

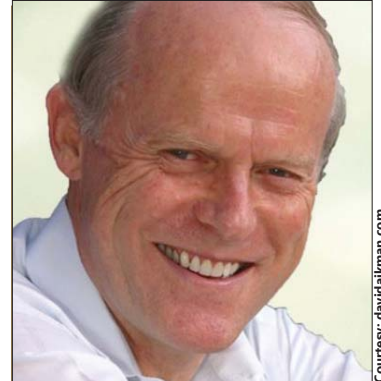
# theherald

February 3, 2017

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Demonstrators at the Jan. 27 March for Life in the District of Columbia



Courtesy: davidaikman.com

## Dr. Aikman Returns to Ireland

by Hailey Kilgo

Former PHC history professor David Aikman will move from his home in Warrenton, Virginia, to Vicar of Blair, a county in Ireland, in February to be closer to family. When Aikman left PHC two years ago after 10 years as a history professor, he took with him a hope for the future because of the students he taught.

“For me, it was the quality of the students. We, as professors, were dazzled by how good many of them were, and even if they weren’t particularly intellectually talented, what fine personalities they were,” Aikman said. “It was a real pleasure to teach people who wanted to learn and who were curious. It was a remarkable experience.”

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## PHC Students March for Life

*Students, Faculty Say New Administration Raises Hope for Pro-Life Cause*

by Bruce Truax

“I!” the priest yelled.

“I!” the crowd responded.

“I BELIEVE THAT!” the bald priest, decked out in his vestments, was hollering directly into the microphone.

“I BELIEVE THAT!” echoed back the college and high school students, aging activists, Catholics, Hispanics, feminists, Trump supporters, pacifists, and seminary students.

“I BELIEVE THAT I AM PRO-LIFE!”

“I BELIEVE THAT I AM PRO-LIFE!”

And with that, the entire crowd started jumping joyously as they screamed those words.

The PHC students and faculty who attended the March for Life found it to be far more uplifting and celebratory than they had expected.

“I have been going to [pro-life] marches my entire life,” Professor David Lee said. “I went to the march in South Carolina for as long as I can remember. And there is always this somber atmosphere, but at

this particular march, there is this feeling of hope.”

Vice President Mike Pence was the first U.S. Vice President to ever speak at the March for Life.

“Because of all of you and the many thousands in marches like this all across the nation, life is winning again in America,” he said, according to LifeSite News.

PHC students were surprised to see such positivity at the march.

“I’ll admit I was a little con-

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## studentgovernment

The Senate debated include the spring presidential election, the annual Sadie Hawkins loan bill, and the Mac & Cheese in the dining hall.

The Senate approved the Election Commission's proposal for the Spring 2017 Executive Election. The filing period will be from March 13th through the 20th. The run-off election will be April 3rd through the 4th and the general election will be the 10th and 11th.

The annual Sadie Hawkins loan bill was approved unanimously by the Senate; it provides a short-term loan to the organizers of the Sadie Hawkins dance that's paid back with the dance's profits.

The Senate's most controversial agenda item of the night was on the Mac & Cheese Resolution. It encourages Bon Appetit to regularly serve the dish. The bill was approved on a thin 8-6 margin, with 5 senators abstaining.

~ Tim Kocher, Speaker of the Senate

## Dr. Aikman: Life Is a “Leap of Faith”

continued from cover

Aikman’s career at PHC was unplanned. During a trip to Purcellville, Aikman drove past PHC and then went home to research the school and what it stood for. After learning about the classical education model, the Biblical viewpoint, and the desire to shape culture, Aikman met with the then PHC president, Dr. Michael Farris, and was hired in the same day.

“When he decided to come here, it was something the college was very excited about,” President Jack Haye said. “In talking to David over the years as a friend, he knew that this was such a unique place with what we were trying to do, especially in looking at history and wanting to be as accurate as we could, while preparing students to think clearly and write well. That was really exceptional to him.”

Senior Giovanna Lastra worked as the Academic Affairs Assistant to Aikman. The time she spent working with him has impacted her well past his time at PHC.

