

# theherald

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Dr. Bradley discusses the difference between poverty and inequality.

## Seeking Prosperity for the City

*Bradley provides a perspective on serving others and economic inequality*

by Leah Greenwood

"I'm a Christian first and an economist second. That's important for all of us as Christ followers [to remember]," said Dr. Anne Rathbone Bradley, the speaker for this year's Faith and Reason Day at PHC.

With a Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University, Bradley is the Vice President of Economic Initiatives at the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics (IFWE). She works on research for a systematic biblical theology of

economic freedom, and has taught at Georgetown University, George Mason University, and Charles University in Prague. Currently, she is at the Bernard Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy. She has served as the Associate Director for the Program in Economics, Politics, and the Law at the James M. Buchanan Center at George Mason University. Bradley has also worked as an Economic Analyst for the CIA's Office of Terrorism Analysis.

The lecture, entitled "Is Income Inequality a Sign of

Injustice: A Biblical and Economic Perspective," focused on examining the problem of poverty by combining a biblical lens with an economic way of thinking. Bradley covered this topic in her chapter of IFWE's book, *For the Least of These: A Biblical Answer to Poverty*. "Economists have to be grounded in the truth of human nature...and you can't do that without being grounded in the Scriptures," Bradley said.

Bradley started by looking

continued on page 3



Courtesy: Shiyi Zhang

## Loving God Through Language

by Hailey Kilgo

Sophomore Shiyi Zhang volunteered as a translator for two visiting professors from China in her hometown of Austin, Minnesota, over Christmas break. Zhang's mother, fellow translator and a proficient Mandarin speaker, provided her with the volunteer opportunity. The professors visiting from China had been working with Riverland Community College since November to form an international partnership with their school in China, the WUXI Vocational Institute of Communication.

"The two Chinese professors brought their contracts from China, and they needed me to help them facilitate the event," Zhang said.

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## studentgovernment

*Student Senate passed no bills this week, but here is a reminder from Student Body President Andrew Kelly:*

The PHC student body is getting ready to send its first organized missions team to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on March 4 to work alongside World Gospel Outreach. Eight students will serve for a week with WGO's medical brigades in the impoverished barrios of the city. They'll provide support to Honduran and North American doctors and dentists, will help lead children's activities and ministry, and will aid with repairs and concrete flooring for homes. With every activity, they have the opportunity and the goal of sharing the gospel. The team asks that the PHC community would be praying for the trip. They will need good health, safe travels, and strong unity for the entire week. Pray for the Holy Spirit's working through all of the service opportunities and evangelism, that God might be praised in Honduras. To donate, contact Clayton Millhouse.

# Dr. Anne Bradley Speaks On Faith and Charity

continued from cover

in Genesis, and she pointed out that humanity does not find its origins in poverty. The Garden of Eden was bountiful, and God gave humans the charge to keep watch over what He bestowed to us.

"We were made to work and take care of what we were given," Bradley said.

We failed to do this in the way which God had commanded, however.

"If we look deeply," she said, "We have poverty because we're fallen, not because we don't have money."

Still, we are to do what we have always been called to do, even though it will be harder now that we are fallen.

People specialize in what they are good at and earn an income because everyone has different skills and talents. Bradley noted that having different abilities does not mean you have different worth. She said that people often forget that dignity has to do with the One who created us.

"Time is the great equalizer. Bill Gates only has 24 hours per day...If we believe Scripture, every minute counts," Bradley said.

She also said that Christians should use their God-given talents to better help other people.

Equality in incomes does not necessarily mean equality in living conditions. Poverty and inequality are not the same thing. The Gini coefficient is how inequality is measured, but it does not accurately portray the quality of life.

"For us to prosper, we need to seek the prosperity of others," Bradley said.

She described it as "reweaving 'shalom'" into our circles.

"Shalom is things working the way

**"If we look deeply, we have poverty because we're fallen, not because we don't have money."**

**Dr. Anne Bradley**  
Vice President of Economic Initiatives at the IFWE

they're supposed to," she said. Each person is going to reweave it differently.

