

THE CROWN

REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1983

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2013

THECROWN.CA

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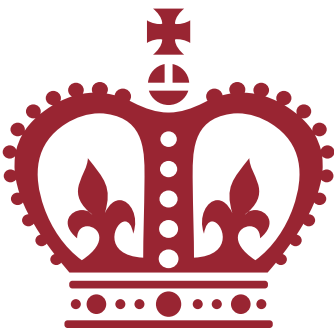
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Letter from the Editor



The next few weeks will be full of panic, stress, and cramming for finals. It doesn't have to be, but unfortunately it will. If we at The Crown could give you any advice at all, it would be to take time each

day to do something that brings you peace. Christmas and the season of Advent are meant to draw our minds more directly to the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. During exam season, don't lose track of this; don't allow yourself to be stressed to the point of cursing in this season of blessing. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, so keep in mind that the tunnel is only one part of this journey.

When exam season is over, many of us will jump right into the seasonal festivities we've look forward to for so long. This edition of The Crown has many articles that will hopefully help keep things in perspective while

heightening the anticipation of Christmas. It is meant to be a joyous edition, one that will uplift you during this time of year.

Our term is almost over, and so is the year. We are excited to provide you with the final edition of The Crown before 2014. When we get back, we hope that you will look forward to future editions all the more. We are hoping to unroll some new ideas. Be sure to keep us updated with how you are enjoying The Crown as these changes come.

Until next month, have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! God bless!

Dear Deer



DEAR DEER, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SECOND-YEAR SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE?

It's hard to pick one specific year and pinpoint the flaws. The main thing to remember is that we are all sinners and none of us is perfect. I think that, as a school, we need to remember to represent Christ well. We have been called to be in the world but not of it. We are meant to live differently than the rest of the world and other universities. Being at a Christian school isn't enough. We need to mindfully be sacrificing for Him daily. That includes not doing the things that the flesh desires, but doing what we are called to instead. We also have to remember that God gives grace, but we cannot take advantage of that. We need to be obedient out of love for Him. If we remember that, I think the atmosphere will improve in the sense of being set apart.

DEAR DEER, EVERY CHRISTMAS I AM FORCED TO BUY A 10-DOLLAR GIFT FOR AN EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER. I NEED SOME IDEAS OF WHAT TO BUY WHILE STAYING UNDER BUDGET. SINCERELY, I CAN'T STAND 10 DOLLAR GIFTS

There are a lot of ways to make your 10 dollars go a long way. In the forest, our gift exchanges usually go well when we give a personalized gift. If you know who you have, why not write them a letter and buy them a neutral gift like fancy tea or coffee? It's pretty cold out, and everyone likes hot drinks. Why not get a 10 dollar gift card for Tim Hortons or Starbucks! Or if you have an inside joke with them, why not buy something that will give them a good laugh!

DEAR DEER, AS A GRADUATING STUDENT THIS YEAR I AM CONTINUOUSLY THINKING ABOUT ALL THE FRIENDS I HAVE MADE OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE ALL OF THESE AMAZING FRIENDS. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH AFTER GRADUATING?

SINCERELY, GLOOMY GRADUATE

I understand how hard it is to leave friends you've gotten so close to over the years. In my experience, make sure you are making an effort to contact them even when you get busy. You will be busy, but making efforts are the only way to keep genuine friendships genuine. Set up an afternoon where you go out for coffee each month or even week. Have a group on Facebook with your group of friends and

send some funny videos, small updates etc., so that you can have them still a part of your life. If they really mean something to you, I can't stress enough how much making an effort does. Plan a trip to hangout all weekend, or if seeing each other in real life is hard, use things like email, Skype, or texting! Be consistent to keep up the friendships.

DEAR DEER, I KNOW A REALLY NICE FIRST YEAR, AND I WAS WONDERING, AS AN UPPERCLASSMEN WHEN IS TOO EARLY TO ASK A FIRST YEAR OUT AND WHEN IS OK?

Before you make a decision like that, make sure you know her pretty well. When someone is in first year, it is easy to get excited that an older person is interested. I'm sure you are a great guy, but make sure you are asking her out for more than just what she looks like. Girls are pretty fragile, so make sure you get to know her pretty well first. Be friends, and make sure you are clear about your intentions. If you like her definitely let her know, and let her know you want to continue to get to know her. It is not good to play with a girl's heart so be clear about what you want. Once you know her pretty well, know that she is mature for her age, and know that you have similar interests, then I would go for it.

DEAR DEER, THIS CHRISTMAS I GOT MY SISTER FOR MY FAMILY PRESENT SWITCH, WHICH MEANS SHE HAS ME AS WELL. SHE'S CURRENTLY WORKING A VERY GOOD JOB AND I KNOW SHE'S NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT HOW MUCH HER PRESENT FOR ME IS. BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY AN ELABORATE PRESENT FOR HER. I KNOW IT'S NOT ABOUT THE COST, BUT THE THOUGHT, BUT I STILL FEEL BAD. WHAT DO I DO?

You sound like you understand that Christmas isn't about gifts or measuring up to each other, but that's definitely tough. I can't stress enough how much personalized gifts mean to people. Take her to a nearby mall and let her pick out something she likes. Write her a card. Put together some pictures of you guys in a scrapbook from the past and make something more personable. Where are your talents? Do you bake or paint? Bake her some of her favourite desserts or paint her something. Go on a day trip to a coffee shop or to an ice rink and just spend time together! She probably understands that you go to Redeemer and you don't have money flowing out of your pockets.

Save the Date

DECEMBER 10TH-19TH: EXAMS

In case you've forgotten, exams start this week, December 10th to be exact.

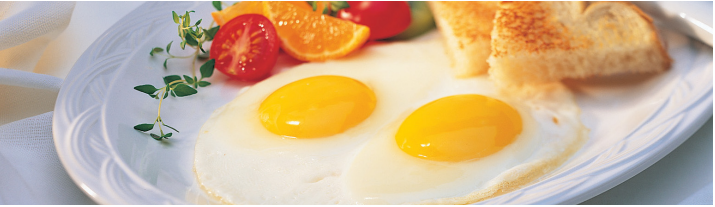


DECEMBER 10TH, 10:00PM: TREAT NIGHT 1

Exam season calls for unhealthy eating, coffee, and late nights, all of which are more exciting to enjoy with others. Come out to treat night to take a break from your studies!

DECEMBER 12TH, 10:30PM: MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST

We're still wondering why this event is called the Midnight Breakfast, but at any rate it is a breakfast and it is at night. Be sure to come out and be served breakfast by some of your professors. This is a great way to re-energize for a late night of studying.



DECEMBER 15TH, 7:00PM: CHURCH IN THE BOX

Take a break from your studies to spend time in God's presence in a communal setting. Don't let this Church in the Box be the only source of your time with God this exam season though. Make sure you continue to live in God's presence all throughout the exam season.

DECEMBER 17TH, 10:00PM: TREAT NIGHT 2

DECEMBER 25TH: CHRISTMAS DAY

While you're opening those presents, make sure you take time to say "thank you" and to reflect on the reason why we're celebrating. It's the day we choose to celebrate the birth of our saviour, and it is this reality that allows us to live every day in freedom.

JANUARY 6TH: FIRST DAY OF CLASSES (WINTER TERM)

You're bound to ask yourself where the time went during your winter vacation. You're also probably ready to come back and see the rest of your friends, colleagues, and professors.

JANUARY 10TH: ART CRAWL

If you're looking for a high concentration of hipsters, then look no further than the Art Crawl. The Art Crawl provides a lot of entertainment while featuring local artists and some of our own Redeemer students. The Art Crawl is always a good choice when planning out your week.