“Dr. Aikman is a man who knows how to balance the practical understanding of being in the world while also knowing the beauty of being a believer and displaying that for the world,” Lastra said. “He inspired me to see that God can work miracles in life, and he made me believe in the world, because he was present during events that were tragic, and he spoke of them in stories that made them beauti-

ful.”

Professor is only one title used to describe Aikman. His career at Time Magazine spanned 23 years, starting in 1971. Aikman worked as senior foreign correspondent for *Time*, as well as bureau chief in Berlin, Jerusalem, and Beijing.

He has published nine books, traveled to five continents and 55 countries, and interviewed everyone from Billy Graham to Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

“I claim no credit for getting the interview either,” Aikman said. “I just happened to be at the Washington bureau, and just happened to be a Russian speaker, and the editor got a call and asked me if I’d like to go and do it. I said, ‘Boy, would I like to.’ It was an interesting time; the student protests were going on in China, and I got up to Vermont two days before I was flying off to China to cover what would become the Tiananmen Square Massacre, so it was quite a dislocation of scenes.”

In his 2002 book *Great Souls*, Aikman named six people he deemed substantial in history, among them Solzhenitsyn, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, and Billy Graham, who Aikman interviewed twice.

“The second time I interviewed Billy Graham, I flew into South Carolina, and I expected him to send someone to pick me up, but I came out, and he was sitting in arrivals with a sort of southern looking hat on to hide the fact that one of the

most famous evangelicals in the world was sitting there, waiting for me, some unimportant reporter,” Aikman said.

Those who know Aikman admire his remarkable spirit of humility, along with his reputation for being a tough foreign correspondent.

Here at PHC, however, Dr. Mark Mitchell remembers Aikman’s graciousness the most.

“There’s a kind of art to accepting help graciously, and he exemplified that,” Mitchell said. “The time or two I was fortunate enough to help him out, he’d smile, and there was a lightness to his attitude and a graciousness that was striking.”

From reporting in a helicopter above Vietnam, interviewing African warlords in their homes, or being chased by the KGB on an assignment in Russia, Dr. Aikman has used a storied life and career to tell the truth about the world, and that truth is his lasting legacy here at PHC, a legacy that will follow him wherever he goes.

“To tell you the truth, being a reporter is like being a fly on the mixing bowl of history,” Aikman said. “I did not want to be a journalist, that is no secret, but I always wanted to be close to the events happening and I have been. There’s no way I could have predicted that this would happen, but I suppose that’s all of life. You take a leap of faith and from there you just go.” ♦

## Julianne Owens: Seeing Through a Cultural Lens

by Victoria Cook

“Imagine we’re looking at a ball,” senior Julianne Owens said. “We want to understand what we are talking about. I think the ball is yellow. You’re convinced the ball is blue. As we continue looking at the ball, we can’t understand why we see it differently. In reality, I’m wearing yellow glasses, and you’re wearing blue glasses.

So until I stop and look at you and figure out what kind of cultural lens you’re wearing, I’m not going to understand why you see the world the way you do.”

When the president of the International Cultural Exchange Services (ICES) invited Owens to speak at the nonprofit’s national conference that took place Jan. 25-27, she quickly accepted. Owens left campus to fly to Las Vegas, Nevada, where

she gave a presentation on cultural differences.

“In interacting with people around the world, it is so important not just to understand how they see the world, but why they see the world, because until you understand why someone sees something the way they do, you can’t really value or respect their perspective,” she said.

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# The Importance of a Worldview

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Owens started interning with ICES in January, but her love for culture and diversity stems back to her high school years. She became passionate about cross-cultural understanding after two experiences as an exchange student, one in Oman and the other in Germany.

“I came to see the value of not just visiting another culture but immersing yourself in it,” Owens said.

Since then, Owens has worked on marketing the Global Ambassador program, which connects high school students with foreign exchange students in hopes that the exchange students will become acclimated to the new country and culture they are in. She wrote the 15-page manual for the program, which she introduced during a joint presentation with her mother, Kari Owens.