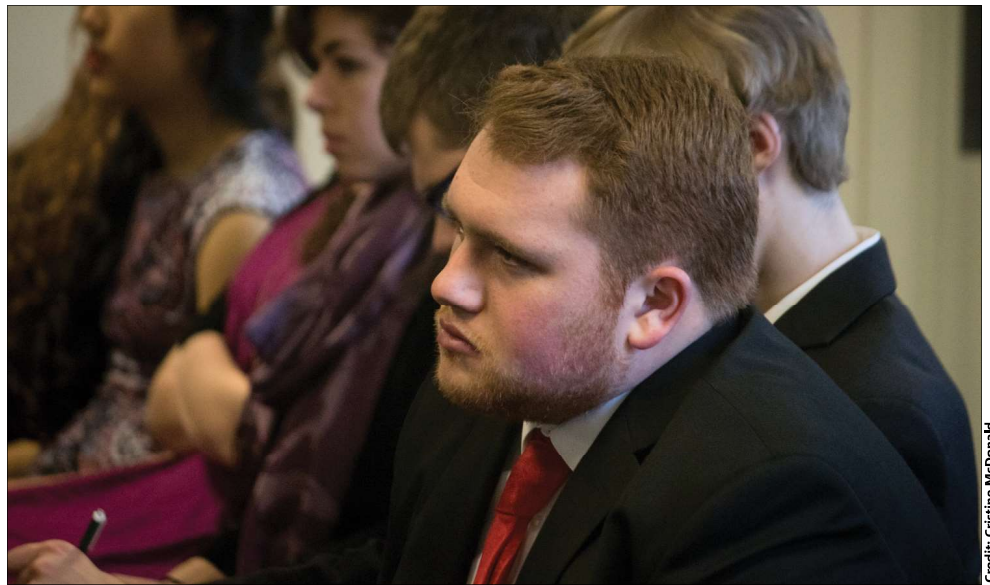
Overall, the audience seemed to react well to Bradley's presentation. A few of the students, however, wished that she would have gone more in depth.

"[Bradley] did a good job, but I feel... that she gauged this towards a more general audience," freshman Sutton Haye said.

Sophomore Emily Roessler particularly appreciated Bradley's use of the example of former President of the Soviet Union Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States, where he was astounded at the abundance of a typical American grocery store. It seemed like a paradise compared to the rations in his country's planned economy.

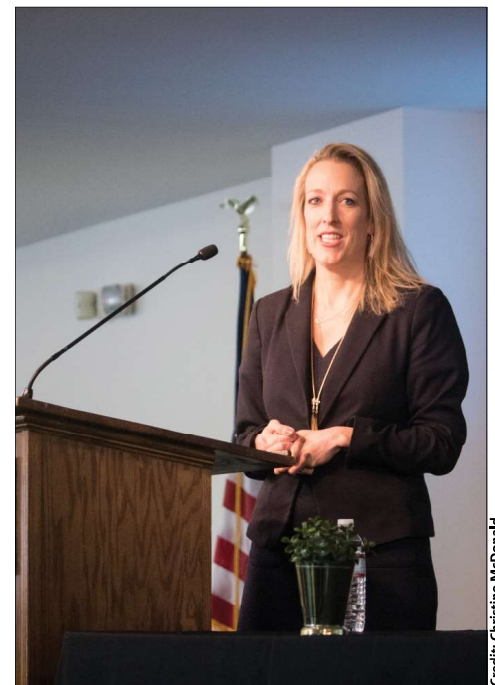
"It was so interesting to hear that he was standing in awe of all the different kinds of popsicles we have," Roessler said.

"I really liked that [Bradley] gave a presentation and didn't read from a script because it was more engaging. Sometimes the speakers get really hard to follow... She elucidated exactly



Credit: Cristine McDonald

Students listen to Bradley's lecture



Credit: Cristine McDonald

Dr. Anne Bradley

why income inequality is not the most substantial issue facing America," sophomore MK Collins said.

Poverty, in one form or another, is always going to exist in the world, but Bradley encouraged her listeners that they can help by understanding how wealth is acquired from an economic viewpoint, and learning how to then extend that wealth to the poor through biblical teachings. ♦



# PHC Couple Deletes Social Media Together

*This is the second story in the Herald's Social Media Series*

by Evie Fordham

Belle Tague paid for the ice cream and handed the last cone to her younger brother. She took a step back to admire the picturesque scene before her: her three little siblings, absorbed by slowly dripping ice cream and, behind them, the blue water and bright sand of the beach in Carlsbad, California.

She reached for her phone to snap a picture for Instagram. Then, Tague remembered that she and her boyfriend had deleted all of their social media accounts a few weeks earlier. She was more than okay with keeping their day at the beach as her own memory to treasure.

Tague and her fiancé, Seth Mitchell, quit social media in December 2015, before they were engaged. They represent a small fraction of millennials who deliberately forego social media. Almost three billion people had at least one social media account at the end of 2016, according to Hootsuite.com, and social media has undoubtedly changed the nature of friendship, business, and even dating. After a few years wrapped up in social media, Tague and Mitchell deactivated and now spend that time on their relationships and responsibilities.

"I've been social media-free for 14 months now," Tague said. "The goal is to be able to breathe and focus on what's right in front of me, appreciate interactions with people, and appreciate the beauty in the world that I see. Hopefully in doing that I'll learn to love the Lord a little more and allow Him a little more space in my life."

Tague was an avid social media user before that December conversation.

"I adored Instagram," she said. "I put a lot of pride into how I ran my feed... I was definitely addicted to Snapchat, especially senior year [of high school] it was so overboard, and I got myself into trouble with boys."

Mitchell was annoyed by how time-consuming Instagram and Facebook had

become for him.

