

THE CROWN

REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1983

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2013

THECROWN.CA

ROYALS STUN CANADA'S NUMBER ONE AGAIN

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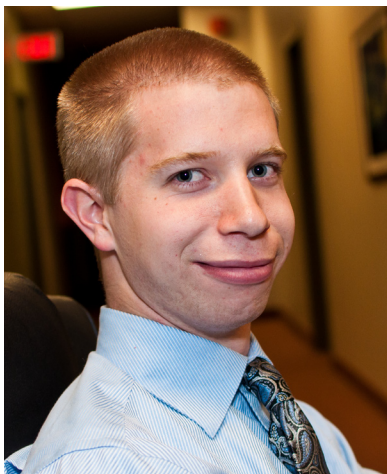
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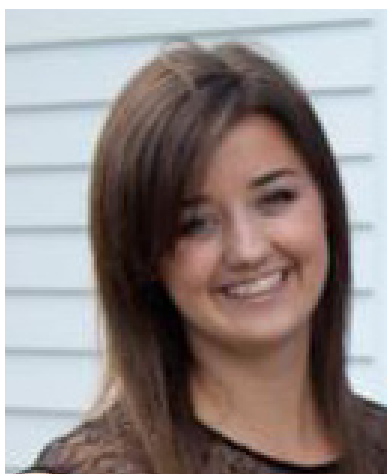
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Letters to the editor and article submissions must be sent to thecrown@redeemer.ca and must include the name and contact information of the writer, although we may print anonymously by special request. Works submitted as letters will be edited for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

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

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

pROFLsays

"You need to come to class early to sit at the back. It is just like church" - Russ Irwin

"worldviews are like a belly-button" - Bowald

"Don't blow a sphyg man!" - Pro Bro

"What is Art? Art makes you see life in a new way; yes..... but so does taking an ecstasy tablet" - Cuthill

".... and if any of this ends up in the crown I will hunt you down" - Barkman

"I for one will not welcome robot overlords". - Schurman

"While we're all suffering writing the final exam, Aaron (Tolkamp) will be out doing body shots somewhere." - Rob Joustra

"This is the most important thing in this class" (as he puts on a clip from star wars) - Zietsma

"Oh, you have dead babies in your backpack?" - Barkman.

"Here is his one chance, to be immortalized in film, what will he do? Yep, he picks his nose" - Pro Bro

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
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PRESENTS

SHOUT! IN THE HOUSE

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TICKETWINDOW
Get your seat.

Government loses students' personal information

583,000 students affected by Canada Student Loans Program security breach

LAURA HOWELLS
THE MUSE
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — A division of the Canadian federal government has lost a hard drive containing the personal information of 583,000 clients of the Canada Student Loans Program.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) issued an advisory on the privacy breach on Jan. 11.

"I want all Canadians to know that I have expressed my disappointment to departmental officials at this unacceptable and avoidable incident in handling Canadians' personal information," said Diane Finley, Minister of HRSDC.

"On behalf of our Government, I want to reassure Canadians that we are serious about protecting their personal information. As Minister, I will ensure that every effort is taken so that HRSDC meets the expectations of Canadians in keeping their information safe and secure."

The hard drive contains information on students who took out loans between 2000 and 2006. The missing information includes students' names, social insurance numbers, birth dates, contact information and loan balance. The breach affects students from all provinces and territories, except for those in Quebec, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Michael Walsh, the Newfoundland and Labrador Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, has been getting nu-

merous inquiries from students who are concerned about whether this breach affects them personally and what it means to have their personal information compromised.

"These are students who are already burdened with huge student debts. They already have the stress of trying to work to pay off these huge debts and now they have the added stress of wondering if their personal information is in the hands of a stranger."

Walsh believes that this breach highlights a larger problem of post-secondary tuition fees for Canadian students.

"The fact that so many students across the country are forced to borrow in order to finance their education is the reason that we have a situation of such magnitude right now."

"I think this shows that we have a system of post-secondary education in Canada where largely, students have to finance their education on debt."

Adam Awad, chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, agrees.

"If we just funded education properly across the country, we wouldn't have to deal with this all."

Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Diane Finley issued a statement on the breach on January 11.

There is no indication currently that any of the information has been accessed, however all affected accounts have been put on high alert. The situation is currently being investigated by the RCMP.

RIM's Redemption? Blackberry 10.



MELISSA WEST
GRAPHICS EDITOR

Blackberry is set to release their all-new phone, Blackberry 10 super phone, on January 30th, featuring a brand new intuitive interface with cool features including a time-shift camera and the release of Blackberry Hub. This release comes amidst a large debate on RIM's redemption in the smartphone market against top competitors Apple and Samsung.

Blackberry Balance is the new interface, which allows users to easily switch between work and play. Personal data and apps can be kept separate from work, allowing for separate profiles in one simple gesture for work professionals. Perhaps the coolest of

the new features is the time-shift camera. This camera ensures you capture the perfect shot every time, capturing milliseconds before and after the photo, allowing you to scroll back in time (which is convenient if you are a blinker).

The new Blackberry 10 also boasts of a brand new HTML5 browser with fast, easy sharing capabilities and improved speed and simplicity. Blackberry has made the move to an updated touchscreen keyboard, but don't fear, faithful Blackberry keyboardists, a physical keyboard edition will be produced in the future. The new keyboard capitalizes on intuitive technology by learning from your writing style for faster and more accurate

messaging, suggesting fixes to continuously misspelled words. Brand new features to the Blackberry 10 include the Blackberry Hub, a single swipe to access to all new messages and updates, putting you closest to what's important. The Hub is available to 'peek into' from any app. With the release at the end of January, the phone will be available for sales sometime in February. RIM's stock has hit an all-time high since last April, rising over ten percent since the beginning of the year. With a lot riding on this release, RIM's chance is now or never.

THE CROWN
REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1983

THE CROWN IS HIRING!

If you think you would be suitable for one of the following positions, send your resume to thecrown@redeemer.ca Positions are for 2013/2014 academic year.

Editor-in-chief

Responsible for overseeing the production of The Crown

Layout Editor

Responsible for layout and design of paper

* Experience with adobe InDesign asset but not required

Dwelt in Silence Says Goodbye



ADAM RUDY
AARON VANDERHEIDEN

On January 11, 2013, in celebration of almost 4 years of writing and performing hardcore music, almost 100 people gathered in the cafeteria to be serenaded by overdriven guitars, double-kicks, punching bass, and guttural screams--the hallmarks of Dwelt in Silence. It was of course the final performance of the beloved hardcore band. The band has had a visible, and audible, presence at Redeemer since it formed in late 2009. For the founding members, in its first year the main goals were having fun and bringing glory to God, and these two goals were met and perhaps even surpassed. However, what they did not expect was the ministry opportunities and the overwhelmingly positive response of those who heard them play, not only at Redeemer,

but also in Kitchener, Acton, and other areas throughout Southern Ontario including both Ottawa and Cornwall. True to form, this past Friday the boys of DIS did not disappoint with their high-energy performance and obvious gratitude for their fans' dedication over the past few years. Opening up the evening was The Next Town, a hardcore band from the Simcoe area whose members have been good friends of DIS since 2009. Following was Faithful Unto Death, another hardcore band from Windsor, whose members are also good friends of DIS. The third band to perform was Redeemer's own Brutalitops, DIS' apparent heir to the on-campus metal scene. Finally, with much excitement and anticipation from audience and band members, DIS took the stage. As usual they made their presence known in a loud and dis-

orderly fashion as the spectators pressed in close to the stage in anticipation of moshing and head-banging. Even though they didn't take the stage until after 11:30 pm, they were able to play the full 45-minute set they had anticipated thanks to Micah and the kindness of a couple security guards. Their set consisted of every song off their recently released EP entitled Anno Domini as well as a couple "oldies" from their earlier days. Many of the spectators sang and screamed along with Eric and Dan, the group's two vocalists, which is a testament to the place DIS holds in the hearts of many Redeemer students, both past and present. Needless to say it was a nostalgic performance and, for the few spectators who have been friends with the band and its members since day one, the performance was bittersweet. The best fruit to come from

Dwelt in Silence's 3.5 year run stems from the godly character and strong faith of its members, most of whom will be graduating this coming April. If the band has been successful in anything, it has been their founding goal of glorifying God with their music. Not only did they succeed in their goal but they even managed to subvert contemporary views on worship music by recasting worship songs with a decidedly metal sheen and even declared their "normal" songs to be songs of worship. I think I can speak for the Redeemer community (or at least a sizeable portion of it) when I say thank you to Dwelt in Silence for 3.5 years of God-glorifying music and genuine love to your listeners off the stage. You will be dearly missed and may God bless each and every one of you.

Engaging Culture with Chick Flicks, Pancakes, Video Games and a Battle

MICAH VANDIJK

If you are used to skimming newspaper articles, I'll save you some time and give you all the important information at the beginning...
CHICK FLICK & Discussion – Friday, 7pm, Room 213
PANCAKES & CARTOONS – Saturday, 10am, Rec Centre – FREE (bring plate, fork, and cup)
VIDEOGAMING Discussion – Saturday, 1pm, Room 213 - FREE
BATTLE OF THE BANDS – Saturday, 7pm, Cafeteria - \$10 admission
If you are curious about why we are doing all these events, read further...
It's the weekend and it's time to shut off the brain, see how many Rihanna songs you can listen to in a row, play some Call of Duty,

and watch "The Notebook" with friends for the 100th time. The Engaging Culture weekend wants you to keep your brain on when you are listening to music, playing video games and watching movies. The fun starts tonight when we watch a "chick" flick in Room 213 at 7pm. What is so appealing about these movies? Why do some people hate watching them? Whether you love them or hate them, come watch "27 Dresses" and offer your opinion during the panel discussion afterwards. Panelists include Professor Stephenson, Professor Juilfs, and Kristin Van Dyk from the Registrar's office. We'll be exploring the ideas of "myth" and "romance" and how these ideas can be beneficial or hurtful to our culture. We want to learn to be Christ-honouring through our movie watching. As we talk about

the idea of romance in Canadian culture, an interesting question surfaces. Do you think there is a romantic myth at Redeemer? If so, what is it? And what are the some of the benefits and negatives to having this myth?
Saturday Morning at 10am, The A-team is serving pancakes in the Rec Centre with classic cartoons on the television. Take a step back in time to when Saturday morning was all about breakfast and cartoons.
At 1pm, Ryan Henson Creighton will be leading a workshop on Video Games in Room 213. He'll start off by looking the topic of violence in video-gaming, followed by a discussion. He'll also be sharing ideas about how video-gaming is helping in education. Bring your lap-top along so that you can participate in some fun and practical portions near the

end of his workshop. Ryan used to work for Corus Entertainment as a Senior Game Developer and created games for YTV.com. Now he is the President and founder of Untold Entertainment Inc., a boutique game development studio in downtown Toronto.
The Engaging Culture weekend activities end with our 6th Annual Battle of the Bands. Over 20 Redeemer students will take the stage in front of a panel of 3 judges who are mainstream culture shapers. They will get to hear from the pros feedback on how to sharpen their skills to be more clear culture-makers. Some of these students are involved in music as a hobby, while some may be considering a career in music, yet we all can take the suggestions offered and transfer them into our areas of life that we have influence.

