

THE CROWN

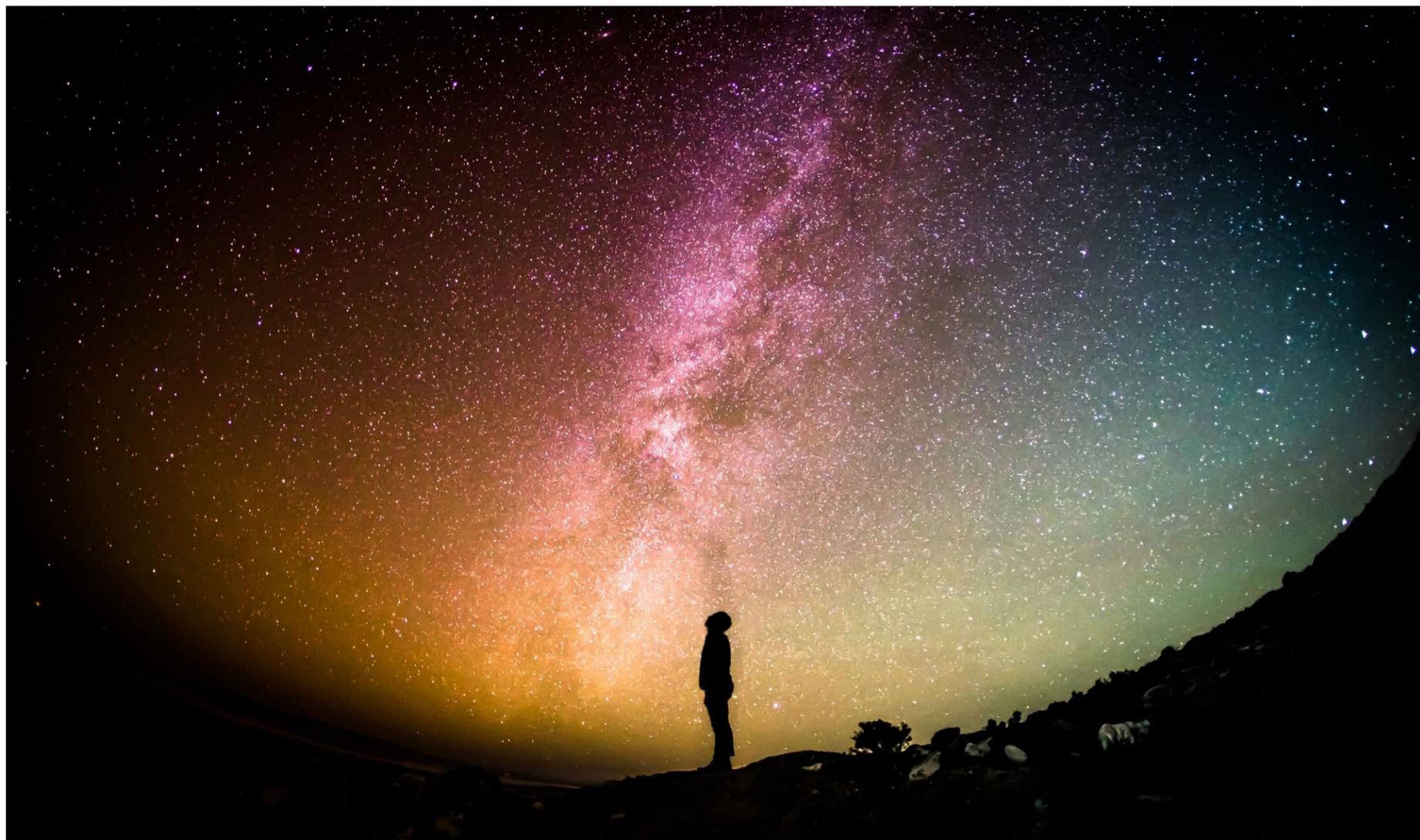
EST. 1983

REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1983

VOLUME // 33
ISSUE // 3

NOVEMBER
2015

Initiating Conversation Mental Health on Campus



RACHEL DEBRUYN

You may feel alone; but there is a community of support around you

Last week, the windows along Redeemer's halls were covered with encouraging words and drawings as part of Redeemer's Stress Relief Week. It was the second of two weeks focused on mental health, put on by the Healthcare Club.

Throughout last week, there was art therapy, yoga, a flu shot information booth, and mental health tips offered in the Commons. Three puppies came to the squash court to meet Redeemer students and helped reduce stress with wagging tails.

"The purpose was to get people to think about their own mental health and to offer ways to take care of one's self. Our aim was to raise awareness about what we can do to improve mental health," says John Handal, President of the Healthcare Club. "Just talking about it helps reduce the stigma."

Mental Health Week, which took place from October 5 to 9, offered similar activities. In Chapel and workshops, Redeemer hosted two special guest speakers who shared about their individual experiences living with mental illness. Other opportunities included a nutritionist who talked with people in the hall, window art, and a mental health booth.

These events are not the only opportunities for students to connect on the subject of mental health; every Monday, the Youth Wellness Centre Mobile Mental Health Network leads a workshop in Room 211.

According to the Redeemer Mental Health Survey sent out last year (the results of which are based on 187 respondents), the main sources of stress for Redeemer students are time, school, and money.

Stress can have a big impact on mental wellness.

"Not all stress is bad," says Karen Cornies, Dean of

Students. "Some stress is motivational. It's important to identify whether one is experiencing the kind of stress that lessens one's capacity or not."

"Mental health has lots of variables. It's important to be self-aware," says Hennie Schoon, Redeemer's Community Life Director.

Students should pay attention to what stresses are causing mental unwellness and see if there's a correlation. Schoon says: "Use time to observe, and see if there is a cause other than stress."

Students are worrying about having too little time and too many assignments. And although students joke about their debt, it is a big concern for many.

"Everyone acts like debt is okay, but we need to deal with this. We aren't educated in talking about these things," says alumna Angela Goodwin.

Goodwin who helped found the Healthcare club last year. The club, along with other Redeemer bodies such as the Mental Health Committee, is taking steps to reduce stigma and initiate conversations.

Goodwin was also behind the Mental Health Survey. The intent was that Redeemer could use the survey to better understand the mental health of its student body.

The survey reported some encouraging information. Students surveyed had good sleeping habits, and compared to international data, incidents of sexual assault were low. Other information was concerning. One third of respondents said that they had self-harmed. Three quarters said that they hide the way they feel from the people in their lives (some or all of the time).

For students facing mental illness, talking about it with others and seeking help can be difficult.

"There can be barriers to reaching out for resources. We understand it's a struggle to reach out when you're feeling vulnerable," says Cornies. "There's a stigma involved. It's hard to recognize in yourself that you need attention."

Redeemer offers a wide range of resources for students — or students who are concerned for a friend. Any member of the Student Life staff — Karen, Hennie, or Kait — is eager to help and to direct students to a service. Shalem Mental Health Network provides free counselling (on or off campus). The Mobile Mental Health team is available on-campus every Monday. COAST is a 24/7 crisis line.

As students seek mental wellness, it's important to remember that it is not isolated. "It's about overall well-being," says Handal. "People don't know as much about mental health. They put it to the side. They don't always make the connection between physical and mental health."

Well-rounded self-care can be a key component in health. Neglecting any one aspect, such as spiritual, emotional, physical, or mental, can reduce overall health.

Note: If reading this article has raised any concerns for you, or you experienced a response to this information, please reach out to Shalem, the Mobile Mental Health Team, Student Life, or friends and family.