"We were talking about how every day it's the first thing you do when you get up in the morning - check Instagram, check Facebook," he said. "Any time you have a few minutes or a few hours to spare you were just on your phone posting pictures or scrolling through feeds... It took up so much time that we could theoretically be doing other things."

When Tague suggested they delete their accounts, Mitchell was surprised but agreed to it.

"We deleted Instagram and Facebook right there, which was a huge deal," Tague said. "It was right before Christmas break, so we kept Snapchat through break [to communicate with each other] then deleted that as soon as we got back."

Their parents were elated, and their friends were confused.

"Over that first Christmas break, I had way more time with my family," Tague said. "I found myself reading a lot more. I used to love drawing in high school and drew all the time, and over that break I was drawing."

No social media makes it easier for Tague and Mitchell to focus on school.

"It has helped me appreciate the kind of education we're getting here," she said. "Sophomore year, I was in this rut. I didn't really like the school anymore, and I was doing it because I had to... Now, I'm realizing that I really do love it and appreciate why I'm here and what I'm learning. Even in the core classes that no one really likes, I'm seeing little things that I care about. That's not all social media. That's other things that God's been doing in my life too, but I think that's an element of it."

Deactivating Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat also lessened the habit of comparison with others they fostered. The pressure Tague felt to be as put-together as her classmates or the nameless models on Pinterest decreased.

"Not to be constantly bombarded with pictures of what I think is beautiful or what other people think is beautiful is



Courtesy: Belle Tague

**Tague and Mitchell**

helpful," she said. "It doesn't mean that I don't compare myself still because I totally do, but the constancy in which it's coming at me has decreased a lot. That's helpful just for me to have a better understanding of who I am."

Tague and Mitchell read aloud together with the new time they have found. They have conquered titles from the *Harry Potter* books to Albert Camus' *The Stranger*.

"It helps us grow as a couple, and I know that sounds strange, but time invested in reading and thinking together just takes you places you couldn't even know," Tague said.

Mitchell was excited to introduce his fiancée to his favorite series.

"She's never read *Harry Potter* before," he said. "I read them like 13 times, so reading them with her is awesome. It's like introducing her to a whole new little world that was mine for a long time."

No social media does not mean no Internet. Tague still finds herself wasting time on BuzzFeed and is occasionally tempted to reactivate Instagram.

"There's something awesome about being able to share your experiences with people you care about," she said. "But you can be okay with not sharing your experiences with other people. It makes those places more special to you, because it's like your own treasure." ♦

# Virginia Storm Makes PHC its Home Court

by Bruce Truax and Carrie Durning

The Virginia Storm basketball team has made Patrick Henry College their home court.

The Storm is in the American Basketball Association, a league of nearly 1000 pro players including former NBA players and NCAA Division I and II players. The team record sits at 5-4 and is listed in the "Teams To Watch For" by official ABA power rankings. If the Storm remains in the top four of the Mid-Atlantic division, they will go on to the playoffs.

"It's a great opportunity to watch professional basketball at a convenient location and at an inexpensive price," said junior Jared Midwood. "Also, I enjoy watching teams that don't get much press, because you get to know the players on a first-name basis."

Norman Blowe, owner of the basketball team, focuses on community outreach to grow the program. This includes not only his basketball team but also a dance team and community programs.

The Junior Storm program provides a healthy learning environment for kids ages 7 to 15. Coaches and players teach the kids how to play basketball well, and in the process, they try to give the kids social skills, work ethic, and a sense of pride and accomplishment.

"I've known Norman since I was in little league, so he just brought me along," said forward Chad Moore.

Norman had plenty of basketball experience before he started the team. He had trained his kids in basketball through high school. He has also coached high school basketball for several years and personally knew many



Credit: Pixabay

the ABA players.

Blowe formed the team from the ground up.

"I was a nurse for 13 years," he said. "I stopped doing that to do this."

The first couple of years managing the team was tough financially, he said. Luckily for him, many of his contacts were excited to help him make his dream of starting a team a reality.

"He reached out to me, and I told him I would love to be a part of it," said guard

Randy Gill, known for his three-pointers.

For the first four years, Blowe hired a coach to join the team. Then, after his players asked him, Blowe became head coach.

This season, Blowe stepped down to be assistant coach and hired Harvey Grant as head coach. Grant played in the NBA for 12 years and has played for the Washington Bullets, Portland Trailblazers, Orlando Magic and

Philadelphia 76ers.

Sophomore Cooper Millhouse attended the Storm's Jan. 28 game against the Fredericksburg Grizzlies. The Storm lost 117 to 91, but Millhouse still enjoyed himself.

There has been a small group of PHC students attending the Virginia Storm basketball games on a weekly basis.

But for an event that is easily accessible and entertaining, attendance for PHC students is low.

"I think they've advertised poorly to the student body," said Millhouse. "And I think there would be many more students attending if they could get into the games for free."

