

THE CROWN

REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1983

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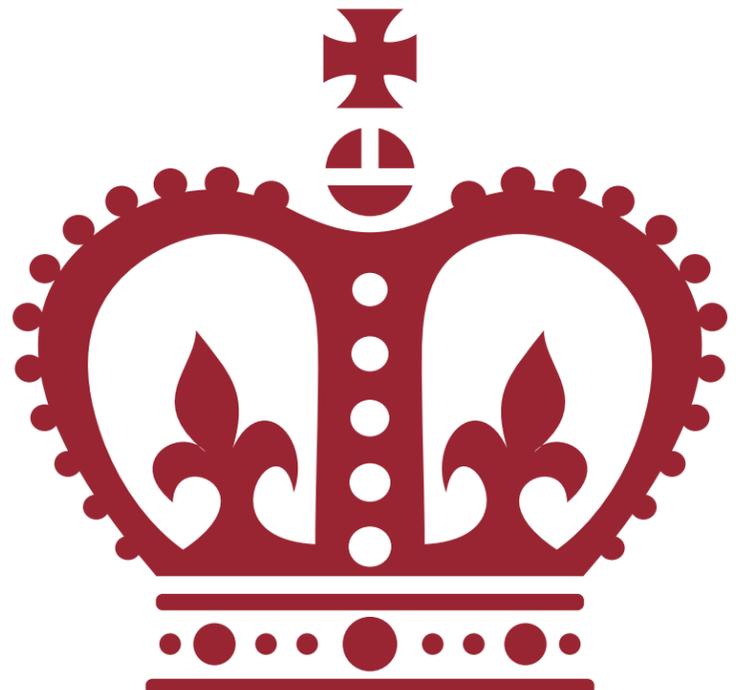
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Letter from the Editor



We are proud, in the humblest of ways, to bring you this edition of the Crown. This Crown represents what can be accomplished even during the busy times of life. As most of you will have experienced over the past couple of weeks, life can get really busy during midterms.

The Crown feels this time of the year as much as anyone. What it took to get this “upgraded” paper into your hands was a commitment to discipline while placing a goal in front of ourselves.

Similarly to the last issue, there were times we wanted to give up. It's tough to work hard. Proverbs may have also helped us a little: “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!” An ant goes to work little by little but in the end a masterpiece is created. This is advice to hold onto during the busy times in our lives. Enjoy this issue of The Crown. God Bless.

The Beef Thief

ANDREW TOSLAND

A large heist netted a massive amount of beef after a truck was stolen early last month. The truck left Texas on September 15th carrying over 40,000 pounds of beef, and was left in a shipping yard in Ancaster on Sunday night. Late that night, the suspects involved broke into the yard and stole the truck, including the refrigerated trailer. At this time, Hamilton police are unsure if the individuals were targeting the truck or the cargo of beef which is valued at over \$100,000.

They also mentioned that if the thieves were in fact targeting the beef, they would have had to have a buyer lined up in advance due to the high rate of spoilage. This event has also highlighted the problem of organized crime in Hamilton targeting the trucking industry. Jennifer Fox of the Canadian Trucking Alliance noted that this is estimated to be a 5 billion dollar problem nationally, with some estimates going much higher. In any event, after Sunday's heist, many people in Hamilton may find themselves asking, “Where's the beef?”

Dear Deer



DEAR DEER,

I FEEL LIKE I HAVE SO MUCH “STUFF” AND WANT TO GET RID OF SOME OF IT, BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START!

First of all, don't fret! Accumulating lots of stuff is definitely a common thing. You probably have attachments to a lot of your stuff whether it's from a time you and your friends were on a road trip, or the shirt your sister gave you for your 15th birthday. “Stuff” usually carries a lot of sentimental value. You just have to remember that when you part with physical things, it doesn't mean you're getting rid of the memories. There's a lot of thrift stores around Hamilton that would love to take some of that stuff off your hands! And most of all, when parting with your stuff, remember that there are a lot of people who need that stuff a lot more than you do.

DEAR DEER,

A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE'S SUDDENLY BEEN IGNORING ME A LOT LATELY. HOW DO I GET THEIR ATTENTION?

In a school like Redeemer, with so many friends around this is definitely a common problem. It is easy for people to connect with a lot of different people. Try not to take that personally. If you think that there may be tension between you and your friend, make sure you address it maturely. Without placing the blame on your friend, just gently and calmly let them know how you are feeling. Make sure that

you aren't letting this make you doubt your own self worth. There are plenty of reasons why they may be ignoring you. Maybe they are going through things, busy, or possibly aren't even aware they're making you feel this way. The best way to address a problem you have with someone is always just talking to them first and hitting the problem head on.

DEAR DEER,

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS FROM HIGH SCHOOL? IT'S ONLY BEEN 4 MONTHS, BUT IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE I'VE TALKED TO THEM. I LOVE MY NEW FRIENDS, BUT I'M SCARED THAT I'M GOING TO LOSE MY OLD ONES.

This is always a very hard thing to deal with for first years. You are all in different places, meeting new people and going through different things. If you really value your friends, I cannot emphasize enough that you remember to show them your thinking about them, whether that's through a text saying something short and funny, or a Skype date on a Saturday. This is where social media can come in handy. Maybe create a group on Facebook with all your high school friends and encourage everyone to write a short blurb about things that are going on in their lives. Plan a weekend where you guys can all get together at someone's university and catch up!

DEAR DEER,

I HAVE SO MUCH GOING ON BUT I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING OUT! HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BALANCE BEING INVOLVED IN THE THINGS THAT YOU ENJOY WITHOUT GETTING TOO BUSY OR FEELING LIKE YOU'RE LEFT OUT?

You've been bitten by the FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) bug! It's easy to think that if you go to bed before 2 am that you're going to lose all your friends. But take heart- this is a myth! Make sure you remember why you are at school. Yes, socializing and making friends is very important, but your priority, as hard as it is to fathom, is your education. Don't feel like you need to be apart of absolutely everything that's going on. You need to look after yourself- make sure you are taking time to rest, be with God, and doing things that relax you. Don't get stressed out thinking that you're going to be forgotten if you're not at a late night porch jam. Sleep! Remember that if your friends are true friends, they won't forget you. Go out with them on weekends, or gather your friends and grab a table in the library and do some homework together. That way, you're together, and also getting some stuff done. It's a big myth that if you aren't doing everything then you are going to lose friends. You won't!

Save the Date

OCTOBER 24-27 - READING BREAK

Take a break from the books, and enjoy some time relaxing over this year's reading break. Whether it be spent with family or friends take some time for your self

OCTOBER 26 - OCAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS @ REDEEMER

Redeemer gets set to host the OCAA Cross country championships. If you have any free time and would like check out some of our great athletes come out to Dundas Conservation Area

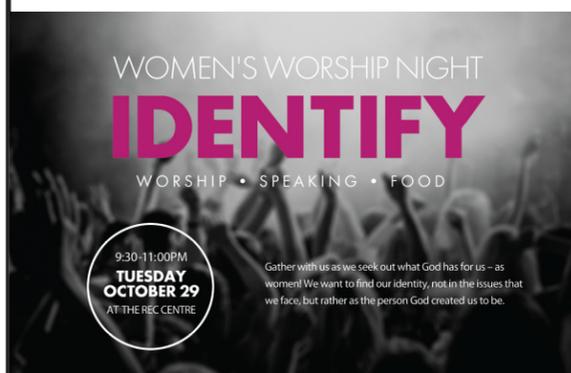
OCTOBER 29 - JEFFERSON BETHKE CONVERSATION

Bethke's original video “Why I hate religion, but love Jesus” made a splash with over 26 million views. Now as he releases his new book “Jesus>Religion” he will be visiting Redeemer for a conversation



OCTOBER 29 - IDENTIFY: WOMEN'S WORSHIP NIGHT

Redeemer's first women's only worship night. Come out to enjoy a night of worship, speaking, friends, and food



NOVEMBER 1 - VOLLEYBALL HOME OPENER

Support your famous Royals



NOVEMBER 4-5 - CLOTHING SALE FOR HOPE OF THE SOLD

Here's a chance to live like the early church who sold everything they had to provide for those in need

NOVEMBER 7 - BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

As the slogan goes “Blood: It's in you to give”. Don't miss your chance to save a life

NOVEMBER 8 - BASKETBALL HOME OPENER

Support your famous Royals

NOVEMBER 9 - ART CRAWL

Support the art community in Hamilton by heading down to James Street North for the art crawl. Many Redeemer art students will have their creations on display

NOVEMBER 12 - HILLSONG UNITED CONCERT

One of the most influential worship bands in the world comes to Hamilton, be sure to buy your tickets and take part in a night of worship with thousands of other Christians

NOVEMBER 17 - CITB

Keep coming out to Redeemer's most attended event of the month

LOCAL MUSIC



Spotlight: Miniver Sail

LAURA HEMING

From its humble beginnings as three friends with a common musical interest, to what has now sprouted into five musicians and a surfeit of musical talent, Hamilton's Miniver Sail has tied together a unique lyrical expression with a haunting melodic consistency.

Miniver Sail is an indie folk band based in Hamilton, Ontario. Composed of mostly Redeemer natives, this band's humble acoustic sound has matured into a stronger and fuller melodic folk rock expression over the past year. This year has been one of prodigious break-out for the band, highlighting musicality over the sole emphasis on words. This is an attribute that sets them apart from emerging folk artists and attempts to shift the focal point over to musical makeup, pulling it forward into centrality. Their chilling instrumentation has proven to silence a crowd each time they play.

The band's diverse composition begins with Chris Hurn singing lead vocals and playing banjo, violin, guitar, autoharp and mandolin; Simon Fallon singing lead vocals and playing acoustic guitar; Justin Hiebert on lead guitar and vocals; Nimal Agalawatte on bass and harmonica; and Christopher Poirier on

percussion and vocals. The band's strengths lie in their ability to transform real and vulnerable emotions into words that contain unique depth and create an intimate connection between themselves and their audience.

They have shared the stage with names such as Scott Orr, The Wild Suns, Juno award-winners The Strumbellas, and East Coast Music award-winners The Stanfields. They are preparing for their shows with Bradley Hathaway on three of the Canadian stops of his tour.

A full length album is in the works, which will incorporate an evolved sound from their past EP *These Old Woods*.

"We are working on an album in the studio with Glenn Watkinson, and we are honoured. Glenn is really good at what he does. (The album) will probably be out in a year. We don't want to rush it and produce something we don't like," said Hurn.

In the meantime, Miniver Sail will continue writing, enjoying making music together, and playing when they get the chance. Look out for local shows, including one this Thursday at The Casbah with Scott Orr. You will be hooked.