Pick-Up Tricks

BECKY CONNELL
CROWN REPORTER

It's January and you feel like you have plenty of time, but amidst papers and presentations the month has quickly come to pass. February 1st and you find that there are only two weeks remaining before doomsday, I mean, Valentine's Day. Determined not to spend this year alone in your room, creeping friends who feel the need to update their facebook status every hour with details of their ongoing date, you panic.

As a student, we recognize how busy life can be with homework, dorm dinners, and social media upkeep; the task of finding that special someone for Valentine's Day can be daunting. You don't have the time to go on dates and you are already too connected in the online world for christian-mingle.com; it is simply out of the question. With such little time to commit to seeking romance, it appears Valentine's Day is, yet again, of no significance.

But wait, there is hope. Below is a list of pick-up lines so easy that you could use them on the way to class or at a dorm dinner. Only 10 minutes to spare at communal? No problem. These lines are perfect conversation starters in the line-up, which will ensure you snatch up your sweetheart before you've even sat at a table. As Christians, it is important that we uplift one another, even as we attempt to woo. Thus, this list has been catered to the Christian romancer.

- With these smooth lines and a little confidence, you're bound to be busy this Valentine's Day!
(<http://www.pickuplinesgalore.com/christian.html>)
1. I didn't believe in predestination until tonight.
 2. If you say no, I will rip out my hair and my beard.
 3. It's obvious to me that you sprouted from the good kind of soil.
 4. I believe one of my ribs belongs to you.
 5. Bible Gateway is my homepage.
 6. (<http://pinterest.com/bethanelaine/christian-pick-up-lines/>)
 7. Hey girl, feel my sweater. Do you know what that's made of? Boyfriend material.
 8. Unfortunately I can't perform miracles, and I only have enough bread and fish for two people.
 9. So last night I was reading the book of Numbers when I realized, I don't have yours.
 10. Hey boy, is your name Google? Because you've got everything I've been searching for.
 11. I put the STUD in Bible Study.
 12. February 14th? Sorry, you're busy.

A Scapegoat Solution

The root of gun violence goes much deeper than guns

MICHAEL EMMANUEL

With the haunting memory of the Newtown shootings fresh in the public mind, politicians, celebrities, and activists have once again demanded the American government legislate firearm bans in the United States. However, unlike previous resurgences, this one has presidential support. President Obama has promised to institute gun-control laws during his second term in office. Because of his popularity, this means millions of Americans will be bamboozled by this scapegoat solution. Yet, as it will surely be a danger and not a solution, gun-control legislation has to be fought. Fought not only by Americans, but also by Canadians who too will feel the impact of the media’s regulation sensation.

The best attack against the regulation legislation is to arm yourself with the arguments and then use them to spread the message: gun control is an inconsistent, ineffective, and, above all, unjust solution to a much deeper problem. Most of the arguments for it are based on emotional, anecdotal, or exaggerated claims that don’t take into account the real evidence. Science, logic, and the Bible are all on the side of unregulated gun ownership.

Consider the major premise of the gun-control argument: since people will abuse them, the government should regulate dangerous weapons. Although nearly anything in the wrong hands can be a dangerous weapon, gun-control proponents only want guns to be regulated or banned. Knives can be dangerous weapons but no one calls for their regulation. How about baseball bats? They can be even more dangerous than knives, considering that it doesn’t take skill to be deadly with one. For that matter, why not regulate hatchets or axes or sledgehammers or crowbars? I wouldn’t want to be caught near a deranged lunatic with any one of those “weapons” in hand. If they’re consistent with their premise then everything and the kitchen sink ought to be

regulated. If not, then government regulation becomes largely arbitrary.

The typical response is that guns are the most efficient murder weapons; thus, they alone should be regulated. Yet this reasoning forgets the strongest argument for gun ownership. If guns are the most efficient weapons, then they are also the most efficient defense. All guns can serve as security devices and, unlike other security devices, such as alarms or cameras, guns actually succeed in preventing murders, rapes, and other horrendous crimes. Even dogs, which might be effective deterrents at home, can’t compare since you can hardly take them everywhere you go. A sociological study in 1988 by Gary Kleck found that more people in the States used guns to protect themselves than for criminal activity. Furthermore, in 83% of all cases where private citizens used a gun to deter a criminal, they were successful in forcing the criminal to flee. Guns are the most effective defense against dangerous criminals, and case studies support this.

Most can recall the shocking incident in Aurora, Colorado. A gunman entered a theatre during the opening of The Dark Knight Rises and shot 100 rounds on an unsuspecting and unarmed audience, murdering twelve people. Not many recall that the killer chose neither the largest or closest theatre to his apartment. The killer chose the only theatre in the area that banned concealed weapons, the only theatre where nobody in the audience could shoot back.

The gun-control lobby seems to forget the 1997 Pearl High shootings in Mississippi. Luke Woodham arrived at his school with a loaded rifle and began unloading fire. Everyone ran and hid until vice-principal Joel Myrick, arriving with a .45 caliber pistol retrieved from his truck, detained Woodham. Had Myrick not had the gun, Pearl High might be remembered like Newtown.

Despite the inconsistencies and the evidence to the contrary, the push for gun control continues

with some going as far as using religious values to support it. It’s sad to see politicians with so-called Christian values, such as President Obama, supporting gun control when there are no biblical norms to support it. Quite to the contrary, the Bible encourages citizens to arm themselves for self-defense.

A clear example is Exodus 22:2 which reads, “If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed.” In Judges we see the example of Sampson using the jawbone of a donkey to defend himself from the Philistines. Nehemiah records the builders of the wall arming themselves against their enemies. Christ himself applauds the right to bear arms saying in Luke 11:21, “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace.” He even demands it of his disciples in Luke 26:36b saying, “He who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.” Theologian R.J. Rushdoony has argued, “Since one form of Biblical restitution was the right of self-defense, the right under certain circumstances to kill the aggressor or thief, the increasing limitation of the right of the injured to protect himself means that we are returning to barbarism without the protection barbarism involved, i.e., freedom to defend oneself.”

Corroborating this, the Bible also denounces government involvement outside its mandate. Deuteronomy 17 demands that rulers not turn to the right or the left of God’s law. Samuel warns Israel of the dangers of seeking states like those of the pagans. Revelations 13, as Dr. Bahnsen argues, calls an unbiblical government a beast or monster that is a danger to the people it rules. Furthermore, nowhere in the Bible is the civil regulation of weapons approved. Biblically, gun control cannot be warranted, however, the solution to gun violence can, and yet our culture ignores it.

Guns don’t kill people; people kill people. This simple aphorism is normally ignored or twisted

by people trying to regulate firearms. For one thing, people often attribute the amount of gun violence in the States to gun ownership, ignoring other social factors. However, countries with the highest rate of gun violence have far fewer firearms. The Small Arms Survey, conducted by the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 2007, found that in Honduras, which has an average of 6.2 firearms per 100 citizens, 83.4% of all homicides were committed with firearms. El Salvador averaged 5.8 firearms per 100 people, while 76.9% of its homicides were committed with firearms. The United States, ranking first for the rate of gun ownership in the world, has an average of 88.8 firearms per 100 citizens. However only 60% of all American homicides were committed with firearms. To say that gun ownership correlates with gun violence is a clear case of the “false cause” fallacy.

The root of gun violence goes much deeper than guns. Among secular circles, the best answer to Newtown that I saw came from a viral post, falsely attributed to Morgan Freeman, which blamed the “sensationalist media.” I agree that most major media sources do little to help quell the fires, either making the killers household names or scapegoating guns as the problem. Nor has Hollywood been any help, with its hypocritical superstars blaming their audience for the violence they themselves exploit everyday on the screen in their “Demand a Plan” PSA. Still, ignoring the media is just as implausible a solution, as it also doesn’t deal with the root of the problem. As the Bible explains, the real root of all violence is in the heart of man, which is wicked and evil beyond our wildest imaginations.

To account for tragedies like Newtown we can turn to Jeremiah 17:9. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Or, as Christ said about the unregenerate man, “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning,

and does not stand in the truth” (John 8:44). Evil comes from the heart of man, especially when he is without God. The question has never been, “Why would someone do these things?” The question has always been, “Why don’t we?” It is by God’s grace alone that the world doesn’t tear itself apart like it did before the Flood. Adam Lanza, James Holmes, Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold; these people aren’t oddities or exceptions. The seed of their crimes is in all of us, held back alone by the loving hand of God.

It was Mike Huckabee, former Republican presidential nominee, who best dealt the blow to the secular cynics answering the question: Where was God in Newtown? “We’ve escorted him right out of our culture and we’ve marched him off the public square, and then we express our surprise that a culture without him actually reflects what it’s become,” Huckabee answered. America, much like Canada, is throwing away God from its culture and now it is seeing the consequences. Yet, as stubborn men do, rather than admitting their very desperate need for God, people are calling for banning the only source of protection against murderers.

