

theherald

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Members of the Macbeth cast during rehearsal.



Credit: PHC Communication

Students praying at Bear's Den.

Election Aftermath: "Just Pray"

by Rebekah Jorgensen

"I hope you're happy. I and so many of my friends are now terrified for our very lives."

This sentiment and thousands of others like it flooded social media sites following Donald Trump's election to the presidency, with some evangelical Christians decrying the election as the fault of the modern American church.

Yet both before and after the evening of Nov. 8, 2016, Christians urged fellow believers to pray for the election, regardless of the results.

Often, it seems as if prayer for the country is used as a sort of defensive measure, a last resort when all other options fail, leaving

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PHC Presents Shakespeare

Eden Troupe Puts On MacBeth as First Show of the School Year

by Evie Fordham

Eden Troupe's *Macbeth* opened last night with an emotionally wrenching and nearly flawless first performance. Chaz Toplikar played the title character, Caitlin Coulter his wife Lady Macbeth, and Sutton Haye his rival Macduff. Husband-and-wife duo Christian and Lauren Fernandez directed, and senior Drake Jones was producer.

More performances are scheduled for Friday, Satur-

day, and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

"I love directing, and I really wanted to try my hand at tragedy," said Christian Fernandez, a 2016 graduate who also directed *Henry V* in Spring 2015. "*Macbeth* is one of the most fascinating tragedies with its ancient Greek as well as supernatural aspects."

In this Shakespearean work, Macbeth is a nobleman with stifled ambition who, prodded by three fortune-telling witches and his wife, kills the king and claims the

throne. He is hard-pressed to bury his misdeed, however, and Macbeth spirals into more murder and madness to maintain his throne.

The directors envisioned *Macbeth* as a play with a cinematic twist, and they accomplished their goal with extended battle choreography and a soundtrack written by alumnus Stephen Pierce. The majority of the play's action took place in the center of Town Hall with the audience

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studentgovernment

This week, the Senate passed several pieces of legislation. The most consequential legislation was the Class Time Adjustment Act, which advises the Administration to evaluate moving the MWF 11:30 class time forward 10 minutes to begin at 11:20, providing students with a 30 minute window for lunch. The Senate also passed legislation extending the sunset date for the Alcohol Policy Assessment Commission into the beginning of the spring semester. The extension provides APAC with the opportunity to receive more feedback from the student body before submitting its final report. Two other pieces of legislation, the Internal Senate Relations Act and the Tech Commission Modernization Act, change regulations governing Student Government. And finally, the Senate approved the creation of the Alexander Hamilton Society, which heads to the PHC Executive Cabinet for final approval.

Balancing Christian and Civic Duties

continued from cover

one to wonder if that is all to which God has called his people.

"I think too many people equate the Republican Party with following God's plan," Luke Thomas said, "fulfilling his promises or being attuned to goodness on earth when that is definitely not the case."

Leading up to this election, many evangelicals said that they were going to vote simply because of their civic duty. They did not care for either of the candidates; however, they wished to uphold their freedoms within a democracy.

"Civic duty means doing what you can where you are with what you have to create the best state you can," Madison Cawthorn said.

"We have Christian duties to love our neighbor, care for widows and orphans, etc. that all relate to our civic engagement, whether it be supporting particular candidates for office, advocating for specific bills, attending city council meetings, or simply finding a way to invest in one's own local community," Philip Bunn added. "The idea that our civic duty and engagement starts and ends at the ballot box is a travesty."

Despite this sense of duty and responsibility, questions regarding morality, ethics, and responsibility dominated discussions this election cycle, many answering these queries with, "Well I guess all we can do now is pray."

So is that all we can do? Is prayer nothing more than an afterthought that we tack on to our political leanings?

"You don't pray for what you think should happen; you pray for God's will to happen," Hailey Kilgo said. "If that doesn't align with your will, that's just life. There's still ways to be active in American politics, no matter who is president. You can still better your community and the



Senior Jordan Hughes leading wing chapel

country, no matter if it's Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. You keep praying for God's will for yourself and your life, and that's all that matters."

Our political opinions do not dictate our prayer life; rather, it is this active seeking out of God's will that determines our daily walk with him. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, not only are Christians commanded to "pray without ceasing," but we are also

commanded to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances.

Thabiti Anyabwile, pastor of Anacostia River Church in Washington, D.C. said, "I'm confident in the goodness of God and his loving rule of all things. And I'm confident that my ministry of prayer for the president will produce more than all my political participation. Now the work

begins afresh—on my knees and in continuous engagement."

This determination to pray is far more than a brief flash in the pan as evangelicals ask God desperately for their desired election result. It lasts even after the protesting and controversies have died down,

and the new president is settled into the White House.

"Regardless of particular interpretational quibbles, Christians for centuries have held that it is appropriate and essential to pray for our leaders," Bunn said. "This doesn't just mean praying that our favorite candidate will get into office or that they'll do what we want, but rather praying that God would give them wisdom to rule justly and to see their own failings and seek after God and his Word."

Such a perspective lasts long after the last ballot is cast on election day. Living in constant prayer for our nation's leaders often requires putting aside party affiliations and focusing on what we personally can change in our spheres of influence. Prayer is so much more than a few whispered phrases as we worry about results; it manifests itself in our attitudes, actions, and words towards each and every person around us.

"Supporting someone you pray for can sometimes mean just keeping your mouth shut," Kilgo said. "What I have to say isn't honoring to God and until it is, I just won't say much." ♦

"You don't pray for what you think should happen; you pray for God's will to happen."

Hailey Kilgo

Husband and Wife Duo Direct Eden Troupe Play

continued from cover

on either side, facing inward. Twenty-five actors and costumers Julia Tomaszewski and Aaron Kamakawiwoole brought the story from medieval Scotland to life.