Music Notes

Album Releases this Month

1. Katy Perry, *Prism*, October 22, 2013
2. The Head and the Heart, *Let's be Still*, October 15, 2013
3. Kelly Clarkson, *Wrapped in Red*, October 29, 2013
4. Arcade Fire, *Reflektor*, October 29, 2013
5. One Direction, *Midnight Memories*, November 25, 2013



1. Miniver Sail and Scott Orr, *The Casbah*, October 24, 2013
2. Matthew Good Band, *Hamilton Place Theatre*, October 25, 2013
3. October Sky, *Baltimore House*, October 29 and November 1, 2013
4. Hillsong United, *Copps Coliseum*, November 12, 2013
5. Shad, *The Casbah*, November 13, 2013
6. Joel Plaskett, *Danforth Music Hall*, November 2, 2013
7. Kate Nash, *The Phoenix*, November 5, 2013
8. The Paper Kites, *Horseshoe*, November 7, 2013
9. James Vincent McMorrow, *Great Hall*, November 16, 2013



Finding Music in Steel Town

SIMON FALLON



So you've packed up your luggage and dreams and moved to Hamilton, The Hammer, Hammerville, Steel City, etc. Whatever reasoning you had, I'm here to tell you that this city is more alive than you thought, more on fire with the arts than I realized, capable of more growth than we give it credit for. Now some of you might be more musical than your average Joe, and this city should set your soul on fire because the live-music scene is alive and well in Hamilton; Redeemer students and alumni alike have discovered this. I'm going to impart a few little musical tips to the student body.

Places to listen:

THE BALTIMORE HOUSE. LOCATION: KING WILLIAM.

Featuring beautiful hardwood floors and neon crosses, the Baltimore House is a hotbed for

local music. Because of its extremely diverse musical roster, you can expect to hear anything from techno rave beats to lovely solo acoustic shows. Not to mention this place is a great haunt to buckle down with a good book or crank out some homework during the daylight hours. Follow them on twitter @BaltimoreMMXI for info on their daily activities.

THE CASBAH. LOCATION: CORNER OF KING AND QUEEN.

The Casbah is usually home to heavier tunes, good craft beer, and shwarmas from down the street that you may or may not regret eating later. Although the show may be a couple hours later than advertised, it's always recommended to get there promptly if sitting down is your kind of thing because seating is rather limited. Follow them on twitter @CasbahHamilton. (Also, Family of the Year is playing there soon; check that show out if you can.)

THE DOORS PUB. LOCATION: HESS STREET, TOP OF THE HILL.

A good little pub with two musical tastes percolating at all times. The basement usually features

ambient trance metal and men who look like they've seen some things. Upstairs, you'll usually hear some folk music, alternative, or some other genre that's hard to pin down.

Places to Play:

THE COACH AND LANTERN. LOCATION: WILSON STREET.

One of Ancaster's two pubs, The Coach is a great place to get out of your comfort zone and sing a couple tunes. Ryan Vivian hosts an open mic night every Thursday and if you show up and strum a couple chords you even get a beer on the house, which is pretty grand if you ask me. It's also a good place to go and hear the blues every other Friday Night.



Even More Evidence of Global Warming

MICHAEL EMMANUEL

We are no longer in the dark. It's been nearly seven years, but the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finally released its fifth assessment report on September 27, 2013. The groundbreaking news: we are now extremely certain that global warming is man-made (95% certain in fact). This is a radical development, since their fourth assessment report in 2007 claimed global warming was only "very likely" man made. Among the other recent findings: there are unprecedented levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, global temperatures are expected to rise over the next century, the glaciers continue to melt while sea levels rise, and the oceans are warming up. In other words, in bureaucratic fashion the IPCC has spent seven years researching to tell us nothing new.

The release of the report could not have come at a worse time for the IPCC with the recent discussion of the temper-

ature hiatus. It appears that, despite what gurus like David Suzuki might think, global temperatures have failed to rise since the beginning of the 21st century. Temperatures have plateaued for the last 15 years. Of course the IPCC has been quick to respond to the apparent discrepancy with various theories, the most popular of which seems to be that the ocean is absorbing the heat. Take into account that this has been unproven by observations, especially given that men began taking deep-sea temperatures in the 1960s. Other theories involve the lack of sunspot activity, or low concentrations of water vapor. (Of course these other theories would contradict the anthropogenic climate-change theory.) Still others are content to view the hiatus as a temporary interruption in an overall long-term trend.

It's not surprising that the IPCC is still spitting out the same claptrap it did in the last four reports. It's a scientifically corrupt institution with a political agenda that trumps scientific rigor. Consider the fact that the Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) defines climate change

as changes caused by human interference with atmospheric conditions, as reported by Dr. Vincent Gray (a cited IPCC reviewer). That means the only evidence that counts for the IPCC is evidence which points towards their already-assumed theory. Begging the question much? Then there's the endless publication of their peer-reviewed articles in the top scientific journals. "Peer-reviewed" sounds so academic, doesn't it? But how many peers are there in very specialized sciences? It seems more likely peer-reviewed really means, "judging themselves by themselves." Finally, there's the simple fact that the IPCC's predictions just don't come true. Every report has said temperatures and oceans will rise. The only thing that has risen is the IPCC's certainty that they will rise.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. Fool me five times--you must be a politician. Wherever you stand on the debate, be you alarmist or skeptic, the IPCC shouldn't be your authority. At least, I'm 95% sure they shouldn't.

To Die, or Not to Die?

MATTHEW BOKMA
REPORTER

The grandchildren continued singing 'Row Row Row your boat' while watching their grandmother move back and forth in her rocking chair, sipping a deadly cocktail of sodium pentobarbital. That was Susan Griffith's final experience before she drank the poisonous concoction, sunk into a coma, and was declared dead just before 7am (CST) on April 25, 2013.

According to the CBC, Susan Griffiths from Winnipeg Manitoba was one of the many Canadians who continue to express their demand for the Canadian government to respect their existential autonomy. After being diagnosed with multiple systems atrophy (a paralytic disease by which death is immanent), Susan traveled 7,100 km to Switzerland where she believed her existential autonomy would be respected by the Swiss government. After consulting a professional physician, Susan found herself in a hotel circled by the Swiss, where her suicide was comfortably and legally assisted.

To die, or not to die: that is the question that the average Redeemer student naively dismisses as rhetorical. "Of course assisted suicide is wrong; it violates not only God's laws but also the Hippocratic oath." Little to the student's knowledge, the revised oath states: "It may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God."

Although we feel a measure of satisfaction with our pop-theological solutions to our nation's problems, we should not ignore the fact that this issue continues to crop up again

and again. Currently the Quebec government is introducing Bill 52, which serves as "an act respecting end-of-life care" in an attempt to legalize assisted-suicide in Canada. Contrary to the connotations expressed in the word 'care,' the new bill broadens the scope of this understanding from a merely psychological and physiological state toward one that includes one's existential condition—his or her personal autonomy.

“IT MAY ALSO BE WITHIN MY POWER TO TAKE A LIFE; THIS AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE FACED WITH GREAT HUMBLENESS AND AWARENESS OF MY OWN FRAILITY. ABOVE ALL, I MUST NOT PLAY AT GOD.”

Even some Canadian healthcare professionals agree that legalizing assisted suicide is a liberating feat of social justice. As the result of a brain tumor, 68-year-old Dr. Donald Low died naturally on September 18, 2013. However, his death did not stop him from declaring to our nation that assisted suicide should be an option for terminally-ill patients who continue to suffer excruciating pain. Eight days before his death, he digitally recorded his request for the Canadian government to reconsider the legalization of assisted suicide. He declared, "I wish they could live in my body for 24 hours and I think they would change that opinion. I'm just frustrated not to be able to have control of my own life." He asked to have the video released posthumously, thereby igniting the controversy over assisted suicide once again in Canadian politics.

However, proponents of assisted suicide are not without

their critics. In her blog, Sr. Nuala Kenny, a professor of Bioethics at Dalhousie University and Ethics and Health Policy Advisor to the Catholic's Health Alliance of Canada, presents a scathing attack on Bill 52, stating that "it is not about care, it's about death." By raising the question of language, Sr. Kenny is essentially accusing proponents of assisted suicide and, in particular, those who proposed Bill 52, of sophistry. She argues that "the Bill avoids the language of physician-assisted suicide to circumvent the federal criminal code," hiding the notion of 'killing' under the guise of a "medical act." She argues that such medical reformation is nothing but a deformation of our fundamental commitments toward life.

Although the reader might find Sr. Kenny's arguments relatively unsubstantial, by raising the question of language she—whether consciously or not—implicitly invites her reader to examine his or her understanding of what is meant by the words 'care,' 'death,' 'suffering,' etc. Is the phrase "end-of-life care" another paradox like the wave-particle theory or the doctrine of the incarnation? Or is it a blatant contradiction that defies reason? On an existential level, do human beings have the right to autonomous decisions regarding their own life and death? On a theological level, perhaps God has given humans the responsibility over the time and manner of their physical death, and an individual with a sound mind like Dr. Low's can responsibly take their own life. These questions require a thorough examination of presuppositions that continue to be inherent in the very words we speak, and perhaps our current political crisis might inspire students to undertake such a task.



Ways to Break the Bubble at Redeemer

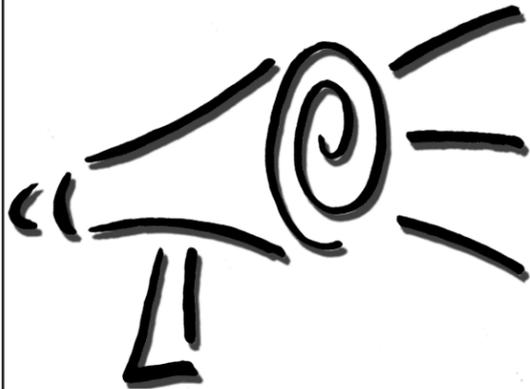
Now, if you need help with challenging yourself to take initiative, Redeemer provides lots of opportunities to help you. If you want to get involved, it is simple to inform yourself about means of doing so. Redeemer actually has a staff member to coordinate community engagement. Email Steve at sdykstra@redeemer.ca, or check out the following ministries and outreaches run by Redeemer students:

- Deedz: a student-led ministry that intentionally and literally reaches out to people in Hamilton every Friday night and warmly invites all students to come.
- New to Canada Kids Club
- Bridges
- the Tuesday or Thursday kids club outreach
- There are also several outreach mission trips for spring reading break, as well as Cross Culture, which is like a one-day Hamilton mission trip every semester.

Or connect with organizations in the city like these:

Ngen
the Living Rock
Helping Hands
the detention centre
Mission Services
the Good Shepherd
Homestead Christian Care
the Victory Gardens
Neighbour to Neighbour
New Hope Bikes
a church congregation

pROFL Quote



Student: "Dr. Koyzis, who of all the profs in the school would have a secret beer fridge in their office?" Dr. Koyzis: "...David Koyzis!"

