such potent intent, you blared illicit and just enough saint. Now, with so many northern days between us, you are much easier to God. But they are looking for you. They are wildly sloshing fuel across the landscape and they are screeching your name. Today, one said I sure would like to burn a black man alive. So, yep, you left us here with undulating acres of fools and that particular stank leg of gospel. You left us all this snuff, hawk and proud little bowleg, you left their brains stunned by dairy and fat meat. You left us not much path, even after your body was that brief beauteous torch. They seem to remember you fondly. And there are unstruck matches everywhere.

First published in *The Baffler*



HAYDEN SAUNIER is the author of four poetry collections and a chapbook, and her work has been awarded the *Rattle* Poetry Prize, Pablo Neruda Prize, and a Pushcart prize. Published widely in journals and magazines, her poems have been featured on *The Writers Almanac*, *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily* and National Public Radio. An actor as well as a writer, she is the founder/director of *No River Twice*, an interactive, audience-driven poetry performance. www.haydensaunier.com

THAT WINTER

I labored at life like it was a hard-edged thing: grim, separate. All winter it snowed.

Details piled up, erased other details, world gone blank and full of bright cold

packed to the horizon with its scaffold of trees and stars and the nightly scar-sound

of huge plows scraping the iced roads raw. Some years are like that. Spikes strapped

to my feet, I shoveled, chipped, kept my eyes fixed to one treacherous path,

while the inky plume of my dog’s tail wrote her own story into every blank field.

Please join us in Tyler 142, Newtown Campus.

Contact: Ethel Rackin, ethel.rackin@bucks.edu

All events are free and open to the public. The readings are funded by the Cultural Programming Committee.