The play opened with a battle between rebel forces and those loyal to the Scottish king, led by Macbeth. Audience members on the front row were almost a part of the action as swords clashed and clanged as the soldiers struggled. Then Macbeth entered, and it was clear he was the center of the story. He began fighting, and the tide turned for King Duncan's forces. The revolt was crushed, and afterward the king rewarded Macbeth with a new title.

Toplikar portrayed Macbeth in the early scenes as a true nobleman, likeable and upstanding. He cannot believe his ears when the three witches proclaim that he will become king.

Toplikar maintained the audience's sympathy even after he commits his first murder, egged on by his scheming wife Lady Macbeth. After the pivotal banquet scene, Toplikar unleashed Macbeth's insanity, and the directors' focus on the themes of ambition and fate became clear.

"Our initial theme was the idea of spi-



The three witches in Macbeth

raling," Lauren Fernandez said. "Its meaning is really the essence of tragedy because things start out being really good and then because of certain decisions the character sinks lower and lower and becomes more insane and more insane."

The banquet scene, in which Macbeth is visited by the ghost of his best friend Banquo, whom he murdered, marks the

play's turning point. Macbeth and his wife realize their dastardly actions have consequences.

Coulter gave a passionate performance as Lady Macbeth, alternating between the welcoming, gracious noblewoman and the heartless murderess, as the nuanced role required.

Haye as vengeful Macduff, Grace Richardson as lamenting Lady Macduff, and Luke Thomas as gracious Banquo gave other notable performances. Cory Gibbons, Abigail Olinski, and Olivia Cockley portrayed the three witches with perfectly creepy cackles. Comic relief in this dreary tragedy came in the form of Nathan Spangler, who played the drunk porter.

In true Elizabethan fashion, the directors incorporated the audience into the play. The actors addressed audience members directly, and the front row was given branches to hold up to set the scenes that took place in Birnam Wood.

"We want [the audience] to enjoy it," Lauren Fernandez said. "We want it to be scary while they're experiencing it, but the point is for them to come away wowed and able to say that it was fun." ♦



Macbeth

Loving Those Who Cannot Love Themselves

The Sixth Story in The Herald's Mental Health Series.

by Beth Bergstrom

"It's really stressful when you see someone you love and care about as much as yourself can't see the beauty in themselves," Alex (names changed to protect sources and their friends) said. "You live in constant fear for them."

All semester, the *Herald* has covered various mental health topics including stories on self-harm, suicidal thoughts and actions, and anxiety.

Alex's close friend and former roommate suffers from depression and suicidal thoughts and actions. As her friend's mental health became worse, Alex began putting her relationship with her above other relationships. "In the moment, my friendships with other people suffered because I did prioritize my friendship with her above everyone else," Alex said. "It was good in a lot of ways, but it was also kind of unhealthy. Our friendship was a complete codependence born out of one person's dependence."

Alex attempted to show her friend love through little actions, bringing food, coffee, or little presents in attempts to make her bad days better. But in the process of trying to show her friend that she was loved, Alex began losing herself. "By being kind of by her side at all times I adopted all of her problems as my own, so I felt her loneliness and her angst," Alex said.

Alex started skipping classes and blowing off other commitments in order to show her friend love. "None of these things are bad about her and I'm not complaining because I would do it again," she said.

Alex, who already suffers from anxiety, began experiencing a different form of anxiety from the experience. "It was honestly really hard to just walk into the room every day," Alex said. "I got anxious to open the door because I didn't know what I would find."



Credit: PHC Communications

Students overlooking Bear's Den

Another student, Sloane, had a similar experience with a friend who struggled with anxiety and self-harm.

"It was emotionally taxing," Sloane said. "There's this sense of responsibility and obligation to the person that's struggling. You can try to disconnect yourself and try to understand that it's irrational to be responsible for someone else's actions, but it's really hard."

In attempting to show her friend love, Sloane became emotionally and physically exhausted. Oftentimes, she just wanted to lie in bed, away from everyone's problems. "Truly, it is hard to control your own emotions when someone else's emotions are over the top," Sloane said. "And it isn't their fault at all, so there's just this complete sense of feeling out of control."

In her experience, Sloane has found that there is no perfect way to love someone who struggles with anxiety or self-harm. For some, Sloane has found that praying brings comfort. For others, quality time can calm the anxiety.

"I think that the way you show a person love is different with every relationship,"

Sloane said. "But I think that if you actively work to show them that they have worth in Christ, that really shows them love."

When attempting to show love to those who struggle with loving themselves, it is easy to get overwhelmed by the feelings of worthlessness and anxiety. Both Sloane and Alex found themselves in this position.

"Make time for yourself. Don't forget about yourself. Don't forget about your other friends," Alex said. "There is still life going on. Don't put other important things aside every single time. Sometimes yes, it is more important than everyday life. But every single time it doesn't have to be."

Alex does not regret the various ways in which she showed her friend love during the height of anxiety and self-harm. However, she does wonder how much she aided her friend. "Looking back, I don't know how much help I was," Alex said. "In the long run, I feel like I haven't been that much help." ♦

The George Wythe Review Gets A Facelift

by Giovanna Lastra

This is Christian McGuire's first year working as editor-in-chief of the *George Wythe Review*, and he came in with a big vision. "My vision for the journal was to bring it more to the level of other public policy journals in our field," McGuire said. This coming Monday, the editorial staff is releasing the new, revised *George Wythe Review*, and is hosting a symposium.

"In practical terms, what we've seen in terms of changes is almost doubling the number of papers we have, doubling the page count of the journal, and changing the cover to gage more interest," said Keith Zimmerman, the publication editor.

McGuire also wants to explore the possibility of having the projects officially peer reviewed. "The importance to peer review is that it gives the individual papers and the journal credibility. It makes the work a referenceable document," Zimmerman said.