"It is not that they don't have anyone else attending their games," said Millhouse. "Their stands are overflowing, and the reason I went to watch the game in the first place is because of how loud the crowd was. I walked by and heard the noise, and wanted to be a part of that."

Millhouse is interested in attending more Storm games.

"Virginia Storm games are entertaining and enjoyable and always a blast," he said. "You could say that the basketball team is taking PHC by storm." ♦

**"Their stands are overflowing, and the reason I went to watch the game in the first place is because of how loud the crowd was. I walked by and heard the noise and wanted to be a part of that."**

**Cooper Millhouse**

Sophomore

land Trailblazers, Orlando Magic and



# Sophomore Shiyi Zhang Volunteers as Translator

continued from cover

"They didn't speak any English, which is my second language as well, so we just spoke in Mandarin."

When her mother re-married an American man in 2013, Zhang moved from China to Minnesota.

"I learned English while I was in China. Like many other students, we were required to learn a second language, so I decided to start learning in primary school," Zhang said. "Moving was both a happy and sad time; I miss my extended family, my aunts, and uncles in China."

The professors that Zhang worked with reminded her of home and of her life back in China, a home she has not been able to visit since she left.

"I hope that after I graduate from college I can go back to China to see my grandparents," Zhang said. "This reminded me of home; it was so nice to talk to people in my first language."

With fluency in Mandarin and English, Zhang would like to learn Japanese, since she is fascinated by the Japanese culture and plans to use her abilities in the future as she pursues a career in government. This volunteer opportunity remind-



The two visiting professors, a Riverside Community College member, and Zhang

ed Zhang not only of home and what she could do in the future but also served as a reminder of faith and its ability to transcend language limitations.

"I accepted Christ when I was in China, and my mom brought me to church and we worshipped God in our family church," Zhang said. "We rented a room in a hotel, and we would worship God

there every Sunday... The organization I [recently] volunteered with was a Christian organization, and through this experience, they taught me how to more effectively communicate with people, how to facilitate events, and how to observe people's reactions and help them understand a situation in two languages." ♦

## Mock Trial Team 1159 Starts Season Strong

by Evie Fordham

PHC's Mock Trial Team 1159 secured a slot to the Opening Round Championship Series last weekend during a tournament at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. They won the seventh bid to ORCS.

"I think this tournament was one of our cleanest yet, which has really allowed us to look at making our actual case the best it can be for the next level of competition, instead of getting caught up in technical asides," said senior Caitlin Coulter, who plays a witness.

The team is expecting to compete again in March. ♦



Mock Trial Team 1159 after a successful tournament at Penn State

# A 60-Year Tradition of Granting Prom Wishes

*Donate or receive at the prom dress giveaway organized by the Junior Women's Club of Loudoun County*

by Meg McEwen

For many young women, high school prom is the modern-day equivalent of a debutante ball, a highly-public entrance into society. Even though the pressures that follow the event—the arranged marriages, social climbing, and bodices – have been more intense in decades past, prom is still one of the year's highlights for high school girls.

Sixty years ago, a local paper got wind of a girl in Loudoun County who could not afford a prom dress, a simple tragedy that touched the members of the Junior Women's Club of Loudoun County. They resolved to host an annual dress giveaway to ensure that any girl in Loudoun could have a chance at a fairy-tale prom night. The event, Prom Wishes, continues to promote beauty and self-worth in the community today.

"It was so inspiring for me to see everything that the club pulled together, to see the young ladies be so excited to try on the dresses and not have to pay for anything," the current co-chair of Prom Wishes Lacy Hurst said. Parents constantly inform her that, without Prom Wishes, their daughters would not have been able to go to the important dance because of the expense of a dress.

In the spring of 2016, a group of PHC girls spotted an ad for Prom Wishes and, ever dress-hunting for Liberty Ball, decided to attend. In the end, the girls were not disappointed, but when sophomore Mary Katherine Collins heard about Prom Wishes' free dress giveaway, she was skeptical. Having participated in pageants in high school, Collins knew that a good dress could cost an arm and a leg. Ignoring such qualms, she and a friend rounded up other PHC girls to check it out. When they got to the event, they realized that, even though the advertisement welcomed all teenage girls, the venue was clearly

geared towards high school prom-goers. Questions like, "What high school do you go to?" stumped the ladies. Finally, one of the girls applied her persuasive speaking skills to explain the concept of a "Liberty Ball" to the hostesses. The girls were in.

Collins and Morgan Conliffe, a sophomore who also attended the event, were full of curiosity. Would there be shrieking high schoolers clawing over disheveled dresses? Would the dresses be limited to a certain body type? At every step of the experience, the Junior Women's Club surprised them. The girls were handed ticket numbers and asked to stand in line outside of the mysterious dress room.