Because, in the end, who do guns protect? They protect the weak and the innocent, all those who would be defenseless without them. They are the great equalizer. A gun is a woman’s only protection from an abusive husband. It is the only thing protecting an elderly woman in her home from vandals and thieves. The bans and regulations won’t stop the criminals; it will only stop the rest of us from defending ourselves. It’s worth noting that the 20th century’s firmest firearm regulators have also been its largest mass murderers, including Hitler, Stalin, and Kim Jong-Il. Obama wants gun control for private citizens. I can’t remember the last time secret service carried pepper spray.



Contributed Image



LIVE IN THE CITY:
WHAT’S ON IN HAMILTON: JANUARY 2013

The Casbah

Yamantaka/Sonic Titan—Saturday, January 19.
The Reason & Saint Alvia—Thursday, February 7th
Hayden—Friday, February 8 (hosted by the Casbah, located at the Dundas Montessori School)

Hamilton Place

Queen Extravaganza—Friday, January 18. 8:00 PM
Marilyn Manson—Wednesday, January 30. 8:00 PM
Broadway at Hamilton Place: Lord of the Dance—Friday, February 1. 8:00 PM

Molson Canadian Studio at Hamilton Place

The Saints are Coming—Friday, January 25. 8:00 PM
Cash (Johnny Cash Tribute)—Saturdaym January 26. 8:00 PM
Blue Suede Shoes—Thursday, February 7. 8:00 PM

Baltimore House

The Good Hunters—Friday, January 18. 10:00 PM
Further the Lion—Tuesday, January 22. 9:00 PM
YWCA Fundraiser w/ Drew Smith, Max Wray, Sean La Sage, Ben Somer—Thursday, January 24. 7:00 PM
Ginger St. James w/ Ollie Vee—Friday, January 25. 10:00 PM
Flamingo Bay—Tuesday, January 29. 9:00 PM

Underoath Says Farewell

JEREMY ENNS
WILFRED LAURIER

This past week, Underoath kicked off their farewell tour and once again the wise words of Nelly Furtado ring true: all good things come to an end. After over a decade of creating some of the greatest melodies and riffs in hardcore music, the Florida-based metal-core act is saying goodbye to the hardcore scene.

The announcement that the band is parting ways came near the end of 2012, along with dates for a farewell tour and two new songs. The previously unreleased tracks are available on their final album, Anthology 1999-2013, released back in November.

The tour has caused uproar among fans worldwide; there are only nine shows, most of them in eastern states. Thankfully, Ontario fans have been graced with a Toronto show, to take place at the Sound Academy today, Friday, January 18. It is rumoured that die-hard fans will be arriving early in the morning to secure a spot in line.

Accompanying Underoath on tour are the bands As Cities Burn, Letlive, and mewithoutYou. Fans

anticipate the return of As Cities Burn, a band that broke up in 2009, but has since returned to the concert scene with tracks from their first and most successful record. Their set is sure to be an absolute treat for all in attendance. Undoubtedly, the other performers will bring impressive acts as well; after all, this is the Underoath farewell tour!

Underoath fans across the globe have been reminiscing on the legacy the band leaves behind. A pioneer in the hardcore scene, Underoath has shaped the musical landscape and influenced countless bands in the genre. The band successfully pushed the envelope with each record, while developing a distinct sound that was imitated by many, matched by none, and loved by all. Their live performances have consistently received praise from fans and critics alike, and their farewell shows will be no exception.

For those who want to mosh to the punishing drums and aggressive guitars one last time, some tickets remain for the Toronto show, according to the band’s Facebook page.

Idle No More Movement

BECKY CONNELL
CROWN REPORTER

The Idle No More movement has recently burst onto the Canadian political scene, sparking protests and demanding that Indigenous issues which trace back hundreds of years be addressed.

Facing opposition from Idle No More, Bill C-45 was passed by Senate in early December. The main issue of contention with the budget bill is its involvement with changes to environmental protection and examination of lakes and rivers.

Most public of the protesters has been Attawapiskat Nation’s Chief, Theresa Spence, who has been on a hunger strike since December, living off of fish broth and juice. She has fueled the Idle No More movement insisting upon a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Governor General David Lloyd Johnston.

On Friday, January 11th, 2013, Spence was joined by 100 other chiefs who met with the Governor General at Rideau Hall in Ottawa for a special ceremony, after talking with Harper at a “working meeting” for four hours earlier that day. However, Spence continues to remain on a liquid-only diet

despite Harper’s promise to heavily discuss treaty and land claim issues. Spence says that until a meeting is held with both Stephen Harper and David Johnston present, she will continue her strike.

On this same day, hundreds of the movement’s supporters gathered in community at the James Street Art Crawl, in Hamilton, hoping to raise public awareness in a fun and celebratory way. Beginning in the basement of the Green Smoothie Bar, the participating crowd beat a drum and danced throughout James Street. As it followed two protests which blocked traffic and may have created friction among Hamilton community members, the purpose of this walk was to create a positive atmosphere and response to the movement.

The Idle No More statement is as follows: “Idle No More calls on all people to join in a revolution which honours and fulfills Indigenous sovereignty which protects the land and water.” They argue for an autonomy which will allow local regions to determine what happens with issues such as water, land, and other resources, instead of “distant corporations and politicians,” stating that this will benefit all Canadians.



Contributed Image

HSR Transit

How much of this transit system is actually being used?



Photo by Melissa West, Graphics Editor, The Crown

JOEL SPAN

Redeemer has had a transit system in place for the past 12 years, since City Resolution #TOE01166 was approved by the City of Hamilton in September 2001 (City Resolution # TOE01166), offering access to the city HSR network. A lot has changed over the past decade: Meadowlands has grown exponentially and the needs of students are being re-evaluated. Perhaps it's time to step back and ask ourselves whether this is of added value to the University.

Section 4 of the Student Senate Constitution, Student Senate Transit Fee, requires that "full-time students (taking three or more courses a semester) must pay the Transit Fee. Part-time students can request a transit pass from Senate." So in effect it is a use it or lose it proposition where, if you're a full time student, it's part of your student fees.

As part of the annual bus pass fee of \$160, there are two main components offered: the HSR bus pass (the red sticker on our student cards) and the Attridge evening shuttle which is the small yellow bus that connects Redeemer and Meadowlands.

According to the Redeemer finance department, the 2012-2013 fees are allocated as follows:

As a student body as a whole, we pay to HSR \$111,264.30 for 882 full-time students registered during the fall semester plus an additional \$2,207.62 for the additional 35 students registered in the winter semester. Our agreement with the HSR is that as long as the total student bus fees exceed the total cost of the HSR Glancaster-Redeemer-Meadowlands shuttle, the use of the shuttle is included. Based on the 2012-2013 estimate, if we were to contract HSR to run just the Redeemer shuttle, it would cost us \$96,122 so, because the total paid to HSR is \$113,471, the Redeemer shuttle is included.

In addition, there are costs incurred for the evening Attridge shuttle. Our rate with Attridge is currently \$165.50/hour for an estimated 153 hours which amounts to roughly \$26,000 per year for the evening school bus.

So as a student, \$126.15 is going to HSR, about \$30 to Attridge, and the small remainder to cover various transit expenses. At the end of the year, Redeemer does issue a tax receipt so you can claim a non-refundable tax credit (which amounts to 15% of your transit costs).

Our HSR bus passes are part of a much larger program run by

the city of Hamilton known as the HSR University/College Transit Pass Program which holds agreements with McMaster Student's Union, McMaster Graduate Student's Association, Mohawk Student's Association, as well as our own Redeemer Student Senate. The annual rate of \$126.15 is set by the city and is calculated as 145% of the monthly HSR bus pass rate (currently at \$87/month for a regular pass).

A 2008 City of Hamilton report (PW07101a) on the UCTP noted that "HSR assumes an average of 13 user trips per month for each of the 23,000 pass holders" which places pass use at 15-20% of students assuming regular daily use. The report goes on to note that "the fee is lower than the equivalent regular transit fare, as the cost is redistributed from the smaller group of users across the larger group of the total student body." In effect we are paying into a massive transit group plan but, on average, few students are taking advantage of it. So it certainly begs the question, "What is the perceived value of this service?" 5th-year student Curtis DeVries argues that although it provides accessibility to the greater Hamilton area for students who rely on public transportation, he has concerns. He states, "We have 400 students living on campus, another 300 or so within walking distance of the school and the remainder are either mature students with cars or living at home with their parents. Can we justify it for 50 students?" How much is this transit system actually used? The Crown contacted Redeemer Student Senate for some clarification on the matter and little is available in terms of data. A top priority for Student Senate, VP of Student Affairs Hannah Giles is working on a student bussing survey in conjunction with Steve Dykstra, Redeemer's Community Development Coordinator, which should be released by the end of the month. Students will be asked a number of questions regarding usage and perceived benefit from the system.

At the present time, given the lack of usage data, we cannot provide any definitive conclusions on the future of this program. However, the lack of attendance at the bussing panel does make cause for concern.

One option would be to remove the HSR and Attridge services altogether. This would save some students \$544 over their academic career (\$160/year x 4 years less 15% tax credits) as many students

rarely or never use the bus. On the other hand, we may be taking away a valuable program for those who use it regularly.

The reality of the situation is that the area around Redeemer has changed greatly over the past 10 years. Students on co-ops or internships are often required to have access to a car (I certainly needed one) and when I lived on campus our meal plans negated the need for transportation to grocery stores. Meadowlands isn't all that far either. I often run into Redeemer students on a walk to grab Timmies or a bunch of us will carpool when getting groceries.

Another option would be to explore making Redeemer more accessible to the downtown core. There are many exciting programs that Redeemer students are involved in, such as DEEDS, which rely on the bus system for transportation. The current transfers coupled with the limited running time of the Redeemer route can make the trek downtown take well over an hour. An extension of the Upper Paradise route from Redeemer to downtown could be a viable option should HSR be willing to enter into such negotiations.