Student Life:
Karen Cornies, ext 4468
Hennie Schoon, ext 4466
Kait Hazzard, ext 4219

MMHT — ywcmobile@stjoes.ca

Shalem — office@shalemnetwork.org
OR 905.528.0353
or 1.866.347.0041



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Joel Voth

✉ thecrown@redeemer.ca



LAYOUT EDITOR

Rachel DeBruyn



REPORTER

Elise Arsenault



REPORTER

Rebekka Gondosch



MANAGING EDITOR

Ishmael Dalm



GRAPHICS EDITOR

Jonathan Fischer



COPY EDITOR

Kristal Hooyer

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GENERAL ENQUIRIES:

T: 905.648.2131 x4291
Crown Office
c/o Redeemer University College
777 Garner Road East,
Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4

ADVERTISING:

T: 905.648.2139 x4291
Ishmael Dalm, Crown Office
c/o Redeemer University College
777 Garner Road East,
Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4

Letter from the Editor



JOEL VOTH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Crown needs students who are passionate and interested in writing and sharing their thoughts and views here at Redeemer University College. If you have a passion regarding a certain topic — whether it is in your personal life, studies, or in world news — please contact us.

If you disagree with what has been written in a past article, we challenge and encourage you to write an article addressing the opposing opinion. We can work with you. If you are apprehensive to write for us, we can guide you and provide constructive criticism. If you're just not sure what to write but you would like to contribute, you can still contact us and we will guide you to a topic. Send your thoughts and ideas to us as thecrown@redeemer.ca!

In this month's publication, we cover quite a variety of topics. It's exam season and everyone is finding a quiet corner to study in, but while you're there,

take a break and check out Ben Bock's review of the album Helios — perhaps this new music will accompany you while you study. For those who need a quick break and wish to daydream, take a look at the article discussing Tesla's new self-driving car — the future is here! Or take a peek at the interview with Dr. Belcher as she discusses her own research as well as providing us with a little bit about. And for you sports fans, take a look at the article on the Toronto Raptors and what they've been doing this season.

Since Christmas break and the holiday season in almost upon us (and certainly on our minds), take a look at the Local Winter Festivities that are being held on campus or are taking place in downtown Hamilton. Finally, may God bless you in the following weeks as the semester comes to a close. Remember to do your best in all you do — and God will do the rest.

Letters to the editor and article submissions must be sent to thecrown@redeemer.ca and must include the name and contact information of the writer, although we may print anonymously by special request. Works submitted as letters will be edited for clarity and length only.

The opinions expressed in *The Crown* are not necessarily those of Redeemer University College's student body, faculty, or administration.

The Crown is published by students seven times per academic year and is funded by the students of Redeemer University College and by advertising, but is dedicated to the broader college community.

The Night Before Exams

ALANNA VAN OMMEN

T'was the night before exam week, when all through the school
Not a student is stirring, except me. Not cool.
The pencils are sharpened and laid out with care
In hopes that the week's exams will all be fair.

The students are exhausted, passed out on their beds
While nightmares of failing pass through their heads.
My room-mate in a panic, and I freaking out
Not knowing what in the world our tests are about.

When out in the yard there comes such a clatter,
I rise from my desk to see what is the matter.
To the window I lope, like in *The Walking Dead*,
Was what I just heard all in my head?

The moon shining bright on the new-fallen snow,
I scan the parking lot for what is below.
When, what to my tired eyes should appear
But a student screaming out, wide-eyed with fear.

"I ran out of coffee," comes the anguished cry.
I gasp out in horror, with a tear in my eye,
"No caffeine?" I utter in despair.
Truly, this is a student's worst nightmare.

Back to my desk I drag my weary bones,
Attempting to learn about the body's hormones.
I stare at the ceiling, and then at the wall,
Memorizing the contents of my messy scrawl.
I look beside me, flash cards strewn around.
The only thing I can think of is going to lay down.
Yet I study with dedication and courage for biology,
Hoping the results will be only a minor atrocity.

I've procrastinated, crammed, and pushed my way through,
But with what's on this exam, I think I'll fake the flu.
I've had two cups of coffee, three cups, four,
I don't even know the date anymore.

My stomach growls, I'm exhausted and hungry,
I'm fed up with this crap, to put it bluntly.
I've had too much junk food, the thought of KD?
Repulsing.
Now's not the time for more William's-indulging.

I look in the mirror, bags under my eyes.
To stay up any later would just be unwise.
A glance at the time — it's two o'clock already?
Time to head to my bed, 'cause I'm a little unsteady.

Minutes pass, and I lay there for a while
Remembering the to-do list I have yet to compile.
After what seems like forever, I finally doze off
Dreaming of what I'll say to my prof.

In what seems like seconds, my alarm clock sounds.
I breathe in the smell of fresh coffee grounds.
I think for a while, what breakfast should I make?
I'd probably give my left leg for a stack of pancakes.
Dry cereal it is, no thanks to my budget.
It's all I can afford, so please don't judge it.
I dream of my mom's great home-cooked meals,
The Fruit Loops in my bowl just don't seem ideal.

I look at my phone with a jolt of fear:
The time has flown by and my exam slot is here!
I take a deep breath, feeling calm 'cause you see,
I know that my Lord will be in there with me.

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Students Serving Students

A Letter from Student Senate

JESSICA MOSTERT
STUDENT SENATE

Hey guys, Student Senate here. We have something really important to tell you that we're not sure you all know... We really care about you. Seriously, we really care. Don't believe us? Why don't you test it? Come into the Student Senate office and talk with us! Or, if you're too busy with schoolwork right now to pop by, you can just keep reading to get a good snippet of how we can serve you.

First, when students come to us with concerns, we are always more than eager to help resolve them or explain what is going on. From concerns as large as government funding to concerns about what is going to happen to our resident peahens when winter comes, we discuss it all and work hard to receive answers and make positive change for you.

What we're saying is this: nothing is too big or too small. If you have a concern, we want to hear it because we are here for you, the student body. You need to know that your concerns are taken very seriously by us, and that we are respected and heard by the administration here at Redeemer. We are your bridge to bringing about the change that you would like to see.

On that note, we also love it when students come in and share their visions and dreams with us. We've had many students come to us with visions of a new student club, and we've helped them make that a reality. You said you wanted a new ping pong table, and we listened! It has already been enjoyed by many of you. We continue to

host events like Coffeehouse, Harvest Hoedown, and the upcoming Winter Semi-Formal Dance — Dec. 5! 8 PM! Rec Centre! — because many of you enjoy them. We work hard to ensure that your time at Redeemer is amazing. But we can't do it properly without your help.

What's next?? You tell us!

Do you have any ideas for a school-wide event? Talk to our Activities Chair, Jess. Perhaps you have ideas about hosting a new spiritual event? Talk to our Spiritual Activities and Services Chair, Jon. Do you want to start a new club? Talk to Kyle, our Clubs Coordinator. Do you have concerns you'd like to bring up with Redeemer administration? Talk to our VP of Student Affairs, James. Are you a mature, international, commuter, and/or off-campus student and have questions, concerns, or ideas? Talk to our MICOS representative, Chantal. Talk to our VP of Finance, Alex if you have questions about club budgets or Student Senate finances. Maybe you want to get the word out about a club event you're having; well, just talk to our VP of Communication, Johanna. Don't forget to meet our First-Year Senators, Aren, Elaine, and Wisdom. Or chat with our Student Senate President, Ryan! We are regular students that are here to serve you. So pop by the Student Senate office (beside the bookstore) and talk to us!

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Political Hay and Giant Seeds

Floyd Elzinga's Haymaker Exhibition at Redeemer

ANNA BOLTON

It's not often that Redeemer plays host to a thousand-pound metal dandelion seed and shredded paper hay bales, but for the duration of artist Floyd Elzinga's exhibition Haymaker, this is, in fact, the case.

Elzinga is mainly a conceptual artist whose work is heavily influenced by the environment. For over fifteen years he has been working primarily with steel and found objects, creating giant pinecones and five-foot sculpted weeds.

In his show Haymaker, which is on display in the Redeemer art gallery until the end of November, Elzinga juxtaposes agriculture and business in an attempt to show how the two seemingly unrelated realms actually go together.