Las Vegas surprised Owens. While every Vegas hotel functions as a casino, Owens’s hotel, the New York, New York Hotel, also included a roller coaster, a miniature version of the Statue of Liberty, and various inside restaurants that mimicked downtown New York.

“My instant impression was that this city was cooler than I expected,” Owens said. “[It] was clean and impressive, although that’s not to say there weren’t bad sides to it.”

At the conference, Owens’s 45-minute presentation on understanding culture was a breakout track for experienced staff.

“I talked about how many people view their culture as intuitive, when, in reality, it’s all about how you perceive things,” she said. “Each culture is a different lens, and the lens through which you view the world largely impacts who you are.”

She explained that culture is more than the sum of all of its definitions and that cultural differences happen when the intuitive norms of two different cultures are contradictory.

“People would describe culture as the norms and beliefs of society that are passed down from generations or something to that effect,” Owens said. “Rules and expectations, leadership styles, notions of self, notions of beauty, attitudes towards age, views on raising children, importance of space—these are all cultural differences that people view as intuitive



Julianne Owens

Courtesy, Julianne Owens

when in their own culture.”

After her presentation, ICES President John Crist walked up and hugged Owens. He explained that if she ever needed a recommendation he would help. Others, including the head of Student Services, contacted Owens about future meetings.

“Going into this presentation, I was so scared that I would again be frustrated with my performance or ability to communicate and articulate well,” Owens said. “However, I received enough positive feedback to quell my fears... I’m overall happy with how things went.” ♦

## Preview: APP Conference and SI Workshop

by Leah Greenwood

“Technology and Communication” is the theme for this year’s APP Conference from Feb. 10-11. All members of the PHC community are welcome to join the APP majors on the second day of their retreat to hear the speakers’ presentations and attend a job fair afterwards. Five speakers are slated to present on topics ranging from cyber security, Google, net neutrality, and current and future technological issues.

Michael Carowitz from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is scheduled to speak along with Max Everett, who worked on a cyber security unit at the inauguration. Other speakers in-

clude Josh McGuire, former senior counsel for Google; Tom Struble, who is from TechFreedom and will cover issues such as smart cities and next-gen wireless; and Brent Skorup, who is from Mercatus Center and will give an overview of today’s relevant technology topics including driverless cars and drones.

The conference is at Hyatt House, Dulles. Registration is \$25, and a link can be found online to sign up. “[This conference] really gives APP Majors and other students an opportunity to learn about things that are relevant to their career that they wouldn’t otherwise learn at PHC,” conference coordinator Maggie McKneely said.

An SI workshop called Religion in Russian Geo-Political Strategy is scheduled

for Feb. 11 at 9:45 a.m. in the BHC Board Room. It will provide a glimpse of what Russia actually looks like today and to help people understand the role that religion plays in Russia’s strategy.

“[It will give] a better appreciation for the history of Russia and its intertwining with the Russian Orthodox Church as an organization as a strain of the Christian religion,” Dr. Gordon Middleton said.

Middleton and Dr. Stephen Baskerville as well as experts Dr. Paul Coyer and Rebekah Koffler will present. Afterwards a Q&A panel for attendees to participate in will follow. The event is open to all members of the PHC community, but Middleton’s personal approval is needed in advance for anyone not affiliated with the school to attend. ♦



# Sword Thrusts or Healing Words

The first story in the Herald's spring semester series, Social Media: Changing Culture

by Evie Fordham

A Twitter feud erupted last week between Purcellville Vice-Mayor Karen Jimmerson and Loudoun County Republican Committee Chairman Will Estrada. Jimmerson tweeted that Estrada works for an organization that “suppresses women.” He answered by referencing PHC alumna Rachael Holmes as a “strong” woman who shares his ideology, and Jimmerson responded by calling Holmes “brainwashed.” Unlike most, this Twitter spat ended with a Facebook apology (from Purcellville’s mayor), but it’s another example of how social media, for better or worse, are dramatically changing the nature of public discourse.

“Council members are encouraged to ensure that their free speech is exercised within the context of the greater responsibility with which they have been entrusted by the citizens they represent,” Mayor Kwasi Fraser said.