The transit pass system could also be set up as a subsidy whereby student senate covers a portion of the monthly passes. If we were to remove the HSR UCTP, the monthly cost would increase to \$87 per rider. Although this is significantly higher, if Student Senate would subsidize any costs above the current \$160/year cost for 50 students who ride HSR regularly, the total cost would be \$26,800, which currently approximates what we pay for the Attridge shuttle. One-ride tickets for DEEDS could be covered under club costs or even a separate transit fund set up for those in need. I am more than open to help fund transit for those who are in need. The issue we currently have is that the total transit costs appear to outweigh the current demand for the system and it could be done in a more cost effective manner.

I would strongly encourage you to participate in the bus survey. For those who use it regularly, \$160/year is an amazing deal. I pay more a month in insurance... If you use it, please, by all means, prove me wrong. However, for those who look back at over \$600 paid for transit they never used during their undergrad, we need to hear from you too! Stay tuned for the survey at the end of the month and have your say. Your opinion matters.

Hamilton's Farmers' Market: A hidden gem

BECKY CONNELL
CROWN REPORTER

26th, 2013.

It's 10am on a Saturday and the Farmers' Market is full of hipsters with burlap bags, loud Italian men, and young energetic families. This may be the only place where such people gather under one roof (that's right, it's inside), but this is no surprise as the market is known for its diversity, providing local produce, European delights, and affordable prices. The walkway which guides shoppers around the outskirts of the market is full of people who are careful not to touch as they maneuver through the thin crowd; this place is full of life. Smells circle the enclosed market and blend into one mouth-watering aroma of fresh fruit, baked bread, and coffee. Mixed with local and global products, Hamilton's Farmers' Market is truly unique to the city.

On two levels, the market is packed with over 70 vendors with products that are sure to satisfy, including: European pastries, baked goods, fresh produce, deli, seafood, cheese, florists, and gifts; the list goes on. In addition, unique grocery items from throughout the world are available and affordable to all.

Not limited to food, the market offers free Saturday morning programs such as "Kids in the Kitchen" and "Market Fresh Cooking Demonstration." Also available are cooking classes, lunch 'n' learns, and seasonal events and contests.

Upcoming events feature: Cooking at the MARKET: A Taste of a Chinese New Year, where International Chef John Marques will prepare a Chinese-New Year inspired recipe on January 19 from 12:00-12:30pm, as well as Cooking at the MARKET: Sweet on Gluten-Free Cookies, where Chef Wayne Baker will teach you how to make tasty gluten-free treats from 12:00-12:30pm on January

Originally built in 1837 at the corner of York and James Street, the farmers' market has a long history in Hamilton, knit by community, diversity in food, and local support. In 1980, the market was moved indoors beside the Hamilton Public Library and has remained there since. With reconstruction in 2011, spacing was made available for seating, live music, and performances.

So why should students care about the Hamilton's Farmers' Market? To begin, it is the perfect spot for students who are determined to spend their weekends in productivity, let me describe to you why:

It's early on a Saturday morning and you know that you have to get that paper done today. You would walk over to the Redeemer library, but you sense that your friends will be there and, well, I'm sure we all know how that goes...

You decide to find a new place for scholastic study and hop onto the 5C or 5A from Meadowlands, and arrive downtown in 35 minutes. Inspired by the city, you walk around and quickly gain an appetite. Panic moment. You are hungry and you are a student; therefore, you are unwilling to spend much money on food. So you decide to check out the farmer's market located at 35 York Boulevard and attached to Jackson Square Mall.

Immediately, you find yourself inspired by the plethora of food available to you and buy lunch, a drink, and dessert for less than \$10 (trust me it's possible). Fueled and remembering your homework, you look up and see library windows above; you can be there in two minutes and remain there until 5.

So why not give the market a try? If not for academic encouragement, for your stomach which will be deeply grateful for it.



Contributed Image

Ask Redeemer: Who is the best dressed prof at Redeemer?



Cam Philips

“It’s gotta be a tie between the argyle clad green Gene Haas and the consistent and classic bowtie of doctor David T. Koyzis.”



Jordan Dias

“Pro Bro becuase shorts in the winter build character.”



Lauren Willson

“Sinden, her long skirts and flowing hair get me every time.”



Simon Fallon

“Russ Irwin. It’s all about the hair.”



Justin De Schiffert

“Dr. Koyzis - because tweed never goes out of style.”

If you have a question you think The Crown should ask Redeemer, send it into thecrown@redeemer.ca !

CUP NASH 75

The Crown Attends Canadian University Press Conference

JULIA SODERHOLM
CROWN REPORTER

The large atrium of the CBC building is packed with university-aged students, mostly milling around in small packs or pairs. The occasional person stands alone, smart phone inevitably glued to their palm, thumbs deftly forming tweets that coolly name-drop the venue and speakers at the event. Live music drifts from the small, corner stage where Waterloo-based band Far From Rich’s smooth acoustic sounds act as buffer space to fill the silences in introductory conversations. Waiters in black glide between pockets of people, offering strange and wonderful hors d’oeuvres with names like “Brie and Apricot Filo” and “Duck Tacos.” The room fills slowly as more students in carefully selected business-wear enter the space, mingling between groups, introducing themselves warmly, the main question that floats around the room being—“What paper are you with?”

So begins CUP Nash 75—the Canadian University Press annual conference that gathers students from coast to coast to bunk down in Toronto for five days. There, they will not only attend sessions ranging from the use of twitter in journalism to roundtables where layout editors can swap their best

ideas, but network like crazy, and, of course, make good use of the hotel’s pool facilities. It’s a time for conversation, inspiration, and the inevitable chaos that ensues when more than 300 twenty-somethings gather in a small space for an extended period of time.

CUP is the only student press co-op in North America, and exists to create a network for university papers to share ideas, articles, and to form connections with not only fellow aspiring journalists, but with professionals already in the field. Countless professionals who are currently working as reporters, photos editors, or freelancers, once worked on their university’s paper and attended CUP conferences much like this one. It is an invaluable opportunity to gain a taste of how to make a career in journalism a truly viable option.

This year, because the conference took place in Toronto, The Crown was able to send four members of its staff to represent Redeemer at this national setting. In a world where most schools have a population of at least 10 000, where the paper is published on a weekly basis and students complete their studies part-time in order to devote themselves to their school’s publication, The Crown is definitely an anomaly. However, despite the fact that our monthly paper represented the smallest school at the conference, we left

with heads full of ideas, inspiration, and with a handful of new friends we’ll not soon forget.

CUP Nash certainly inspired us by showing us that student publications can and should be taken seriously. The Crown is a voice for the current events of our campus and city, as well as a voice for the heartbeat of our community, and it should be reflecting that. We are excited to see what fresh ideas we can bring to this paper, and we want to represent you well. This conference, despite the undeniable draw of being a great deal of fun, was about more than schmoozing with successful magazine writers and eating deep-fried mac n’ cheese at a CBC cocktail party. We at The Crown are asking for your input, for your talent, and for your voice as we seek to do what all student newspapers should do: to confront issues that matter to this campus, to offer a space for talented writers and photographers to share their ideas, and to act as a forum for discussion about topics that matter to Redeemer students. This is a place for you to bring up what concerns and drives you as a student of Redeemer, as an individual in the city of Hamilton, and as an important and valued voice. Please participate with us in our endeavour to create a space for thoughts, news, and entertainment, in a way that will leave us with a publication we can be proud of.

Can You Hear the People Sing?

A movie review of *Les Miserables*

SIMON FALLON

Many of us are aware of the literary master Charles Dickens and the excellent work he did in portraying the suffering of his fellow British people. (If you want to read true suffering pick up some Leon Uris.) However, up until we saw Anne Hathaway singing in some trailer about her crushed dreams, we hadn’t really heard all that much of Victor Hugo. Hugo embodies the spirit of French revolution in the tales of *Les Miserables* and does so with a style and grace that would have everyone from your swag-infused 16-year-old cousin to the kind elderly lady from across the street close to tears, if not drowning in them. Directed by Tom Hooper, the master that gave us *The Kings Speech*, the movie displays his vision clearly and we are able to appreciate the little things in *Les Miserables*. What sets *Les Miserables* apart from other musical film adaptations is the live performance. You’re not left listening to an overproduced drone like we get in some pieces. (*Moulin Rouge* is a prime offender, although, don’t get me wrong, Ewan and Nicole will always hold a place in my heart.) Instead, we are left with the grit that a revolutionary piece such as this requires. We feel anguish deep in the chambers of our hearts for Anne Hathaway as she is stripped of her dignity, and many in the theater around me were heard sniffing as she screamed defiantly at the camera. We are able to understand the grace given to Jackman by an old priest because we hear the gut-wrenching knowledge in his voice that he was not worthy of such an

act. (Hooper’s obnoxiously close camera technique is also a help in this regard because we can see every strand in his Irises).

The downfall of this movie is in the acting of Russell Crowe. Jackman had Broadway training, Hathaway is just a swiss army knife of acting and is capable of pulling this off, but Crowe gives off a vibe as though he was focusing too hard on the singing and, in doing so, relieved himself of the stellar acting prowess we’ve all come to know and love. Although Crowe didn’t pull his weight in *Les Miserables* musically, he has been known to invest in musical acting projects with great fervor. In *Master and Commander* he taught himself violin in order to give an authenticity to the role.

The spectacles we see are grand and the vision behind this film is strong and vibrantly alive. It does most things very well: beautiful costumes for everyone, well-cast-ed with featuring up-and-comers like Eddie Redmayne (the Pillars of the Earth miniseries is something that should be looked into), and strong musical performances by Hathaway and Jackman. If you have the money, invest it in seeing this at the theatre; your dinky laptop speakers won’t do it justice. Reasons you should go see *Les Miserables*: You are in need of a good lesson on grace. You need a good cry. You don’t believe Wolverine can sing like an angel. Your mother’s paying for your ticket. Reasons you shouldn’t see *Les Miserables*: You hate singing. You don’t want to have the music drowned out with stunning visuals. You’re just going to nitpick Russell Crowe’s singing.