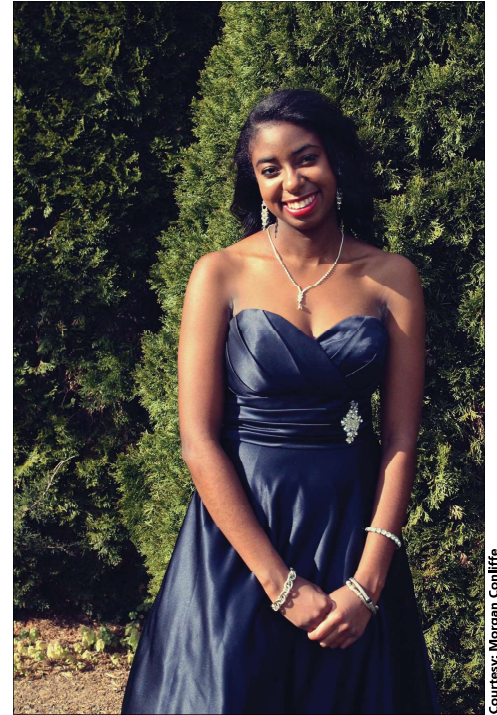
Number by number, they were ushered into a women's fashion paradise. Racks of dresses of all colors, sizes, and styles dotted the room, and long tables were covered with free purses, scarves, makeup, and accessories. Girls perused the dresses with their friends. They tried on their favorites in rooms equipped with elegant dividers and full-length mirrors.

"I was kind of expecting really old, run-down dresses. I wasn't expecting it to be so clean and organized. It ended up being really nice. All of the dresses were modern, and basically all of them were brand new... I think all of us picked out a dress. I remember feeling like a princess trying on all of those dresses," Conliffe said.

She found a pair of sparkly flats that she still wears to class and a gorgeous navy blue, floor-length, strapless dress with a sweetheart neckline. The giveaway was much more controlled than the "diva Hunger Games" that the girls were envisioning.

"They were really quality dresses, like David's Bridal dresses," Collins said. She selected a pair of leather J. Crew shoes and a sparkly, snowflake blue gown that she later realized matched the style and brand of a bright red dress that she had worn for a pageant.

The Women's Club members exuded



Conliffe in her dress from Prom Wishes

positivity and complimented the girls on their selection. "[The hostesses] would just be like, 'Hey, find a dress that you look beautiful in, and you can just take it home.' All of the ladies there were so nice... it made you feel like a princess," Collins said.

"It's just a really nice way to help girls feel beautiful and confident, and to give back to the community," Conliffe said, "They have dresses for girls of all sizes, heights, and weights. It was awesome."

Prom Wishes is a community effort. Members of the local community center, workout studio, salon, library, and church regularly donate dresses. The Junior Women's Club of Loudoun county recently gathered over seven hundred dresses and donated the excess to a similar function in West Virginia. If you would like to be a part of this event, the time to donate is now! There are multiple drop-off points throughout Loudoun County, including Rust Library in Leesburg. Prom Wishes will be held on April 1 at Rust Library. ♦

Courtesy: Morgan Conliffe



# Colony House: Only the Lonely

*Nationally recognized band releases second album*

by Victoria Cook

A solid beat of the drums followed by the strum of an electric guitar power chord starts the introduction to “Cannot Do This Alone,” the first song from Colony House’s newest album, “Only the Lonely.” From there, Colony House walks and occasionally races the listener along a journey of honest suffering with joy in sight.

“Only the Lonely” is the second album from Nashville band Colony House and was released January 13, 2017. Since then, the band has received recognition for their artistic flair and unique melodies and have been on TV shows such as *Good Morning America*, *Conan*, and *The Late Night with Seth Meyers*.

Colony House consists of frontman Caleb and drummer Will Chapman, Steven Curtis Chapman’s sons, as well as bassist Parke Avery and guitarist Scott Mills. Originally, the Chapman brothers and Mills made up the band called Caleb, but they renamed the band in 2013 after the apartment they lived in for a time.

While fans will recognize Colony House’s distinct style on “Only the Lonely,” they may be surprised to hear the album lean more toward rock and indie mu-



Colony House in concert

sic than Colony House’s previous album, “When I Was Younger,” which has more of a pop and soft rock feel. In addition to fresh beats, Colony House’s lyrics offer a genuine perspective on how to hope while facing struggles.

The songs on “Only the Lonely” stand alone as moving narratives about seeking truth, belonging, and meaning and connect as an overarching narrative of life as more than just pleasantries and work. Considering pop culture’s excess of repetitive hooks and lyrics, “Only the Lonely” stands apart with music that is beautifully raw.

Sentiments of frustration and hope are especially echoed in “Follow Me Down” and “1234,” where Caleb sings, “Give me just a little bit / More of joy and less of sadness / More of love and less of madness.”