Elzinga comes from a farming family, and his agricultural knowledge is evident throughout his Haymaker pieces.

"This show merges a lot of the different worlds I know that have usually stayed separate," Elzinga said.

"It's a very interesting mixture of how two drastically dif-

ferent worlds somehow go together," said Jessica Puddicombe, a third-year art major at Redeemer.

This juxtaposition of agriculture and business is reflected in the very materials Elzinga uses for his pieces. "It's crazy how he takes metal, such an inorganic substance, and makes it look organic," said Rachael Bosma, student art curator at Redeemer.

Elzinga combines agricultural icons and business archetypes, as well as the organic and inorganic, in ways both interesting and beautiful. In his piece Political Hay, Elzinga actually puts shredded office documents through a hay baler to create bales of "political hay."

In another piece, Industrial Growth, Elzinga creates a new plant shoot out of steel that grows up and around a piece of industrial equipment.

In all of the Haymaker pieces, there is this melding of the natural qualities of agriculture and nature with the inorganic characteristics of steel and the business world.

While some of his pieces, such as Industrial Growth,

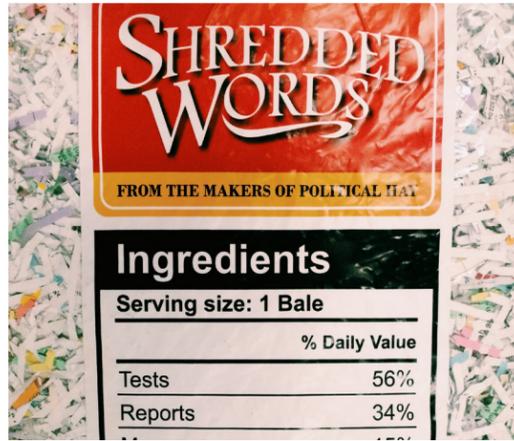
provide a sense of hope and potential for the future of agriculture, others are meant to bring awareness to what Professor Chris Cuthill, head of Redeemer's art department, describes as "the potential for cultivation to be misused."

Elzinga wanted to make an agricultural statement with this show that he claims has been twenty years in the making. "I've always looked at this gallery as a sculpture gallery," Elzinga said. "This space commands larger pieces."

Elzinga certainly delivered, as the Redeemer art gallery thrives with his metallic weeds, seeds and unconventional hay bales. His work couldn't even be contained within the gallery, as a sculpture of a round hay bale made of scrap metal extends the exhibition outside to the quad.

"I think this show has pushed the bounds of Redeemer's gallery further than it ever has been before," Bosma said. "I hope people will take the time to come look at it."

To see more of Elzinga's work and to learn more about it, visit his website at <http://www.floydelzinga.com>



What's Happening in Hamilton

Local Spot: Hamilton's Farmers' Market

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
REPORTER

Bus Route to Get There:

- Walk about 2 min to 734 GARNER
 - Take the 44 Bus towards Eastgate Square
 - 4 min (6 stops)
- RYMAL at UPPER PARADISE
 - Take the 34 towards Downtown
 - 21 min (30 stops)
- MAIN at BAY
 - Walk about 8 min
 - Head north on Bay St toward Main St
 - Turn right onto York Blvd and The Market will be on your right!

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8-6, Saturday 7-5.

Must-Visit: Sensational Samosa! Located at the York Street entrance to the market, this vendor's freshly baked jumbo samosas are great to grab before perusing the premise!

Operating in Hamilton for over 175 years, the Farmers' Market is an ideal place to greet the cold winter with heart-warming, local foods. Run by the City of Hamilton, the Market is located indoors, — next to the Hamilton Public Library and Jackson Square — fills two stories with shops, and is open year round.

Vendors include bakeries such as de la terre and British Baked Goods, local produce providers such as Buttrum's pesticide-free farm, and Vinnie's Fresh Pasta Factory, which spins out delicious pasta on the spot, ready to cook at home. Enjoy a cup of hot coffee from Relay Coffee or Lina's Pastries and Coffee, or sip a wine sample from Ridge Road Winery as you stroll through the market.

Looking for Christmas gifts? The Market is a great place to purchase presents for those on your nice list! From delicious local food and drink to florist shops and artisan vendors, there is something to satisfy all appetites in this 55,000 square foot space!



Music and Memories

RUC Choir Performs with HPO

RENE DE KLERK

The Redeemer University College Concert Choir was recently part of a noteworthy evening of music and memories, performing with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra at Hamilton Place.

The concert, titled "In Remembrance: Songs of Courage and Honour," was performed in honour of the 70th year since the end of the Second World War. With over 200 veterans in attendance and a venue almost filled to capacity, it was a night filled with nostalgia and emotion.

Music from various wartime eras captivated the audience. Famous works including "1812 Overture" by Tchaikovsky and Finzi's "Farewell to Arms" were performed by the orchestra. The choir was honoured to be part of such a professional musical event and memorable to many as it was their first time performing with a full-size orchestra and in front of such a large audience.

"Seeing the audience members' reactions to the music really made me feel more emotional and passionate about it, because some of them lived through these horrible events," says Sasha Abraham, a choir member.

The RUC Choir performed "Song of the Poets," a composition by Abigail Richardson-Schulte, the composer-in-residence of the HPO. This specific piece was commissioned for Remembrance Day for the centennial of the beginning of the Great War in 2014.

The piece was written using excerpts from poems written by soldiers in WWI. These five poems represent both sides of the war, as the poets originated from Canada, France, Germany and England. Canadian poet John McCrae's famous "In Flanders Fields" is the first poem in the song, followed by poems of Wilfred Owen, Louis Aragon, Gerrit Engelke and Luc Durtain.

"These are not graphic poems of fighting or propaganda to gain support for the war effort. Each of these poems looks at the outcome of war with the perspective of poets able to see beyond their own circumstances," Richardson-Schulte noted in the program.



The evening also included popular songs of the Second World War era, with soloist Bud Roach performing classic wartime songs by Vera Lynn. "White Cliffs of Dover" and "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" were performed. Nostalgia filled the room as the audience joined Roach in singing the last verse of "We'll Meet Again."

"Many around us sang along with the soloist and choir. Their voices connected lyrics with memories. We are so thankful for those who have gone before us. We personally remembered family members, older friends and neighbours who faithfully served to free others so many years ago," Annette Karafiloff, an audience member commented.

Along with the RUC Concert Choir, violinist Lance Oulette, tenor Bud Roach and the Regimental Band of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry performed as guests. Lance Oulette has performed worldwide and is the associate concertmaster at the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. Bud Roach recently performed at various opera performances in Venice and is involved with musical projects in Hamilton.

The Regimental Band of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry is the oldest enlisted band in Canada, having been formed as the Hamilton Artillery Band in 1855. The band's performances include a ceremonial celebration in Dieppe, France.

The concert was conducted by James Somerville. He is well known throughout Canada and in Hamilton, having been the HPO's music director for seven seasons (2007-2013). He is frequently involved with conducting orchestras across the country.

The RUC's Concert Choir will be performing Handel's Messiah this Christmas season. Performances will take place on Friday, December 4th at the RUC Auditorium, Saturday and December 5th at MacNab Presbyterian Church in Downtown Hamilton. A sing-along Messiah will be held on Sunday, December 6th at MacNab Church.

Tickets can be purchased at the Redeemer Box Office, or online at <https://tickets.ticketwindow.ca/eventperformances.asp?evt=1789>.

Ripped Jeans and Flowers

A Modern Production of Pygmalion

HEATHER SHORE

In October, thirty students from Redeemer University College attended a 21st century version of the 100-year-old play Pygmalion. One of the intriguing aspects was whether or not original themes of the play still applied.

The creation of the play was roughly based on a Greek myth as told by the Roman poet Ovid. It was about a sculptor by the name of Pygmalion who fell in love with a statue of a woman and prayed to the goddess Aphrodite to make her human.