From left to right: Justin Olthof, Jenna Bos, Jeremy Enns (Wilfred Laurier), Julia Soderholm, Ben Reid

“SHOUT! In the House”—Redeemer Celebrates Black History Month

JULIA SODERHOLM
CROWN REPORTER

Every February since 1926, North America celebrates Black History Month, a commemoration of important figures and events that have shaped the history and culture of African Americans. It is a celebration of what has been accomplished with the abolition of slavery in the Western world, and is most often commemorated by a variety of cultural events that take place throughout the course of the month.

Black History Month began in the United States by Carter G. Woodson, a historian with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Although it began as a mere week of celebrations, by 1976 the American government officially recognized the switch to a month-long event. The BHM officially came to Canada through the Canadian Negro Woman’s Association in the 1950’s, and was recognized by the Canadian government in 1978.

Today, the month long celebration continues to thrive across Canada, where it reminds Canadians of all races that the history of our country has been pioneered and shaped by a variety of people groups. As a nation that prides itself on its diversity, Black History Month is a chance for Canadians to acknowledge and celebrate that as well. It’s also a chance to recognize the past and present contributions of the African Canadian community in art, music, politics, human rights, and more. And what better way to do that than through their rich traditions and contributions to the arts—from music to dance to spoken word.

This year is the first year that Redeemer is putting on an event as part of these celebrations. “SHOUT! In the House” is a gospel music celebration that will include five musical artists—Victory International Worship, Sheldon Neil & The Way, Christopher Samuels, Dionne Wilson, and Samantha Whitney—as well as a number of monologues focused on Rosa Parks and Martin Luther

King quotes. Victory International Worship, a praise team from Hamilton, will also be leading a time of worship at one point in the evening.

The event is not only meant to bring awareness to the Black community in Hamilton, but is also a chance for the school to give back to them. Proceeds from the event—ticket sales and a portion of every CD sale—will go towards a new scholarship being established at Redeemer. The “SHOUT! In the House Bursary” of \$1000 will be awarded to a high school student of African or Caribbean descent with strong academic and leadership skills. Doriel Moulton, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Recruitment and part of the team putting on the event, explains that this is an exciting way of integrating the many churches in Hamilton that have a large Black community with Redeemer’s community. This will be the first foray into making connections with a church community apart from the Reformed tradition, which is an exciting step for Redeemer. In this way, “SHOUT! In the House” is not only an event celebrating Black History Month in Hamilton, but it is also a chance to strengthen the school’s connection with faith communities throughout the city.

The event will be held in the Redeemer Auditorium on Friday, February 8th. Regular admission is \$10 with a special price of \$5 for Redeemer students. Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office.

Log in and get out of your music rut:The best online music streaming and referral services to get your ears buzzing

ROMAIN DOMPNIER
THE CONCORDIAN
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL (CUP) — Songza, 8tracks, Pandora, GrooveShark and Spotify are apps and websites that encourage listeners to discover music in more relevant, cost-efficient and innovative ways. Together, these five online services attract a cumulative 64 million users to their websites and mobile applications. All are free, but not all are available in Canada — nor are they all legal. Apart from being great services, these products shed light on changing paradigms in the music industry. Their business plans and profitability margins vary greatly, but the underlying truth is how we engage with music and how streaming is becoming more important than buying records.

Most of these sites allow you to listen to music you don’t own for free. How is that possible? A compulsory license with groups ASCAP, BMI and SESAC which pay musicians, songwriters and labels fractions of a cent each time their intellectual property is played. No real money can be made from these royalties. Releasing these songs for the world to hear, like and share brings new fans to shows. Each website has their particular way of getting the music you might want to your ears.

Songza

Songza is a relatively old player in the music streaming and recommendation game considering its launch in 2007. But this old dog has learned some new tricks that make it the fastest-growing and attention-grabbing of the bunch.

“The idea here is that we can get you some awesome music without you having to think,” said Songza’s founder and chief executive Elias Roman, when describing what is now known as the music “concierge.”

While other sites and apps require the user to manually choose or assemble the playlist they want to listen to, the “concierge” leads you to a playlist curated by one of their experts and tailored to the time of day and your activity. If it is Tuesday evening, for instance, one might choose “doing homework” from the six activities available for that timeframe. Turns out, a mixture of obscure genres including soft jazz and American primitivism is a perfect, steady and lyricless backdrop to pounding out that paper. Very obscure

music can be perfect for very mainstream activities. Songza puts them in touch.

What’s most impressive about this company is how consumers have responded. In June 2012, four months after the “concierge” was introduced, Songza was the second most downloaded free app for the iPhone. 70 days after its launch in Canada in August, 1,000,000 people North of the border had acquired it.

While Songza remains incredibly user-friendly, a couple of snags will no doubt hinder your sing-like-no-one’s-around enjoyment, if even just a little. Say you discover a really great song, which you’re bound to at any given moment, well, Songza hopes you enjoyed it the first time because there is no way to repeat any previously heard song or even parts of the song currently streaming.

Available in Canada: Yes Favourite playlists: “Tar Beach Lullabies,” “I’m A Boss,” “Y’all ready for this: ‘90s Jock Jams”

8Tracks

8tracks is another source of free music streaming, except this time the content is user-curated. After registering, the user can start listening to one of more than 600,000 playlists. Others can embrace their inner DJ, and create a mix containing a minimum of eight tracks uploaded from their own mp3 libraries. Oriented towards social networking, users sometimes try hard to get their choices listened to, commented on and “hearted” (akin to “liking” on Facebook). 8tracks users interact more with each other than on other services, but this is partly by choice. It was featured in TIME magazine’s 2011 list of “50 best websites.”

At the entrance, users are greeted by the “cloud:” a collection of trending search tags. Two rounds of choices are made to refine the search. One might pair “lazy” with “chocolate” and end up listening to a playlist of exclusively acoustic covers. 8tracks one-ups Songza’s themed playlists by offering ones assembled by celebrities like Elton John and Coldplay frontman Chris Martin. The company also offers prizes and media coverage to members who enter their mixtapes into contests. It has been in operation since August 2008, and while founder David Porter held high hopes since the site’s development in 1999, 8tracks hasn’t been as quickly adopted as Pandora or its peer-to-peer predecessor, Napster. Still, it has an average of five million users per

month between the site and its smartphone app.

Grooveshark is a service which takes 8tracks’ user contribution model to a more extreme level. All of the songs available for streaming come from users rather than record labels. Imagine Limewire with a music recommendation system. Just like its file-sharing predecessors, Grooveshark is currently the subject of lawsuits asking for damages in the millions.

Available in Canada: Yes Favourite playlists: “Folking around” by myang6, “I’ve got the Power” by jmasliah

Pandora and Spotify

Pandora internet radio is both the grandfather and poster boy for the music streaming and recommendation market. It is the most used, the most profitable and has arguably the best recommendation system. In 2011, the company made \$138 million and its stock began trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Pandora initially prompts users to choose one song they wish to listen to. That song is analysed according to rhythm syncopation, key tonality, vocal harmonies and instrumental proficiency. Algorithms then produce a series of similar tracks to be played. If a track doesn’t suit your taste, you can give it a thumbs down, further refining future suggestions. Up to this summer, close to 55 million people in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand have had their tastes examined via Pandora. Only those three countries benefit from access, in part because they offer fewer constraining royalty laws. Constraint can also be felt by the user: you may find yourself listening to subtly different versions of the same music you started with. Satisfied listeners can save a playlist, which then becomes a “station” anyone can listen to.

Spotify is another service that has acquired mainstream success in the U.S. but is unavailable in Canada. This company has concentrated its effort into seamless streaming rather than recommendation of music. It requires the user to download software which in turn grants them access to Spotify’s entire song library from your device. Think iTunes, but free and with a library 18 millions songs deep and a 2.5 hours-a-week listening limit.

Available in Canada: No Favorite stations (Pandora): “Wicked station,” “Dubstep radio,” “Smash station”



Photo by David Bakker

The Road to History

Girolametto Looks to Lead Redeemer Royals to Winningest Season Ever

PETER REID

This past week, the Men’s Volleyball team made history by becoming the highest nationally ranked program ever at Redeemer University College. Now, it’s potentially the Men’s Basketball team who may make history. The Royals are one victory away from being the winningest Redeemer Men’s Basketball team ever.

The Royals are on the verge of 5 regular season wins. The previous high for the program that began in 1990-1991 is 4 wins. The Royals achieved that mark twice, once in 1997-1998 and also in 1999-2000. Since that time, Redeemer Men’s Basketball teams and players have come and gone and despite fielding some competitive teams, have only managed to secure 20 wins in the past 12 years. Now, the current team sits at 4 wins and is only 1 away from the record. 5 wins in a season would be equivalent to 25% of the total wins in the last 12 years.

In the off season, Redeemer hired Jamie Girolametto as the new head coach of the Royals. His previous coaching experience and his connections in the Hamilton community has proven invaluable to the program. In just his first season as the head coach, Girolametto is on the verge of driving his team to its winningest season in history.

When asked about the record, Coach Girolametto said, “I had

heard rumors about the in totals in the history of the basketball program, but I wasn’t completely positive. Truthfully though, I’m not looking at this as a milestone, as we want to set the bar much higher. Our outlook for the remainder of the season remains consistent, we are hoping to make a run at the playoffs. For that to happen, we must beat all the teams below us in the standings and pull out a couple upsets”.

The Royals have their work cut out for them but they play two teams in St. Clair and Lambton who they already defeated in the 1st semester. They also play the Niagara Knights who the Royals fell to on the road in double overtime.

The Royals also play Sault College. Which brings us to this upcoming weekend. The Royals host Algoma University on Friday and Sault College on Saturday. While Friday’s game is certainly not out of reach, the Royals will be licking their wounds from a 1st semester 1-point loss to Sault College. Redeemer will get their first crack at the record on Friday night at 8pm vs. Algoma and then again on Saturday at 4pm vs. Sault.

So, what has led to the team’s improvement and success? “I can’t speak about the past teams at Redeemer”, explained Coach Girolametto, “for this team, we have made defense a major focus. You can be good on the defensive end every night as long as your

willing to work hard and communicate with teammates. My past coaches, Joe Raso and Pat Papalia, always stressed the importance of competing every night at practice so that you are used to the intensity of a game. We’ve tried to follow the model of ‘competition in practice’, where every drill includes a score, therefore producing a winner. The loser then has to face consequence (burpees and sprints!).