JANUARY 11TH, 1:00PM: HAMILTON HARBOUR TRIP

That relationship you were forming before the Christmas break could be rekindled by an afternoon skate by the water and by enjoying a cup of coffee at the neighbouring William's. Regardless of the circumstances, come out to the Hamilton Harbour trip. Bring skates for the outdoor rink and money for hot drinks.

JANUARY 11TH, 10:00PM: WELCOME BACK DANCE

You probably didn't have too many opportunities to dance over the break but, even if you did, you'll want to check out the first dance of the semester. It's sure to warm you up in the cool of the winter.

JANUARY 14TH-18TH: ENGAGING CULTURE WEEK/WEEK-END

Andy Crouch, author of Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling, will be visiting. Be sure to check out one of his lectures and become involved in this week in any way you can.

JANUARY 19TH, 7:00PM: CHURCH IN THE BOX

You don't want to miss the first Church in the Box of this semester. Invite lots of friends as we celebrate the beginning of another term.

JANUARY 23RD, 10:00AM-4:00PM: REDEEMER'S JOB FAIR

This event is your opportunity to network with potential employers, and explore career options and employment opportunities. Employers are recruiting for full-time, part-time, co-op, and summer positions. Network and learn from employers; what educational and job requirements do they want? What are the industry trends and growth opportunities? Is youth unemployment really a problem? How are my skills relevant to a variety of employers?

THE CROWN

A Much Darker Shade of Black



LAURA HEMING
STAFF

It all started in 1960, with a red pen and a black pen. The red pen meant loss of money—bad news for a business. The black pen meant gain; it meant that a business was gaining money, and this was good.

The businesses caught on. If they could only cut their prices just enough, the black pen could fill their paper more, and the crowds would pour in. So they cut prices each year, the Friday after U.S. thanksgiving, and the people came. It became the busiest shopping day of the year since 2005.

Soon, they brought Black Friday to Canada to keep people from driving to the U.S. to get deals.

Following a national day of thanks, shoppers line up and camp outside the doors of Wal-Mart, Best Buy, and Target to spend their week’s pay-cheques on bigger screens, newer shoes, and thinner laptops.

In fact, so many people caught on to the sale phenomenon, that it has created some statistics of its own.

In 2011, a woman in California used pepper spray on customers for an Xbox 360.

A 73-year-old greeter was fired after Black Friday because a woman was trying to exit where she wasn’t allowed. The greeter was pushed over by the woman, whom she held onto her for stability. She was fired for touching a customer.

In 2012, two people were shot outside a Florida Wal-Mart for a parking space
In Virginia, a man was slashed with a knife after an argument about a parking space at Wal-Mart.

This year, a man was arrested for leaving his baby alone in a Best Buy parking lot

But it was 50% off all items in the store, so it was worth it, right?

Of course, this is not the mentality of all shoppers. For some, it is a huge relief to be able to buy gifts for friends and family for a cheaper price. Maybe even replace the 20-year-old microwave that’s been burning your popcorn. But where is the logic in giving thanks for being fully provided for one day, and the next day filling your closet to the brim with six new sweaters?

Our culture has clung so tightly to the idea of consumerism. We probably even do it without knowing, but we are constantly looking for upgrades; what is better, and how we can have more?

To counteract the culture of consumerism, alternatives have been made. One of these alternatives is ‘Small Business Saturday.’ This social response to Black Friday encourages consumers to shop at local, independent businesses. Small businesses are the building blocks that add the identity and uniqueness to an area. The money we spend at small businesses will go to a friend or a neighbour, rather than a giant corporation.

Buy Nothing Day is a somewhat more blunt statement against Black Friday. It is an international protest, started

in Vancouver, against consumerism. It takes place on the same day as Black Friday.

It started in 1992 as a day to examine society’s overconsumption—an observation of what it feels like not to buy anything for one day in order to realize how much we really do consume. When it moved to the U.S., advertising was denied at all major media stations because of its counter-cultural agenda. Soon after, campaigns started spreading globally. 65 nations are now participating.

The protest has started some unique activities to promote the anti-consumerism movement. Some of these bizarre movements have drawn great attention and started many conversations regarding the protest.

The Credit Card Cut-up has participants who want to put an end to debt cut their credit cards in a busy mall or store.

The Zombie Walk has people dress up like zombies around a mall with blank stares. When people ask what they are doing, they respond by explaining the concept of Buy Nothing Day

The Wildcat General Strike is when participants not only refrain from buying anything for 24 hours, but also turn off all household appliances, including lights, and keep their cars parked and their phones off all day.

Whirl-mart is an activity where protesters line up with shopping carts in a long line, and silently walk around the store without putting anything in their cart.

The purpose of this day is not only to make a bold statement for one day of the year, but also to cultivate lifestyles of consuming and producing less waste. Recently changing their name to Occupy Xmas, the movement also calls for people to buy locally for Christmas gifts, which puts money into the local economy.

Society’s consumerist events like Black Friday are trees with deeply buried roots, roots that are unseen and buried in dirt. When you dig deeper you can see that the roots of something like Black Friday are covered in greed, in a sense of entitlement for more than we need. Roots that don’t provide equal opportunities for local business owners who put passion into the stores that they run. We need to realize that the footprint we’re creating makes a much larger stomp when a million other shoes are making the same one.

So why don’t we drop our bags, step back, and sit in contentment. Let’s hold our cups that are already running over.

St. Nick Continues to Use Black Slaves

MATTHEW BOKMA
STAFF

Perhaps some of us at Redeemer remember Santa Claus’ arrival on December 6th with a rather unusual helper: a white man wearing black face paint, bright red lipstick, and ornate red and green clothing. However, the juxtaposition between the old, wise St. Nick, or the Netherlands’s Sinterklaas, and such a goofy looking fellow continues to spark international controversy.

For those unfamiliar with Dutch holiday traditions, the black helper with robust red lips and tight, curly hair is none other than Zwarte Piet, or “Black Pete.” According to Dutch folklore, Sinterklaas would hire the devil for one day a year and have him punish bad boys and girls by bringing them to terrible places. Even today, some Dutch grandmothers warn their grandchildren: “You better not be naughty or else Zwate Piet will kidnap you and take you to Spain!” Currently in the Netherlands, Sinterklaas is helped not by elves, but rather by Zwarte Piets.

Traditionally, Sinterklaas would arrive at the Netherlands with a parade of Zwate Piets who hand-

ed out candy, balloons, and small gifts to the children. However, as the NYTimes writes, “Black Pete is a dimwit of a figure who sings and dances and cavorts to the delight of children. Although the Dutch pride themselves on their tolerance, they now feel that a tradition is under threat, sacrificed to political correctness by those who do not understand it. And poor St. Nicolas, a symbol of kindness and generosity, has become for some a source of division and, occasionally, pretty nasty behaviour.”

Two years ago, the black dutchman Quinsy Gario wore a t-shirt which read “Zwarte Piet is Racism” and, consequently, was wrestled to the ground, handcuffed, and dragged off by three police officers who accused him of “protesting without a permit.” The debate continues to rage and currently the United Nations has charged the Netherlands that Zwarte Piet might be racist.