"I have lady bugs crawling all over me, but that's the way God intended it!" - Dr. Koyzis

"You should never read everything; people who write books are long-winded." - Dr. Vriend (on his own textbook)

(Concerning his lecture slides) "Don't write any of that down - most of it is nonsense." - Dr. Vriend

"My theory on man and woman: God created man and said, 'Not bad, but I can do better.'" - Dr. Vriend

"Why was Luther out trick-or-treating? This will be an exam question, think about it!" - Dr. Vriend

Your Acl is not affected by your menstrual cycle - Jordan Miller

"Its giving an honest, scholarly answer, or its educated bs." Dr. Vriend

"If you watch America's Got Talent it'll prove to you that America does not have talent." - Dr. Payton in HIS-315 class

With reference to his view on the creation of man and women "God created man and thought 'pretty good, but I can do better'". - Dr. Vriend

"I like a woman who talks back." -Dr Barkman

Some people have more jacked calves than others.

"Mine are BIG!" -Jordan Miller

It's Only a Bubble if You Make It One

JOHN SCHUURMAN

Christians in this awesome community?

Note: The "Bubble" I am addressing below is the close community at Redeemer, not the big white thing beside third parking lot.

I have been hearing students talk a lot about their desire to reach out in the "real world," outside the Redeemer "bubble," and about how the small community does not challenge people to get out. Additionally, I see other students who do not want to reach out into the "real world" at all. To both groups, I say that you need to get out and you can do so easily.

If you are not getting involved in community engagement outside of this campus, it is because you don't want to be involved enough to actually get involved. (The key word is enough. I believe that everyone at this school wants to be involved in engagement, but many are more desirous of either constantly involving themselves on campus or not involving themselves anywhere at all.) Anyone who wants to become involved in outreach as a Redeemer student is able to do so easily through many means (see the attached list). It's not that Redeemer is a community that inherently keeps people in a bubble; rather, it is generally a community of people who bubble themselves in. So if this is true of you, the issue is not that the "bubble" does not challenge you to get out, it is that you do not challenge yourself to get out. It's only a bubble if you make it one.

Redeemer's community is not something that keeps people from going into the "real world." It simply gives those who do not want to go out an easy time not doing so. Redeemer can do nothing to keep you here. This is not a grade school and you are all adults--take some initiative!

Along with the many other important reasons to be engaged outside of Christian communities, also remember that you will not be ready to serve God in great ways when you graduate unless you are serving Him, at least in small ways, already. Think for your own good: Won't you be much better-equipped to serve God when you are thrust into the real world if you first begin to serve in the real world now, while you are still surrounded by a team of other

Bible studies are great. I love them and am currently a part of one. Still, Rick Warren speaks with a degree of truth when he said, "The last thing many believers need is to go to another Bible study. They already know far more than they are putting into practice. What they need are serving experiences in which they can exercise their spiritual muscles." If you fit that description, why is that true of you? (I'm actually asking you. I can't answer that for you.)

Finally, know that you will find it easier and more satisfying to love the needy the more you go out. This is important and comforting. I can boldly assure you from my own experience that when you go into the city with the intention of blessing needy communities, you will also find that they will bless you in ways every bit as important and significant as the blessings you experience from the Redeemer community. C. S. Lewis says in *Mere Christianity*, "Whenever we do good to another self, just because it is a self, made (like us) by God, and desiring its own happiness as we desire ours, we shall have learned to love it a little more... That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of."

I am not writing this to point fingers. We all are guilty of not loving our neighbour as we should, myself included. I just hope that you see that, rather than holding you back, Redeemer and its student community actually encourage you to get involved. Not everybody at this school fits one of the two categories I mentioned at the beginning. There are many students who are already engaged and involved in the real world, working with or leading the groups mentioned in the box. Many of your schoolmates, profs, and staff are involved in very inspirational, challenging Christian work off-campus, and they are people you can talk to if you need help challenging yourself. I challenge all of you to go off-campus and find out where your passion for service is. Take a risk! You just might also find that you are as blessed by the off-campus community as you are by the on-campus community.





Fear of Garner

LAURA HEMING
REPORTER

Garner Road is a pretty frightening place. Whether it's the transport trucks flying 100 km an hour or the uneven muddy gravel roadside or the lack of streetlights, shedding complete darkness on a winter's night, one would be completely rational fearing for their life at night walking home after class.

With more than half of Redeemer students in the upper years, and lots of student housing available on streets off Garner, it is likely that most students will take Garner Road to get home. Because it is somewhat of a country road, cars and trucks seem to exceed the speed limit--significantly so.

A student who chooses to remain anonymous described their feelings walking home:

"When I walk home at night, I have to use my phone to guide the path cause I can't see anything. I'm always scared the trucks that are racing by are going to hit me cause they won't see me. I usually end up tripping over huge rocks and pieces of gravel on the side of the road."

There have already been multiple car accidents on Garner Road in the past year, including the September 19th accident in which a man slammed into a hydro pole. This high-traffic road is prone to cars drifting off the road, whether it is caused by ice, hydroplaning, or inattention.

So how can we lessen the chance that one of those statistics will be one of our own students?

Maybe the school can consider suggesting to the city of Hamilton that they pave a sidewalk, a couple feet of even pavement to welcome bikers and walkers on the same area

as cars. This would not only allow people to feel safer, but would also promote more environmentally-friendly commutes (biking to school rather than driving).

Lowering the speed limit would prevent more accidents, and, although most people don't usually follow the speed limit anyway, it would hopefully still somewhat reduce the speed of speeding drivers.

Installing a proper amount of street lights would allow students to feel more at ease, and allow them to see their next step and any possible interactions with nighttime creatures, etc. (Being proactive is often the best choice.)

Although this proposal may seem out of reach and may be far-fetched, it's the things we overlook in the moment that tend to be the things we regret later on.

The Man Who's Seen It All

STACIE HURST

Jim Payton knows that things weren't always this way.

He can remember welcoming Redeemer College students to classes in a converted grade school over 25 years ago, before the College became a university.

He can remember the early 90s crisis that pushed Redeemer--and his career--into one of its darkest chapters.

He can tell you the real reason why students live in townhouses and not traditional dorms.

And, to date, he's served longer than all three of Redeemer's presidents.

Payton, who holds a Doctorate in European History, has been at Redeemer longer than any other faculty or staff member. He has served an impressive 29 years, first as an academic dean--he says they didn't use titles like "vice president" back then--and later as a history professor, a position he still holds today at 65 years old.

Payton was initially approached in 1982 by Redeemer's first president, Henry DeBolster, with the possibility of serving as a faculty member at the then-unopened college. Though Payton had been pastoring for eight years and was at that time pursuing a position at a church in Stratford, Ont., he eventually accepted the call to come to Redeemer. In 1984, he began his university career.

In 1998, he was inaugurated as a full professor (the second-highest position in Canada's academic ranking system after "distinguished professor emeritus").

Having written four books and 27 articles, Payton is an expert in church history as well as the history of Eastern Europe. In fact, he is largely responsible for developing the history department's Eastern European focus, though he observes that interest in this area has been "fading" in re-

cent years.

Payton remembers teaching at "the Bell Cairn school," Redeemer's first campus, which was actually a converted grade school in Hamilton. Back then, he says, there were no dorms so the students stayed in townhouses off campus.

The tradition carried over into the design of the present-day campus, where townhouse-style dorms were constructed to reflect the students' original housing situation.

Except for four years when he served as an academic dean, Payton taught history. Administration is what he dislikes most about his job, but he loves helping the students learn.



"There's a buzz with faculty members when you see a student get something," he says. "It's really exciting when the lights go on."

Making a difference in students' lives is one of Payton's greatest rewards. "It means a lot," he says, for a student to say that something "really came alive for them in class."

Difficult memories mingle with pleasant ones, however. Payton remembers the hardest event of his career, "the col-

lapse of the Brookview Trust." Back in the early 90s, the university was sharply disappointed to learn that a large source of funding had not come through. "It was a very difficult time," said Payton, who also said it was the first real financial crisis Redeemer had ever faced. He says the situation "generated dissatisfaction and anger" in a lot of people, sending the university into three of its most challenging years.

When asked what he would like to see changed, Payton said the financial pressure the school continually faces due to its status as a privately-funded institution.

"It's always tight," he says. "I wish we could find a way to make finances less of a pressure each year."

But for now, Payton will focus on his work as a professor. He plans to retire in 2015, after 31 years at Redeemer. He may contribute on a part-time basis afterwards.

Payton, whose favourite on-campus snack is coffee with a triple chocolate cookie, enjoys research, writing, and exercise (including weight lifting, running, and cycling). He hopes to travel to Northern Europe one day, as well as to the Eastern Mediterranean with his wife, with whom he has four children, six grandchildren, and three Bengal cats.

The couple have tentative plans to go on an Alaskan cruise, though Payton--who is not entirely convinced--says, "I can see glaciers on TV if I want to!"

He could, in any case, bring along a Jennifer Rush album for diversion. Payton finds "The Power of Love" an "especially powerful" song, noting that he does not like "rap or heavy stuff."

He does like his office, however, which is his favourite spot on campus. Sitting behind his desk in room 208D, nestled amidst an array of pictures, papers, and books, he looks perfectly at home.

Now time for a coffee and a triple chocolate cookie...

Pranksters on Campus

This current crop of on-campus students has been some of the most creative and devious people ever to prank at Redeemer. The pranks have been original and (for the most part) well thought out and above all have helped create lasting bonds and relationships all across campus. But what constitutes a truly good prank? Using several examples from past years at Redeemer, we will attempt to highlight some of the most brilliant and hilarious pranks as well as give examples of ones that are simply not okay. And while the pranking has been enjoyable and has earned a great many laughs, it is time to focus upon school and others ways of fostering truly great community.

Consider now instead of pranking a dorm, rather do a pay-it-forward act of kindness. It is a busy time of year for everyone and this is the perfect opportunity for us all to come together as a Redeemer community to support and encourage one another. While the pranks have been enjoyable, there is also the risk of crossing a fine line and instead of building community; it can ultimately tear it down. Please remember that no prank is worth the cost of someone's well-being and personal sense of safety. Feel free to share any great pay-it-forward acts of kindness with the Crown as it is exciting to celebrate the acts that make this campus one of the greatest places to spend time at.



THE FLIPED CUP PRANK

Description: While cleverly offering to do the dishes, the pranksters simultaneously fill your cups and bowls full of water, flipping them upside down in your shelves lying in wait for the unsuspecting victim.

Outcome: As the victim reaches for a mug, bowl, or glass to enjoy a delicious beverage, a torrential downfall of water emerges from it to soak the unsuspecting victim. One should note that if the cup were large enough, that water flow would briefly count as one of the waterfalls in the City of Hamilton.

Originality: 3. This is pretty impressive that somebody took the time to fill a cup and then manage to place the cup back in the drawer without ever spilling a drop. This was the result of a devious mind.

Difficulty: 3. While getting into the kitchen is simple through offering to do dishes, the time and patience it takes to get a full cup of water back inside the shelves is impressive to say the least.