With a 4-8 record heading into the weekend, 1 or 2 wins would give the Royals the push to put themselves in a position to challenge for a playoff spot.

As for next year, “It’s hard to look ahead right now with such a big weekend in front of us”, said Girolametto, “but we are very excited about our future. Next year we potentially return our entire roster. With the addition of some key recruits, this team will make a serious run.”

On the women’s side, the Lady Royals host Algoma University on Friday and Sault College on Saturday. The Women’s team defeated Sault College in the 1st semester and lost by 1 point to Algoma University.

The Lady Royals will look for a pair of victories to propel them back into the playoff hunt. The team currently sits with a record of 3-7.

During Saturday’s games, fans will have a chance to win a pair of 100 level Raptors tickets during halftime of each game.

Redeemer stuns number one

PETER REID

In front of a packed house on Friday night, the Redeemer Royals men’s volleyball team defeated the Nipissing Lakers in a thrilling 5 set match. The Royals played comeback all night as they fell down 1-0 and 2-1 but continued to battle and finally edged out the Lakers 3-2.

Redeemer lost the first game 25-15, won the second 25-22, lost the third 25-15, won the fourth 25-22, and won the fifth 15-10.

It was a highly anticipated match as there were many story lines coming into the game. Redeemer stood alone as the only team to have defeated Nipissing so far this season when they won 3-1 in North Bay on November 17th. At that time, the Lakers had just been named as the #1 ranked team in Canada. However, they held the top spot for only 1 week as a result of the loss to the Royals. The Lakers were no doubt looking for revenge tonight as they were just recently reappointed as the top team in Canada again after winning a competitive tournament in Quebec over the Christmas Break. However, once again the Royals proved that they belong among the elite defeating the top team in Canada for the

second time this season.

With the win tonight, Redeemer sweeps the season series with Nipissing and hands them their second loss of 2012-2013.

Redeemer entered the match ranked #6 in Canada. The CCAA National Rankings are released every Tuesday and the anticipation will grow to see where the Royals sit after tonight’s victory.

Nipissing’s volleyball teams are competing in their final seasons in the OCAA as they will be making the switch to the OUA in 2013-2014.

The Royals now run their win streak to 7 games and improve their record to 8-2. They currently sit tied for 1st place in the OCAA West Division.

The women’s team fell to Nipissing in the first match of the evening 3-1. Scores were 25-12, 18-25, 25-9, 27-25.

The Men’s and Women’s teams are back in action tomorrow as they face Canadore College at 2pm and 4pm.

The Boys are Back in Town

BRANDON RICHARDSON

The NHL lockout is over. A tentative deal on a new collective-bargaining agreement has ended a 119 day lockout between the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) over hockey-related revenues. Once again we see that the only ones truly penalized by the immaturity of a league are the fans who support the league. When asked, both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and President Barack Obama reminded both sides of the lockout who was really being affected by their lack of agreement: those who generate the leagues revenues, the fans.

The lockout left many people scratching their heads for two main reasons. Firstly, many have questioned how the league's commissioner, Gary Bettman, has managed to triple the amount of lockouts during his time as head of the NHL compared to what had occurred before he accepted his position. Secondly, it remains a wonder why a league, which has openly broadcasted (pun intended) their recent struggles to sign

television networks to contracts, would allow a lockout at all.

Regardless, on January 12, 2013, a memorandum of understanding was signed by both sides of the lockout. Normally the season would last for 82 games but, due to a delay in agreeing upon the \$3 billion revenue of the league, the season has been shortened to 48 games. The season will begin on Saturday January 19, 2013, and will run until April 27, 2013, at which time playoffs will begin.

Despite my own cynicism, the news of a 2013 hockey season is very welcome for a Canadian who is engrained in the hockey culture of this great country. I am still expecting a competitive season from our very own Toronto Maple Leafs and am equally excited to see Sidney Crosby, who has battled with injuries over the past two seasons, once again return to the ice. The lockout might have infuriated me and other fans at times but the truth is, some good also came from the lockout as well.

At the end of the day we heard stories about hockey players getting involved in their communities and putting smiles on the faces of their fans. Many NHL

players took part in charity games to brighten the spirits of hockey fans and the charities which their games supported. Sydney Crosby also put on the pads during a men's ball hockey game in Pittsburgh where he recorded a shutout for his efforts. The smile of his competitors came after the game when he took his mask off revealing who had been playing in net during the shutout the whole time. During an hour break from their college hockey tournament our Redeemer Royals were also able to watch seven NHL players play a game of shinny at a local Oakville arena. Stories like this were recorded throughout newspapers over the past few months.

I think we can all agree with Buffalo's goaltender Ryan Miller that the lockout was a "waste of time," but moving forward I think it will be equally as important to commend those athletes that still went above and beyond the call within their communities. The lockout is over now; let's hope that it will be a long time before another one occurs. A full season is best for the fans and it's the best for the game.



Contributed Image

An Unlikely Hero

Alex Anthopolos tries to turn the Blue-Jays around

BRANDON RICHARDSON

Excitement is brewing in Toronto as a new hero emerges on the scene, an unlikely hero at that. Next to that of Rob Ford, the position of our unlikely hero may be one of the most hated in the city of Toronto. Toronto residents become irate when they hear of how mayors, and other government officials, have used taxpayers' money to put additions on their already expensive homes, take extended vacations, and push their own agendas, along with many other scandalous activities. I am unsure if hatred of the position our hero holds equals that which is directed toward those in elected positions but I would say the race is fairly close.

The group our unlikely hero belongs to is one that takes advantage of passionate people, succumbs weakly to the unjust power of their employers, makes decisions that leave supporters questioning their rationale, uses their platform to push agendas outside of their job descriptions, and arrogantly blames everyone but themselves. Outside of refusing to answer questions with honest answers, the members of this group also have a hard time generating anything worthy of recognition. Besides meteorologists, this is the only group that still remains employed after forecasting the complete opposite of what actually comes to be. Besides presidential and prime minister candidates this is the only group that can get away with making promises to the public which they do not carry out.

In a division of labour notorious for, quite honestly, just being terrible at what they do, there is

one who has broken the mould. This is a change which Toronto residents have been waiting over twenty years to see. In fact not only did our unlikely hero break the mould, but he did so with impeccable timing, one of the signs

“Alex Anthopolous is somewhat of a saviour in the world of Sports in Toronto right now.”

of a leader willing to move against the grain of dimwitted leaders. Of course I am playing off of popular belief about this group of society but it seems necessary in light of the suffering that has taken place in our province's capital that I be quite frank with you.

“Who might our unlikely hero in Toronto be?” you may ask. “And what is this terrible position he holds?” Without further ado, here it is: our unlikely hero is Alex Anthopoulos and he is the general manager (GM) of the Toronto Blue Jays. I will not try to explain to those who do not follow Toronto athletics just why GMs in Toronto may be some of the most disliked groups. In the case of the Blue Jays, they have not made the playoffs for twenty years. In the case of the Maple Leafs, they have not won a championship in over 45 years. In the case of the Raptors ... I won't go there. Throughout the years it has just become the norm to blame general managers for the misfortune of our most cherished teams.

Alex Anthopolous is somewhat of a saviour in the world of Sports in Toronto right now.

After a depressing season where many Toronto Blue Jays fans felt let down by, yet again, unfulfilled promises of a wonderful season, Anthopolous went hard to work. Over the course of a month, Anthopolous was able to not only cure the case of depression for Blue Jays fans but might also have been able to win over a few hockey fans who were equally depressed about the state of the NHL lockout.

Within a month, Alex Anthopolous was able to completely shake up the Blue Jays lineup. On November 13, 2012, he completed a blockbuster deal with the Miami Marlins which added shortstop Jose Reyes, pitchers Mark Buehrle and Josh Johnson, and infielder/outfielder Emilio Bonifacio to the Jays, along with some cash for the team's "dream fund." On November 16, 2012, Anthopolous signed outfielder Melky Cabrera to a two year deal from free-agents. On December 17, 2012, he carried out the unthinkable as he acquired the 2012 National League Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey and catcher Josh Thole from the New York Mets. In addition to all of the player trades, Anthopolous also hired a new team manager in the form of John Gibbons who brings an array of talent to the dugout.

In the wake of the Blue Jays' trades, Toronto fans have been rekindled with a spirit of expectation for their beloved team. Many different sports networks across Canada and the USA now have the team slated to win the World Series, baseball's most honoured title. With the new line-up and newly-found depth of the Blue Jays there is no question that they have earned these early reports and predictions.

That being said, Toronto still has their work cut out for them. Although new hope has sprung in areas such as a stronger bullpen, the Jays struggled more with injuries last year than any other problem (although the bullpen is a close second). It seems as though Anthopolous was able to create more depth in the team and was surprisingly able to hold onto a few key prospects amongst the different trades. This will hopefully provide the depth the team is looking for. Fingers are crossed that the Jays remain healthy and in good spirits through the grueling 162 game season that is now before them.

Returning players Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion will be expected to bring their bats once again to the plate this season. Colby Rasmus will hopefully be able to pull himself out of the second-half slump he found himself in this past season. Back catcher J.P. Arencibia will be relied on to remain solid in his position. Each of the returning players has large baseball cleats to fill but now they have the reassurance that management is also contributing with backing their performance and competitiveness in the league.

Regardless of previous seasons and athletic politics amongst Toronto sports, the Jays are one team to watch during the season that is quickly approaching. Bats start swinging on April 3rd with the Jay's home opener, and you can guarantee that it will be one of the most exciting days for sports fans in Toronto. The team who expected more out of their 2012 season is about to embark on a journey that will hopefully bring a title, or at least a good story, back to Toronto, and the man to thank

for it all is our unlikely hero, Alex Anthopolous. If you have the tendency to bad-mouth the position or the man, now is your time to take back what you have said and join me in congratulating the young GM who was born and raised Canadian (and actually graduated from McMaster University) for putting his own reputation on the line to bring a winning team to a hurting city.