Pygmalion was created in 1912 by George Bernard Shaw. He was interested in portraying the common people of society rather than focus on the one percent elite.

In 1914, London audiences were introduced to the story about the life of a common flower girl named Eliza Doolittle and a bet made by two gentlemen to turn her into a lady of high standings within six months.

Attendees generally agreed the decision to set the play in the present was a smart move by the producers and directors, allowing the audience to have a closer relationship to Shaw's original work.

"I think the modernization was a very strong aspect of the production," says Rebeka Borshevsky, a fourth year English student. "I really enjoyed how they incorporated modern tech to emphasize their point."

The play featured a variety of snippets of television shows and news reports dealing with class and status.

The television clips were inserted throughout the first half of the play to make the audience think about the various themes presented to them and if they still apply in the present.

"I think the clips about the class system in Britain today and the one about propaganda were strategically placed," says Dr. Jonathan Juilfs, an English Professor at Redeemer. "I especially liked the propaganda one because it mirrored how Professor Higgins used language in an attempt to change Eliza from a flower girl to a promising lady. It also reflects how companies today persuade people to buy their products."

Modern music was also incorporated into the production. Artists such as Janet Jackson, Kanye West and Sam Smith were heard throughout.

The costume designs reflected the shift in the time period also. Eliza wore ripped jeans and a sweater for the majority of the first act and Professor Higgins was mainly dressed in shorts and a t-shirt.

Even some of the characters positions were altered in order to make them more compatible with the 21st century. "I loved how they portrayed Professor Higgins' mother in the present," says Borshevsky. "Rather than being portrayed as old money, she is an influential fashion designer who has created a good life for herself."

Despite the updated setting, the characters were still faithful to the original personalities that Shaw created. "Higgins and Pickering are perfect examples of the stereotype of the British male: calm, serious and refusing to show their true emotions," says Juilfs.

Pygmalion deals with the issues of class and position in society. Can a person of low status raise themselves up to middle or high class society? Can someone recreate a human being completely?

Humans of Redeemer

ELISE ARSENAULT
 REPORTER

In 2010, a man by the name of Brandon Stanton began a photographic project in New York City that would grow to become a #1 New York Times bestseller and photoblog boasting over 15 million followers worldwide.

Initially, Stanton set out to create what he calls “an exhaustive catalogue of New York City’s inhabitants,” comprised of 10,000 photos plotted across a city map. The concept took on a different form, however, as he began collecting pieces of conversation had with those he photographed. Photo captions would soon become as vital as the shots themselves, and, together, make for a captivating stream of stories he entitles, “Humans of New York.”

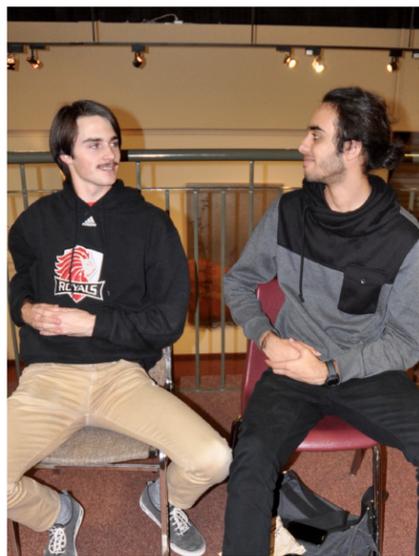
This year, the Crown seeks to mimic Stanton’s idea on campus by asking thoughtful questions and taking candid photos of students, staff and faculty included in each issue.

We know that stories are powerful, so the goal here is to further uncover our own. Scripture tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn, share the word of our testimony and give glory to God in every season. This column is simply another means to do so, and remind ourselves that our King, Jesus, is the ultimate author and finisher of our faith.

What’s a big risk you’ve taken?



“I decided to live in Hamilton this past summer only a month or two before the semester ended. It was so last minute, but definitely within God’s favour, because within two weeks I got a job and I found a house — everything lined up! I’d said was going to happen. And it did!”



(Right) “I’d say, doing a bunch of music auditions. For the musical, the choir, Alpha Praise...”

(Left) “Becoming an R.A. without knowing what would happen. That risk was rewarded, though — that’s for sure.”



“I took two years off after high school to do an internship with my church. I knew that’s where God wanted me to be, but everything in me was shouting ‘No, it’s two years off! You’ll be wasting time, and paying money.’ But after going, I don’t regret anything. I was learning to serve the church, God, and had boundaries that helped me to focus.”



“I’d say getting married! Seeing if I could be strong enough to do life with someone, and not let them down... It’s hard! Because all of a sudden, everything you do has ramifications for somebody else. In everything that I do, I have to think about him as well.”



“Well, it’d have to be something in the military — I was in the combat unit for over 25 years. Actually, I think the biggest risk I ever took was retiring from the military to start a new career. The military was so secure, since the pay and the benefits were good, but I left it for real estate. Here I was, thinking about bullets and gunshots, but nah! Retiring at 40 and starting a new career — that was the riskiest.”



“I had a moment where I felt like God was calling me to do social work. I was in denial, saying ‘Oh, I’m an introvert. I can be socially awkward — a socially awkward social worker? That’s going to be ridiculous!’ I had doubts about myself, but God was like, ‘You know what? I’ve got you through this whole journey, just trust me. Follow through.’ And now, after having studied Social Work, had placements, and doing Deedz, I can say that I’m loving it. God knows stuff!”



“I have two in my mind. The first one is swimming. I don’t know how to swim, and the first time I tried, it was to impress my friends. I jumped right into the deep end and almost drowned, but someone saved me.

“The second one is picking Redeemer. I was deciding between here and Ryerson, and my mom told me to pick Redeemer so I can keep my Christian values. Sometimes I imagine life at Ryerson and, I don’t know, I imagine that everyone there is on his or her own... I like being here, people are friendly.”



(Left) “We once put our cat in the dryer...”

(Right) “Or that time we didn’t grocery shop for two weeks and Hennie yelled at us (and had us over for dinner).”

Wintry Hamilton Festivities

A List of Local Events

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER



Below is a list of upcoming events to be held either on campus or around Hamilton in the next few weeks. Be cultured and adventurous by experiencing something new with comrades and kinfolk. If you dig it, it can be a new tradition! If you hate it, it'll be a story to tell! So scan the bullets below to see if anything tickles your festive fancy.

Nov. 27th: An Evening of Music

(Redeemer's Aud. / 8 - 9 p.m. / \$10 reg. \$8 students)

This event will feature the Redeemer Jazz Band playing Christmas music and folk tunes, and the Redeemer Concert band performing jazz and rock songs by artists like Led Zepelin, The Police and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Nov. 27th: Worship with the Word

(HCF Hammer House of Prayer / 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. / FREE)

This weekly night of worship sets an atmosphere of praise, prayer, seeking wisdom and revelation, interceding for the city of Hamilton, and soaking in Scripture.

Nov. 28th - 29th: Beehive Winter Craft Fair

(Mill's Hardware / 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. / \$2)

A curated fair featuring fine craft and art, a cash bar, and warm drinks and baked goods served by Cannon Coffee Co.

Nov. 28th: Hamilton Bulldogs vs. Mississauga Steelheads

(FirstOntario Centre / 7:00 p.m. / \$20 - \$30)

Watch the city's OHL team play Mississauga at the FirstOntario rink in Downtown Hamilton.

Nov. 29th: Art, Music & Dance!

(Art Gallery of Hamilton / Begins at 1 p.m. / FREE)

A family-oriented celebration of art-making, exhibition tours and musical performances by Turkey Rhubarb and Ballet Jorgen.

Nov. 30th - Dec. 4th: Fabulously Used Book Sale

(Neighbour to Neighbour Centre / 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. / FREE)

This one week sale will take 30% off everything in store, including DVDs, CDs, 50¢ clearance books and more!