Too Far?: This one is okay. Water is fairly harmless and while there is still margin for error if their phone or laptop gets wet, by and large this one causes no lasting damage to the dorm and usually results in hilarity.



SNAKE IN A VASE PRANK

Description: Discovering that a certain dorm on campus had never been pranked, a set of tricksters managed to capture a local garden snake. Using a dollar-store vase, some flowers, and ingenuity the pranksters were able to place the snake in the bottom of the vase while decorating the vase with flowers and a card. The snake-filled vase and card were then left upon the door step to be collected by the dorm.

Outcome: Upon discovery, the original finder did not notice the snake until it stared through the base of the vase in what would prove to be a very surprising moment. Fortunately, there were several biology students and snake lovers in the dorm who investigate the snake and the releasing the snake back into the wild after having a good laugh at the practical joke.

Originality: 4. Its not often you see a snake in the bottom of a glass vase. This is one of those pranks that is not necessarily planned, but more spontaneous based on the exciting discovery of the snake.

Difficulty: 4. A snake is most likely not particularly keen on being forced into a small glass vase that is unfamiliar to it. The logistics of getting the snake into the vase takes not only skill but also courage.

Too Far?: Another prank that has potential to turn into an on-campus disaster. Any time that live animals are introduced there is a significant amount of risk. Fortunately the snake was released into the wild and was not accidentally released into the dorm resulting in this being a well thought out and quality prank!



DORM ROOM IN ELEVATOR PRANK

Description: While a member of a dorm in Aug Hall goes away for a weekend, the pranksters gain entry into the dorm through a man on the inside. Once inside the pranksters begin to move the entirety of the persons belongings into the elevator. This includes the bed, dresser, clothing, and desk.

Outcome: Usually shock and disbelief on the part of the victim. The outcome is a bedroom that now exists in an elevator. However, those responsible for the moving should remember that they should be kind enough to help move said furniture back to the room after getting the desired reaction.

Originality: 3. While moving furniture to random locations isn't a new idea, the elevator is a different variation of a classic prank that has seen things placed on roofs, docks, and bridges.

Difficulty: 5. The majority of the stuff being moved is fairly heavy and takes a high level of commitment. Also the time it takes to get the furniture from the room to the elevator is fairly long and can result in a great many trips going up and down the elevator.

Too Far?: Another borderline prank. As long as the clean up is assisted with, and the weight of the elevator does not exceed the occupancy weight limit than this one can be considered okay. A wide amount of potential pitfalls means that it is one that should only be done with extreme caution.



FREEZER AND CABINET DOOR PRANK

Description: Various glass kitchen dishware were placed in water and frozen in the freezer. The cabinet doors were all removed and placed somewhere else in the dorm.

Outcome: Dishware shattered, that tends to happen when glass gets too cold, and got into all of the food in the freezer. The cleanup required the throwing out of dishware and food. Dorm damage deposit was used to pay for the poor removal of the cabinet doors.

Originality: 0 Things are placed in the freezer every day.

Difficulty: 1 This is just a silly prank. Not much thought and very little to laugh about.

Too Far?: Definitely, a good prank doesn't include vandalism



THE HUMAN SARAN WRAP PRANK

Description: Gathering a team of pranksters together, the group seeks to find a target and then completely mummify the victim in saran wrap. What results is a completely immobilized person who you can carry with you from dorm to dorm as some sort of human trophy.

Outcome: The person laughs at first, and then gets claustrophobic or simply annoyed. The victim also probably learns to never trust those friends again.

Originality: 2. Mummifying a person isn't a bad idea; it is an odd one to come up with though

Difficulty: 5. Depending on your victim and how much they flail, it can be incredibly difficult to wrap some body completely in saran wrap. Also it becomes a lot of lifting to move the person from one place to another.

Too Far? Yes, unfortunately this one does cross the boundary of personal space and isn't particularly funny after a while. The victim does not enjoy the outcome of the prank and if everybody isn't at least getting a chuckle out of it than it isn't a very good prank in the first place. It does not serve the community of create a bond of trust amongst the pranksters and victims.



POOP ON FIRE PRANK

Description: An age-old classic, they say some things get better with age and this is a prank that your grandparents invented, and your parents perfected. Some collected dog poop is placed in a brown paper bag, which is then set on fire and left on somebody's doorstep for them to hopefully attempt to stomp out. This would lead to the victim stamping in poop.

Outcome: The intended victim reacted as an experience professional. Simply getting a bucket of water instead of the resulting panic of attempting to step out a fire. Also it should be noted the tricksters used mud instead of poop, taking away the gross factor from the prank.

Originality: 2. If your parents have successfully pulled off a prank, it means it has been around for a while by the time it is done here. However, the fact that it's a classic means that the lack of originality should not be mocked.

Difficulty: 2. Not too much setup and preparation is required. A simple paper bag, a lighter, and some poop (or mud). The simplicity of this prank is what makes it a classic.

Too Far?: While fire is always dangerous inside the dorm (See the no open flame in doors rule inside the student life handbook) this small fire was monitored and placed a safe distance from the dorm on concrete. Unfortunately the success of the prank was foiled by the presence of a levelheaded, would-be victim



THE SPIKED COOKIE PRANK

Description: In retaliation to an earlier prank, cookies were brought to the unsuspecting rival dorm. Little did this dorm know, the retaliation involved laxatives being placed in the cookies they would soon devour.

Outcome: One poor soul learned that the loo isn't the best place to do homework ... for four days straight. Everyone who took part in munching on the cookies was out of commission for days. Not a good time to be a cookie monster.

Originality: 2. Laxatives have been talked about since elementary school. In fact most of us still believe the folklore that McDonalds includes it in their food. The point is, laxatives aren't creative.

Difficulty: 2. To buy laxatives and bake cookies is easy. The two being combined equal the rating of 2.

Too Far?: This really is one "crappy" prank, it went way too far. Regardless of the intent, not only was way too much laxatives used, but it's wrong that they were used at all. Placing anything that is not meant to be placed in an edible treat is going too far. The effects can never be fully calculated and unintended damage can take place.



SELLING "BORROWED" BIKE PRANK

Description: A bike was "borrowed" from a rival dorm. The bike was then auctioned on the "Redeemer Sell Your Textbooks Page," perhaps a chance for the owner to buy back their property.

Outcome: The bike wasn't really sold but the owner certainly was questioning what the outcome would be.

Originality: 2. Anytime Redeemer's Textbook Page is used for something else other than textbooks - one year it was used to find a roommate a girlfriend - laughs will be had. In terms of the "borrowed" bike, it happens daily at Redeemer.

Difficulty: 2. Bikes are generally easy to locate on Redeemer Campus. Half of student's time is also spent on Facebook. This prank was simply TOO convenient.

Too Far?: Anytime you take something that is not your own you are walking on thin ice, thankfully this was all done in good fun and it ended up harmless. Be careful with any borrowing you may do. It is always dangerous when you can technically describe the prank as "theft."



SPAGHETTI THROWING PRANK

Description: Boiled Spaghetti was then thrown at the windows of other dorms causing it to stick

Outcome: Some chuckles here and there, some dorms simply ignored the throwing while others cleaned up the mess. Many of this pranks victims would say that this prank was "mildly funny"

Originality: 1. Not much to say on this one, it's neither creative nor completely unoriginal

Difficulty: 2. Buying and soaking the noodles does take a decent level of effort, however throwing them at someone's dorm and leaving does not.

Too Far?: As long as it is cleaned up (so as not to attract critters) it is okay. However, is it really that funny?



LANDSCAPING DORM PRANK

Description: The main floor of dorm 29 had interesting renovations carried out over the thanksgiving weekend to bring a little of the outdoors inside. The main floor was sodded and mulched by pranksters to look like a front yard. Lawn chairs were set out to enjoy the view, potted plants were used to give colour and a pond was created in the sink, complete with gold fish.

Outcome: Dorm 29 was amazed, clearly taken aback by the pranksters skills, photos were shared on Facebook for all to marvel at. There are rumors that the dorm desired to keep their new lawn intact for the remainder of the winter.

Originality: 5. This is as good as it gets, creativity was at its peak as every detail was thought out.

Difficulty: 5. This prank takes a lot of thought and planning. Only a true landscaper can pull this one off with the quality in which it was done. A good work ethic and discipline are also skills needed for a prank of this magnitude.

Too Far?: This prank is borderline. There is certainly a degree of vandalism that could occur within a prank like this. Fortunately the pranksters laid down plastic to ensure cleanup wasn't all that difficult and that the dorms would receive no damage. This is as good as a prank gets.



Obama Shutdown

MICHAEL EMMANUEL

"Of all the responsibilities the Constitution endows to Congress, two should be fairly simple: pass a budget, and pay America's bills," said President Obama in an address on September 30th, the day before the American government shutdown. Idealistically ignorant of America's recent budget passing history, which has seen 17 shutdowns since 1976, according to USA Today, Obama insisted, "All of this is entirely preventable if the House chooses to do what the Senate has already done." Translation: "Do whatever I want you to do!" This was a political temper tantrum, but more so, another attempt by Obama to override the checks and balances of a constitutional democracy.

There's a lot of misunderstanding about what and who caused the government shutdown on October 1st, 2013. But it was most certainly not, as Obama claimed, Republicans, "Saving face after making some impossible promises to the extreme right wing of their party," or refighting the results of the election. As economist Thomas Sowell argued, legislation by appropriation is both legal and not in the least unprecedented. The shutdown was due to men in government doing what they were elected to do.

In the United States, before the executive branch of the government is allowed to spend taxpayer dollars, Congress, the legislative branch, has to pass an appropriation bill authorizing the government to do so. Generally, appropriation bills appropriate spending for one fiscal year. After the year, no new funds can be spent until Congress passes a new appropriation bill. Federal law makes any spending outside appropriation a felony according to the Anti-Deficiency Act. In characteristic

American fashion, this severely limits the executive power's authority, keeping potential tyrants from spending tax-dollars for their own gain.

Just like the Canadian legislative branch, in the U.S., Congress is divided into the House of Representatives and the Senate, both of whom have to agree on an appropriation bill for it to pass. Again, this is to limit the power of any one branch of government. Just like in Canada, where tax bills can only originate in House of Commons, the American system gives its elected representatives a powerful claim over tax-dollars to limit the spending power of selected officials in the Senate (who were historically the nobility). And, analogous to Canada, if the House disagrees with the spending, the government is upset. But, whereas in the Canadian Parliamentary system, the executive branch is thrown out of power and an election is re-held, in the States the government "shuts-down".