Contributed Image

Ben’s Beefs



Knock-Knock! Who’s There?

BEN REID
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Not Redeemer’s Internet! Wifi:a new-age technological advancement that lets users connect to the internet wirelessly. It seems this wonderful thing is available every place on this good green earth except for the corridors and classrooms of Redeemer.

As soon as I depart from my day of studies and extracurricular activities at Redeemer I get wifi; when I walk back through those over-heated double-door vestibules it magically disappears. I’ve sat through three and a half years of wifi troubles and classes with no internet connection for 49 minutes (as soon as the professor is wrapping up you

magically get) it. I mean what are the students going to do with no internet? Listen in class?? Talk to real people??? You’ve got to be kidding me. I haven’t done that since 2003! We have Skype conversations cutting out right in the middle, leaving girlfriends sitting on the other side of facebook just waiting for a response. I’ve tried to contact the I.T. Department but my e-mails just wont send! You would think being a small school wifi would be easier to deliver for the students, but I guess that isn’t the case here. They say Chuck Norris can cut the cables of wireless internet; clearly he must have cut Redeemer’s cables.

If you have a beef that you think Ben should discuss email us at thecrown@redeemer.ca

The importance of criticism

SOFIA HASHI
THE FULCRUM
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

OTTAWA (CUP) — As a writer, it may seem strange to announce that I used to hate criticism. My job requires my editors to scour my articles for mistakes, a process that used to make me cringe. Until recently, I used to scan my emails to see if there was a disgruntled reader, or worse, an anonymous commentator sending scathing remarks about an article I’d penned. After having been criticized relentlessly and having received backlash for certain articles I’ve written—or not written—I’ve learned to deal with and accept criticism, especially if it’s constructive. And for that, I’m grateful.

However, our society might not take the same stance when it comes to criticism. A quick Google search on the topic scores thousands of hits with articles called, “How to take criticism” and “How to know the difference between constructive and hurtful criticism,” appearing by the dozens. Clearly, we could all use some help in the department. Margaret Heffernan, the former CEO of five businesses, recently gave a TEDx talk in which she

said people prefer to associate with like-minded people who don’t pose a threat and only confirm our beliefs instead of challenging them. She suggested that “A fantastic model of collaboration [is] thinking partners who aren’t echo chambers.” A world void of this type of constructive criticism and difference in opinion only continues to stunt our own personal growth. We might follow the old adage “If you don’t have anything nice to say, then don’t say anything at all” a little too closely. While certainly no one wants to cause harm to another person, rebuttals and conflict are necessary to resolving issues and growing. At times it may seem like the phrase “constructive criticism” has completely left our vocabulary. What’s wrong with a little criticism? Trust me, I do understand it can be hard to swallow a critique. This very article took more than the usual rewrite to be perfected. As much as I don’t particularly love criticism, I do know it’s important.

Without criticism, we’d never grow. It’s an obvious statement, but somehow we still tend to cringe when someone has anything unpleasant to say. Words can assault us in ways that seem to almost physically hurt at times,

but constructive criticism allows us to see things from another perspective and evaluate our own choices. Negating other people’s opinions as superfluous and invalidating them only does us a disservice.

Don’t lie, don’t steal, be kind. Take criticism well. It’s right up there on the list of major life lessons. No less important a skill is giving criticism well. Dishing it out and taking it should be approached with equal attention and care. And when you’re dishing it, be respectful. We all know what it feels like to be on the receiving end.

Sure, if you don’t have anything nice to say, then don’t say anything. If your intent is to harm, then shut your trap. But if you’ve got something important to say, then say it! Don’t agree with the point your professor made? Then say so.

Don’t like the budget the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa set up for the upcoming year? Speak up. Conversely, if someone offers you some pointers, don’t turn your head away. We live in the age of opinions, and sometimes a dose of constructive criticism might be just what we need.

Keep your germs to yourself!

SOPHIE ISBISTER
THE OTHER PRESS
DOUGLAS COLLEGE

NEW WESTMINSTER (CUP) — There are a lot of things to worry about at the beginning of any new semester, but winter poses particular challenges for students. Challenges that, according to my cursory field research, the average student is grossly incapable of facing head-on. Challenges like the flu and its less viral cousin, the common cold, both of which are making their evil, contagious way across the Canadian wilderness. Full-blown cold and flu season: coming soon to a classroom or bus near you! Why do I claim that students can’t cope? Because I see the same gross things every day.

People on the busses and trains sneeze right into my face. People at school cough all over the public computers, their germey mouth-spray infecting keyboards that countless other students have to use. Students walking the halls like zombies or plague victims, their glazed eyes darting back and forth, their feverish skin glowing like a beacon that screams “Infected! Infected!”

The CBC reported Jan. 3 that

a new strain of flu, which broke out over the holidays, is seeing increased cases in metropolitan areas of Canada. Health Canada says there are 15 times the number of cases from last year. Virus rates are up, but the CBC says the peak is yet to come. They report that in two to three weeks, even more people across Canada will be hit by this particular flu. Like most strains of influenza, the one hitting Canada right now (the elegantly named H3N2 subtype) affects the most vulnerable members of our population: the elderly and infants under one year of age. But that doesn’t mean students can’t or shouldn’t do their part. The use of vaccines in controlling virus outbreaks, while controversial among some people, is well-documented and endorsed by public health officials. It’s not too late to get your vaccine if you haven’t already got the flu!

While it might be tempting to play through the pain and take your cold or flu to school for show-and-tell, we would all prefer that you didn’t, thanks. Even instructors at the college would rather you stay at home; I have yet to see one course outline that doesn’t excuse absences for a medical reason. So, fellow

students, between now and that dreaded peak flu time, let’s all make a greater effort to follow some basic winter disease etiquette.

For starters, just stay home! I know not everyone can afford to take time off work, but if you can, for the sake of my health, please

do. Secondly, if you must venture into the world, know where to cough and sneeze: no coughing on other people, books, desks, SkyTrain poles, or your hand. The best place to cough is in the crook of your arm. The best way to wash your hands is with soap and warm water, and for at least

15 seconds according to Health Canada. The best place to put a soiled Kleenex is in the garbage, immediately.

Where’s the best place to put yourself when you come down with the cold or flu? That would be at home, in bed, with a healthy dose of chicken soup and Netflix.



Image courtesy dorywithserifs/Flickr

Editorial: Change is on the horizon



BEN REID
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With four papers under our belts for the 2012-2013 school year and the fifth one in your hands (or on your computer screen if you're following online) we at The Crown are finally getting the hang of things... we think. Ultimately you guys, the students will be the judge of that. With the nature of the student newspaper turnover, rates are extremely high with positions generally only lasting one year or maybe two if we're lucky. Thus, it is basically "a learn as you go" system.

Fresh off of the Canadian University Press national confer-

ence The Crown is looking to innovate and improve. With several changes slated for the upcoming semester we want to keep our students in the loop. We are aware of the fact that not everyone reads The Crown and at the same time, everyone receives a copy of The Crown in their mailbox. This creates a lot of excess paper waste and a bit of money waste. The reason this has happened in the past is because the constitution requires us to produce a paper for each student and faculty member.

In the upcoming months we hope to change the constitution

not only for this reason but also to shake up some positions on The Crown to better reflect the work the staff is doing. What this means for the students is that you may not get a copy delivered directly to your mailbox. Instead copies will be distributed on newsstands throughout the school so that those interested can pick up a copy easily. While we are not sure of the exact timelines of these changes we hope that they can take affect before year's end.

As February is right around the corner The Crown is already looking for Candidates to run the

paper next year. The Crown will need a new editor-in-chief. You do not need to be an English major for this position. Management skills, some writing skills, and an interest in news are all you need to be the right fit. On top of this, a new lay-out editor, graphics editor, and reporter will be needed for the 2013/2014 school year.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting transition period for The Crown e-mail us at thecrown@redeemer.ca. We would love to hear from you.

Casino Hamilton

JUSTIN EISINGA

Fact: Ontario is currently the largest gambling jurisdiction in North America. There are over 33 gaming sites and approximately 10,000 lottery points of sale. Of course, when one thinks of gambling, they would normally associate such activity with states such as Nevada or cities such as Atlantic City, NJ. The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) touts itself as a money-making machine that contributes to the well-being and health of its people. Each year, the OLG makes significant contributions to health-care, education, and recreation. For example, the OLG contributed \$120 million in 2011 to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which amounts to approximately 6 percent of their Net Profit to the Province. Its empire of cash-give-away promises and slot-machine dreams has a firm grasp on the people and the government of this fine province.

Last year, in response to its revenue falling from \$800 million in 2001 to \$100 million in 2011, the OLG released a plan for expanding its gambling services across the province. The OLG identified 29 "gaming zones" in which potential new gaming centres could pop up. Over the course of the six-year expansion, the OLG hopes to boost revenue to the province by \$4.6 billion and add an estimated 6,300 jobs to the Ontario economy.

Included in these zones: the city of Hamilton. Despite their operation of Flamboro Downs, a popular horse racing facility and slot-machine centre, the OLG has opened up the floor to developers to construct a new gaming and entertainment complex in the downtown core of the city. This decision has been met with its fair share of controversy. Those opposed to the casino point to the fatal consequences a casino would bring to the social systems of the city. In response to the OLG's plan to expand, the city of Toronto was quick to do research and released

a report in November stating, "available evidence indicates that the prevalence of problem gambling increases with access to gambling, including proximity to casinos." Furthermore, in a report to Hamilton City Council on the health and social impacts of gambling, Dr. Elizabeth Richardson emphasized that "individuals who develop problems with gambling can experience decreased well-being in both mental and physical health, financial crises, difficulties in relationships, co-morbid substance use, and difficulties in school or workplace." It is this increase in problem gambling that has citizens of Hamilton concerned, especially because it is a haven for many people in vulnerable populations, such as immigrants and those living in poverty. NO! Downtown Hamilton Casino is a group of concerned citizens that has taken up the task of representing opposition to the developments. They tout the economic upswing that is already underway and the ill effects a gaming facility would create as evidence that a casino would not be beneficial to the city overall. The group points to the burgeoning arts community and the record amount of building permits to prove that a casino is not what the city needs.