Dec. 2nd - 3rd: Ten Thousand Villages Christmas Sale

(Executive Dining Room A / 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. / FREE)

Help fund Redeemer's service-learning trips by stopping by Ten Thousand Villages' sale on fair trade clothing, jewelry, pottery, music, toy, spice and chocolate next month. These Asian, African, Latin-American and Middle-Eastern crafts and household items make for wonderfully unique gifts!

Dec 2nd: Social Scrabble

(565 Concession St. / 1:00 p.m. / FREE)

Meander over to the Concession St. Hamilton Public Library branch for a try at this classic family game. Game boards and Scrabble dictionaries will be provided.

Dec 3rd: Ancaster Tree Lighting Ceremony

(301 Wilson Street E. / Begins at 6:00 p.m. / Bring non-perishable or hygiene product) This charming winter evening will entail Christmas lights, reindeer, carolers, fireworks, and the man in red! Entertainment, food, and drinks are free, but attendees are encouraged to bring donations for Ancaster Community Services to the event.

Dec. 4th - 6th: Choral Concerts - Messiah

The Redeemer Concert Choir, Alumni Choir, and orchestra will be performing their rendition of Handel's Messiah. There are three performances:

- **Friday, Dec. 4th** / 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. / @ Redeemer's Aud. / \$26 reg. \$22 students
- **Saturday, Dec. 5th** / 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. / @ MacNab Presbyterian Church / \$26 reg. \$22 students
- **Sunday, Dec. 6th** / 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. / @ MacNab Presbyterian Church / \$35.50 / Sing-along!

Dec. 4th: Santa Claus Parade

(6:00 p.m. / FREE)

A convoy of floats, classic vehicles, marchers, horses, and cadets will line the streets. Free hot chocolate, soup, hot-dogs, apple cider and gifts for children provided! The parade begins at the Haldimand County offices on Echo St., and then heads west to Ottawa St., south to Cayuga St., down to King St., east to Ottawa St., and north again on Ottawa St.

Dec. 5th: Community Cooking Demonstration with Kate Park

(35 York Blvd. / 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. / FREE)

Kate Park heads a demo of healthy holiday snack ideas with free samples, recipes and resource sheets for all attendees. A local Community Kitchen dietician will also be available to answer questions. Reservations can be made by calling 905-667-4862 x309.

Dec. 6th: Paws with Claus at Eastgate Square

(Eastgate Square / 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. / varied prices)

Bring your beloved dog or cat to the mall for a photograph with Santa Claus! \$5 from every photo package will be donated to the Christmas Miracle Toy Drive.

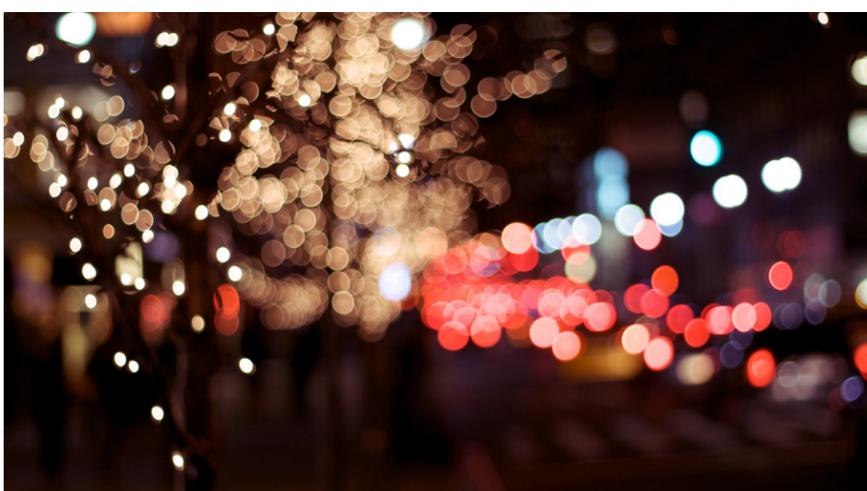
Dec. 11th: Art Crawl

(James St. North / Begins around 6:00 p.m. / FREE)

Walk around the heart of the downtown arts community and check out galleries, buskers, coffee shops and freelance artists at this monthly shindig.

For more events, concerts and festivals, feel free to visit these links:

www.thespec.com/hamilton-events
www.hamilton.ca
www.tourismhamilton.com
www.hpl.ca



Helios: An Album Review

BEN BOCK

As we approach the exam season, the average student will spend 17 hours a week studying. This month, I decided to share an album that may make this undertaking a bit less daunting. Keith Kenniff is a Berklee College of Music graduate who has been releasing music for the last 11 years under 3 different names. Starting with an ambient release, *Unomia*, in 2004 under the name Helios, he has garnered a name for himself through his personal projects as well as soundtracks and composing small pieces for companies like Facebook and Apple.

Although all of Keith's work is fantastic, I will be focusing on the 2006 release *Eingya*. It's his sophomore instrumental album in his own vein of downtempo post-rock under the Helios moniker. With some experience from his first release, as well as a debut album under his Goldmund alias, this album saw his sound truly mature. His degree in percussion provides him with the compositional tools to underline a symphony of mostly acoustic instruments. Almost all rhythms throughout *Eingya* are an opportunity for Keith to experiment with patterns and new percussive elements.

Guitar and piano are especially emphasized in most of the tracks. In a song like *Coast Off*, vocals can be heard but not understood. Acoustic instruments are spliced together to create a surreal effect. The blend of organic sounds and clever sample placement is what gives *Eingya* an atmospheric ambient sound while maintaining a regular beat that is easy to feel.

However, there is also a clear electronic influence that weaves its way through *Eingya*. In songs like "Paper Tiger" and "The Toy Garden", you can easily hear some glitch-inspired production. However, electronic instruments are used with discernment. They are most often used to establish a sonic environment via pads but are also used to highlight specific melodies introduced by the acoustic instruments.

The use of field recordings also plays a part in creating Helios' beats and soundscapes. In the drone-like "Vargtimme", it sounds as though you're listening to an old tape recording that has been over-stretched and slowed down, creating a wall of sound. In "Halving the Compass", you might feel as though you are quite literally transported to a forest glade. You can hear guitars and pianos exchange melodies over birds singing and a beat constructed with sounds of the environment. In particular, using these sampled sounds as percussion seems to be recurring theme in *Eingya*, as similar techniques can be heard later on as well.

As great albums often do, *Eingya* leaves you wanting more, wrapping up with one of my all-time favourite songs: "Sons of Light and Darkness". We find an incredibly reverb-thick upright piano settling between a few chords underpinned by an incredibly airy pad and Keith's signature natural beat. Following this track is the closer, "Emancipation". This simple guitar piece perfectly sums up the simplicity behind the collective work while remaining elegant and powerful as a stand-alone song.



As this is purely instrumental, I thought some stressed out students would find this useful as we prepare for exams. If this catches your fancy, I recommend checking out his other albums under the Helios name — his new album *Yume* came out this year). He also releases solo piano music under the name Goldmund — his new album *Sometimes* came out this year as well — which can also be good for studying. For more information on Keith Kenniff and related projects, check out <http://www.unseen-music.com/>

Giving Our Cars More Control

JOSHUA VOTH

Self-driving cars have long been conceptualized and dreamed about by scientists, writers, and artists. We have seen them in movies — *Batman*, 1989, *Minority Report*, 2002, and *I, Robot*, 2004 — and with technologies being made available to us, we are seeing this sci-fi hype being turned into reality.

On October 14, 2015, Tesla launched a software update for its Tesla Model S all-electric car. Tesla claims this update is an "incremental introduction of self-driving technology", and gives the driver of the Model S the ability to autonomously steer within a lane, change lanes with the tap of a finger, manage speed, and of course engages traffic-awareness cruise control to maintain safety while performing the aforementioned tasks. This level of automation control puts the Tesla Model S at a 'Level 2' of automation as defined by the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), while a Level 0 is defined as: "driver completely controls the vehicle at all times."