Author Neil Postman lamented the exchange of the written word for television in his 1986 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, which described a cultural change of valuing appearance over ideas. Building on the idea that “the medium is the message,” Postman explained how forms of communication influence the ideas individuals communicate and therefore their culture.

“Our media are our metaphors,” he wrote. “The forms of our media, including the symbols through which they permit conversation, do not make such statements. They are rather like metaphors, working by unobtrusive but powerful implication to enforce their special definitions of reality.”

Compared to Twitter fights, TV seems like a respite from the 140-character bundles of invective constantly hurled on social media. Twitter invites users to neglect facts and call names instead. Its instant nature leaves no room for reflection.

“Twitter wars are polarizing,” Class of 2016 grad Holmes said. “Two sides come

up with 140-character jabs at the other side. There isn’t any ability to flush out your argument... While people on your own side may applaud you, and it can advance your political position with people who already agree with you because they like what you are saying, you will not really advance your cause.”

When Jimmerson tweeted at Estrada on Jan. 23, she included a link to a *Loudoun Times-Mirror* article about Loudoun GOP’s call for county chairwoman Phyllis Randall to denounce extreme speeches at the Jan. 21 Women’s March on Washington.

They went back and forth until Jan. 25. Jimmerson called Estrada and the GOP’s views about women “archaic,” and Estrada responded by mentioning two PHC alumni involved in politics, Susanna Foote Carrillo and Holmes. Holmes is an aide to Tony Buffington, a county supervisor who defeated Jimmerson’s husband in 2015.

Jimmerson replied that Holmes worked for Republican Buffington because “her school programmed her to” and that she is “held hostage by ideology.” Jimmerson also said in a now deleted tweet that Holmes had disposed of opponents’ campaign signs in 2015, a claim that is unsubstantiated.

Estrada stopped tweeting, but Jimmerson continued to spar with tweeters defending Holmes.

“I was horrified,” Holmes said. “I messaged Will and thanked him for his positive comments towards me and PHC, but I also asked him not to bring my name up on Twitter conversations like that again, since I purposely do not have a Twitter account to avoid unnecessary negative encounters... He was very understanding.”

Twitter offers individuals freedom, but like all freedoms, it comes with the possibility of abuse, said associate professor of government Dr. Roberta Bayer.

“Email and Twitter allow us to respond immediately – people send off a note without thinking about it,” she said. “There is no moment of sober second thought. Yet,



Credit: Pixabay

civilization is built upon the restraint of emotion and consideration for other people... Tweeting is much like the general tendency of so many to react to anything with which they disagree by protest or some public action, rather than to treat disagreements as inevitable in a free society and something that requires thought and discussion.”

Senior Lauren Lee Mitchell joined the Twitter fight on Jan. 25.

“I was in disbelief when I saw her personal attack on my former roommate,” she said. “I couldn’t believe an elected official claiming to stand up for women’s rights was straight up attacking a young woman from her own constituency.”

Despite the nastiness, Mitchell believes social media has had a positive influence on society.

“Twitter and Facebook are extremely effective at getting word out quickly and holding public officials accountable for their words and actions,” she said. “I don’t think anyone should argue online just for the sake of arguing. The Jimmerson issue was different; I strongly believe it’s a matter of public interest.”

In his Jan. 30 Facebook post, Fraser extended an invitation to Holmes and President Jack Hays to meet with himself and Jimmerson. Holmes plans on accepting.

“It’s tempting to come up with a comeback quickly in order to ‘beat’ the other side,” she said. “It’s not a formula for edifying conversation. Proverbs is full of verses instructing us to tame our tongues. My favorite is Proverbs 12:18: ‘There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.’” ♦









Credit: Esther Maynard

continued from cover

cerned that with as aggressive as the political climate has gotten, this march could have easily broken up into a riot,” junior Sebastian Lopez said.

Near the end of the march, the students came across a group that was chanting and dancing to joyful marching songs with the aid of several drummers.

“I felt like I was a part of something,” senior Elizabeth Wilk said.

Others mentioned the hopeful political climate.