The UN’s human rights commission writes: “Negative media and other, cultural, social or traditional portrayals of persons belonging to minorities may constitute racism and may be degrading to members of those communities, in the present case persons belonging to black popu-

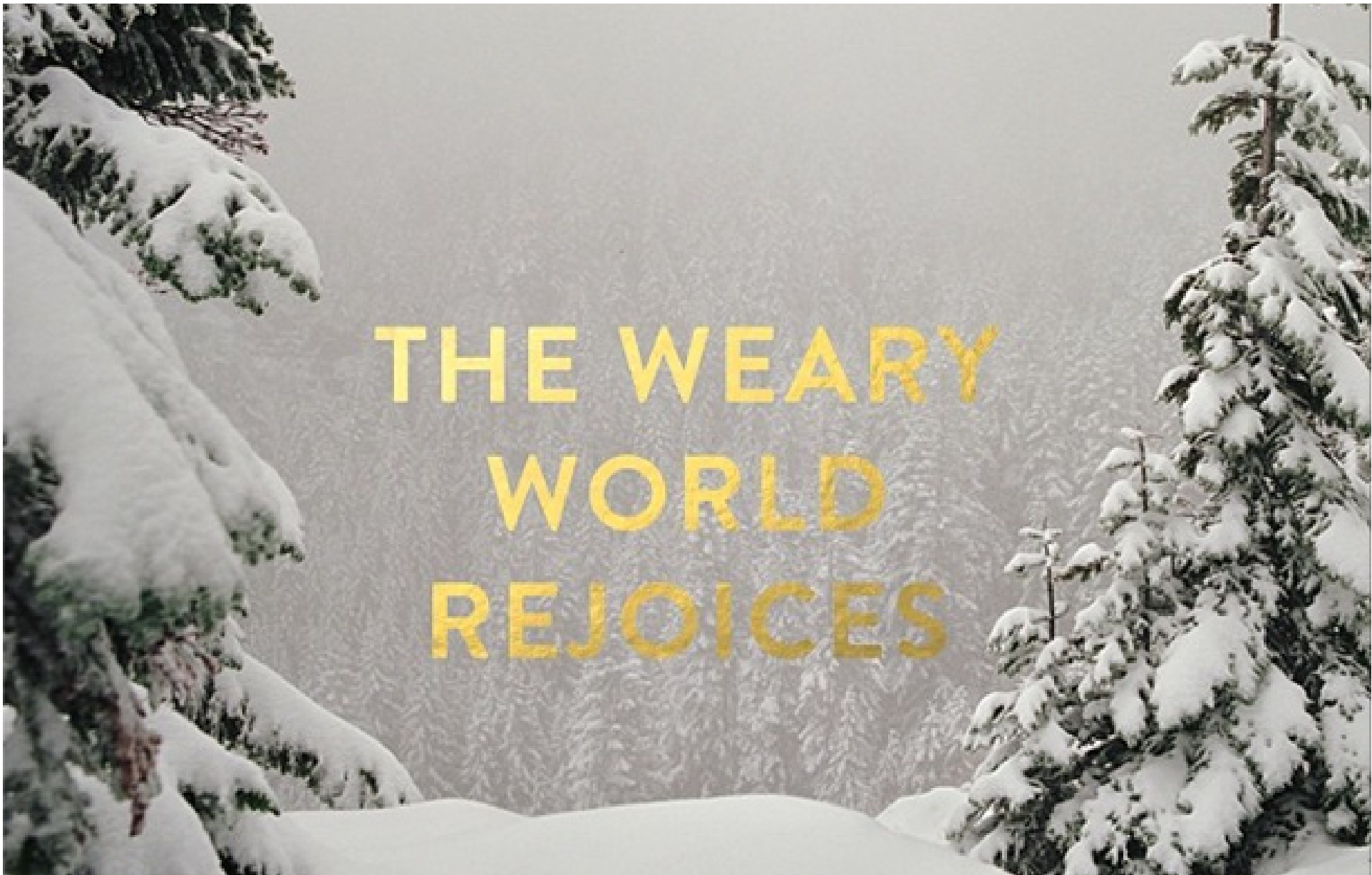
lations and people of African descent, and can perpetuate negative stereotypes within society.”

Even though one third of a country of 17 million people feel that Zwarte Piet might have racist associations, many Dutch politicians side with the remaining population who believe that Sinterklaas’ helper is a harmless traditional figure. In response to the UN, the Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte stated that the “traditional children’s festival [is] celebrated in many different ways by different people.” He adds, “Black Peter is black. We cannot do much to change that.”

Some Dutch folk, however, are trying to curb Zwarte Piet’s racist associations by introducing subtle nuances. Sometimes the Zwarte Piets would wear make-up of a different colour. Or, some people say, that the only reason Zwarte Piet has a black face is because he gets dirtied with soot as he climbs down the chimney; this excuse, however, fails to account for his plumb red lips and afro. Even his traditional clothing is taken from Renaissance paintings which often depict the servant or slave of a lord wearing similar garb.



THE CROWN



THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES EMMA RICHARDSON

The lyrics of Christmas music ring throughout the mall, blaring simple songs about bells jingling and a jolly old man coming on a sleigh. Parents hold restless children as they wait in a never-ending line to take the always-candid yearly photo with Santa. Shoppers with parcels in one hand and an empty wallet in the other are bustling through the mall, looking into each passing window for what they could purchase for the next person on their list. The familiar spirit of urgency, expectancy, and busyness is settling in once again at this time of year.

As I stand in line at one of these stores, I overhear a shopper asking the clerk about the price of an angel for the top of her tree. She is hesitant to purchase it, as she has always had a star adorning the tree. “Changing tradition,” she says, “might really upset the kids!” The clerk smiles and

responds, “Well, tradition is really what this season is all about.”

Is it? Has this season really become simply a routine of last year and the year before? Are all of these people who bustle through the mall and wait in line to see Santa simply doing so out of a sense of routine or familiarity? Are we these people?

A writer of a beautiful classic Christmas carol once recognized that we live in a weary world. In looking at the state of society around us today, a similar description may be given. People are working long hours and spending less time with family. Credit-card debt is wracked up and yet people continue to spend. People are unkind to one another, hiding behind a lit-up shield with a keyboard for their sword. Perhaps we too live in a weary world.

And yet, there is something else this songwriter recognized regarding this world. He claims that the weary world re-

joices. But why? What evokes this feeling of great joy and delight amongst the weariness? Perhaps it is the same thing that this current weary world needs once again in order to rejoice.

A thrill of Hope.

Not hope found in tradition, a pay raise, pounds lost on a scale, or a great deal on that last gift. It is a Hope that is everlasting, all-powerful, all-loving, and the giver of grace. The type of Hope that causes a thrill for a weary world.

Perhaps it is the Hope of our dear Saviour’s birth.

This Christmas season I encourage you to look beyond the lights and the presents under the tree. Instead, take some time to take a posture of rejoicing at the incredible miracle of our Saviour’s birth. Set an example for this weary world, and perhaps we will see a new and glorious morn.

Let’s Take Christ Out of Christmas



MATTHEW BOKMA STAFF

We are all familiar with the debate: should we as Christians vehemently insist that everyone retain the religious associations with Christmas? Should we discourage advertisers and storefronts from using religiously neutral phrases like “Happy Holidays” or “Merry Xmas”? Should we ally ourselves with Bill O’Reilly of Fox News and proclaim that the humanists’ principle of equality is nothing but a “war on Christmas”? Probably not.

We live in a multicultural society, and, therefore, must realize that Christians do not have a monopoly over the holidays, despite whether or not a holiday has religious roots. If this were our defence, it seems to follow that we should observe the Roman festival of unconquered sun—arguably the festival that Christians replaced with Christmas on December 25th.