So just HOW well does this new level of automation perform? To start, Tesla spokesperson Khobi Brooklyn states in an email, "Similar to the autopilot function in airplanes, drivers need to maintain control and responsibility of their vehicle while enjoying the convenience of Autopilot in Model S." Elon Musk has also warned that this autopilot is not synonymous with full automation and drivers should exercise caution and control while using the new autopilot features.

This new autopilot feature is still being developed, and is by no means market ready. It's constantly being altered and changed so that it can deliver a faster, safer automation for vehicle patrons. This new autopilot feature does not deny the driver the ability to drive and control the vehicle independently. Demonstrated in YouTube videos uploaded by enthusiastic Tesla owners, at any given moment the driver can correct the computer's automated decisions — which subsequently provides the Tesla developers with information on where problems occurred and how to fix



them. So to answer the question of performance in short — no, the Tesla's autopilot is not even near perfect, and giving the Model S a higher level of automation while it can only perform at a Level 2 could result in fatalities.

To sum all this up, it would be fair to say there is more hype surrounding this new feature in the Tesla vehicles than is warranted by the reality of how early it is in development. It's very fascinating to see this new automobile technology (and arguably an emerging service) and how it could one day provide us with a safer commute. I will note that for car enthusiasts like myself, automation takes away the thrill, fun and freedom of driving — others, however, will find this feature attractive and essential, and of course some will fear it. What do you think? Is autopilot — like we see in Tesla's cars — a good idea to continue pursuing?

Interested in seeing Tesla's new Autopilot in action? Use this QR Code to watch the YouTube Video!



Remember to Know Three Things for the Next Three Weeks

QUINTON MOL

The end is in sight. Christmas break seems to be so close, yet so far away. For some of us that means we are desperately awaiting the last of exams so that we can say we at least survived. For others, these last few weeks may have flown by and you ask yourself the question, “Where has the time gone?” And there are probably a few people who are eagerly awaiting the examination period for other reasons.

Regardless of our outlooks on the upcoming weeks, we all have the same hurdle to jump: exams. With a strategic approach and a little bit of luck I am sure that we can all make it through the exam period successfully. The key to being successful quite conveniently can be summarized by



one verb: know. In order to make it through exams all you really need to do is to know yourself, know what time it is and continue to know God. Let me explain.

If you have taken PSY 121, you will have probably learned about different styles of learning. Well you don’t even need to have taken this course to know that. To one extent or another I am sure that we have all heard about how some people are visual learners, some are auditory learners and some people learn via hands-on work. It is that simple and that practical. Know yourself. Understand how you learn best and adjust your studying methods accordingly. Find out what works for you and do it. If all you have to do is read over stuff then read. If you are an auditory learner, record yourself reading your notes and listen to them, or listen to an e-book. If you are a hands-on learner, rewrite your notes — and make sure you have enough paper.

Secondly, know what time it is. Time management is probably the most difficult task of exam weeks. Your schedule is wide open. You seem liberated and free with all this extra time and then BAM — next thing you know your exam is tomorrow and you are stuck cramming. Do not be snared by the trap of time. Treat exam weeks like any other week. Stick to your regular schedule (or establish a regular schedule). Use your would-be class times for studying. Discipline yourself to study well in advance for your exams. Study lots, study long and study hard. But also remember: take a 10-15 minute break every hour/hour-and-a-half. This seems silly but the stats don’t lie.

This will help with your memory retention. So set a schedule and set a timer — know the time.

Lastly, know God. I have heard it time and time again how the first thing to go when schedules change is a person’s devotional time to God. But I implore you to “take care lest you forget your God by not keeping his commandments.” (Deut. 8:11) As I wrote back in September’s issue, being a student is one of our main callings here at Redeemer. Exam time is a time to honour God with dedication and devotion. In this intellectually and emotionally trying time you may get worn down. The pressures of life do not cease around exams — if anything they increase.

Remember: God is your pillar, your refuge and your strength. Do not forget Yahweh in these weeks to come. Stay faithful to Him and do not forget all that God has done for you in the past. That does not mean it will be easy, for “Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters” (Ps. 77:19). He will sustain us. His love endures forever and the “LORD will keep your going out and coming from this time forth and forevermore” (Ps. 121:8). The LORD is faithful. Do not forget to trust in Him through these times because we can bring ALL things before God with prayer and we know that God will hear the pleas of his faithful servants.

So go forth and know. Know your learning styles, know your schedule and most importantly, know the faithfulness and fortitude of Jehovah-Jireh. May these things help you for exam preparations and may you be able to come out successful, sustained and a servant.

An Interview with Dr. Belcher

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
REPORTER

Rebekka: Your studies have taken you across the world, from the Institute of Christian Studies in Toronto to Monash University in Australia. What motivated you to study in the places you did and what led you to Redeemer University College?

Dr. Belcher: The most honest answer to that question would be God beckoned and I followed. I could never have arranged any of my life the way it unfolded. After graduation from ICS in Toronto, I met Bev Norsworthy from New Zealand at an international education conference. This serendipitous meeting led to me working in New Zealand teaching worldview, helping to establish a worldview course as part of an education degree, and teaching in the education department. God did wonderful things in New Zealand, personally and professionally.

From there, I met wonderful people, and became involved with teaching at The National Institute for Christian Education (NICE), in Australia through a joint working arrangement with Dr. Doug Blomberg, Dr. Richard Edlin and Dr. Ken Dickens. I am still in frequent contact with my colleagues from down under. While in Australia, I completed my second Master’s Degree in Education.

From there, doors opened at Trinity Western University, which brought me back to Canada. I began my PhD at Monash while here. After that, I found God guiding me to Redeemer. And here I am. I have felt a call to bring themes of wonder, truth, justice and reconciliation within education to the front of conversation. I may not always be successful, but I am always faithful to that purpose.

Rebekka : Much of your research surrounds the topic of worldview; why is this concept of continuing interest to you and what do you hope others might come to understand from it?

Dr. Belcher: I see worldview as a way of leaning into life. You live life out of belief in God or in something else, so examining how a worldview becomes intentional is important. Having worked in the profession of teaching in different belief systems, I have become convinced that beliefs make a difference in how social and relational aspects of life unfold. Manners, morality, humility and truth will always matter, but they are a choice; a choice emerging

from faith in serving and living for something bigger than yourself.

Rebekka : On campus you are known to have Belcherisms — what exactly constitutes as a Belcher-ism and how did you earn such tendencies?

Dr. Belcher: To be honest, my students actually coined that term for some of my peculiar ways of having key words linked to culture in the way I teach. Some of my classes ended with ‘sessions in a sentence’ or pithy ways of summarizing content or making things memorable in the long term. I am also a bit of a neologist; I love words and have fun with them, hence my representation of self as being a ‘book-aholic’. Occasionally, students attach that term to the metaphors I use. I think you would need to ask them about what they term a Belcher-ism to be... I am not always aware of what students think that is! I only identify the ones they have previously coined! How would you describe such a term?

Rebekka: Off the top of my head, I would consider “aha” and “oh-no” moments to be Belcher-isms. I certainly agree that the term reflects the numerous (and useful!) metaphors you use to help students retain important information.

You have published work in numerous books and journals, do you have any advice for writers and researchers wanting to pursue that path?

Dr. Belcher: Keep writing. The more you write, the better you get at finding out how you write best to express what matters to you. If you get the chance, do research or partner writing with a mentor. Invite and embrace any opportunity to keep growing in your writing.

Rebekka : What is one unique fact students would never guess about you?

Dr. Belcher: I love walking on ocean beaches and collecting shells. It is always a miracle to think that my eyes may be the first and only to see this one shell that the tide has made visible as it ebbs.

Rebekka : Is there a motto you live by? If so, what might



Dr. Belcher

that saying be?