“It’s an especially important time to be supportive of the movement because of the fact that politically we have the best

chance in several decades to make some significant progress,” Lee said.

The Women’s March on Washington, which feature many pro-choice demonstrators, was held a week prior to the March for Life. The organizers of the Women’s March uninvited several feministic pro-life groups.

“This is what we conservative women live with all the time, this idea that we somehow aren’t really women and we just reflect internalized misogyny,” Charmaine Yoest, a senior fellow at American Values, told the New York Times. “I don’t think they represent women. I think they are a wholly owned subsidiary of the abor-

tion movement.”

The Washington Times reported that the Women’s March had 129 times more media coverage than last year’s March for Life; ABC was the only major network to mention the pro-life event in a 35-second news segment. This year, after public prodding by President Trump and others, the networks vastly increased coverage, giving the March for Life about a third of the attention they gave the Women’s March.

“I went because I believe it is the biggest social issue facing America today,” junior Brian Pederson said. “Taking away a life is just about the worst thing you could do to a person.” ♦



Credit: Hallie Skansi



Credit: Esther Maynard



Credit: Hallie Skansi

# Claire Atwood's Semester at the Embassy

by Meg McEwen

While we were all preoccupied with Walk and Talks, exams, and the 2016 election, Claire Atwood was experiencing the ins and outs of foreign affairs in the heart of London last semester. Atwood accepted an internship position at the United States Embassy in London, an opportunity that would confirm her life calling.

"I am very interested in communications and foreign policy, and that is the epitome of diplomacy," Atwood said. The internship solidified her desire to go into foreign service and showed her the steps to take to get there.

When anyone asks Atwood how she got the internship, she simply shrugs and responds, "I applied!" Atwood submitted her application to the state department for two positions: the embassy in London and the US mission to NATO and Brussels. When she received the acceptance email from the embassy, she had 24 hours to accept the position. Even though Atwood did not need more internship credits, she began packing.

"All of the experiences that PHC has provided me, whether that be through forensics or the unique classes in the SI program, or the previous internships I have had, gave me a very solid application to the state," Atwood said.

Atwood began working in the political section at the US embassy under the jurisdiction of foreign service officers. She primarily covered and analyzed different bilateral and multilateral issues, coordinated visits with high level officials, and developed contacts within the academic communities.

Despite her responsibilities, an hour-long commute, and the fact that her main supervisor did not show up until a month after she arrived, Atwood did not feel overwhelmed. "London is a very easy, doable city. It is such a cosmopolitan place. And working with all Americans made it fairly adaptable," Atwood said.

On her first day at the embassy, At-

wood found a letter on her desk from Kent Hoshiko, a student at PHC who worked at the embassy before her. "He had a couple of pictures of Northern Virginia, and he mentioned different restaurants that I should check out in the area. So, that was a nice reminder of Patrick Henry College and of a friend," Atwood said.

Atwood experienced waves of populism during her time at the embassy. She witnessed first-hand the opinions of foreign diplomats during post-Brexit England, the referendum in Italy, Austria's election, and the American election. "The reaction in D.C. would be replicated by the reaction at the embassy. I do not think anybody saw it coming," Atwood said of Trump's shocking victory.

When she attended a round table meeting at the European council in Foreign Relations, the officials discussed what foreign policy would look like depending on the outcome of the election. "They devoted all of this time to analyzing Clinton, and then they barely devoted any time to Trump, because they did not think it was going to happen," Atwood said.

Atwood particularly enjoyed working with political military issues, including NATO and the UK's role in NATO and all of the Russian developments. "London is an interesting place because it is a center point for people meeting to discuss issues in the Middle East," Atwood said.

Because her host family and the officials she worked with were American, she felt like she was not fully "immersed" in the English culture. Her personal travels to Scotland, Northern Ireland, Czech Republic, Vienna, Munich, and Hanover in Germany gave her a more comprehensive idea of Europe. Her first tea in Northern Ireland was not quite the "proper" British tea - mismatched plates, china, and decorations were strewn about the tables in a Mad Hatter fashion- but Atwood thoroughly enjoyed herself. "I went to all of these places, and I stayed with the natives. They showed me their towns and their countries in ways that I probably would not have seen," Atwood said.