Colony House succeeds at conveying

emotion thoughtfully without turning their songs into tyrannical rants about what is wrong with the world. Their songs creatively hint at deeper values and provoke reflection, without sending out an overtly Christian theme.

The album ends with “This Beautiful Life,” which sends the listener off with a question: *What is my purpose?*

“Everyone has things they miss, everyone has things they’re worried about – even when life is going great, it can still feel hard, and there’s no shame in saying that...”

**“Everyone has things they miss, everyone has things they’re worried about – even when life is going great, it can still feel hard, and there’s no shame in saying that...”**

**Caleb Chapman**

Colony House Frontman

of life,” Caleb said in an interview with First Avenue and 7 St. Entry.

Colony House is having a concert at U Street Market Hall in the District of Columbia on March 4. Otherwise, you can hear the band on their YouTube and Facebook pages. ♦



Caleb Chapman performing

Courtesy: Heather Ann Phillips

Credits: Heather Ann Phillips



# A Second Caesarian Dialogue

*A classical take on a modern debate*

by Thomas Siu

*Two Roman friends meet for lunch at a food stand near the Forum.*

**Cato:** My dear friend Julius, it is good to see you once again.

**Julius:** No, the pleasure is mine. I just spoke with our friend Gaius. He tells me the senate is nearly useless.

**Cato:** 'Tis a strange saying.

**Julius:** He thinks the consul's power should be strengthened by releasing him from his current restraints.

**Cato:** Would he end the Republic? We cast off the kings centuries ago – what cause has he to give the consul imperial power?

**Julius:** He says the consul already has the power to veto the senate's actions, so the bureaucracy no longer makes sense.

**Cato:** But our friend Gaius is surely mistaken, for the consul has no such power. All he may do is make recommendations to the one they call "President Haye."

**Julius:** He also says the senate has become bogged down in debates.

**Cato:** He would know, for he has been an active participant in many of them. But tell me friend – is it wrong that actions be deliberated? Ought the senate act without considering the consequences on the citizenry?

**Julius:** Certainly not. But can the debates not be limited for the sake of efficiency?

**Cato:** Ah, efficiency! Ought we to accept misguided laws because they were created efficiently?

**Julius:** You know that is not my meaning.

**Cato:** Perhaps not, but it is the consequence of your argument.

**Julius:** Gaius says that a single consul would be far better than the politicking of the senators.

**Cato:** Better for whom?

**Julius:** What do you mean?

**Cato:** A single consul will be of one



The Forum Romanum

opinion on each issue presented to him, will he not?

**Julius:** Surely, unless he is a schizophrenic.

**Cato:** And he will act on that opinion, no?

**Julius:** Presumably.

**Cato:** But suppose you are of a different opinion than the consul. Must he pay any heed to your position?

**Julius:** No, for he is not reelected.

**Cato:** So there is your efficiency, Julius. It means you have none who represent you, unless you should agree on every issue with the consul. I suspect Gaius advocates for this because he presumes the next consul will be of his own faction.

**Julius:** But does the senate truly represent the citizens now?

**Cato:** Let us examine it. Surely the senators will always have differing opinions?

**Julius:** Naturally.

**Cato:** So they will have to discuss and debate?

**Julius:** As they do now.

**Cato:** And there will be at least two sides to nearly every debate?

**Julius:** Perhaps even more for some.

**Cato:** And the citizens will generally

support one or the other position?

**Julius:** The vast majority will, yes.

**Cato:** So will not each citizen's position almost always have an advocate?

**Julius:** It would seem so, unless all 24 were to go astray all at once.

**Cato:** Is it easy for one man to go astray?

**Julius:** Of course.

**Cato:** But it would be strange for 24 to do so at the same moment?

**Julius:** You are seeking to trap me!

**Cato:** No, I only seek the truth. But to seek the truth, there must necessarily be opposing sides. The trial of Gaius Verres would have been unjust were not both sides represented, the Sicilians by Cicero and the governor by Quintus Hortensius. And yet Gaius would have you believe that it would be just to dissolve the system that ensures both sides are heard in matters affecting every citizen, not just one.

**Julius:** That seems to be his position. But he also tells me that to have twenty or so represent the whole is not for the best.

**Cato:** My dear friend, I will admit, this is true. But history tells us that to have one represent the whole would be far worse. ♦

# Video Review: *Hacksaw Ridge*

by J.R. Leslie

*Hacksaw Ridge* is a film about conviction that centers around Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield), the first conscientious objector to win the Medal of Honor. Doss' story begins after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor which draws the United States into a global conflict. Doss wants to serve his country, yet he is certain that the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" must be obeyed without exception. To satisfy his willingness to serve while also respecting his convictions, Doss is allowed to fulfill his duties as a medic. Rather than adding to the butchery on the battlefield, Private Doss rights the wrongs others have wrought.