Suppose that our nations’ heritage fundamentally stemmed from another religion, say Buddhism or the muslim faith; I doubt we would have a problem with eradicating any association with another faith. After all, in the words of Reverend Lovejoy from The Simpsons, “Santa doesn’t leave presents under the Bodhi tree.”

Furthermore, if we are honest with ourselves, demanding that ‘Christ’ must stay in ‘Christmas’ while succumb-

ing to the pleasures of the world—the streamers, the tinsel, the mistletoe, the presents, the alcohol—is sheer hypocrisy. Christ might actually find it favourable to be distanced from commercialization and double-mindedness.

Although being missional is the duty of all Christians, our hypocrisy is heightened by the fact that we make it our agenda—as opposed to God’s—to convert unbelievers. For example, perhaps you are familiar with the Fox News report regarding the cancellation of Operation Christmas Child. A humanist society threatened to sue the schools who partook in such an operation because it was affiliated with a Christian organization who gave pledges to kids for the signing away of their souls to a God they probably know nothing about, thereby adding numbers to the the organization’s online “conversion-score.” The audacity! It is true: God’s punishment extends to later generations.

If “the spirit of Christmas” has anything to do with one’s relationship with God—a personal phenomenon—crass sanctimoniousness is opposed to such a value. “A man of understanding remains silent” says the proverb, and that should be the Christians’ response toward such prattle (and perhaps it follows that I shouldn’t have even written this article).

CAMPUS



The Top 10 Last Minute...



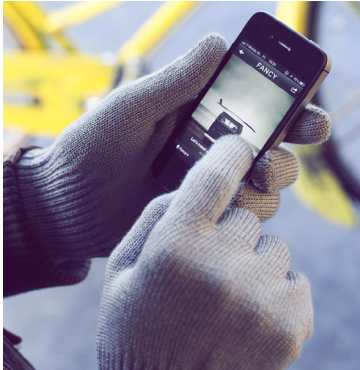
10) A PLANT

Although not typically the first thing you think to give when the world outside is covered in a layer of white, plants are actually a great gift! Having some sort of greenery in the house has positive benefits for those who live with it. Plus, if someone on your list is thinking of getting a puppy, a plant might be a good tester to see if they could keep it alive!



9) BAKED GOODS

Pull out the apron and fire up the oven! Everyone loves Christmas cookies, especially on Christmas! There are some amazing recipes out there. (Check out the one in this Crown article!)



8) A PAIR OF MITTENS

A pair of mittens (or really, any general winter gear) is always a good last-minute gift to pick up! Stores are now carrying gloves that are touch-screen friendly. Help keep a friend warm while he waits outside playing on his phone!



7) CHOCOLATE

Toblerone, cherries, fudge, oh my! There are so many delicious chocolate options this time of year! Head to the store or make your own and you will be sure to please the person with the sweet tooth on your list!



6) PICTURE FRAME WITH A PICTURE OF YOU! (AND MAYBE THE GIFT-RECEIVER TOO)

You can never go wrong with giving a decorative item. Picture frames hold memories, so try to find a unique picture of a time that meant a lot to you and the person you are giving it to. You can have a lot of fun with the frame, from buying it to making it!

The Top 10 Gifts You Would Love...



10) PIZZA SLEEPING BAG

Who wouldn't want to curl up in a piece of pizza?



9) TRAMPOLINE

These jumping machines aren't just for eight-year-olds! Although this might not be allowed in your apartment, you could still ask Santa very nicely... for future use!



8) FREE COMMUNAL TICKETS ALL YEAR LONG

For those of you who live off-campus, you cherish those days when you read the Time Out and see that you are invited to communal! The chances of getting this all year long... slim to none.



7) FANCY HEADPHONES

Many of us have the, ahem, lower-end headphones in our ears. Chances of getting a pair in the \$100 + range this Christmas? Not super likely as many people see these little buds as an easy thing to lose!



6) AS-SEEN-ON-TV ITEMS

Although wonderful to laugh about and even to put on our lists, these overpriced items may not end up under your tree. With many of the items not working as promised, many gifters pass by these stores in the mall, leaving the Snuggly and shake weight behind.

The Top 10 Best...



MERRY CHRISTMAS
Bing Crosby



HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS
Burl Ives



CHRISTMAS
Michael Bublé



DUCK THE HALLS: A ROBERTSON FAMILY CHRISTMAS



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
Amy Grant



...Christmas Gift Ideas



5) A CLASSIC BOOK

Check out the bestsellers list or stop by the bookstore and chat with one of the wonderful bookstore ladies to see what is at the top of their list. Once the stress of exams is over, it is nice to finally sit down and read a book for pleasure!



4) A COFFEE MUG

These get lost or stained so quickly that it is always nice to have a few extra around! You could even fill it with candy or coffee beans when gifting. Any of the local coffee shops have a wide variety of mugs—even ones you can write on if you feel like getting creative!



3) A DO-IT-YOURSELF PIN-INTEREST IDEA!

There are so many amazing Pinterest creations out there, but some of them really are not that tough! Take a look around the site and see if there is a project you think you could tackle. Everyone loves something homemade and many of these crafts can be done on a budget!



2) A GIFT CARD

Gift cards have recently gotten the short end of the stick by being deemed 'unthoughtful.' This is so not true! By giving a gift card you allow a person to pick out something they really want or need without feeling guilty about returning your original gift. Plus, they can now shop all year around! Mall gift cards, Starbucks gift cards, or movie gift cards always seem to be crowd-pleasers!



1) IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WRAP UP A PIECE OF COAL

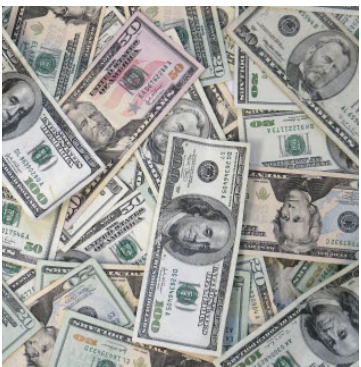
Coal, the classic gift that actually may offend the receiver. Most likely you will get a few laughs—and it's always good for stoking a fire!

...but Probably Won't Receive This Year



5) A DIAMOND RING

Okay ladies, that empty spot on your fourth finger is starting to get to you. Unless that man of yours is ready to propose, do not pressure him! The time will come. Although it may not be that "dreamy Christmas Eve, under the softly falling snow by a street lamp" engagement, I promise you he will do it right!



4) A FULL BANK ACCOUNT

Yes, some of us may receive a card from Grandma with a cheque inside, but, for many of us, this time of year (and a second term to pay for!) leaves us with very little in the bank. From taking off at least 2 weeks of our on-campus job to buying presents for everyone in the 10 Christmas gift pools we are in, the bank account takes a bit of a beating!



3) A PIECE OF COAL

You may not be the best person around but you probably still won't get coal. Where would someone even get that? Unless your friends are taking the advice from the Top 10 Last-Minute Gift countdown, you'll probably steer clear of this little nugget.



2) A BOARD GAME

Maybe this won't be a Christmas gift but you should go hunting on Boxing day! The game shops in the middle of the mall seem to jack the prices up in the days leading to Christmas. Unless your loved ones are willing to put out \$60 on that game you've been wanting, you may be out of luck Christmas morning.



1) FREE TUITION

Every year, Redeemer students rush to Limeridge to sit on Santa's knee just to whisper "free tuition" in his ear when he asks them what they want. Fat chance! Although free tuition may not be something you'll get this year, you will get a balance of \$0.00 on your statement if you pay it in time!