Atwood by Number 10 Downing Street

"My perspective has grown, and I met a lot of great people," Atwood said. After a rainy, lonely day in Vienna, a man approached Atwood and asked her a question in German, then English, as she waited in a station for her return trip to Brno. What followed was one of the best conversations that Atwood had on the trip. The Kurdish man had traveled to Germany from Northern Syria and overcame struggles as he forged a new life for himself.

"At the end of the conversation we were saying goodbye, and he was crying and I was crying. I got back on my train and I felt so helpless because I have such a privileged life, and I didn't know where he would be sleeping that night," Atwood said, "You realize that everybody is so similar, and you share so many common feelings and emotions and struggles." ♦



# PHC Student Writes and Produces Play

by Vienna Jacobson

Senior Luke Thomas will present *No Brains for Dinner*, an Edwardian-era, zombie-themed play he wrote and will produce, from March 23-25 in Town Hall.

Thomas has worked on the play since his junior year. The idea came from a late-night conversation with a close friend. While the script was originally to involve both friends, it became clear a few weeks into the process that this was going to be Thomas's project.

Although the play was turned down by the college's theater company, Eden Troupe, Thomas wanted to fulfill his dream and choose to do the production on his own. Launching a Kickstarter cam-

paign, he was able to fund the production with the help from fellow students, the local community, and friends. He received half his funding after the first week.

Thomas denied any feelings of competition with Eden Troupe, which is currently producing the musical version of *Little Women*. *No Brains for Dinner* shares faculty sponsor Dr. Cory Grewell with the troupe. Grewell told Thomas that he thought the play was going to be "strange and wonderful."

The play will center around the story of a young, aspiring aristocrat, Oscar Norton, played by senior Andrew Kelly. Kelly's character deals with the trouble of having a brother with a "condition" as he attempts to enter into society.

Graham Jackson, a senior and veteran



Eden Troupe actor, has secured a role in Thomas's play. Jackson, as well as the other cast members, hold Thomas and his creation in high regard.

"It is something the artist has created and is putting into motion," Jackson said. "There is some really special and valuable about that." ♦

# Freshman Starts Women's Basketball Team

*The Lady Sentinels gear up for upcoming games*

by Marjorie Pratt

During her application interview, admissions counselor Stephen Pierce suggested to freshman Jae Jared that she organize a new women's basketball team. Jared had listed her interest in basketball on her student application. He explained that PHC no longer had a women's basketball team, but told her it would be possible for her to start one if she was interested. Jared came to school with that in mind, and now the team is up and running.

"The team for this semester is a probationary one," Jared said. "Our goal in having a team this semester is to demonstrate to the administration that we are serious in our pursuit of a team... We don't have a coach this season, but we will this fall if the administration is satisfied with our commitment."

The Lady Sentinels have two games (which will be more like scrimmages)

scheduled for Feb. 20 and 28.

Current junior Sequoia Poths tried to resurrect the women's team alongside current senior Kendra Olsen in 2014. Sixteen girls joined and met for practices regularly, but a majority stepped back before the first game, and the team was forced to forfeit the rest of the season.

Most of the girls had never played basketball before, and many had never played team sports. Poths suggests this may have been the cause for the lack of passion for the game among the girls.

"A team needs passion to survive," she said.

When Jared set out a sign-up sheet at the activities fair in the fall, she saw a lot of interest. She contacted those who had signed up as well as some girls who had experience with the sport, ending with a list of 10 girls who were willing to play.

Since the semester started, the girls have practiced twice a week and had a few scrimmage games against fellow students.



Jae Jared

Jared already sees camaraderie forming among the team. After the first practice, the players walked off the court talking about the best plays and positions the team and its members, she said. ♦

# The Caesarian Dialogue

by Luke Thomas

*On a nice spring morning, two virtuous Romans meet each other in the square. They greet each other, and the conversation naturally finds its way to politics.*

**Julius:** Hello, countryman! What brings you out into the square today?

**Gaius:** I am waiting on the deliberations of the Senate; I must report on their proceedings to the scribes.

**Julius:** Again? Did they not meet just last week?

**Gaius:** They did. Their meetings have been so tedious, long, and unnecessary you would think they were straight out of *The Phantom Menace*.