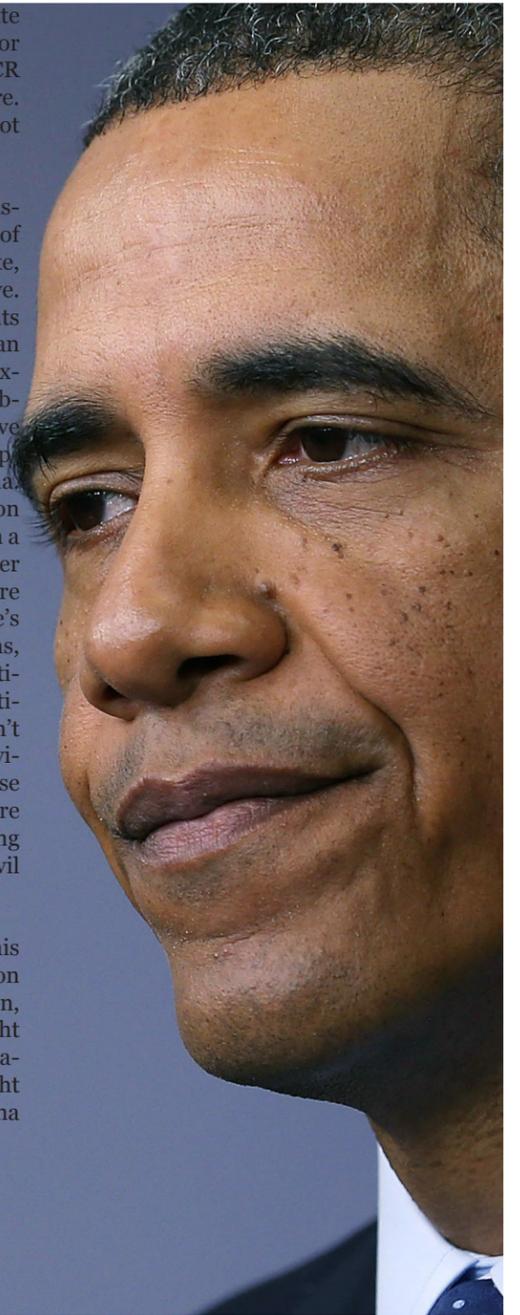
There is one last option though. It's called a Continuing Resolution (CR), what Harry Reid is calling a "clean" bill. This offers funds to already existing federal programs at the current or reduced levels of spending while Congress works on passing a new appropriation bill. It's a temporary compromise to keep the government running smoothly while the politicians fight it out. But if no CR is made, a shutdown occurs. A shutdown means all non-essential government programs stop like national parks, NASA, and, believe it or not, IRS audits. Essential programs remain running like Social Security, the active military, and ironically, but understandably, Congress.

That's what's going on right now in the States. The House of Representatives, controlled by the Republicans, passed an appropriation bill that funded all areas of the government except for the controversial Affordable Care Act (aka Obama-

care). However, the Democrat run Senate demanded the House include funds for Obamacare, and would not accept a CR that did not include funds for Obamacare. You could quite literally say the Senate got shutdown.

So why is Obama so upset? Well, it's frustrating when Constitutional division of powers allows endless bureaucratic debate, rendering your government ineffective. (Goodness knows it's why no one counts on the UN anymore.) "The American people sent us here to govern," Obama expounded. Meaning, "Stop whining Republicans." But the people who want effective government also sent the Republican representatives to check and balance Obama. Americans know the trains won't run on time. But the alternative comes at to high a cost. (Private enterprise runs much better trains anyways.) It's small, slow, but sure government that wins the race. While he's trying to put the blame on Republicans, Obama is really shooting at the Constitution he believes is irrelevant and antiquated. The limitation of powers doesn't square well with his big-government visions. That's concerning. Why? Because it's constitutions, the rule of law, that are the foundation of free societies. Attacking constitutional principles is attacking civil liberties and advocating dictatorship.

Thus it was ironic when Obama finished his address saying, "My hope and expectation is that in the eleventh hour, once again, that Congress will choose to do the right thing and that the House of Representatives, in particular, will choose the right thing." Thank heavens they did. "Obama shoots... and he's shutdown!"



Apple's October Release: Mavericks

ANDREW TOSLAND

Beginning in 2011 Apple decided to change the pace of its upgrade schedule for its personal computers. In the past users had to wait up to three years for an upgrade, such as the move from Tiger to Leopard (2004 - 2007). For the most part, these upgrades contained massive changes and were easy to distinguish. This trend came to a halt in 2011 when Apple announced that they would move to yearly upgrades with less drastic changes. This trend continues with the October's release of Mavericks, bringing a number of great new features with an emphasis on improving the mobile experience.

Users in any visuals do not see one of the biggest features in Mavericks. These changes are in the underlying foundation and lead to improved battery life. One method of achieving this is through Timer Coalescing. As we use our computers on a daily basis the open applications make different calls to the computer at various times, for example mail will check to see if there are new messages every 15 minutes, and other applications might make other calls in 10 minute intervals, or less. Each of these calls turns on the CPU for the check which takes power from the battery to do and with the various applications each user uses the CPU is turning on and off rapidly. In Mavericks the operating system analyses the calls and aligns them to group those that are close

together. The ending result is that the CPU is on for a short period of time, and off for a longer period of time, thus saving your battery from being as strained. In addition to Timer Coalescing there are other battery saving features such as compressed memory, App Nap, and Click to Start Flash in Safari.



All of these features add up to give a noticeable boost to battery life

In addition to the system upgrades, in Mavericks there are also a number of new applications included as well. One of which is a new Maps application. Although Apple took a lot of criticism for its implementation of Maps in iOS 6, there have been substantial improvements over the past two years making for a more reliable experience. The Maps application in Mavericks uses Apple Maps and allows features such as a 3D view of buildings called "Fly-over", and a new feature allowing users to plan a route on the Mac and send the directions to an iPhone or iPad. This is very useful in planning trips. Another application that is new to Mavericks is iBooks, similar to the iOS application iBooks allows for the collec-

tion and viewing of eBooks and PDF's and will also sync them to iOS devices.

Along with these two new features Apple has also tweaked many elements of the interface, removing the linen background from many elements, as well as the leather effect from the calendar. Although we do not see the massive changes in Mac upgrades as in past years, we also do not see the massive price, Mavericks is available now from the Mac App Store for free, leaving no reason not to upgrade.

App of the Month: Songza

JORDAN BOKMA



This handy little app is the perfect music discovery tool. Its primary draw is the quick play set list feature that revolves around your lifestyle. It's geared to playing music that fits the individual while not taking forever to find that perfect song.

For example, the welcome screen greets me with a "It's a Tuesday evening. Play music for:" and six options appear, ranging from "Brand New Music" to "Cooking"

to "Working Out" to "Unwinding." I pick "Cooking." The next option is the genre of music that I want to listen to. I naturally gravitate to the "Golden Oldies." From there, I can pick a set list of songs that I will listen to as I fry up my steak, dancing to old-school "Africa."

Songza delivers a user experience like no other. In a matter of five swipes on my phone, I can queue up an hour of music that I've never heard before, but it is

still geared toward my tastes. It's a perfect match for lazy students who don't want to find new music on their own.

Songza does not only match up moods with songs; it features popular set lists, a history of played set lists, and a search feature to find the artist or song by genres, activities, moods, decades, culture, and a "record store clerk" (it's actually there).

Full of features, Songza sets itself apart from the competition by making the chore of searching for music easy. This makes Songza an essential app that should be in every music lover's repertoire.

Framing Our Virtual Idols

LAURA HEMING
REPORTER

We are a generation whose eyes are fixed on... screens.

We are captivated by every hilarious status, every obscure Snap-Chat, every buzz. Our phones are like another limb on our body--always on hand or within our immediate reach. Somehow there is something more enticing about what just lit up on our screen than the face in front of us.

We open our screens when we are bored, tired, uncomfortable in our social situation, or procrastinating. It is always a matter of replacing something that we are lacking, such as strength, comfort and motivation. Hours are devoted, joy is produced, and real life interactions are sacrificed. Does this sound familiar?

There's a story in Exodus where the Israelites went up to a man named Aaron and asked him to make them an idol to lead and protect them. Aaron asked the people to collect their gold jewelry, which they melted and made into a bull statue. God responded, "Those people you led out of

Egypt are acting like fools. They have already stopped obeying me and have made themselves an idol in the shape of a young bull. They have bowed down to it, offered sacrifices, and said that it is the god who brought them out of Egypt" (Exodus 32:7-10).

Some key things to notice about God's anger with his people after they made this god: He says that they have stopped obeying him, and have instead offered sacrifices to the idol, giving it credit for their joy. How many times have we chosen Facebook-creeping over that pull we feel in the pit of our stomach to do some devotions? How many face-to-face conversations have we sacrificed, scrolling through our phones when someone is right across from us at the table? How often do we feel fulfilled after receiving a record number of snap chats? There seem to be some pretty obvious ties.

Besides this technological idolatry, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and SnapChat tend to be thieves of not merely our time, but more importantly the real world. There is truth in the saying "All things should be done in proportion," but these proportions turn into priorities, which turn into walls

that block out the people we love most.

Most of us would say that these networks draw us closer to our friends. We send funny pictures to people we never really talk to in person and seemingly have some sort of deeper connection with them. The problem with these virtual friendships is that they are replacements, and somewhat of a cop-out for taking the time to sit down with someone, sacrificing some time for wholehearted, organic communication.

The Facebook culture degrades real relationships, but also does some personal damage.

We tend to get sidetracked by a quest to send a link to a song, or get caught in the web of virtual comparison--that is, lusting after the apparently perfect life of someone else. We find ourselves with a case of wanderlust after looking through our friend's Mediterranean adventure pictures, with a touch of jealousy in our bones. Or we feel a sting of hopelessness when we see that all our friends are getting married. We start to think our life isn't so great after all.

The trouble with this is that so-

cial media is renowned for telling "partial truths," showing us the palm trees but not the food poisoning, the perfect relationship but not the fight that followed, or the amazing party but not the fact that it was really uncomfortable and boring. This in itself is not so much the point as is the fact that social media tends to pull out a lot of negative things from within us which start to outweigh the positives. In fact, these negatives seem to match perfectly with the 7 deadly sins:

1. Pride/ Vanity: checking to see how many likes your latest profile picture got. Boasting about what you're doing, where you're going, who you're with.

2. Envy: desiring someone else's situation, be it a relationship, a geographical location, or physical appearance, and wanting more friend requests, more inboxes, more re-tweets.

3. Gluttony: consuming more "social interaction" than you require.

4. Anger: fuming over a theological debate that we never had in person.

5. Lust: wishing for someone or something that we see someone

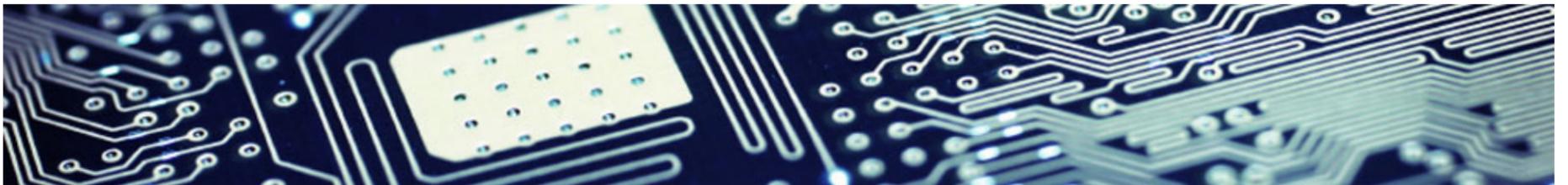
else has.