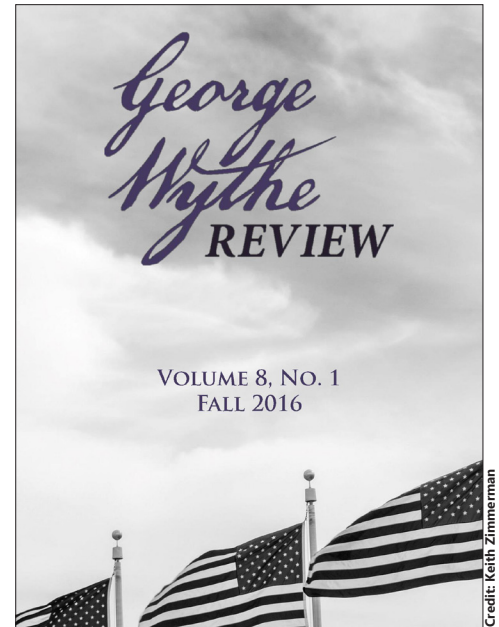
While introducing a bigger vision was

great for the journal, it was challenging for the entirely new staff. Junior Shane Roberts serves as the associate editor and William Bock, also a junior, is the research editor. Many of the staff members spent late nights in the journalism lab, and devoted endless hours to editing the papers.

The editors plan to release the official publication of the *George Wythe Review* before the symposium. At the event, several of the researchers will present their projects.

Lanson Hoopai, a 2016 alumnus, did an analysis pierce on supplemental nutrition assistance programs. His conclusions differ from the usual conservative view. Ashlyn Olson, also a 2016 alumna, is presenting her project on regulating drone usage and senior Maggie McKneely is presenting on the effectiveness of housing first homeless programs.

"The symposium will have controversial presentations. Some of the writers are presenting ideas that are not often held by mainstream conservatives," McGuire and Zimmerman said.



The editorial staff of the *George Wythe Review* encourages students to attend the symposium this Monday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the BHC boardroom to witness the class of ideas and engage in important public policy topics. ♦

The Election is Over...Now What?

by Beth Bergstrom

After an agonizing campaign that some say produced historic shifts in American politics, we now know who the president-elect is. But one question remains: now what?

All over the country protests broke out, the "Not My President" campaign gained traction, and genuine tears were shed. Some were thrilled, others devastated.

As Dr. Mark Mitchell said during his lecture last Tuesday night entitled "Donald Trump and the Future of Liberalism," the dismay is somewhat understandable.

However, the election is over. We as a society are now tasked with determining the future, not examining the past and considering the "what ifs" of the election.

People are concerned about what a

Trump presidency will look like. This is a natural reaction to any shift in political power, specifically one that is rather abnormal for the political culture in which we have been raised.

However, there is nothing left to do in regards to the next president. Truly, what is the point in worrying? Better yet, is there a reason we ever should have been worried? "For a Christian our citizenship is elsewhere," Mitchell said.

It is understandable that so many are concerned and worry about what the future of the executive branch will be. However, now is the time for love.

We need to show love to those who protest in the streets. We need to show love for those who celebrated in response to Trump's victory. Hate is not the answer, and neither is judgment.

Love does not mean agreement. Love

does not represent a sudden alliance with a political party or person. Love means accepting that we are not all the same, but instead that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Moving forward, faith should rest in Christ, not in politics.

"Too many people today have placed their faith in a political party, a political person, and a political program," Mitchell said.

As Mitchell closed the lecture, he explained our role in the future of society. We have a responsibility to ensure and protect that future. The responsibility is not one that has been sought out or asked for, but it has been given to us.

Now it is up to us to accept reality as it is, show each other love, place our faith in Christ, and work towards ensuring our future. ♦

Distance Learning Program Expands to Summer

by Leah Greenwood

Patrick Henry College has opened up Distance Learning (DL) classes to on-campus students for the summer term. “We wanted to give students a chance to lighten their loads during the fall and spring semesters,” said Dr. Les Sillars, Director of Distance Learning.

This summer, Dr. Cox’s Theology I & II, along with Dr. Grewell’s Western Literature I & II, will be offered. The DL program will expand to offer the majority of core classes over the course of a few years, although only selected courses will be offered in the summer.

Sillars said that the DL program is intended to make a PHC education available to as many people as possible by offering a reduced tuition rate and giving prospective students the chance to begin their PHC program from home.

School administration decided last month that opening the summer DL classes to on-campus students would be a benefit. The opportunity to take summer DL classes, however, may not be very beneficial to upperclassmen. “It’s not helpful for me, particularly, because they’re only offering certain freshmen/sophomore core,” junior Sam Rohrdanz said.



DL classes allow students the freedom to get ahead over the summer

However, Rohrdanz appreciates how taking summer DL classes could be helpful to other students, especially for “people with minors, since it’s sometimes hard for them to graduate on time.”

As a professor, Sillars has observed that many students with a lighter credit load often get more out of their classes than students who take multiple semesters of 18 or more credits. With this opportunity to knock out some credits over the summer, students can now clear their

schedules during the other semesters.

The tuition rate for DL classes is \$425 per credit (\$1,275 for a three credit course). This is the same for on- and off-campus students. Financial aid does not apply to DL courses, nor does taking a DL course affect a student’s eligibility for financial aid.

Registration for summer DL classes will be opened on the student portal during the spring registration period. ♦

APAC Extended For Another Semester

by Beth Bergstrom

The Alcohol Policy Assessment Commission (APAC) has been granted an extension by Student Senate.

Upon the creation of APAC last spring, Senate included a stipulation that the commission would have an end of the semester sunset date.

During a meeting, APAC members expressed concern that an adequate report could not be completed and presented by the end of the semester. After discussion, the commission agreed to introduce a bill

to Senate that would grant an extension of APAC. Bill sponsor Thomas Siu, along with co-sponsor Esther Katz, presented the APAC Termination Date Reform Act at Wednesday night’s Senate meeting.