...Christmas Albums



THE BEATLES CHRISTMAS ALBUM
The Beatles



SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS
Sufjan Stevens



UNDER THE MISTLETOE
Justin Bieber (just kidding!)



A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
Vince Guaraldi Trio



ON THIS WINTER'S NIGHT
Lady Antebellum

Pinterest



AS REDEEMER STUDENTS, WE DON'T EXACTLY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE OF MONEY TO SPEND ON OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. SO FOR ALL YOU CRAFTY PEOPLE, HERE ARE SOME OF THE TOP CHRISTMAS DO-IT-YOURSELF CRAFTS FOR WHENEVER YOU CAN SPARE SOME TIME FROM YOUR STUDYING.



HOMEMADE LIP CHAP
It's winter and the air is cold, so lips are bound to get chapped. You can make whatever flavor of lip chap you wish. Try Sweet Orange. Here is a simple recipe for healthy and easy honey sweet orange lip chap.

- 8 Tablespoons Coconut Oil
 - 3 Tablespoons Beeswax
 - 1.5 Tablespoons Raw Honey
 - 30 drops Sweet Orange essential oil
- Place oil, beeswax and honey in a double boiler. Heat gently until everything has melted. Remove mixture from heat, and add peppermint oil and lipstick. Stir until blended.
- Place the pan or bowl in a larger bowl full of cold water. Stir quickly until the mixture begins to change in consistency (it will become thicker). Pour mixture into containers, place covers on, and let sit to cool and set.



TEA TOWEL
A simple decorative gift that works really well for someone who loves to decorate his or her house or kitchen. All you need is a piece of unbleached cotton (or any other fabric that you like), pen and paper, fabric markers, and an iron.

- a. Cut the pieces of fabric in your desired size.
- b. Hem all around the pieces of fabric.
- c. Draw or print out the shape that you want. Cut them out of the paper.
- d. Place your stencil onto the fabric and trace the shapes.
- e. Remove the stencil and color the shape in.
- f. Iron over the painted fabric to secure the fabric paint.



LAPTOP CASE
Everyone needs a case to protect their laptop from all the elements: snow, sleet, rain, lightening and heat! Why not make a creative case for a friend to protect that Macbook. For full instructions visit: <http://ispydiy.com/my-diy-envelope-laptop-case/>



PLANTER BOX
If you have some extra firewood lying around your backyard, try making this plant box for the plant lover to add some life to the dead of winter. For full instructions visit: <http://www.diynetwork.com/decorating/how-to-make-a-kitchen-planter-box-for-herbs/index.html>



MASON JAR OF HOT CHOCOLATE
This is a simple gift that isn't too difficult to make. Just layer hot chocolate, marsh mellow, and maybe some cinnamon sugar! For the tea lover, you can put some extra, never-used tea bags, maybe some packets of honey or cookies to go with them. You can add a tag and write a little note to the person. It's easy and pretty cheap!

Student's Speak



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MOST ABOUT CHRISTMAS?
Nico Thiessen: Ugly Christmas sweater parties.
Josh Looy: What I am looking forward to the most

this Christmas is the rest.
Jenna Stewart: I am looking forward to serving in an event that my family runs, called, "A Christmas Wish" on Christmas Eve. We will be giving the poor in Orillia the chance to choose some warm clothing/boots collected in a clothing drive, a warm Christmas dinner/dessert, a few carols, a listening ear, and, most of all, the message of Jesus Christ.
Rachelle Veldkamp: I'm looking forward to spending lots of time with my family and doing some Christmas baking!
Rich Weening: Relaxing and enjoying a book in front of the fireplace, visiting family and friends, celebrating the birth of Christ, and going last minute Christmas shopping.
Sarah Speer: This Christmas I am most looking forward

to watching that great Christmas movie, "A Christmas Story." Ralphie and his b.b. gun are a classic! "You'll shoot your eye out!"
Zach Smoker: I am looking forward to spending my Christmas in the States with family that I haven't seen in over a year! It will be fun, awkward, and joyous.
Emma Richardson: Turkey! Whenever family gets together, there is sure to be food. A big turkey dinner is always something to look forward to (and it makes for great leftovers too!).
Hailey Mantel: I am most looking forward to getting together with friends from high school.

PROFL

Dr. Payton: Marriage doesn't hit you until you're already in it! Two weeks after the honeymoon, you ask: "for the rest of my life??"

Dr. Payton: Augustine was the best philosopher the West produced. That is, until Adam Barkman.

Dr. Faber: We have to remain faithful to God's truth. You don't want to sleep around with other ideas and catch intellectually-transmitted diseases!

Student: "Why was Western Europe so

sparsely populated?" Dr. Koyzis: "Not many people."

Dr. Bowald: "That's the answer to most things; Jesus or Narnia."

Dr. Faber draws what is supposed to be a blackbird on the chalkboard, then turns to the class and states, "You're laughing because it's cute."

"Why am I so ridiculous today?" -Dr. Faber, after waving his hands around like he was clanging cymbals together.

"In light of the Kingdom, we all have a role to play. You're a hand...You're a foot...You're a cute little pinky toe." -Dr. Bowald

Spyksma, talking to himself: I'm confused. I'm confused. Shut up, Kyle!

Dr. Haas, overheard in the bookstore: Does Justin Bieber have a Christmas album?

Professor Kosits: You'd better get married or you're all going to die. No, just kidding.

Professor Kosits: Come up with a cool

abbreviation and instantly your concept has credibility!

Professor Kosits: That's why we go to McDonalds. How else would we tell the world "I give up!"

Dr. Joustra: I am useless. My brothers can build a house from the ground up, and I just know about the zombie apocalypse.

Dr. Joustra, concerning a school trip: I'll be renting an SUV. They're comfortable and ride so high, and we've all got to do our part for Big Oil.

Quebec Bids Farewell to Religion

LAURA HEMING
STAFF

Quebec will no longer let God—or any gods for that matter—keep its land glorious and free.

The minority Parti Québécois has proposed legislation that would ban religious clothing for employees of almost all institutions while on the job. This is to create equality of men and women, and religious neutrality in the workplace. The Charter of Quebec Values has a full name almost as long as the list of people protesting it: “The Charter Affirming The Values Of Secularism And The Religious Neutrality Of The State, As Well As The Equality Of Men And Women, And The Framing Of Accommodation Requests.”

ThePartiQuébécoissays that this will allow customers receiving the service to feel less threatened. The clothing restrictions relate to any dominant religion really, including headscarves, yarmulkes, turbans and larger-than-average crucifixes.

The charter wouldn't ban everything. It would still allow for religious ‘accessories,’ such as crucifix necklaces, Star of David earrings, or the Muslim crescent. Their ban stops at religious symbols that cling to the heritage of Quebec itself. The government would also hold back on stealing the crosses sitting peacefully atop of Mount Royal in Montreal. Neither will they be sending their workers to take down the letters “St.” which appear before the names Agnès or Alphonsis upon the Catholic school buildings.

The Quebec government is the exception to the charter. Any members of Quebec's legislature will not have to abide by the ban. As of late, the opposing coalition party is demanding them to act like the minority they are and negotiate a less extreme, more realistic bill. Minister Bernard Drainville says that there will be two elements of the charter that will be changed. He wouldn't say what specifically, but hinted that they were major changes. These changes will not necessarily be good news for the opposition.

Bill 60, tabled on November 7th, opened up the floor for journalists, religious folk, hospitals and newspapers alike to have a stab at examining how deep this political knife would plunge.