6. Greed: excessively desiring to be at that school in England, have that car or that pumpkin spice latte.

7. Sloth: avoiding spiritual or physical work, scrolling instead of praying, "liking" instead studying, laziness.

As much as social networking is able to help make communication easier, event invitations more convenient, and life a little funnier, stepping away from the screens as much as possible can do a lot of good. Whether this is stepping away from at least one social network or totally leaving them all, there is a lot to gain from allowing yourself to be fully present in each moment. Maybe using social media as an option rather than a necessity would clear our minds of the clutter we often feel.

Perhaps there is something to be gained from a lack of virtual distraction: perhaps the reaping of a more hearty thankfulness, obedience, discipline, and presence.



Halloween: Pagan or Christian?

MATTHEW BOKMA
REPORTER

Halloween: the one evening of the year when the representatives of evil--Beelzebub, Darth Vader, the wicked witch of the west--and their noble counterparts--the holy angel, Superman, and perhaps Stephen Harper--form a truce, stand side-by-side and, with outstretched bags, taunt the morally mediocre neighbours into giving them candy. Although this conjuring is celebrated across North America by people of all ages, its historical roots remain unknown. Nicolas Rogers' book *Halloween: from Pagan Ritual to Party Night* traces the development of what was once a faithful observance of the onset of winter to the commercialized candy extravaganza and monster-mash cocktail party that it is today. This article will provide only a brief summary of what Rogers has written concerning Halloween's pagan and Christian origins.

Rogers argues that despite the Christian linguistic derivatives of "All Hallows' Eve" and "All Saint's

Day," Halloween has its origin in the ancient Samhain festival, a gaelic celebration that begins on October 31 and ends November 1, marking approximately the halfway point between the September equinox and the December solstice. This transitory period represents the final struggle between the forces of light, life, and growth and the forces of darkness, death, and decay. During this period the farmers celebrated the final harvest and preserved food for the days of winter. The wives would prepare a feast, leaving seats not only for the living, but also for the dead who roamed the lands. The shaman would practice various divinations, interpret omens, and ignite massive bonfires in order to ward off the evil spirits of the netherworld that spring forth from the borrows and valleys of the ground.

Regarding the explicit connection made by movies such as *Halloween 2* and *The Wicker Man* between Samhain and human sacrifices, there is little evidence in celtic folklore to suggest that such practices took place. However, there is an association between

the Samhain festival and the practices of the Gauls and the Druids during the Roman era. Classical authors such as Julius Caesar and Diodorus portray the tribes of the North as barbarians whose ceremonial practices are diametrically opposed to so-called Roman "civilization." Diodorus, for example, wrote about the Wicker Man, a massive, hollow effigy made of sticks and twine into which humans were thrown and burned alive. However, these writers were not eyewitnesses and scholars argue that such accounts served merely for the purpose of propaganda that juxtaposed the Roman practices with their neighbouring rivals.

It was not until the 9th century that the Roman Catholic Church established All Saint's Day on November 1 and All Soul's day on November 2, and, according to Rogers, "by the end of the Middle Ages they were among the most important [festivals] . . . marked by high masses and prayers." This Christianization, however, did not completely repress pagan superstition. The liturgical practices during the first week of November

protected people from the spirits of their relatives who sought revenge against those who wronged them, and bells would toll in order to repel demonic forces. The peasants would go door to door asking for small loafs of bread--"soul-cakes"--in exchange for intercessory prayer for the relatives trapped in purgatory. The peasants would travel around with lanterns made from a carved turnip and candle, which represents a soul trapped in purgatory--the first jack-o'-lanterns.

However, many of the Roman Catholic practices concerning what came to be known as 'Hallowtide' in England were abolished by the 16th-century Reformation. And, according to Rogers, by the mid 17th century most of the religious overtones were eradicated, thereby leaving a primitive, yet pervasive supernaturalism. People would light candles in order to ward off the witches, ghosts, and demons of the night. Furthermore, the mid-17th century was marked by political fervour. On November 5th, protestant Britain celebrated the liberation from arbitrary Roman Catholic authority by torching a

human puppet that represented either Guy Fawkes, the co-conspirator of the Gunpowder plot, or the pope. Guy Fawkes Day or Bonfire Night eventually lost its political flavour but "continued to be a rowdy, raucous festival" where the hooligans would roam the neighbourhood asking people for supplies to build a fire; if a residence did not willingly provide, pranks were devised and items around the house would be stolen for the bonfire--perhaps an early practice of what we call "trick-or-treating."

The development of Halloween described in this article is by no means exhaustive. Rogers provides a thorough treatment of this topic by tracing the pagan and Christian roots of Halloween along with its political, social, and cultural associations. In particular, it addresses the way in which North America adopted Halloween as the second-most commercialized celebration after Christmas.

MY Abortion

BETHANY FRIESWICK

Of the two persons involved in a pregnancy, only one is considered human. “A child becomes a human being within the meaning of this Act when it has completely proceeded, in a living state, from the body of its mother, whether or not (a) it has breathed; (b) it has an independent circulation; or (c) the navel string is severed” (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca>). Although an aborted child may resemble what a developing human would look like, most philosophers arguing for abortion agree that “membership in a biological species confers no rights” (Peter Kreeft). The problem with this statement is that everyone was a baby at one time with no rights, yet here they are today because their parents decided that the child had a right to live. There is a basic logic that must be followed then: either all humans have rights (including unborn babies) or some have rights and some don't (and

the decision is made by the more valued members of society).

The rights of the women to abort will be upheld, unless it can be proven that a baby is a human being before birth. Canada chooses to recognize a baby as human only after it has been born, so that the rights of the infant in the womb do not conflict with the rights of the mother. Although some scientists support abortion, none of them can deny “the well-established fact that a genetically distinct human being is brought into existence at conception. . . . In addition to being genetically distinct from the time of conception, the unborn possesses separate circulatory, nervous, and endocrine systems” (Randy Alcorn). The idea that a woman has more rights than her child because “it” is part of her body is misleading and uneducated. A child can be delivered safely from its dead mother, just as a mother can survive if the baby dies. The baby even controls when it is delivered,

as well as its mother's periods. It is not a matter of whether a baby is human or not, from a scientific perspective. Dr. Thomas Hilgers states, “No individual living body can ‘become’ a person unless it is already a person. No living being can become anything other than what it already essentially is.” It is a spiritual, political, and legal view of what constitutes being a human that decides if a baby has the same rights as its mom.

Canada has turned the issue of abortion into a grey zone, or a slippery slide leading towards terminating children with defects, elderly people, and others who aren't “fully-functioning” or “contributing to society.” With the precedent set by *R. v. Morgentaler*, the mother can abort in her best interests. Following that reasoning, adult children of a mother who is disabled and elderly might decide that it was in their best interests to use euthanasia. People can “play God” and cause deaths that would not happen otherwise.

This is especially evident in “the growing amount of available genetic information about individual fetuses over the past decade (that) has increased the likelihood that a woman will opt for abortion” (Cassidy and Gentles). This is indicative of a morally inconsistent society that values some humans' rights above others'.

A pregnant woman who wants her child is not sacrificing fewer rights than a pregnant woman who chooses to terminate her baby. The first chooses to protect the rights of a “less valuable” human being, even when it conflicts with her best interests, while the second is only considerate of her own needs and interests. It is only because the latter views her pregnancy as something that primarily affects her interests/ body that she feels her rights are more important. But according to this standard, there will never be a fair balance of rights in society. As Canada becomes more multicultural, religions, politics, and sci-

ence will increase the amount of rights being violated. These women need to realize that legalities and governments cannot change the fact that human beings live for 9 months in the womb before they are born and their right to life must be respected. Abortion shouldn't be a political, spiritual, or legal issue. Instead, it should be used to save the life of a mother if she is in danger, and never to preserve her best interests.

The Conservative Party: A Canadian Necessity

IAN GALLAGHER

We are still two years away from the next federal election, but now is the time to give our support to the right party, which I argue should be the Conservative Party. In this article, I will lay out some reasons why I think the Conservatives deserve our support in 2015.

Economically, Canada is doing great. The journeys out west which people embark upon to work in resource extraction projects has almost become the stuff of myth and legend. Already there are labour shortages and, with so many reserves of oil, natural gas, and minerals still untapped, our economy should be stable for many years to come. But in order to get our oil to market, we need pipelines. The Conservatives are

the only party that is fully backing the Northern Gateway pipeline, as well as the XL pipeline that extends to southern USA. The construction of these pipelines will require thousands of skilled workers, and some will be retained for maintenance once they are built. The oil which flows through these pipelines will be taxed, and those dollars will go towards paying for ever-increasing public expenses such as health care. It is in our best interest that these pipelines get built.

Our great country is the envy of the world right now. We have recovered from the 2008 recession better than most and, since the worst part of the recession, we've seen one million jobs added to our economy. That means that more people are working now than before the downturn. A ma-

ior reason why we are where we are is because of policies instituted by the federal Conservative government, such as lower taxes and ambitious trade initiatives. A government under the New Democratic Party or Liberal Party would raise the corporate tax rate substantially. This is a problem because a lower corporate tax rate in Canada (currently 15%) allows companies to hire more people. The NDP is generally opposed to trade deals. Because the U.S. economy is still fragile, the Conservatives want to make Canada less reliant on America as a trade partner. So under Prime Minister Stephen Harper's leadership, the government recently concluded the most important trade deal in our nation's history. The EU and Canada now have free trade, meaning we have access to tariff-free European goods everywhere

(rather than getting them at the duty-free shops at airports).

Aside from economic policy, Canada needs a strong, experienced voice on the world stage. Because the world has its eye on Canada and its sound economic policy, we need to show leadership. Stephen Harper has abandoned Canada's weak “go along to get along” policy of the Liberal era. Canada now speaks its mind on everything from Israel-Palestine relations, to international human rights violations, to foreign aid, and more. Justin Trudeau, were he to become prime minister, would be a weak voice. His inexperience and gaffe-prone performances in domestic politics would translate to the international stage. Stephen Harper has a wealth of experience and is well-respected around the world.

Electing a Conservative government in 2015 would also allow for a strong contingent of pro-life MPs who will continually raise the issue of abortion and the rights of the unborn. This is important in Canada because we have no restrictions on abortion. This needs to end. If the NDP or Liberals were elected to government, the pro-life conversation would be somewhat muted in Ottawa.

So, in two years, pick the Conservatives. They are the ones who will deliver future prosperity, lower taxes for families, and strong foreign policy.