APAC now has a sunset date of either the end of the 2017 spring semester, or upon the passage of their report by Senate.

According to APAC chairwoman Giovanna Lastra, the commission aims to release a first draft of the report to the student body over Christmas break. After giving students time to examine the report, the commission will host a public

forum at the beginning of the spring semester. APAC will then make any changes necessary and submit the report to Senate. Upon passage in Senate, the report will be presented to President Haye and the Board of Trustees.

The report will ideally be 20-25 pages in length, including the results from the surveys held earlier in the semester.

“I think that this report is essential to the future of our school,” Lastra said. “The process has given students the ability to think about the standards of the school.” ♦

DANCE THEMES

THE NARRATIVE OF THE NIGHT



by Harvest Prude

It's almost time for another dance night at PHC! You've got a great date, the perfect sized group, and before and after plans. You arrive and walk into the barn, or the skating rink, or the country club. Maybe it's the lights, or the tulle on the wall, or the photo booth, but you've walked into more than just a dance.

The PHC dance planners put time, effort, and creativity into making dances memorable, and oftentimes this starts with the theme.

A theme adds a lot, from subtle touches like a color scheme, to a full-out dress-up competition from the 80's, or mocktails based on James Bond's wild adventures.

Senior Giovanna Lastra planned the Freshman Dance '14, themed "Under the Sea," with Caitlin Coulter and Savannah Petree. "What would a dance be like for the Little Mermaid?" Lastra said. "We focused on the mix of blues and pearls."

They crafted a beautiful background for a photo booth with blue tulle and lights. "[It] created a lot of nice pictures to look back on," Lastra said.

Senior Caitlin Coulter has planned three dances. "I think the idea of a theme lends itself to creating a story, which in turn leads to cohesive or easily made memories," Coulter said. "It helps draw the narrative out of the night. Instead of just being a dance, you're going to an Under the Sea dance," Coulter said.

Coulter noticed that some dances did a better job than others of facilitating an environment with "people actually laughing and dancing and having community. She was excited to bring those opportunities to life.

For this past Hoedown Coulter wanted the feel of a country dance hall, so she held it in a local barn and provided plenty of sodas.

Junior Becca Samelson is planning this year's Christmas Ball with senior Blaire Bayliss and juniors Brenna Bakke and Danielle Fife. They're calling it "It's A Wonderful Ball." "We fell in love with the idea of doing a slightly vintage Christmas theme that everyone would know very well and that wouldn't be too gimmicky,"





Sadie Hawkins '15: The 80's

Samelson said, referring to the tickets, posters, and memes that they are posting on Facebook.

They plan to have a Welcome to Bedford Falls sign, food related to the theme, and a dance competition similar to the dance competition that landed Mary and George in the pool. Samelson also hinted that "two surprise visitors who will be coming to the dance will bring it to life."

Samelson stressed that people don't need to dress up for the theme. "Our intention instead is just to remind people what Christmas is all about, that it really is A Wonderful Life."

Fife likes that the theme is unique. "We wanted to do a new take on an old dance," Fife said.

Senior Rebekah Jorgensen planned Sadie Hawkins '15 with a Candyland theme and '16 with an 80's theme.

"For the 80's dance, some girls wore their mom's old prom dresses," Jorgensen said. "The chance to have some fun with themes is a unique opportunity."

Jorgensen thinks bolder themes make looking back on the dance more enjoyable. "If you do a theme that is fun and relaxed, that puts people at ease and makes their feedback of the dance more positive."

Senior Ellyse Elmer attended a strategic intelligence event that ended in a black tie dinner called "Spies in Black Ties." It gave her an idea. She joined the Liberty Ball commission, and pitched a James Bond theme.

The planners incorporated Bond-themed graphics for marketing, and used a black and gold color scheme. "We pulled from the Casino Royale by using playing cards as decorations, and had a bartender making mocktails," Elmer said. "Themes set the mood and give people added inspiration to dress up. It helps people almost 'get into character' as well as getting into fun fancy clothes," Elmer said. She noticed a lot of sleek black dresses and glitzy jewelry from the ladies, and classic Bond looks from the guys.

In the end, dances are a chance to get off campus, forget school, and create memories. Ending up Under the Sea, in Bedford Falls, or back to the 80's is all a part of the narrative of the night. ♦



Courtesy: Rebekah Jorgensen



Courtesy: Caitlin Coulter



Courtesy: Rebekah Jorgensen

Rapper NF: The Face of Relevant Christian Rap

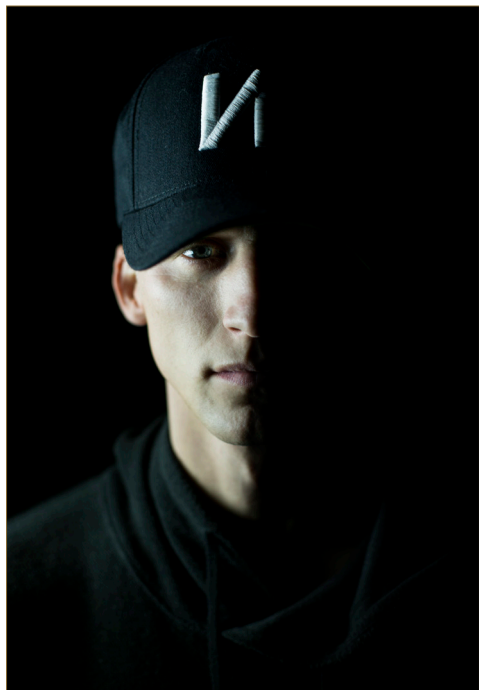
by Evie Fordham

*This is the way that I cope with all my emotion
I'm taking pictures with thousands of people
But honestly, I feel like nobody knows me
I'm trying to deal with depression
I'm trying to deal with the pressure
How you gon' tell me my music does not have
a message*

"Therapy Session" by NF

The raw emotion captured in every one of NF's songs has garnered attention from critics and hip-hop lovers for the 25-year-old rapper. NF (real name Nate Feuerstein) wrapped his 27-show Therapy Session Tour on Nov. 2. His soul-baring music has struck a nerve with a generation of millennials seeking hope, but some worry the rapper emphasizes depravity over redemption.