However, some, like David Rand of the Globe and Mail, see the situation differently:

“The wearing of an obvious religious symbol is a declaration – a non-verbal one, but very loud – of partisanship,” says Rand. “The charter will clearly establish a line of demarcation between the freedom of religion of those who display openly their allegiance to a particular religious community, and, on the other hand, the freedom of conscience of others – whether they be of the same religion, or a different one, or have no religion – who should not be forced to be exposed to such displays from the state and its representatives.”

The people of Quebec seem to have embraced the charter, according to the Montreal Gazette. After receiving phone calls and emails, here are some of the stats the Gazette has heard.

- 3,000 want the crucifix gone from the front of the National Assembly
- 1,400 oppose the renewable opting-out clause
- 774 said they wanted government officials also included in the ban
- 12,443 in Montreal (that's 47 percent) support the charter as is
- A mere 16 percent are giving the bill a no—quite a jump from the rest of Canada.

The National Post found that their readers took to the

charter fairly well. Some responses were from people who thought that religion has no room in the workplace, and from people who thought that true faith—as opposed to what you wear—would get you into the after-life.

Premier of Quebec Pauline Marois thinks the rest of Canada agrees with the bill, but is too scared to say so. She says that the rest of Canada should also extend the ban of religious clothing outside of the home and places of worship. This would make your local Wal-Marts, Swiss Chalets, and bowling alleys religion-free zones.

Céline Dion, Canadian pop singer (called Quebec's greatest ambassador) says, “If you go to the hospital, and you are in Quebec and we have embraced you and opened our country for you to live in a better world, you have to adapt to our rules.”

A pro-charter rally was held on September 22nd in downtown Montreal. It gathered together a few hundred supporters including Bloc member Robert Carrier.

“If we don't have religious symbols,” says Carrier, “I think it's easier to accept each other for all societies.”



For fans of the charter, a non-threatening atmosphere is key—unifying Quebec and allowing everyone to be on the same level. For those who oppose, these religious symbols that are being called ‘just symbols’ have more meaning than just material objects.

Robert Joustra, who has a Ph.D in International Relations and is professor at Redeemer, says in his recent article in the Globe and Mail that “when a provincial legislature talks about banning practices it is talking about suppressing, maybe even changing, religions. It demands not merely political revolution, but theological revolution. These are powers that the state in Canada, the state anywhere, does not have.”

Joustra continues, suggesting that religious ritualistic and physical nature is not merely rooted internal reflections, like praying silently, but rather that it is practice that makes the person more religious. This is equivalent to how a hockey player doesn't wear weights around his ankles to boast to everyone about how much stronger and more athletic he is than everyone else; rather, he does it to make his legs stronger, so that he can train himself to be a better skater. Take Hijabs, for example—the headscarves that Muslim women wear. The reasons women sport them are deeper than people would think. Hijabs are worn because they cause respect and honour for the woman. They assist them in remembering what they need to do and how to properly behave. It helps a woman practice her own personal faith. The Bill could also have the potential to strip a person of their personal clothing choices, says Jaskaran Somal, who is a practicing Sikh at the University of Guelph. “Turbans

aren't just a religious symbol, it's also a thing people from that area do as a fashion statement- they wear it as a choice just like you wear your plaid shirt as a fashion statement.”

The Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms that passed in 1975 states in Chapter I.1 that “no one may practise discrimination in respect of the admission, enjoyment of benefits, suspension or expulsion of a person to, of or from an association of employers or employees or any professional order or association of persons carrying on the same occupation.” Quebec's Human Rights Commission points to this violation, and says that the charter will fail because of it. They also say that they haven't found one situation where wearing a hijab or other religious symbol at work has caused a problem.

Jacques Fremont, who is the president of the commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse (Human and Youth Rights) says:

“Equality of the sexes is already protected in Quebec's human rights legislation, which was a 1975 precursor to the federal charter, and the new law would only result in people being denied work based on their religious beliefs. That would be both an attack on freedom of expression and the right to work.”

Quebec's shove of religion isn't really a foreign concept however. The attitude of the Partis Québécois towards religion is notably similar to that of the French.

The French Revolution focused on the re-organization of society. They wanted to eliminate power of the church. They wanted to create a unique French culture, and to rely on the power of man, not the power of God. French culture seems to be very focused around one's culture rather than religion.

The Revolution stemmed from French pride. They desired a unified land. They wanted to do away with religion. The Third Estate got no say in what was happening with the government.

The new charter seems to shadow much of what happened in Quebec in the 1960s with the Silent Revolution. That year, Quebecers elected Liberal Jean Lesage premier. Lesage wanted to fully modernize the province. His most radical reform was the education system. He assigned Minister Paul Gérin-Lajoie to pry control of education away from the Catholic Church and to make it a secular institution.

Milad Saliba is an immigrant from Lebanon. He doesn't think people fully get it. “What the problem would be, maybe, is what the sign represents. Does it represent the submission of women, does it represent patriarchal society or not? That's really the real thing. I don't think English Canada understands that,” says Saliba. With so many opinions being tossed across Canada, Quebec has surely seen its share of angry people swarming the streets with angry signs. From multi-faith marches, with cold hands briskly raising ‘Keep Calm and Love your Hijab’ posters, ‘Casserole’ protests with people hitting pots and pans making a creative ruckus on the streets, to feminist disputes, with women refusing to believe the gender equality aspect of the movement. Through all of the clamber, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has kept his words few. According to The Canadian Press, Harper addressed the issue confidently on September 17th. “The bill in its current state won't go anywhere,” says Harper. “I think the common sense of Quebecers will force this to a reasonable conclusion.” He also stated that if it should pass, his government would take whatever actions necessary. He believes that the Parti Québécois would love to see a divisive debate across the country. Harper says that he is confident that Quebecers will do the right thing.

Is it Time to Speak to IT Again?

BRANDON RICHARDSON
STAFF

I hope this title caught your attention, because it is time we banded together as students and spoke to the IT department. I have been at Redeemer for four years, and it seems that each year the internet and wireless connections at Redeemer have been worse than what you would expect to find at a nursing home. Many individuals have talked about this, but have we considered talking to IT together?

In October, the Redeemer Men's Hockey team took a trip to Calvin College to play in a cross-border hockey tournament. Calvin was very gracious to us, putting us up in their on-campus hotel for the nights we were stay-

ing in Grand Rapids. During our time off, between hockey games, we had the privilege of walking around the campus, which consisted of many different buildings—academic and residential. It occurred to me while eating lunch in the Calvin College cafeteria that I had had Wi-Fi during my entire time on campus. This was a blessing, as I was able to update family and friends at home on how we were doing in the tournament. What was even nicer was that, no matter how many buildings I walked into or out of, I always had a wireless connection. I wondered to myself, Why can't Redeemer get their act together and finally provide decent Wi-Fi on campus?

I now find myself wondering if anybody, individually or corporately, is going to talk

to IT again. Somebody needs to. Because for four years, I believe most of us could agree, the Wi-Fi at Redeemer has not been the greatest. I'm not the only one who has let IT know they needed to do something, as many of you reading this article have as well. We've all had our frustrations with the internet on campus.

So who is talking to IT now? More than just one person should be, except, this time, for a completely different reason.

I have found throughout my life that it is much easier to complain about something than be thankful for something. This same trend is certainly evident on Redeemer's campus. If you don't believe me, ask someone about communal, or the 'Dome', or our gym, or our athletic pro-

gram, or our small class sizes, or our bike racks, or the solar panels on the roof of our school, or the colour of our grass, or the size of the bricks in our academic building. The list could go on. None of these topics are actually things that should be complained about; we just seem to find it easier to complain than be thankful.