*Hacksaw Ridge* rides on the back of Andrew Garfield. Portraying Desmond Doss is a difficult task. The unarmed medic is significantly more nuanced than a Marvel superhero, a brilliant detective, or a rogue spy. Doss was an idealist who was given every excuse to shirk his duty or recant his convictions, but he did not. Andrew Garfield delivers and delivers big. His performance is entirely believable and truly impressive. Throughout the film, viewers are made to feel as if Doss is bound to a higher plane of existence. Doss appears otherworldly, almost ethereal. Andrew Garfield triumphs in bringing his character to life and demonstrating marvelous depth and consistency.

Perhaps equally impressive is the movie's astonishing attention to historical accuracy. Unlike many World War II-era films, which use American weapons as props for both sides of the conflict, *Hacksaw Ridge* displays nothing but authentic weaponry. Every Japanese soldier is furnished with genuine World War II equipment from uniforms and

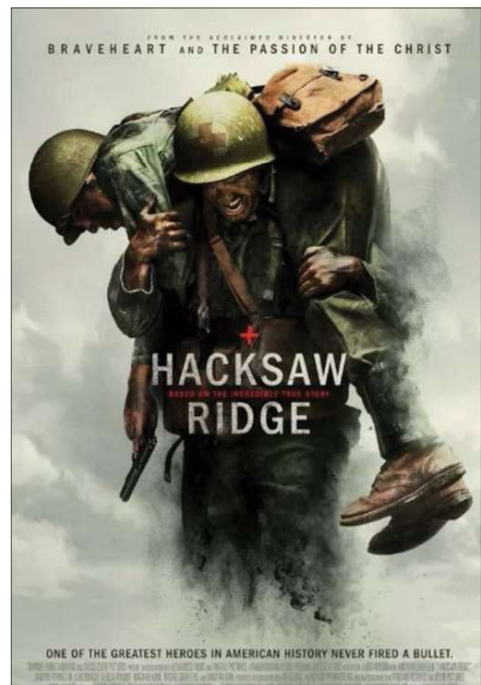
firearms to knives and grenades. Likewise, American troops are armed with M1 Garands, M3 submachine guns, BARs, Thompsons and M1 Carbines. Staying true to the stark reality of modern conflict, the movie does not shy away from the blood and guts of warfare. The mangled bodies of corpses with horrific injuries are filmed without shame. No attempt is made to spare viewers the horrors of the battlefield.

The greatest drawback to *Hacksaw Ridge* is its total lack of deep thought regarding war and death, which is a tremendous oversight considering the movie's subject. One soldier quotes Herodotus early in the film saying, "In peace, sons bury their fathers, in war, fathers bury their sons," but is immediately shut up for waxing philosophical. Near the conclusion of the film, as the American assault is carrying the day, the combat moves in slow motion and is combined with victorious Hans Zimmer-esque style orchestral music, signifying that good is ultimately overcoming evil. Though this oversimplification may serve its purpose in works designed for such a contrast like *Lord of the Rings* or *Star Wars*, it is out of place amongst the shell marked slopes of Okinawa.

**"Let us not lie to ourselves that the slaughter was gratifying to those who did it. It was not. Taking another life is a traumatic, sickening experience."**

**J.R. Leslie**

War is never fought simply to kill. Killing is a miserable side effect of conflict. It is regrettable that so much life and potential met its end during the three and a half years America fought Japan and Germany. *Hacksaw Ridge* does not thoroughly convey this message. While sympathetic towards the American plight, the film shows no remorse as the Japanese are wiped off the face of Okinawa. Though these men fought for the wrong side, they had children and wives, aspirations and dreams. To accomplish their objectives and to protect the United States,



American commanders decided that the Japanese soldiers on Okinawa had to be killed. It was a miserable necessity. Let us not lie to ourselves that the slaughter was gratifying to those who did it. It was not. Taking another life is a traumatic, sickening experience.

In a day and age where James Bond and Jason Bourne run around killing scores of enemy assassins, and millions of teenagers take lives without an afterthought in virtual worlds, *Hacksaw Ridge* had a chance to make a definitive statement: War and killing is vile and ghastly. *Hacksaw Ridge* backs away from these questions in its illustration of a story where these issues are eminent and stoops to intellectual lethargy. *Hacksaw Ridge* excellently tells Desmond Doss' story through both its acting and screen writing. The film encapsulates the spirit of a great generation of men who sacrificed so much for their country, all the while maintaining perfect authenticity. However, *Hacksaw Ridge* fails in challenging the viewer to a thorough self-examination regarding the nature and morality of killing.

**Rating: 3.0/4**

*Hacksaw Ridge* is now available at Redbox. ♦



# Eight Films I Wish I Had Directed

by Jared Midwood

Film is a unique artistic medium, which combines audio and visual sensory appeals to tell a story and impart truth. Unlike music and literature, movies are a fairly modern invention. The first “film” in the truest sense of the word is recognized to be *Man Walking Around the Corner* in 1887. In the roughly 130 years since, advances have been made in virtually every aspect of the art. The following list is not exhaustive but contains some of the biggest game-changers: eight films I would have been proud to direct.