Your Jesus is a Farce!

TABITHA DI DOMENICO

It was a normal day as I signed on to Facebook after class. To my surprise, an aggressive atheist friend had ‘tagged’ me in a post. Curious, I click on the link. To my horror, the status read: “Your Jesus is a farce. Lol! Feeling blessed today? Anyone? Maybe ‘Tabitha Rose’?” followed by the article, “Ancient Confession Found: ‘We Invented Jesus Christ’” by Joseph Atwill. If I wasn't so stubborn I might have been offended at his attempt to publicly humiliate not only myself but my God. Instead, my heart was sad for him and this misinformation that spread like wildfire all over Facebook. I gently but firmly responded, though we need not get into those details.

Joseph Atwill claims to be an “American Biblical scholar” and has concluded that Romans invented Jesus of Nazareth for political control. According to Atwill

the “New Testament was written by first-century Roman aristocrats and they fabricated the entire story of Jesus Christ.” Atwill claims he is not trying to harm Christians but rather to inform the public of proper history and offer explanations as to why governments created false histories and false gods. “They often do it to obtain a social order that is against the best interests of the common people,” he says.

So, how exactly did a pretend historical weirdo who was rejected by His own people benefit the Roman government? Atwill explains Jesus was created as propaganda to pacify those involved in the Roman Empire. He claims that Jews in ancient Palestine awaiting their Messiah were often violent and rebellious. To calm them, the Romans created a competing belief system or “psychological warfare” by using “turn the other cheek” pacifism and encouraging Jews to “give unto Caesar.” His evidence? His own interpretation of ancient

texts like the Dead Sea Scrolls, the New Testament, writings by Josephus, and Roman accounts. His most “intriguing discovery” is that he noticed “parallels between the two texts...that the sequence of events and locations of Jesus' ministry are more or less the same as the sequence of events and locations of the military campaign of [Emperor] Titus Flavius... This is clear evidence of a deliberately constructed pattern.” He also noticed that the Dead Sea Scrolls do not mention Jesus of Nazareth, in fact they “give a different picture than the idyllic first century Holy Land of the Gospels.” These things all aided his conclusion.

Now before your faith crumbles, let's break apart how Atwill is gathering his ‘groundbreaking’ news. Joseph Atwill has no training in any ancient languages including Greek, Aramaic or Hebrew, making his interpretation of these texts invalid. Thousands of other historians (both secular

and those of faith) have also dissected these writings, but somehow he, Joseph Atwill, has found the secret code? Unlikely. His understanding of history is also very limited and unfortunate.

1. Atwill could not find any mention of Jesus in the Dead Sea Scrolls mainly because they were written between the 3rd century B.C and approximately 68 A.D. So no, there would not be any matches between the Gospel accounts and the Dead Sea Scrolls which were stored in a cave of Qumran 80 miles away from Galilee before the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. This was before Mark was written.

2. There are striking similarities between Josephus and the Gospel of Luke, but that does not necessitate the conclusion that the Romans invented Jesus. Most scholars (who hold degrees and have academic training in ancient languages) agree that a rational reason for this is either the Gospel authors had copies of Josephus or

vice versa. This interplay of texts was not new to the ancient world and does not mean that the Romans invented Jesus.

3. The Jews simply were not a “constant source of violent insurrection.” With the exception of two wars starting in 69 A.D. and 132 A.D., the Jews lived peacefully with the Romans. Atwill speaks of the Jewish Zealots who were awaiting a ‘Warrior Messiah,’ though there was no universal Messiah among the Jews and this “Messiah” belonged to a sect. It still does not prove that the Romans invented Jesus to calm down a (rather small) zealous sect of Hebrews.

So, what evidence does Atwill actually have for preaching that Jesus was invented by the Romans? So far, not much!

Tim Tebow: Not an NFL Quarterback

LUKE MCKEE

I love Tim Tebow...now. From his first year with the Denver Broncos, I have gone from hater to super fan. I thoroughly appreciate his godly presence in football, and his impact on the game and the world surrounding it. Notwithstanding my bias towards Tebow, let it be said he is not an NFL Quarterback. Like others before him, Tim Tebow joins the long list of great people who cannot play QB in the NFL. The NFL is an elite league

and not all are cut out to be a part of it. The simple argument against Tebow as an NFL QB is that he can't throw--a fundamental and essential skill that distinguishes all great QB's in the league. Unlike all-time greats Tom Brady, Roger Staubach, and Joe Montana, who were all talented passers, Tim Tebow struggles with the toss. His throwing motion makes for a longer release, creates inaccuracies, and results in a tendency for the ball to wobble out of his hand rather than executing a tight spiral. Tebow's fatal flaw is that he

drops his throwing hand below his hip to gain power for his throw, a bad habit that is next to incurable at this stage in his career. Not only can he not throw, but he also struggles with properly reading the defensive schemes presented against him. This lack of pocket poise causes interceptions that frustrate his teammates, and completion statistics such as 6 for 27. Nonetheless, Tebow carries with him a great will to win, and that alone may give him the chance to make a name for himself in the league. He is a great competitor

but not a great quarterback.

Still, whether or not we are sports fans, we can all learn from Tim Tebow. Tebow is noted for his fearlessness in declaring his identity in Christ and steadfastly acknowledging the grace and mercy of God in his life. Tebow has never shied away from his faith, and his presence in the NFL undoubtedly challenges many to examine their relationship with Christ. This testimony is his legacy. For this alone I will continue to root for Tim Tebow. So let's hope the lega-

cy continues. As we enter the NFL season I will be hoping Tebow finds a roster spot somewhere.

But, as always, I would like to remind everyone that the Hamilton Tiger-Cats are the best team in football. Tigers eat 'em raw!

Men's Rugby Earn First Win

LUKE MCKEE

On Tuesday, October 15th the Redeemer Men's Rugby team prepared for their third match of the season against an undefeated University of Toronto Blue's side on a muddy field in east Hamilton. The Men's team entered into the match winless following a 39-33 loss at the hands of Waterloo and a 30-3 loss to a talented Queen's side. The team entered into the match keen to build on a quality performance from the previous week against Waterloo and was excited to be playing in front of a home crowd once again. The men started slowly allowing a try in the early minutes of the game, but they quickly returned to work. Putting defensive pressure on to force a key turnover led to a try scored by PJ Buys (fourth-year). In the absence of captain and penalty kicker, Luke McKee (due to a hand injury), Zach Smoker (third-year) stepped up and slotted through the first of five field goals that would

put Redeemer up 7-5. At the end of a hard fought first half the Blue's went into the half up 17-14 as Redeemer began to battle back returning from a deficit of 17-7. The second half showed true Redeemer spirit as the team came out with a passion and energy that was missing in the first half and quickly jumped into the lead thanks to another penalty kick as well as a thrilling end to end try from third-year player, David Luth. With the score now at 24-17 the men began to put on a defensive clinic, committing themselves at the breakdown and tackling hard to halt the Blue's progress. Fourth-year player and inside center, Chris Fothergill lead the defensive charge with several game changing hits that drove back any would-be attacking players. It was in the second half that the Men's team truly came together as all fifteen players on the field battled through muddy conditions and sheer exhaustion to hold the Blue's out of their end zone. After nearly twenty minutes of excellent defense, the team was able to turn their defensive pressure

into offense as Aaron Bokma scooped up a loose ball and outran everyone to score the breakaway try that would put the game out of reach and secure a victory for Redeemer. The 31-17 final score would reflect the efforts of a team that played the most complete match in Redeemer Rugby history. Standout efforts from Ben Goodwin, Matthew Botelho, Cameron De Boer, and David Luth are recognized as also being essential to the first victory of the season for Men's Rugby. Head Coach Scott Hendry remarked, "I am very proud of how the boys played on Tuesday. It is a well deserved victory." The Men take to the field next on Tuesday, October 22nd for a match at Guelph University before returning home on November 16th to take on the Mohawk Mountaineers in another matchup of Hamilton rivals.



The Men's Hockey Team

DANIEL HEWKO

The Redeemer Men's hockey team (the Boys) were firing on all cylinders in the Second Annual Calvin Invitational Tournament. The team came into the tournament without having played a single game but completely hyped to play against U.S. rivals St. Thomas Aquinas and Calvin College. The Boys battled hard

in a dominating win over Aquinas in their first match on the Friday night with a crushing 6-4 victory. The following night, the Boys played against their rival Calvin College for the championship. Calvin College, ranked 3rd nationally in the ACHA, was stunned when Redeemer had them on their toes after the first period with the score tied 2-2. The team continued to battle hard throughout the game with numerous scoring chances, a few posts, and a few unlucky

bounces. Redeemer lost by a slim margin of two goals in the end. For Redeemer, the tournament was a huge success and it shows the promise of a championship team this year. Calvin was only the beginning of a season full of expectation and victory. The team has the veteran leadership, speed, talent, and goal-tending that will make for a great year. For the Redeemer hockey fans: we look forward to your support at the next game.



SPORTS

PETER REID

While the focus for the Redeemer Royals Men's Soccer team has been a return to the OCAA play-offs in 2013, the team has been able to carve out some time between long practices and a busy academic schedule to give back to the community in ways other than through their soccer skills.

On Saturday, September 28th, a large group of Redeemer Men's Soccer players headed to Burlington, Ontario, to take part in the 4th annual Hope in High Heels walk. For the team, it was the first Saturday off from soccer in weeks, and many of them chose to use their time helping others.

The Hope in High Heels walk is an event for the Halton Women's Place in Burlington. The centre provides crisis-relief shelters for women in the Halton region. The centre's mission is to provide a safe haven, information, and education to support a future without abuse for women and their children.

Third-year Redeemer Royals player Jordan Dias organized the group to go out and spend their day walking. Dias and his father raised an amazing \$50,000 this year and over \$120,000 in the last three years. "I brought the idea of going to the walk to the guys," said Dias, "and they all thought it would be a great idea for us to do something for the community and represent our team and Redeemer in the process. We thought that, as young men, we should stand up for the cause of stopping domestic violence against women. It was a fantastic day but certainly by the end we all had very sore feet."

In this case, they had sore feet for a different reason than they usually do after a competitive match, as all of the men's soccer team players who took part put away their soccer boots and substituted them for pink high-heeled shoes for the event.

In total, the walk was attended by approximately 75 men who all wore pink heels and walked 2km down Lakeshore Road in Burlington. The event raised over \$80,000 in total

Soccer Walks in High Heels



XC Ranked 11 in Canada



PETER REID

Redeemer Royals Women's Cross Country team was rewarded for a strong start.

Following two podium finishes in the first two races of the season, the Royals Women's Cross Country team was rewarded yesterday with a top-15 ranking in Canada. The Lady Royals settled in at #11, which is the third best team in Ontario.

The Royals landed on the podium at the Fanshawe Invitational on September 21st when they finished in 2nd place overall as a

team. Then, on September 28th, on their home course, the Royals grabbed 3rd place overall as a team.