**Julius:** What's that?

**Gaius:** What?

*There is an awkward silence.*

**Julius:** Anyway, I hope you enjoy the meeting.

**Gaius:** I doubt I could.

**Julius:** I could join you; my schedule has been cleared for the day.

**Gaius:** Then you must be the only one. There have not been any members of the public in attendance since the great piano debacle.

**Julius:** What's a piano?

**Gaius:** We citizens are far too busy as it is to spend our time on the concerns of our government when the only method of doing so is so complicated and prolonged. It is no wonder why citizens do not show up.

**Julius:** Why not just read what the scribes summarize from the meetings?

**Gaius:** With the hundreds of scrolls and codices to be read, do you think an important citizen has enough time to spend toward that? It becomes so easily lost among so many other emails.

**Julius:** I'm confused.

**Gaius:** Even more, the important part of attending the senate meetings is to have your opinion considered, and that cannot be done while reading that which is only the past.

**Julius:** Why not talk to a senator out of session?

**Gaius:** Who is a senator and who isn't? That is a question that oft plagues my mind. A senator alone has only so much power, he is simply one among twenty others. If the cause is so great, why not come to the Consul, Andrew Kelly?

**Julius:** Who?

**Gaius:** Why indeed, take the long way around through protocol and bureaucracy when the one who has the power to veto the work of the senate can use his influence directly?

**Julius:** Why indeed, Gaius?

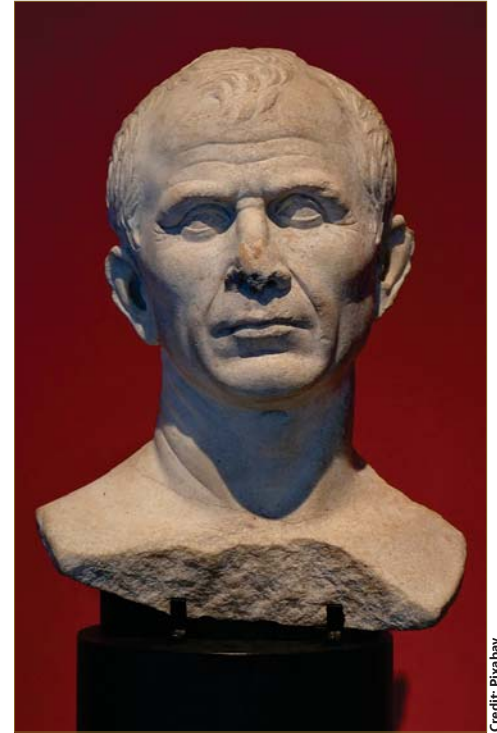
**Gaius:** If Occam's razor be here applied, it seems the senate must be denied.

**Julius:** Did you just rhyme?

**Gaius:** For twenty or so to represent a few hundred—I'm not sure that is best.

**Julius:** Why do you say that, Gaius?

**Gaius:** Don't you think that a single executive, common to all citizens, but with



Credit: Pixabay

nearly the same power he holds now, only without so many bureaucratic restraints, would prove best for the polis?

**Julius:** I do indeed. Don't you know that the senate would never have that? They enjoy too much their politicking and arguments.

**Gaius:** That is a worrisome detail.

**Julius:** But a Caesar?! I think it would be a boon to our great polis. However, would it not be controversial unlike anything before?

**Gaius:** Come Julius, when have we Romans ever been fools for controversy? ♦



Credit: Pixabay

## Announcing the

# CREATIVE CLASSIC

We'll publish the best three short stories in the Herald and on PHC'S website! Must be under 800 words. Due Mar. 20. Submit entries to [ejfordham248@students.phc.edu](mailto:ejfordham248@students.phc.edu).