NF is often called a Christian rapper, but most of his songs are not overtly Christian. His first studio album, *Man-sion*, came out in March 2015. Critics compared him to chart-topper Eminem. He dropped his second album, *Therapy Session*, in April with similar success. The album makes it clear that NF writes music



Credit: Wikimedia Commons, User Capitol CMG



Credit: Keith Zimmerman

NF performing at his Baltimore concert

to heal himself. Every track is like listening to him spill his innermost thoughts. In "Oh Lord," NF raps, "Everybody's gon' die/ Don't everybody live though/ Sometimes I look up to the sky/ And wonder do You see us down here?"

"I appreciate that he's an artist that talks about real things and makes good music too," junior Keith Zimmerman said. He discovered NF's music in 2014, when the rapper only had an EP on the market. "He never really portrayed himself as an artist like Lecrae or Andy Mineo," Zimmerman said. "He started out cussing, but then he saw it was unnecessary for a Christian. It's important to him that he makes music for everyone and not specifically for Christians."

NF's music is trademarked by his candid expression of rage, frustration, and disappointment. His mother's death by drug overdose in 2009 and his fans' stories of abuse, self-harm, and mental illness influence his lyrics, which are undeniably heavy.

Some critics wonder if the darkness that seems to drive his music is healthy for him or his concertgoers.

Music writer Egypt Ali of blog NEO Music Scene attended NF's Oct. 19 show in Cleveland.

"From the first drop, all I could see was

a hurt kid's rage put to a beat performing in front of other hurting people," she said. "I have to wonder if this whole room of kids feels this way. Maybe a review of his music might not be the only thing we have to consider."

Ali is right to consider his music's effects, but she may be underestimating the widespread hopelessness of today's teens and young adults. *TIME* magazine's Nov. 7 cover story "Anxiety, Depression, and the American Adolescent," by Susanna Schrobsdorff, brought attention to the plight of two million American teenagers experiencing "depression that impairs their daily function." They represent a spectrum of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. They include the weird kid in the corner of the lunchroom and the captain of the cheerleading squad. Distracted parents and a performance culture that pressures kids to have perfect grades, bodies, and relationships are to blame, wrote Schrobsdorff, who detailed the stories of teens who seem happy to others but once alone resort to cutting, starving themselves, and unhealthy relationships to escape their despair.

What Schrobsdorff failed to realize is that teenage depression, and depression in general, are nothing new. This side of heaven, all people fight with feelings of

worthlessness. Sometimes a hurting kid does not need a counselor to make him count his blessings or a friend to distract him from the pain. He needs someone who has felt what he is feeling to tell him that his pain is real, but there is a God on his side who is more real. That is NF's overarching message, loud and clear on his track "All I Have." He raps, "Don't tell me that this isn't real/ Don't tell me this ain't how I feel/ This is all I have."

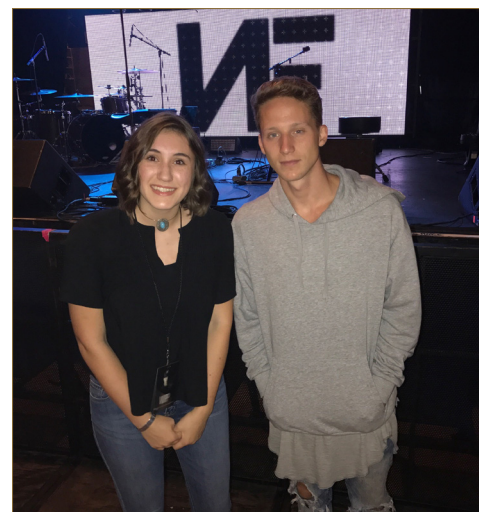
"He's the realest rapper I've ever heard," said junior Jared Midwood, a self-described "avid hip-hop fan."

"He doesn't shirk the fact that if things in his life had gone just a little bit differently, he would probably be a pill junkie battle rapping in a strip club basement somewhere," he said. "But along with that realism is his deep sense of gratitude to God for saving him from the lifestyle he deserves. He doesn't cram religion down

peoples' throats. He has a clear sense of morality in his music, but it's not forced, [and] that's a far more effective witness." The rapper's universal themes and subtle theology have attracted a diverse fan base, something Zimmerman noticed at the two NF concerts he has attended, including a sold-out one in October at the Baltimore Soundstage.

"There are people there who are Christians and some who are not," he said. "That's something you don't see [as much] at other Christian concerts, and I think it's cool because his music reaches a wider audience."

Zimmerman hopes that this broader audience will come to faith through NF's music. His focus on the dark and dirty parts of life can make God feel distant, but his testimony and more God-centered songs show listeners a clear path to healing. His last two albums have been a



Evie Fordham with NF.

Credit: Evie Fordham

compelling but painful pill to swallow for rap fans, but many believe that NF's next album will be just as relevant but with a larger dose of hope as he continues to mature in his style and his faith. ♦

The Scars of Communism

by Meg McEwen

As a young boy under the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia, Dr. Josef Šíma believed that peanuts were magical. After all, he reasoned, they just happened to materialize around Christmas time. Following the fall of communism during the Velvet Revolution in 1989, Šíma became a celebrated author and editorial director of the oldest free-market think tank in the Czech Republic. He realized in the early course of his studies that the centralized economy instituted by the Communist regime crippled the national currency, with not even enough money to import peanuts year round.