Dr. Belcher: ‘This too shall pass’ ... I think people need to remember that suffering and difficult times in life are inevitable, but God remains faithful and is with us. I have learned a great deal from difficulty, and consider it a Divine opportunity to know myself better and to become stronger. Difficulty has a flip side to the coin. It makes small joys even more significant, and reminds me to try to encourage, collaborate and work diligently with and for others. People matter more than things.

What's Wrong with Your Profile Picture

Geopolitical Hipsterism and the Paris Attacks

SCOTT BANDY



“Where’s the Lebanese flag filter for my profile picture?” This question was posed to me, tongue in cheek, during a conversation in the wake of the attacks on Paris this past week. This question raises a very interesting discussion concerning the focus of Western media outlets as they cover world events, as well as drawing attention to how the news is perceived by the general public.

The series of coordinated attacks on France’s capital occurred on November 13, killed 129 people, and left many injured and even more gripped with fear for their country. The government of France quickly put the state on lockdown, declaring a state of emergency. Other Western nations responded quickly to the attacks, pledging solidarity with France and continuing to offer their support for the grieving country. Similarly, many people took to social media in order to express their disbelief at this tragedy and offer their love and support for the people of France.

However, in retaliation to people changing their Facebook profile pictures to depict the French flag, certain individuals expressed frustration at the notion that specific tragedies elsewhere in the world might be overlooked due to the scale and shock of the attacks in France. Specifically, many people expressed dismay that the media seemed to be selectively presenting their news stories, slighting

events occurring in other areas of the world in order to present news updates on Paris.

In addition to the attacks on Paris, suicide bombings by ISIS in Beirut killed 43 people in one of the city’s popular shopping centers. ISIS declared that this was an attack on the Shiite group Hezbollah, who have been engaged in the fight against ISIS and support the current Syrian government. The attack ended the relative peace of recent months in Lebanon’s capital city, which has been a site of violence for much of its modern history. Similarly, continued violence in Baghdad also claimed casualties this past week; there have been several attacks in Iraq’s capital, leaving the country increasingly torn and unstable.

In light of these attacks, — not to mention the other humanitarian crises that have arisen due to natural disasters in Japan and Mexico — the issue raised by many was the question of whether or not news sources were too selective in their presentation of specific stories.

Contrary to these complaints, what is important to realize, is the fact that the media actually has been covering these stories. Most major newspapers and online forums continue to offer coverage of the violence and other tragic events occurring in many different regions of the world. A 20 second Google search will reveal a huge wealth of articles, commentaries and details concerning these events.

So what is the criticism really about? At its core, the protest that the media isn’t doing a good enough job is actually a criticism of the “attention deficit” that Westerners tend to have concerning world events. Instead of demonstrating the inefficiency of news sources, this convergence of tragedies instead displays the difficulty that the media faces in changing the focus of a population that is barraged with news stories concerning everything from Justin Bieber’s change of heart and Trudeau’s hair to ISIS, Anonymous and the G20. Selective sympathy to tragedies in the world cannot simply be changed by the amount of news that is taken in on a daily basis.

So what can we do about the issue? Well, short of changing the filter of your profile picture (nice work everyone), it seems that the best solution to the issue of selective

sympathy and a general failure to engage with ideas in the world is to actually seek out information. Stop condemning news sources for failing to adequately inform you. Take initiative yourself by looking deeper than hashtags on your favorite social media site. Pick up a newspaper and — here’s the important part — actually read it. Engage in conversations with people. In essence, do more than post a #prayforparis tweet with a picture of the Eiffel Tower and pat yourself on the back for a job well done. I’m not saying that social media is necessarily a bad way to engage with world issues. In many cases, sites like Facebook and Twitter can be excellent gateways to accessing information on specific events. If you follow the right people on Twitter, you’ll only have to click one link and you’ll get more than you wanted on the status of certain world concerns. My point is that when activism starts and ends with a status, tweet or post, the disconnection between a person and adequate engagement with world events actually grows wider.

This can be an important message for those of us living in the West to hear. Learning to tune our ears to the pain that is occurring all over the world instead of only focusing on the places that are the most relatable is essential.

However, there are certain pitfalls that need to be avoided. Journalist Jamiles Lartey recently drew attention to one such danger, referring to it as “attention hijacking”. This can be stylized as a certain kind of geopolitical hipsterism, in which basic knowledge of events happening in the world becomes a matter of pride for oneself. Of course, engaging with political ideas and spreading awareness among one’s friends can be beneficial and informative. However, when it becomes a contest of who is the most informed on tragedies occurring in the world, a definite value reappraisal is in order.

There are many issues in the world that warrant our attention and prayers, and it is easy to be burdened by the weight of tragedies. Let us be continually engaged in conversation concerning world events, drawing strength and support from others, and end the passivity that has precluded much of our responses to tragedies in the world.

I Hope You’re Offended

Our culture’s war on free speech

MICHAEL EMMANUEL

The canons from the war on free speech are rumbling louder these days, and if we’re not careful they will be blasting away intellectual exchange in our classrooms. Christian liberal arts universities tend to be better at allowing open intellectual debate, but as the barbarians on the Left get more and more aggressive, even as conservatives graciously give up more and more ground, soon they’ll be in the gates.

Recently, the University of Missouri took one more step into making Orwellian thoughtcrime a reality in what was formerly known as the Free World. The university sent out an email to students asking them to report “incidents of hateful and/or hurtful speech” to campus police. What’s wrong with trying to stop hateful speech? Nothing, if that were what the email was really about. But first, there’s another principle at stake here.

Once upon a time, when somebody said something that offended you, you fought back — with words of course. Bad ideas — racism, intolerance, fanaticism, etc. — would ultimately defeat themselves. So we should allow people to say outrageous things in order for the market place of free ideas to triumph. Otherwise, we would have a tyrannical bureaucracy determining what we could and could not say based on the whims of the majority. Free speech was one of the best protections against tyranny. This meant some people might say mean or hurtful things. But it was the price that had to be paid so that everyone, including the least popular groups, could have the right to say what they believed. The only restrictions on this were for slander and, rightly so, blasphemy.

The decision taken by the U of Missouri marks another attack on those ideas. It is a reminder that the Left is

winning the war on free speech. What it says is that if someone says something that somebody else regards as offensive, that person should be silenced for the crime of being offensive. Anyone who loves the truth should be terrified at this thought, for the truth is offensive.

Saying, “I’m offended” has become a trump card across the board in both public and private discourse. Our society has put feelings above rationality. It is now a sin to say something that causes another person distress, and Christians are buying into this.

Newsflash: the gospel is offensive! Warning lights should be flashing, sirens blaring, when we hear of attempts to silence people on the basis of offence because we should know that it could be us next — it will be us next — if the Left has its way. What the person who says, “I’m offended” really means is that it causes them emotional pain to hear those ideas. But rather than address them rationally and explain why they disagree, they demand your silence. In other words, people who have different ideas should not be allowed to say them. (Of course, if I got offended because of homosexuality, it wouldn’t count. But hypocrisy is the Left’s game.)

This is exactly what the email at U of Missouri was all about. How do I know? Because laws already exist against slander and harassment. Meanwhile, the email mentioned that “while cases of hateful and hurtful speech are not crimes, if the individuals identified are students,” the campus police can discipline them. If the forbidden speech is not against the law, what is U of Missouri trying to stop?

They are trying to stop what the Leftist intellectual Herbert Marcuse once labelled “repressive tolerance.” He said

that most people think about tolerance in reference to people and groups but that we should think of tolerance in terms of non-tolerance to ideas deemed intolerant. In other words, ideas the Left finds disagreeable — the biblical family, “hetero-normativity”, biologically determined sex/gender — are by definition hateful ideas, therefore they must be repressed. Anyone who has been following developments in the world of political correctness has seen this at work. It’s newest form: micro-aggressions.

The 20th century conservative journalist William F. Buckley once said: “Liberals claim to want to give a hearing to other views, but then are shocked and offended to discover that there are other views.”