So once again, has someone spoken to IT? Redeemer internet has not been the greatest during my time at Redeemer but it is now. In the past few months, changes have been made to the internet that have improved it dramatically, certainly rivaling the internet we experienced at Calvin College. What I really wanted to say to Redeemer IT is thank you. Regardless of the times that internet has not been great, you have

found a way to fix the problem. In recent months the internet has been great and has served our community in an incredible way. After all of the complaining that you have heard over the years, we now want to say "thank you." It is always harder to recognize the good things in life, but, at The Crown, we want to recognize the effort you have put into making this year's connections better. You're doing an amazing job and the internet has never been better.

If you're reading this and you see a member from IT in the hall, remember, it's time you speak to IT again, and this time say "thank you."



iTunes Match Review

ANDREW TOSLAND
STAFF

As internet-connected devices grow in our lives, the problem of not having content on a particular device becomes more and more apparent. The method of syncing a device to a personal computer is the traditional way of solving this problem, but Apple seems to think it can do better. With iTunes match, Apple has created a process that makes the synchronization of music automatic, wireless, and simple, for a small fee.

iTunes Match is a service that allows users to access their mu-

sic collection from anywhere they have an internet connection. Users can choose to download their music to a device or stream it from the internet. This is particularly helpful to those who have a large music collection but have a device with much less storage (ex. an 8GB iPhone).

Signing up for the service can be done through iTunes for \$29.98 a year. After signing up, iTunes will scan the user's music library and either match songs from iTunes or, if no match is found, upload the music to Apple's servers. For anyone who has lower quality copies of their music, any "Matched" songs will be provided at 256kbps,

the same quality as a purchased song from iTunes, and up to 20,000 songs can be submitted.

Another bonus for users is that the scan does not register where the music originally came from, allowing users to submit music of questionable origin and have it replaced with a high quality copy. Although some users may see this as a way to legitimize their pirated music, it is important to remember that file-sharing is illegal in Canada and the music that is submitted to iTunes Match is expected to be owned by the user. However, as mentioned, iTunes has no current way to tell which is which, and all music submitted

will be treated as an owned copy.

Having tested the service with a fairly large music library for two years, it is great to be able to access any song from any place. Still, there are some disadvantages to the service as well. In particular it was noted that, although the matching portion of the initial scan worked flawlessly, uploading music seemed to fail on occasion. This caused iTunes to fall into a loop of trying to upload the same song over and over. Although this was a rare error, users should still be aware that this service is not perfect and problems can arise.

Users will also note that the ser-

vice is very specific, working only with music. Users looking to stream movies will need to look to other services such as Netflix. For mobile users the service is only available on Apple devices, although Google does have a similar service available to Android users. Users can use the service on either an Apple- or Windows-based computer, but they will not see the benefit of mobile streaming without a compatible mobile device.

Although the price of \$30 a year is not much, users will need to determine whether the convenience is worth the price. iTunes match is available now in the iTunes Store.

App of the Month: VSCO Cam

JORDAN BOKMA
STAFF

Forget Instagram's filters; VSCO Cam gives complete control to the user. The uniqueness of this photography app comes from its ability to merge a massive user-driven store filled with custom

filters and also provide a professional-looking set of tools that make editing photos simple and stylish. Building off of software that compliments Adobe Lightroom, VSCO has produced software that performs. It offers the stylish look that Apple has managed to create while, unlike Apple, allowing free access to the app.

It offers a unique portfolio feature where the user can create a "grid" displaying their handiwork of pictures. This not only highlights the social aspect of sharing photos, but also allows the user to see what filters the photographer applied. This helps the unlearned photographer (such as myself) to see what works and what doesn't work.

To sum it up, VSCO has described itself as the "easy-to-use mobile camera app with elegant, minimal, processing options." I couldn't agree more. Try out VSCO Cam the next time you're about to upload an image to Instagram. You just might be impressed with how many more options you actually have.



Royals Enter Break with Win

PETER REID

The Lady Royals Women’s Volleyball team enters the Christmas Break having won 4 of their last 5 matches and now sit in 3rd place in the tough OCAA West Conference. Redeemer’s record sits at 6-3.

The latest victim to fall to the Royals was their mountain rival Mohawk College on Thursday night. The Royals handed the Mountaineers their 6th loss of the season in a 3-1 win.

While the match was tight throughout the night, Redeemer closed out the match when they needed to. Game scores were 25-22, 22-25, 25-22, 25-18.

Curtiss Straatsma led Redeemer with a game-high 13 kills and 16 total points. Charlene De Vries added 14 points for the Lady Royals.

The Royals continue to prove they are a team to contend with moving into the second half of the season as they posi-

tion themselves for a potential spot in the OCAA Playoffs.

The Royals will travel to Tampa, Florida over the Christmas Break for an exhibition tournament from December 29th-January 3rd as they begin to prepare for the second half of the 2013/14 season.

Leaders- Points: Curtiss Straatsma (16), Assists: Kimberly Stewart (31), Digs: Tara Van Halteren (11)



Royals Take Round One

PETER REID

It appeared the Redeemer Royals Men’s Volleyball team did not want to end the first half of the 2013-2014 season without a 5 set thriller. The Royals came out on the winning end of one on Thursday night in a 3-2 win over their mountain rival.

Thursday night’s match was the first for Redeemer this season that went the distance as the Royals won round one against the strong side from Mohawk.

With the win, Redeemer improves their record to 6-3 entering the Christmas Break. Their 12 points has them

sitting in a tie for 3rd place in the OCAA West division with Fanshawe. Mohawk’s record falls to 5-4 as the Royals snap the Mountaineer’s 4 game win streak.

The Royals came out a little flat in the match, getting accustomed to Mohawk’s new facility. The slow start cost the Royals the first game as they were dominated 25-15. However, a little comfort went a long way as the Royals found their groove in the 2nd set and began taking over the match. The Royals won the 2nd (25-20) and 3rd games (26-24) before Mohawk won another tight 4th game (25-20).

The turning point of the match appeared to be in the 3rd set. With the Royals down 22-17, Redeemer went on an amazing

9-2 run to take the set 26-24 and move ahead in the match 2-1.

David Klomps and Eric Heidbuurt each had 12 kills for the Royals. Heidbuurt also added an incredible 9 blocks in a hard fought defensive effort by Redeemer.

Redeemer will now turn their attention to a Christmas Break trip as they head out to B.C from December 31st-January 5th for a series of exhibition matches and training.

Leaders- Points: Eric Heidbuurt (21), Assists: Jake Klassen (38), Digs: Eli Tolkamp (15)

What’s Going on in Room 210

HAYLEY LOCKREM

Those of you who find yourselves in the academic building after 10:00pm on a Tuesday night might be wondering, “What is going on in room 210?” While it may seem like some mysterious meeting, the event taking place is one that should be known to all: the weekly Student Senate meeting. For the past semester, a group of thirteen students have met every Tuesday to discuss and decide on any student concerns, student requests, club establishments and budgets, and event planning opportunities. So far this semester, Senate has faced a plethora of subjects for discussion and decision. Below are two of the major issues addressed.

The first large order of business included issuing club status to many new clubs, as well as confirming budgets for all clubs, old and new. To see a list of all clubs and find contact info for their leaders visit: www.redeemer.ca/life/studentActivities/studentSenate. For any questions concerning clubs, contact Abigail Deelstra.