Šíma shared his firsthand experiences of the Czech Republic's prosperous transition from communism to democracy in the PHC coffee shop on Nov. 17, 2016, the 27th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. In the early 20th century, Czechoslovakia was one of the richest countries in the world. However, after half a century of communist rule, the old prosperity dissipated. Even today, the country still keenly

feels the painful transition from communism to democracy.

Šíma showed slides during his lecture that depicted the same streets and cars before and after 1989. Before, dilapidated buildings hunched over worn cobblestone streets. People mocked the plastic Škoda cars that littered the streets, joking that you can double the price of the car by filling it up with gas.

Other countries retained a degree of private property, but in Czechoslovakia everything belonged to the state. One of Šíma's friends waited twelve years for a landline phone. People bribed the government to be bumped up the eight-year waitlists for cars. The dark chains of communism accompanied economic inefficiency and stagnation.

On Nov. 17, 1989, police antagonism transformed a peaceful protest into a bloody riot, eventually leading to a populist revolution. When the regime brutally beat and imprisoned students handing out flowers, the people decided "enough is enough." Through the series of events that followed, half a century of communism finally came to an end.

After the Velvet Revolution, color filled the streets. In the new competitive market, business owners painted and renovated their buildings because they wanted to draw in customers. Prague overcame unique problems during the transition. Because those who retained wealth during the revolution were typically the communists themselves, the common people had no money to bid for the ownerless factories and businesses. Rich foreigners could come in, but that would create anti-localism.

The solution to this problem was voucher privatization. According to Šíma, this was a "wonderful exercise of creating new private property structure." Instead of using money, the new government issued a pseudo currency, vouchers, which could be used to buy shares. Within a few months the former state-owned enterprises became privately-owned firms.

The Czech Republic still lags behind the other countries that were unscarred by the Communist regime, but, according to Šíma, Prague has become a center for free market ideals since the fall of communism within her borders. ♦

Luke Thomas: Film Philosopher Extraordinaire

by Bruce Truax

In his 80's canvas shoes and pirate goatee, Luke Thomas looks the part of the undergrad film buff. In a way, he is one.

Thomas recently started "Filmosophy," a campus club designed to promote thinking about good films. It focuses on philosophical films and ways in which those films can tell their viewers about the world.

Thomas started this hobby by showing films to friends and fellow students ever since he came to PHC. "I was always shocked or surprised at the movies many of my friends had never seen before," he said.

However, when he tried to have philosophical discussions after his films, he was teased. So he decided to show a film in an environment where he could freely discuss it.

Thomas claims that film is "a superior art form" because it has a greater variety of elements than other art forms like stage plays or paintings.

"Film gives the modern man the ability to experience something that he definitely



Credit: PHC Communications

wasn't able to 200 years ago," Thomas said. "Films aren't made for the ideologues nor are they usually made by the ideologues. Films are made for the most amount of people."

Thomas's experience in film first started with a script that he showed his roommate, Jesse Eastman, who had experience creating films for HSLDA. Eastman connected Thomas with Ian Reid, an independent contract filmmaker who had previously worked with Eastman on HSLDA film projects. Thomas met with Reid to discuss the possibility of producing the

script he was writing. Though Reid was unable to guarantee that he could create a movie out of Thomas's script, he did give Thomas the position of assistant producer on some projects.

Ultimately, Thomas believes that his time at PHC has helped him understand film in a more holistic manner. He credits Dr. Mark Mitchell and Dr. Roberta Bayer for expanding his worldview and helping him appreciate art.

Thomas wants to become a director one day. Until then, he plans to study and discuss film as much as possible. ♦

Reaching the Community

by Victoria Cook

Before Dec. 4, the PHC community can donate funds or pillows to the Community Involvement Commission (CIC), which has started their first outreach since forming earlier this semester. The donations will go to the Good Shepherd Alliance for their homeless shelter in an effort to help the community and make connections with local organizations, creating more frequent and feasible PHC outreaches.

The CIC's mission is to pop the "PHC bubble" and provide more opportunities for students to build relationships with the locals.

"The game plan for CIC to connect PHC with the community is simply to find ways we can benefit or give back to the community," Seth Lucas said. Along with the pillow drive, the group currently plans on developing a student-tutoring program that will connect PHC to local schools.

Despite having only two meetings thus far, CIC is in the process of outlining its mission statement and next semester's projects. "I believe what we would like this committee to achieve is good communication and a good relationship with the local government and local shelters," Conliffe said. Conliffe has been in touch with the Purcellville mayor Kwasi Fraser about ways PHC can help the community.

"Patrick Henry College partially exists as it does because of the surrounding community, and we need to pursue ways to participate and give back to that community," Lucas said. To do so, one of PHC's focuses needs to be service, not only to the inner community, but also to the community at large.

"We want to be a blessing to the community around us," said Dean of Students Sandy Corbitt.

As the CIC continues to grow, PHC students can get involved and look for ways to help out the people around them. "As long as we have people willing to serve, we can do great things to better the lives of our neighbors in Purcellville," Conliffe said. ♦



Credit: popcorntheology.com

The Salt and Butter of Cinema: Popcorn Theology

by Meg McEwen

Every week on *Popcorn Theology's* Facebook group, hundreds of theology buffs and film lovers assemble to poke and prod popular movies and TV shows for underlying truths. Prof. David Lee, science instructor at PHC, co-founded the popular *Popcorn Theology* podcast in March 2015. He and his neighbor, Richard Foltz, explore the underlying theological and spiritual truths in movies and TV shows. The team just uploaded its 66th episode on the new Marvel-Benedict Cumberbatch hit, *Doctor Strange*.

"Even films made by ardent atheists or nonbelievers of other persuasions have themes in their films that reflect the Gospel in many ways," Lee said. "We attribute that to the nature of all humanity as image bearers of God. Even though some may deny the truth of God, they cannot help but tell stories that sound like the Gospel."