The example of U of Missouri is just a small manifestation of a growing cultural cancer. More and more people are afraid of intellectual disagreement, instead demanding their irrational, ephemeral feelings decide the limits of acceptable discourse. With this our culture is becoming more and more intolerant as Leftists forbid deviance from orthodoxy. The right not to be offended is trumping truth and sanity. Those of us who love liberty must be on our guard.

Now to put principles to practice, a quote from the ever-misbehaving Douglas Wilson should ruffle some feathers. “The political correctness police are out in force, calling everyone on every expression of what they consider to be [hateful]. Unfortunately they, wind up policing a good deal more... To go along with any level of this PC foolishness is like going on a bender in Bangkok, and getting a tattoo from a guy whose English is not that strong.” I hope you’re offended.

Royals Beat Mountaineers in Hamiltonian Battle

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER

Redeemer's men's volleyball team won 3-2 in an incredible game last night, winning the 1st, 2nd and 5th sets against the Mohawk Mountaineers — a team ranked 1st in the province and 3rd in the country.

After the post-game team huddle, The Crown spoke with Coach Brad Douwes on his team's triumph:

"That's a great team that we just played, and our guys did exactly what we asked of them. We're not as big as them, and we don't hit the ball as hard as them, but we served tough and played crazy defence. It was pretty fun! It's tough to keep your emotions in check for that entire match, but at the end it's all let out.

"We're 6-1 right now. Mohawk was 7-0 — now they're 7-1. I think Fanshawe is 7-1, and then it's us and Humber. So we're sitting right behind these guys in the standings now, and we have more games to play. We play Fanshawe on Friday night, and then Niagara next Thursday. It would be awesome to have people come out, especially on Friday."

The woman's volleyball team, too, conquered the Mountaineers with a 3-0 victory earlier that evening, marking their fourth win of the season.

So get amped, Royal fans! And see the Reds go marching in this Friday night. The women's team plays at 6:00 p.m., the men play at 8:00 p.m, and both teams are going to kill it. Sport your regal colours and belt our anthem with pride: Go Royals Go!



Post-game huddle



Fifth set hype

Toronto Raptors: Rebranded

AROOP PATEL



For the first time since their inauguration in 1995, the Raptors have done a complete overhaul both on and off the court. In addition to extensively revamping the logo, roster, and jerseys, Toronto will be hosting the 2016 All-Star Game later this season.

This is an exciting season for the Raptors as General Manager, Masai Ujiri has made comprehensive changes to the team. Last year, they finished with a franchise record in regular season wins on their way to capturing a third Atlantic Division title.

It may have come as a shock that a team that performed so well would make such drastic changes, but being swept in the first round of the playoffs at the hands of the Washington Wizards really opened some eyes to the team's defensive weaknesses. Ujiri has made strides this off season to improve Toronto's defence, but at the same

time has not hurt their potent offence from a year ago. He has brought in seven new players to help balance out the team. The most impressive player of the bunch is former Atlanta Hawk, DeMarre Carroll, who signed a 4 year, \$60 million contract in the off season.

In addition to signing their prized free agent, they also managed to bring in some Canadian blood, something Raptors fans have been awaiting for a while now. Fresh off an NBA Championship, Pickering native, Cory Joseph joined the fold this season from the San Antonio Spurs. As well, Anthony Bennett of Brampton joined the team. He was the first Canadian player to be taken first overall in the history of the NBA Draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers back in 2013.

Superfan, recording artist, and Raptors Global Ambassador Drake has continued his position with the team this year and had influence on the Raptors this off season. Upon his hiring in 2013, President & CEO Tim Leiweke, who resigned last year, said, "Drake will be our ambassador and help us forge this new vision, this new buzz, this new excitement for where we're taking this organization." His involvement in the rebranding process was evident as he was even able to create a jersey just for Drake Night on November 25, where he will perform at half-time and give away some free swag. Their We The North campaign was the starting point of their rebranding efforts this off season as it implemented a more Canadian focus to the team's look and feel.

On top of all these drastic changes, the Raptors will be hosting the All-Star Weekend for the first time in their history. When asked about the benefits of hosting, Ujiri said, "The biggest impact ever. It's the first time outside the United States; I think it's a platform for us to showcase our city, the people and how enjoyable it is to be here. It's a great festival with the NBA, everybody is together in one place and it's going to be in Toronto . . . it's going to be amazing for us." This will be an exciting time for us here in the GTA as our streets will be flooded with the

likes of celebrities, politicians, and basketball fans from around the globe to catch a glimpse of some of the NBA's elite talents. The Raptors organization will hope that their fanbase can reward the players by voting for a couple of them to play in the All-Star game this coming February.

This season, the Raptors have had their ups and downs; they currently hold a 7-6 record. Looks can be deceiving though as the Raptors are playing through their toughest month in their schedule. They have eleven road games and an array of strong teams to take on. So far they have played well in almost all their games, but have had a difficult time trying to beat some of the NBA's elite teams.

However, there have been some positives; the team is playing much stronger defensively than last year and their losses to the league's better teams have been narrow. Before the season started, Ujiri was asked about his thoughts on their tough November schedule: "It's the same thing. It levels out at some point but it's good to test teams that way. It'll be tough for us but none of the players have complained about it or said anything, which tells me they are ready to get things going."

This team has the capability of being a dominant force in the NBA, but they lack consistency on a night-to-night basis. Sometimes their star players fail to bring their A-game and the rest of the team is unable to pick up the slack, or vice-versa, the star's shine but their bench lets them down when they need a break. Regardless of their current play, they currently sit in 5th place in the league, and hold a playoff spot.

The Raptors have been known to play better as the season wears on and they will battle to salvage the rest of this month. They must get accustomed to all the new acquisitions this season, and as the season progresses, so will their team chemistry.

GO RAPS GO!

Post Script By the Brothers MOOGK-SOULIS

www.PostScriptComic.com



Redeemer Professors

BY JENNA STEWART

D P V T S S S F M D K W Y I X S U R L P
 C J W H I V T H B E L D M A N T V S J N
 B S T S T H I E C A A N O J F O W J I T
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 P U S A I K A T H H S A Q A G D A T S E
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 Z V A H F B I J I N B E S D Y E V H I U
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 T R V X H M Y M L L E E Y U Z S F R N P
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 Z O P C B W J T A D I T F R W W R T K J
 G E B K L T T B E N K N O F D D Q Q G F
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ASATRYAN
 BELDMAN
 BERKELAAR
 CHIANG
 CURNEW
 EPP
 FABER
 FLATT

GOOD
 JOUSTRA
 JUILFS
 KLASSEN
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Pet of the Month

Feature Creatures of Redeemer

REBEKKA GONDOSCH
 REPORTER

This month features Kenya, canine companion to Chris Ruiters! Kenya expresses her feelings about interactions with humans, the winter season, and what treats make her crazy!

Q: How do you like to greet humans when you first meet them?

Kenya: When I first meet humans I usually like to check them out like I check out other dogs, and that obviously involves sniffing certain places. I'm not sure why, but my owner always seems to get embarrassed when I do that and tries to pull me away!

Q: Winter is coming! Do you have any favourite activities planned for the winter season?

Kenya: Oh yes, I love winter. My family always has lots of fires outside and I love to hang out with them around

the fire pit. Of course I don't get to play in a lot of snow, because I live in BC. Also, in the winter my owner comes home from school and I'll do anything with him while he's home! I'm pretty much down for anything.

Q: What's a treat you go crazy for?

Kenya: I love popcorn. I'm not too picky and I'll take what I can get, but I think I've been putting on a few extra pounds. Obviously I'm just getting ready for winter... right?

Q: Is there anything you do that your human just doesn't seem to understand?

Kenya: Whenever my owner is going to take me somewhere in his car, I jump into the driver seat. How is it fair he gets to drive all the time? He doesn't understand and hasn't given me a chance to drive. He's missing out.