Humber College (#3) and Sault College (#6) are the only other Ontario teams that sit above Redeemer in the Rankings.

The Lady Royals look to improve upon their ranking and their previous results this weekend when they tackle a new course at Humber College. This weekend's invitational will give the Royals another great look at where they stand, as the Humber College course is the site of the 2013 CCAA National Championships.

Royals Use Home Course Advantage

PETER REID

It's been 6 years since Redeemer University College held an OCAA Cross Country event, but the Royals played host on Saturday to an invitational that saw teams from across the province compete in one of the most grueling courses on the circuit. Redeemer University College is also set to welcome the top teams in the province back to Ancaster on October 26th, when the Royals host the 2013 OCAA Cross Country Provincial Championships.

The invitational was held at the Dundas Valley Conservation Authority in Ancaster, Ontario.

Overall, it was a good day for the Royals as the women's team captured 3rd place and the men's team took 6th place. The invitational was one of the most well-attended events of the year as teams are looking to get a glimpse of what the OCAA Provincial Championship course will look like. As

a result, the field for the event was quite deep and very strong.

Redeemer's top runner on the day was Julie Koopmans, who used the home course to her advantage moving up 10 spots from her previous race and capturing 7th place with a time of 23:28. On the men's side, 1st-year runner Aaron Hesman crossed the line first for Redeemer in 26th place with a time of 32:45.

The Lady Royals reached the podium for the 2nd time in two races as they finished 3rd overall as a team in a crowded competition of 11 complete teams. Sault College and Humber College finished 1st and 2nd with a sizable lead over the rest of the pack. Sault College had a team total of 26 points, while Humber College had a team total of 29 points. Redeemer's 70 points were good enough for the 3rd spot, with Seneca College 3 points behind in 4th place.

Two other Redeemer runners cracked the top 30 for the women, as Adrianna So finished in 22nd

with a time of 25:54 and 1st-year Shelby Cramer finished in 27th with a time of 25:22. Gina Van Haren was Redeemer's 4th scorer in 37th place with a time of 26:3. Rounding out the rest of the women's team was Melissa Payne, 41st (27:22), Melissa Borgdorff, 44th (27:49), Kelsey Wozny, 46th (28:11), Danica Thomsen, 47th (28:13), Emily Lorimer, 48th (28:50), Brooke Lidstone, 62nd (30:47), and Gillian Gladu, 73rd (38:24).

Head Coach Jeff Summerhays was pleased with the effort the Lady Royals put in. "I was really happy with how the girls did," commented Jeff. "Julie moved up to where she should be which was great to see. We still need to tighten some of the gaps but, when it comes down to it, I believe that it will be very close between the 3rd, 4th, and 5th place teams."

Courteny Brohart from St. Lawrence (Kingston) tore up the course in a time of 21:56 as she finished in 1st place overall.

On the men's side, in his first year, Aaron Hesman continues to lead the Royals. Another strong race had him finish first across the line again for Redeemer. In his very first race of the year, Caleb Heerema surprised many runners by finishing only one spot behind Aaron in 27th with a time of 32:49. Redeemer jumped from 10th place at the Fanshawe Invitational to 6th place at the Redeemer Invitational and a large part of the better result was Heerema's time. Veteran runner Nathan Verbaan clocked in at 34:10 and in 33rd place while Redeemer's final team scorer was Jonathan Thiessen in 48th, with a time of 35:59. Colten Gowan, 50th (36:43), and Keith Williams, 56th (37:13), rounded out the Redeemer men's team.

When asked about the men's team, Jeff Summerhays was very positive saying, "I was pleasantly surprised with their results today. A number of our guys moved up on the field and ran a solid race. Caleb ran strong in his first race and was thrilled with where he finished. I think overall this should

give our team some good motivation moving forward. We need to continue training hard and, the Lord willing, stay healthy."

Humber College won the men's race with a total of 33 points. They finished tied with Mohawk College but lost the tiebreaker. Conestoga finished in 3rd place with 38 points. Redeemer had 106 points in their 6th place finish. There were ten full men's teams competing.

Fleming runner Kiley Olesky crossed the line in 1st place overall with a time of 28:17.

The Royals will look to continue to improve when they travel to Humber College on October 5th. Humber College is hosting an invitational but will also be the site of the CCAA National Cross Country Championships, and Redeemer will get a great look at the Championship course.

SPIRITUALITY

Chaplin's Corner: Oaks



SYD HIELEMA

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me...to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a

crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations (Isaiah 61: 1-5).

She looked quite discouraged. “When you and I talked half a year ago, you gave me some suggestions for what I might do to encourage maturing in Christ. And I followed them! But I feel like the progress has been so slow. It hardly feels worth it.”

He looked even more discouraged. “I’ve been writing regularly in my Psalm 139 journal, reflect-

ing on my daily life through the David’s prayer “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (vss. 23-24). The more I invite the Spirit to search my heart, the more aware I become of how self-centered and fear-driven I am. It’s awful!”

Have you ever experienced similar discouragement?

If you have, take heart. What you have actually experienced is our Lord’s manner of growing oak trees. Oak trees are one of the slowest growing trees, but they are also one of the sturdiest. God seems to enjoy doing his best work very, very gradually, often using the difficulties of life to build our inner character and refine our

spirit.

CS Lewis describes this painful refinement with this analogy:

“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a de-

cent little cottage; but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself” (from *Mere Christianity*).

When I experience the kind of discouragement described above, I look in the mirror and recite this profound (?) poem to myself:

When you are discouraged and feeling rather blue Remember that the mighty oak was once a nut like you.

“For I am confident of this: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1. 6). That’s enough for this little oak tree to keep on keeping on.



Interpretation of Identity

SARAH POAPS

What is your identity? Who are you? I know your major, minor, age, where you are from, and I even know if you are single, taken, or married. I learned all this from our dorm dinner last night, last week, or last year. However, this is not who you are. You are not defined by these things. Indeed, although these are very important parts of you, you are not these labels.

You are the son or daughter of the King most high. I know you’ve heard this before and you’re probably thinking, “Well, yes, isn’t everyone?” You’re right; we are all sons and daughters of Christ. But do you know what this truly means? Do you understand the weight of this, and what freedom this brings to your soul, to your most inner self that you hide away from me, from your closest friends, from your mom and dad? My intention with this article is to speak richly to your soul, and to ignite something that might encourage you to dive deeper into who you are as a person, as a whole.

C. S. Lewis gives us a perspective for looking at our brothers and sisters. By first looking at

others, we can learn how to treat ourselves. Lewis, a once-self-proclaimed atheist, after his conversion to Christianity, saw value in man in the entirety of his being. He was gifted with the ability to see man as an eternal being; he learned how much weight each of our lives actually carries. He recognized that our lives on earth affect a great spectrum of things, the afterlife included. What we do here on earth affects our character and the character of those we interact with. I’m willing to argue that once we see the value in life we are then able to genuinely love Christ, and in turn love others. There is worth to how we identify ourselves, as we have been so intentionally and intricately designed and created. This requires effort to be aware of this value in every situation, but I believe we are called to live intentionally.

We are called to love others, but we are also called to have no other god before Him. If we are not careful, identity can very quickly become an idol. In my first year, I was very timid and uncertain of myself—my worth was not quite known. I didn’t understand that I most certainly did have great value. I was unaware of who my Father was. Going on three years at this school, my eyes and ears have been opened. I have be-

come a woman of God. This is not meant to sound egotistical; rather, the intent is to be honest. I truly love who I am—sometimes too much. I love the independence that I have gained over the years; I love my hair, my eyes; I love the things I am involved in, and I sincerely think that I have the coolest friends. These things can each very easily become idols.

That being said, where does my identity come into play? Well, my appearance does not define me, nor do the friendships that I have, and my works will certainly not get me to heaven. My identity and who I am goes to my core. I am made in the image of Christ, and I am a co-heir of the Kingdom. It’s not about what I look like and who I am closest to, but it’s about where my heart is. It goes back to the famous passage that we all know, “If I don’t have love, I am nothing.” I think one needs the Holy Spirit to have this type of love. I know that, on my own, I am not capable of seeing value in the life of each person that crosses my path.

I am not interested in the cheap love society promotes that we know well. It is a distortion that tells us we can have love from a one night stand, from our work, a family, and if we cannot find it in these things we must keep push-

ing forward. This is an impossible goal. We pressure ourselves to be better than we are, to dress better, to work harder, and to keep ourselves busy in every possible way. Why can’t we just be still? It is my theory that when I am not still I have forgotten again who my father is. I have it tattooed to my forearm for this very reason.

We need to rest in Christ. The Sabbath was not simply a neat excuse to not do homework for a day. If I don’t do homework on a Sunday, I have to scramble to catch up on Monday and usually for the rest of the week. I want to look at it from a different perspective. I want to enjoy a Sabbath day. God created a day of rest for us to enjoy and live in. My intention is to work around my Sabbath, not have the Sabbath work around me. My Sabbath will be a day where I choose to reflect on the sermon I listened to that morning. I will do what I enjoy, have lunch with close friends, or maybe with new friends, take time away from work, from school, or any pressing concerns that are causing me stress. My identity and who I am is not found in what I do. It is found in Christ. I am not completely sure of what this means, but it is something that has brought me great peace. I have recently been introduced to a book by Mark Buchanan titled, *The Rest of God, Restoring Your*

Soul by Restoring Your Sabbath. I would sincerely recommend it to anyone who is searching for the same things that I am, and I’m not even half-way through the book yet. Buchanan writes about a friend who encourages us to “live with curiosity and wonder and hunger. Notice the cracks in the sidewalk, the way the earth’s aliveness subverts our man-made things.” He later encourages poetry. I understand if you are not artistically-minded, or can’t write or read poetry, but I find it hard to believe that you cannot take the time to stop and look close, and reflect upon who your Father is. Through knowing the creator, we might learn to know ourselves, who we truly are. In this we have great value, and I believe the desire will be sparked to seek out the Father in the most unique ways, each in our own method that is so intricately designed for us yet so richly in common with each other.

Buchanan says he wants to “learn to pass through a day without passing it by.” How do we do that while anticipating the end of mid-term season and the beginning of exams?

CROWN

Apple Dumplings

- 4 apples
- 2 cups flour
- 2 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2/3 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup milk
- brown sugar and cinnamon



Peel and slice apples into eighths, putting them in cold water so they don't turn brown. Set aside.

In a large bowl, sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Cut in shortening until particles are about the size of small peas. Slowly pour milk over mixture and press together lightly, working dough only enough to hold together.

Roll dough into a rectangle approx. 9" x 13". Cut into six squares. Drain and dry the apple slices. Place 3 or 4 slices of apple on each square of dough. Sprinkle with some brown sugar and a dash of cinnamon. Press dough up and around the apple to cover it completely. Place on cookie sheet and bake at 375 for 35-40 minutes.

These taste best served warm with brown sugar and milk!

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