Lee and Foltz trace both positive and negative themes like selflessness, sacrifice, and self-redemption throughout the cinematic world. A professing Christian directed *Popcorn Theology's* most recent subject of study, *Doctor Strange*. The movie breached the sensitive topic of magic in a way that illustrated the otherworldliness of Christianity. "*Dr. Strange* begins as a pretty ardent materialist, but by the end he's entranced in the mystical arts, which is far from the Biblical world view. At the same time, the illustration of how that becomes apparent to Dr. Strange parallels in many ways the Biblical transition," Lee said. The movie makes the case that humans are not just matter and motion.

Lee and Foltz find shadows in movies that effectively portray the Gospel, whether or not the director or screenwriter intended it. They recently broadcasted a discussion of *Lord of the Rings*, a story originally contrived by Catholic J.R.R. Tolkien. Unlike the *Chronicles of Narnia* series written by fellow author C.S. Lewis, Tolkien did not necessarily intend for his books to be interpreted allegorically. However, Lee recognized character growth throughout the three movies that clearly emphasized Christ-like traits. "You have Pippin who goes from being a fool to being wise. Sam goes from being fearful to being the most courageous throughout the entire saga. Merry goes from being self-focused in many ways to being a really selfless warrior," Lee said.

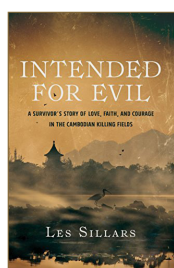
Sometimes, redemption cannot be pinpointed in a movie. Lee attests that his favorite film, *Fight Club*, is one such movie. "There is very little redemption in the story of *Fight Club*, but there are a lot of Biblical concepts that are illustrated in negative ways. There is a good illustration of what it is like to follow a false teacher, for example," Lee said.

Popcorn Theology's more popular episodes feature guest speakers like Christian astrophysicist Jason Lisle. When Lee dis-

covered Lisle's affinity for *Star Wars* after the ICR conference at PHC, he seized the opportunity. Lisle agreed to discuss the astrophysics of *Star Wars: Episode VII* on the show, and it became one of the most highly-downloaded and enjoyed episodes to date. The podcast hosts interviewed Brian Godawa, a writer and filmmaker who examines worldview and media, and Jamie Costa, a Hollywood comedian famous for his Robin William impressions. Lee and Foltz also discussed one of Lee's favorite movies, *Braveheart*, with R.C. Sproul Jr.

The *Popcorn Theology* podcast attracts 800-1000 listeners weekly, and its active Facebook group just topped 1,600 members. The fans do not shy away from a good debate. They take the podcast's warning seriously: "Remember, you are not a mindless consumer."

"Much like being a PHC student where you learn how to engage literature and media and culture, we try to do a similar thing with TV shows and film where, rather than just mindlessly taking them in as consumers, we actually engage and interact with them," Lee said. The social media group attracts a wide variety of viewership, including atheists, by providing flexible, intellectual interaction. ♦



Book Signing

Dr. Sillars will be available to sign copies of *Intended for Evil* at the bookstore today (Friday) at 3:30, and will give a short reading in the coffee shop at 4:30

Don't Dress Like Your Mom Taught You

by Thaddeus Tague

United States Marine Lewis “Chesty” Puller looked out at his beleaguered marines. It had been days of heavy fighting, and the communists had surrounded them. Again. He paused as he stared at the expectant faces of his young troops, then he said “All right boys, we’ve been looking for the enemy for some time now. We’ve finally found him. We’re surrounded. That simplifies our problem of getting to these people and killing them!”

That’s generally how I feel when I step into a men’s clothing store with a low budget: especially H&M. Yeah yeah I know – I’m crazy.

But hey! My craziness might just get you a girlfriend. So keep reading.

In a short article there is so much I could say. What to match, what is in style, haircuts, socks, tie bars...you get the picture. So here are a few guiding principals of men’s fashion that I hope to impart to those of you who shall still remain on campus after I am long gone.

Spend money on the basics. Get a slim-fit white dress shirt, and a grey vest. Its simple, and it really isn’t exciting. It’s not sensational but it can eventually be part of an outfit that is.

Please buy and wear black dress socks. White socks have no place in the PHC business casual realm.

Know your measurements. Don’t wear things that are too skinny, and don’t wear clothes that are too baggy. If, when people look at you, the first thing that comes to mind is a ship in full sail, *you’re doing it wrong*.

Invest in a solid pair of NEW black dress shoes. These will last you a long time and become your best friends. They will also make or break a good outfit. The best out there are Cole Haan black dress shoes. Sometimes when I shake hands with another guy, I glance down at his dress shoes. Why? Because it will tell me one of two things: He is either financially unable to get new dress shoes, or he doesn’t care enough to even shine them. The former is totally excusable, and a valid reason. The latter not so much.

Take some time to notice what the models in the men’s ads wear. Sure, none of us will ever have his cheekbones or his waistline, but the combo is still valid. Try it out.

Try things on, and ask your friends, “Does this work?”

This begins the crazy hard process of determining what *you* can pull off. Knowing your fashion limits and what looks

good is essential to finding a groove or a style that fits you really well.

Buy a utility blazer. This sucker will be the workhorse of your business casual days. When you don’t feel like putting on a tie, your blazer can carry the outfit.

I could list 100 of these, but that’s not what matters. A gentleman is someone who (amongst a myriad of things) spends a long time picking out his outfit, and then walks outside looking like he forgot all about it.

You don’t need to love clothes, or be a fashion fanatic to look extremely good when you put on business casual. Get a good haircut, buy a few pieces of clothing on sale during Black Friday, and try. Be confident in your clothing choices, and when someone tells you that it doesn’t look great, just smile and say you’re trying new stuff out.

To conclude: when the Marines of Chesty Puller’s division were cut off behind enemy lines and the Army had written the 1st Marine Division off as being lost because they were surrounded by 22 enemy divisions, the marines made it out inflicting the highest casualty ratio on an enemy in history and destroying seven entire enemy divisions in the process.