*It's a Wonderful Life* (1946, Frank Capra)

This quintessential family drama is more than a Christmas tradition and Hollywood favorite. It communicates the importance of relationships and the difficulty of financial strain and emotional depression with a nearly unrivaled sincerity. James Stewart is personable and warm in his most iconic role. Who can ever forget George Bailey diving off a cold bridge in the middle of the night to save his guardian angel from drowning?

*The Seventh Seal* (1957, Ingmar Bergman)

No one directed religious epics like Swedish giant Ingmar Bergman. With this film and *Through a Glass Darkly*, he managed to galvanize an entire hidden genre while asking questions about man's role in the world and his association with an omnipotent God. Max von Sydow plays a contemplative knight, on his way home from the Crusades, who challenges the Grim Reaper to a game of chess. The stakes? His very life.

*Mirror* (1975, Andrei Tarkovsky)

Few artists embodied the struggle between oppressive government and free expression like Andrei Tarkovsky. Eventually ostracized from the Soviet Union for his “divisive” filmmaking (e.g. promotion

of democracy and ethical ideals), he crafted in *Mirror* a mind-bending existential film. On one hand, it wittily explores the socioreligious telos of Russian history. On the other, it provides an intimate glimpse into the life of a remarkable dying man.

*Apocalypse Now* (1979, Francis Ford Coppola)

It is hard to choose a magnum opus for a director who has two films in the top three highest rated movies of all time on IMDb. However, *Apocalypse Now* has stood the test of time as Coppola's truly greatest work. The retelling of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, set in the context of Vietnam, is considered by many to be the best war film ever made. Coppola explores the horrors of war and the depths that men will reach when they sell their soul for a sense of belonging.

*The Shining* (1980, Stanley Kubrick)

Stanley Kubrick changed the way movies are made more than any other director. He patented long tracking shots, extreme wide angle shots, slow protracted scenes, and the “repeating squares” method of setting up a scene. With *The Shining*, he refocused horror on the psychological aspect of what humans find scary and provided the genre with a strong female character. The film eschews violence and jumpscare. It sets up its terror through slow suspense and a determined psychosis that paralyzes the viewer from start to finish.

*Taste of Cherry* (1997, Abbas Kiarostami)

Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami's unfortunate passing last year marked the close of a truly legendary career. *Taste of Cherry* is perhaps the film that put Middle Eastern cinema on the map. It follows the story of a lonely old man, searching for a final resting place and kind souls to be with him during his last hours. In bringing the script to life, Kiarostami examines the value of life and the importance



Jared Midwood

of friendship from a distinctly moralistic perspective.

*Spirited Away* (2001, Hayao Miyazaki)

*Spirited Away* is Studio Ghibli's crowning achievement. The film convincingly cements fantasy in the imagination of the viewers, overlaying whimsical Japanese culture with a dreamscape atmosphere that is relatable to both kids and adults. *Spirited Away* stands at the pinnacle of a long line of foreign animation that has amassed a significant cult following in many cultures and subcultures – for both its story and majestic visual grandeur.

*Hugo* (2011, Martin Scorsese)

What would a list of great movies be without a film about film itself? *Hugo* is Scorsese's love letter to cinema. Building off the dramatic short *A Trip to the Moon*, the story revolves around an orphan who lives in the walls of a train station. One day, he finds the automaton his father left behind, and his life is transformed through social integration and invention. *Hugo* functions as both a family friendly feel good movie and a great work of dedication to the legends of filmmaking. ♦

# HERALD thebackpage



## #phcquotable

**"My brain likes information of all kind. If it's not something important, it's something completely purposeless."** - Professor Russell

**"Professor Lee, can you explain volcanism? I thought it was a religion of some kind."**  
- Cooper Millhouse

**Rose Perkins: What do you have against him?**

**Jane White: Besides his face?**

**Rose: You can't hold somebody's face against them... It's physically impossible!**

**"How dare you! Words have rights!"**  
- Andrew Bambrick

**"We'll eat some of your history."** - Dr. Mitchell

**"Passive voice is of the devil."** - Thomas Siu

**"You can be good at torturing people. I can be good at saliva anthems."** - Rachel Karnes

**"I'm practicing for politics here by giving kind of true and kind of false answers."**  
- Professor Lee

## UPCOMING EVENTS

APP Conference  
Feb. 10-11  
5 p.m.  
*Hyatt House, Dulles*

Religion in  
Russian Geo-Po-  
litical Strategy Panel,  
Feb. 11  
9:45 a.m.  
*Hodel Board Room*

Filmosophy: *The Graduate*  
Feb. 12  
7 p.m.  
*D4 Lounge*

Purcellville Mayor's Stage Side Chat  
Feb. 15  
7 p.m.  
*Carver Center*

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