# B Too: A Tale of Waffles

by Beth Bergstrom

If you're looking for a tale of great heroics, this may not be the story for you, though there is a hero in the story. However, if you are looking for an adventure to find the best waffles in D.C., you should continue reading. After a night of scrolling through Facebook, Rebekah and I found the video that changed our lives: a restaurant filled with savory and decadent waffles. We assumed this fairy-tale like place must be in New York or L.A., so imagine our surprise in finding out it was only an hour away in D.C.

We immediately planned a night out and dreamed of the magical grilled cheese waffle until we left a few days later. After a long trek to D.C., we arrived at our dreamland, a restaurant called B Too. As we walked by the restaurant door, we saw people dressed nicely inside. We started to wonder what we had gotten ourselves into. After all, we are merely poor college students. We do not eat at expensive restaurants. When we revealed to the hostess that we did not have a reservation, she took us around a corner and down a set of stairs, down to what appeared to be

no more than a cellar. At this point, we started to question our life decisions and whether or not we were actually being led to our deaths. Spoiler alert: we didn't die. We instead found ourselves feeling out of place and self-conscious. We glanced around and took our seats.

And then we met our hero, Phoenix. He offered to describe the specials, but Rebekah quickly said we were there purely for the waffles. He laughed. After seeing the menu, neither of us ordered the grilled cheese waffle, also known as what we'd been drooling over for days. I ordered the lobster waffle; Rebekah, the mushroom waffle. Within moments, our food arrived. The waffles were stunning and looked like they were pulled straight from the pages of a magazine. Bobby Flay would have given them an A for plating, although Rebekah's mushroom waffle did look a little like a plant with the mushrooms covering it. We thought the night had peaked, and then our hero asked us if we were ready for dessert. We ordered and waited, and every time a waiter came near us with food, we jumped in anticipation.

Finally, our hero arrived bearing the object of our affections: the daffle, do-



Credit: Beth Bergstrom

nut dough cooked in a waffle iron, filled with ice cream, and topped with whipped cream, chocolate, chocolate sauce, and sprinkles. Calories? What are calories? Nothing else mattered. We were in love. As we chewed, we reflected on the sad reality that it was all downhill from here; the daffle had condemned us to a lifetime of disappointment. Nothing could ever top that.

Overall, the downtown D.C. restaurant was perfect. We paid no more for our meal than we typically would have at a sit-down restaurant, and the staff made us feel right at home. ♦

# #notmymcdonalds

by Alan Iiyama

Last semester, PHC students mourned the closing of McDonald's. It was only temporary, but many students like myself awaited its return. I'm not particularly fond of McDonald's food, but I'll eat there if the dining hall's closed or I need something to eat late at night. If you heard the word "McDonald's," I'm sure the first thing that came to mind wouldn't be "great food and coffee." No one associates Big Macs with clean floors and avant-garde style chairs. However, over the past few months, McDonald's has been renovating their restaurants nationwide—attempting to seem less like a burger joint with a clown mascot and

more like an inviting restaurant where you could sit down for a coffee and read a book. Purcellville's McDonald's has become another victim of the company's sad attempt to rebrand itself. It's fighting the growing competition from places like Starbucks; yet, changing the aesthetic of your restaurant does not change the quality of your food. No matter how modern McDonald's makes itself appear, at the end of the day, it's still serving crappy burgers. When I go to McDonald's, I expect to find a homeless man talking to an employee about drugs and no one bats an eye; it's like a friendly reminder of home. The old McDonald's layout, while awful, was at least authentic. The design of old McDonald's matched the food I was re-

ceiving -- a solid 4/10. The new McCafe mosaic gives me less of an "Italian coffee shop" vibe but more like an "Irish-Italian barista on his third failed business" vibe. With the renovated aesthetic, McDonald's dishonestly represents what it is. McDonald's will never be a fancy restaurant. It needs to remember what it's selling and to whom it's selling. It shouldn't be marketing to obnoxious hipsters. McDonald's is a restaurant for poor college students, crazy homeless people, and parents who forgot to cook dinner for their kids.

Woe to you, McDonald's. You are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of all uncleanness and whatever a McRib is made from. ♦