That’s usually how I emerge from H&M. Victorious. ♦



PHC lost to Appalachian Bible College 64-46

PHC Men’s Basketball Schedule

Nov. 12 Appalachian Bible College	Jan. 30 Christendom College
Home 7:00pm	Away 7:00pm
Nov. 29 Christendom College	Feb. 3 Williamson Free School
Home 6:30pm	Home 7:00pm
Dec. 3 Central Penn College	Feb. 4 Mid-Atlantic Christian Univ.
Away 3:00pm	Home 3:00pm
Jan. 21 Williamson Free School	Feb. 8 Mid-Atlantic Christian Univ.
Away 1:00pm	Away 5:00pm
Jan. 23 Central Penn College	Feb. 11 Appalachian Bible College
Home 6:30pm	Away 4:00pm ♦

Film Review: *Arrival*

by Jared Midwood

One of the first memorable pictures that director Denis Villeneuve gives us in his suspenseful new film *Arrival* is Amy Adams, staring soullessly at a wall sized television screen in her university classroom. She doesn't flinch in her gaze of steely disbelief. Around the world, 12 alien vessels have descended upon various locales – sending the media and global citizens into shock.

The vessels of transportation, referred to throughout the film's duration as "shells," are perhaps homage to previous science fiction genius. They bear a striking resemblance in makeup and contour to the famous monolith at the beginning of the film that changed the sci-fi industry, Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. They are decidedly more rounded but just as impenetrable as their 1961 "counterparts," but they serve the same basic purpose. They are harbingers of an extraterrestrial race, come to communicate with earth's inhabitants.

It is into this familiar plotline that *Arrival* carves its own niche. It is a nuanced picture of what happens when multiple streams of reality converge in one global cataclysmic event. It prominently and fearlessly showcases geopolitics and international relations (the general of the Chinese People's Liberation Army has a more important role than first realized) against the familiar backdrop of sci-fi storytelling. The movie turns on a cleverness not fully understood until the final scene.

Arrival hinges as much on language as it does on aliens, and that's where Amy Adams (*American Hustle*) comes in. She is a gifted translator and professor of linguistics, and she has worked with the likes of Colonel Weber (Forest Whitaker, *Panic*

Room) before. Her experience is what causes the United States government to call on her (or in this case, come waltzing into her personal office) in the first place. Communication must be established with the creatures, and it must be established fast.

The first moment when the beasts and the humans make true communicative contact found me holding my breath. "Now that's a proper introduction," I agreed along with the protagonist.

Most of the film centers on Adams and Jeremy Renner (*The Bourne Legacy*) trying to establish conversation with the beasts, to the endgame of figuring out why they have landed their crafts on Planet Earth, and what their purposes for arrival are. A la *Signs*, the real physiology of the aliens is not fully disclosed until the pivotal payoff in the narrative. However, the film neither lags nor gets stuck in its own self-induced quagmire. It settles into a sufficient pace that is necessary to uncover the layers of intrigue being presented.

The most surprising and intimate moments of the story are Adams' flashes of memory. They revolve around a young girl, presumably her daughter, who is introduced in a disquieting Terrence Malick-like montage of life sequence at the movie's outset. They shape her personal development, her mental state, and her choices in a way that is hard to fully appreciate. The dreamlike sequences are neither forced nor wasted; Villeneuve ensures that not even the smallest of details is left hanging in the end.

Villeneuve follows two previous excellent films, *Enemy* and *Prisoners*, with a third. *Arrival* is a fascinating and often breathtaking genre piece. It supersedes *Children of Men* in foreboding atmosphere, *Interstellar* and *The Martian* in plot structure, *Solaris* in the emotional human as-



pect, and even *2001* in social commentary. Its turning point reminds the viewer of the *Matrix*, but is crisper and more intense.

Step aside Christopher Nolan; *Arrival* just might come to be the defining space movie of the decade. It is already garnering critical and popular comparisons to the all-time genre masterpieces, and for good reason.

Arrival (rated PG-13 for brief strong language) is a wonderful film. Perhaps its most redeeming and relieving quality is its ending. There are no interdimensional bookshelves, no gaping plot holes. What is left when the credits rolls is a hint of a mystery that brings hope to the viewer rather than anguished uncertainty. The film neatly concludes the plot without giving too much away, but without leaving the viewer guessing either. Of all the alien-oriented sci-fi films I've watched, *Arrival* is the most satisfying. ♦

A Message from the
Bookstore:

Effective spring semester 2017, the bookstore will have a \$3.00 minimum

when using a credit or debit card to pay for your purchase. ♦

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Lady Macbeth Being Fitted for Her Crown

Courtesy: Christine McDonald

#trendingatPHC

"My favorite Thanksgiving dish is definitely my mom's stuffing because it has a little bit of everything. It has sausage, pumpernickel bread, gravy, apples, and other ingredients. It's just my favorite!"

-Peter Thompson

"Cranberry sauce because it makes every other food more interesting."

-Andrew Lonon

"My favorite dessert on Thanksgiving is pecan pie because my grandparents had a pecan tree in the backyard and every year, my brother and I would pick pecans for the pie my grandma made."

-Hailey Kilgo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Walk and Talk
w/free hot chocolate

Nov. 21
9:24 pm
BHC Steps

Christmas Tree
Lighting
Nov. 28
7:30 pm
BHC Lobby

Christmas Ball
Dec. 1
7pm-10pm
*Bush Tabernacle
Skating Rink*

Harmonicomed
Dec. 2
8 pm
Town Hall

"My standards for dating verge on Mein Kampf ideals." -Diego Lastra

[#heraldbackpage]

Have a candid pic of campus life? Post it on social media and tag us. Or send it to gmlastra811@students.phc.edu