Throughout this semester, we have also received students’ concerns. One of the principle concerns has been the internet issues at Redeemer. After discussing this in our meeting, I personally met with Walter VanderKolk in IT. He provided insight into why the issues are hap-

pening and what they are doing to mend them. He also stated that they can only fix issues if students actually bring their concerns to them at IT. If you have any concerns for IT, contact Walter at wvdolk@redeemer.ca.

This is just a quick look at what Senate has been up to in those mysterious meetings in room 210; it doesn’t begin to touch on all that gets addressed on Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in knowing what goes on in greater detail or have any concerns or requests, feel free to stop by any of our meetings. If you can’t make it, contact me and I’ll bring it up at our next meeting.

Ability Unlimited

ABIGAIL DEELSTRA

“My definition of normal and the world’s definition of normal are different,” remarks Aaron Richmond, a 2012 Redeemer graduate who is currently continuing his studies in an effort to upgrade his diploma to an Honours English Major. Since birth, Aaron has been redefining the word “normal.” He was born two months premature and then suffered a level-four brain hemorrhage at only four days old, resulting in visual and hearing

impairments as well as mild cerebral palsy. His parents were told that he would likely be unable to walk, sit-up, and care for himself. He has, amazingly, overcome all these dim forecasts, even publishing a book of poetry when he was only 19 years old. Reflecting upon these accomplishments, Aaron immediately cited Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Aaron’s latest endeavor has been the recent founding of a student club at Redeemer which focuses on support and education concerning disabilities. The club goes by

the name “Ability Unlimited” and the motto is “Everybody shines,” a sentiment which effectively captures the nature of the club, that everybody has something to contribute, regardless of whether they have a disability diagnosis or not. In the club’s mission statement, John 9:1-5 is cited, in which reflecting upon a man’s blindness Jesus says that, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” This passage has continually inspired Aaron throughout his life and now in the establishment of Ability Unlimited.

Ability Unlimited provides a group for students who identify themselves with disabilities, whether personally or through a family member, as well as any who desire to one day work as teachers, pastors, social workers, support workers or those in the social services. Ability Unlimited currently has a small base membership but has many informative events planned to help educate the Redeemer community about disabilities. The group has scheduled a demonstrative event in the Commons on December 2, which will include four stations simu-

lating various disabilities so that people can experience the different challenges that are experienced by people with disabilities.

Ability Unlimited meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 at Aaron’s home in Independent Housing unit 103 and all are welcome. A typical meeting includes prayer, scriptural reflection on disability, and a time of discussion and information on a particular disability or issue, which Aaron has coined the “Ability of the Week.” If there are any questions about the group and their work, feel free to contact Aaron at arichmond@redeemer.ca.

Chaplin’s Corner



ROB POWELL

Well, it is hard to believe that we are already finished classes and gearing up for exams. While all of this goes on, we are also simultaneously preparing our hearts for Advent. Here is a seasonal

thought.

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: 6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’[b]” This is such a powerful story. Imagine what this season would be like if our contemporary neo-Herodians were actually successful in removing the Christ out of Christmas. What indeed. Writing as one who has known Christmas both with Christ and without Christ, trust me when I tell you it makes all of the difference in the world. And then some... Remove The Christ and, I ask you, Whence: -mystery? -anticipation? -drama? -compassion? -ritual? -depth?

-transcendence? -meaning? -beauty? -redemption? Without His story, life, example, and Spirit, we have just another empty winter festival, another corpse without a soul. Indeed, one need not probe deeply to determine that it is because of His Spirit that we connect this season with generosity, compassion, altruism, caring, family, and more. It is because of His incorporation into the narrative of the season that we have the very things that are most meaningful and compelling. A friend of mine once commented that it seems that at Christmas the world actually reflects on “the way things ought to be.” People should not be lonely at Christ-

mas. There should not be fighting/ poverty/hunger/hatred at Christmas. There should be goodwill at Christmas. People should care at Christmas. Families should love each other at Christmas, etc. Where does this seasonal imperative, the sense of “oughtness,” come from? Be assured it did not come from the Roman feast of Saturn that once occurred on the same date. It did not come from the pagan rituals of northern Europe. And it does not arise from the culture of the office party. It is ground into the biblical narrative of the Giving God who has given this undeserving world the ultimate gift, at an unimaginable cost to Himself. My prayer for all of us is that we can re-discover the “Gift that keeps on giving.”

Sola Scriptura and Apostolic Authority

IAN GALLAGHER

tionship to human authority. One thread of the discussion centred on the role of Scripture in the creation and redemption story. Specifically, we considered whether Protestants assume sola scriptura is the doctrine by which Christianity is measured—which got me thinking.

I have come to the conclusion that Protestants are people of incredible faith. No, this is not a reference to the concept of sola fide. By this I mean that Protestants have exceptional faith in the fallen humans whom God used to be the writers of his Divine Word, compiled into Sacred Scripture. This faith is to be highly commended. But how did we actually receive the Bible? It was the Catholic Church in its Apostolic Tradition in the early centuries that compiled the books which were divinely inspired and

A couple weeks ago, in class, we were discussing the doctrine of sola scriptura, as well as its rela-

excluded the illegitimate writings. Which brings me to my next point. If Protestants have such incredible faith in the fallen human writers of God’s Word, can they not also believe that God, through the Person of the Holy Spirit, inspired the pope and the Magisterium to assemble the Bible in the early centuries of the Church? Can they not believe that there are other fundamental truths of the faith that are not communicated through Scripture but through Tradition? We have the Bible as it is today because God chose fallen humans to evangelize with the proper writings. Humans did not make those decisions on their own; the Holy Spirit was with them.

God must have wanted Tradition to be a medium through which truths of Christianity were to be communicated. There is biblical evidence for this, as seen in John 21:25 (KJV): “Its source is Christ, it was delivered personally by Him to the Apostles through all that He said and did, which if it all were all written down, the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.”

Christ is a king. He has delegated His work to fallen humans as part of our redemption. This delegation is called the Church! Christ said to Peter: “Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). This is biblical evidence of the need for a Church to direct our pursuit of the Truth, which is Christ Himself. Our Lord declared that “the Truth will set you free” (John 8:32), and Peter wrote: “Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God” (2 Peter 20-21).

Protestants generally believe that Calvin and Luther are the main authorities of reformed Christianity. Do Protestants believe that they were divinely inspired to remove books from the Bible? If so, then they must ask themselves if divinely inspired Apostolic authority and tradition are pillars equal to sola scriptura.

Christmas Word Search

S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	A	G	U	B	F	N	Q	V	T	K	L	X	F	U	M	L	J
G	Y	B	K	S	O	U	H	B	I	O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	V	A	G	U	R	I	B
R	T	Y	K	B	M	K	L	O	N	R	T	C	H	Y	H	K	R	T	Y	D	G	J	S	B
T	O	Y	R	H	U	I	J	L	G	D	R	T	Y	J	K	L	J	H	U	I	O	C	W	R
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Q	W	T	Y	H	N	B	V	K	R	O	P	H	V	F	Y	I	M	D	T	N	K	A	K	J
T	Y	H	N	V	L	P	H	J	B	B	C	B	P	O	L	N	B	H	U	V	D	U	F	H
K	U	I	T	N	K	O	V	A	R	Y	B	G	K	V	F	J	I	B	D	J	L	S	B	J
J	B	D	R	U	I	V	B	N	E	M	F	I	C	F	J	I	B	D	J	K	L	E	J	N
Q	T	Y	E	V	N	J	L	P	A	O	I	B	F	S	H	J	K	L	B	C	T	Y	I	P
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N	F	K	F	N	G	K	G	D	G	Y	Q	A	N	F	D	H	G	N	R	U	Z	X	H	L
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