Despite the opposition, a local business tycoon, PJ Mercanti, whose family owns Carmens Banquet Centre and recently acquired operation of the Hamilton Convention Centre, has partnered with Hard Rock International as part of his plan to open a casino downtown. Mercanti's vision is a Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, which would include a museum, restaurant and live shows. This development will only please the OLG, and further upset concerned citizens who have a different vision for their city. A vicious fight is looming ahead as the City of Hamilton continues to wrestle away from its industrial past and takes precarious steps towards a future that is bound to make noise for years to come.



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**The views presented do not necessarily represent the opinions of
The Crown staff or the broader Redeemer community**

Each "Letter to the Editor" intended for publication by its writer should be printed, providing that (a) there is space available, (b) that the letter does not contain erroneous or slanderous material, and (c) that the editor-in-chief does not deem the letter to be offensive to the Redeemer community. Letters may be edited for brevity and clarity.

Chaplain’s Corner



ROBB POWELL

Psalm 90

A prayer of Moses the man of God. you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. 2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3 You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.” 4 A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. 5 Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning: 6 In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.

For many of you, Psalm 90 has been a fixture in your New Years’ reflections. Before we leave the New Year theme completely, I would like to make a couple of observations from the above verses. 1. Time is both linear and cyclical. The Bible affirms that time moves forward from one point to another through history. Creation has a beginning point. There is also a repetitive element to time. On that basis, the Mosaic writer can refer to the way God always does things. He turns people back to dust. As humans, we are like grass that springs up, withers and dies. It was always thus and will continue to be such.

2. God has a different relationship to time than we do. He is from everlasting to everlasting. He always was and will be. A thousand years is like a watch in the night. Does He stand outside of time? The Bible is not particularly clear on that point. However, it is absolutely clear on the fact that He is not bound to it in the same way we are. 3. God is our dwelling place. Wherever we are, whatever we face, whatever we do.. we always have a PLACE. This is especially in the face of our mortality and brokenness. There is, of course, much more to say. But at the beginning of the year I consider that I am taking another lap around the circuit.

While the future is ahead and mysterious, I have seen much of the future before. Much of it will be repetitive. Given that, I know the One who knows what is ahead. He does not have to guess at it. He does not have to predict it. He KNOWS. And this One who knows, who is always ahead of me, is my dwelling place, just as He has been for me in the past and just as He has been for generations which have preceded me. A word of encouragement, then, as we launch into a new term. Look back. Look forward. Most of all.. Look up.

The Concept of Overfellowship

LAURA HEMING

We are created as relational people. We can see it from the beginning of creation, where God creates a companion for Adam, the bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh. There are countless representations of the beauty of community within God’s narrative. It’s seen in Jesus’ calling of the twelve disciples, a diverse group of men whose desire was to literally follow Jesus wherever He went. It’s displayed through the friendships of those who would be assumed to spend a majority of their time together, like Abraham and Lot, Ruth and Naomi, or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. This general companionship is clearly something God wanted, created, and declared as good. My contemplation is whether there can ever a point of overfellowship. Can our devotion to other people become a wedge in the growth of our relationship with God?

“We can be quick to underestimate what consistent time spent alone in God’s presence does to our spiritual growth.”

As a community-oriented school, it is not often a person finds themselves alone on campus. In fact, the majority of a Redeemer student’s time is spent around other people. Whether this is in a dorm with seven others, in the school during the week, or participating in various activities around the school, there is a constant opportunity to spend time with other people. This is something that is so

unique to our school and is one of the things that draws most, if not all, of our students to a campus like this. But although there is so much good and growth that can occur from fellowship with others, I believe that being created relational means that we were also created for time alone with God, and, at a place like this, that requires an immense amount of sacrifice. It is easy to assume we are in constant growth as a Christian because we are surrounded by people who also strive to know God more deeply. But I think this is a dangerous assumption for us because God’s purpose behind our struggles, whether it is suffering, disappointment, any kind of desire, or virtually anything that a student deals with daily, is for Him to get us alone in His presence. There are things He wants to say to us and reveal to us that we may not be able to hear when we run to other people first. Oswald Chambers wrote, “There are vast areas of stubbornness and ignorance the Holy Spirit has to reveal in each of us, but it can only be done when Jesus gets us alone. Jesus cannot teach us anything until we quiet all our intellectual questions and get alone with Him.” There is seemingly a point to which we can no longer answer our own questions and can’t be satisfied with the answers of others either. This is more proof that we were created for something bigger than ourselves. We can be quick to underestimate what consistent time spent alone in God’s presence does to our spiritual growth. Not only for our sake, and for our desire to fix that part of us which constantly seeks to “get a better relationship with God,” but also out of love for our creator and out of a response to His love for us. It is easier for us to run to someone who is flesh and is tangible, because then we

get an immediate response to what is troubling us. But we were designed to be tangled within the brokenness of the world and, as a result, to be drawn back to God, because that is where He wants us. Some of the greatest revelations of the Old Testament resulted from the obedience of God’s people to the call to come away with Him, like Moses on Mount Sinai. Just like a father with his children, God wants to be with us. He desires to be acknowledged, desired, and sought out by His creation. I am convinced that He isn’t concerned with what we say or how we say it; He just wants us to trust Him with everything in the deepest corners of our hearts. Psalm 91:1 says, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” This is the place we find the rest, comfort, and wisdom we long for, that can’t fully be satisfied by people. We need to forget about the fear of missing out on what other people are doing or outside factors and excuses we make. This time alone with God is something we crave and always will crave until it is satisfied consistently. Spiritual maturity relies on consistency and devotion. The times when it is hardest to get away from ourselves and our routines become the times of largest growth because they require sacrifice on our part. What would happen if the wasted time in our day was spent in silence with God? How much deeper the roots of our faith would become if supplication became a daily staple, and how much more firmly we would walk every day. Maybe like Moses, we were meant to be brought to Mount Sinai.

Deedz offers much more than a snack

JOHN SCHURMANN

Encouragement from a stranger - A McMaster student who was riding the city bus with students on their way back from deedz had this to say when she found out we were from a Christian school called Redeemer: “Some people in religious communities make it a bubble and don’t engage outside of it. But it’s nice to see you guys doing things like this instead.” Deedz is a student-led and donation-driven way for Redeemer students to engage with the City of Hamilton regularly. Every Friday night, a team of students takes jugs of hot chocolate to the heart of downtown Hamilton and hands out cups of it to people in the city as a means of starting conversations and sharing with them. Those who heard Bob Lenz speak at The City Harmonic’s concert on November 24 heard a slogan that represents well why Redeemer students do deedz: “God gave free, so do we.” All are invited to come to deedz every week. Jordan Franck is a fourth year-student who went to deedz for the first time in November. Here is his story: “It was so exciting. You could see his longing in his eyes. As soon as he saw me coming he approached me and it wasn’t just a few minutes before he was begging to know God. He hardly noticed the hot chocolate I came over to give him... He just fixed his eyes and asked me: “Are you religious?” and I told him “No, but I know God.” So, after talking with him about certain questions he had (“Is heaven like... forever?” “What about evil spirits?” and “How do you know what’s right?” to name a few) I led him in prayer. He was more than ready and prayed sincerely and with deep conviction. There was

so much to talk about and he had to catch his bus but I’m so glad that I followed the Spirit’s leading before the night even began and brought [an] excellent daily devotional book with me called “Pursuit of His Presence” because I knew someone would need it. I gave it to him and shared how much it has helped me in my walk and I told him I’d be praying for him regularly. He clung to it like I’d just handed him a bar of gold. With deep appreciation [he] told me he would read it. He was so grateful. I told him a bit about my life and how God has delivered me from addictions just like him and told him that it’s God who fills me up with joy after he earnestly noted: “I’m so jealous of you man, you’re so happy.” I was so privileged to share Jesus with him. That’s it! He needed to know Jesus and I was honoured with the opportunity to introduce the two. He said if I hadn’t come along he would have just gone home and smoked for hours. Now God’s getting through to him that He has an extraordinary plan for his life! Yeah! After I walked across the street I saw him inside the bus shelter with arms extended, holding his book, as he excitedly shared with some friends who had come with him what had just happened. I know I made a difference in someone’s life because of my obedience to the Spirit’s voice. I didn’t have the faintest idea about how to talk with this man specifically or to know what he really needed to hear... Things came to me and went out [of] my mouth almost sooner than they were on my mind. It wasn’t me moving on his heart, it was the Holy Spirit. I consider it an honour to be used by God. I got the fun of doing it but God gets the glory!”

Toward the Depth of Christian Education

MATTHEW BOKMA

The primary virtue of Redeemer University's education in the liberal arts is that it focuses on the scope of academia; the students have the opportunity to sample a variety of courses pertaining to the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities, with hopes of obtaining a more well-rounded education. Furthermore, Redeemer operates within the Reformed paradigm of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation. God created the good structures of existing things; sin distorted, or misdirected the many facets of reality against the will of God; and through Christ and the Holy Spirit working in us, every structure of reality is re-directed according to God's plan, awaiting the final day of His kingdom. Unfortunately, however, the emphasis on the scope of education often results in the lack of depth—yet it is through depth that a student begins the fruit of her labor. Educational depth is acquired through the concurrence of two very important factors: academic specialization and the experiential content that stems from intentional activity.

The ambitious student who is interested in a genuine Christian education is not entirely satisfied with a broad sample of disciplines. Rather, she chooses to major in a specific area of study—theology perhaps. To her dismay, she realizes that the theology department lacks an es-

sential factor that qualifies a true theological education: a theological narrative (as opposed to the Biblical narrative). By exploring the theological development, beginning with Ancient Judaism, through to Early Christianity, the Medieval Era, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, the Modern and the Postmodern, the student can find herself placed within it; she dialogues with not only contemporary thinkers, but also with those of the past. Academic specialization, properly understood, is a student's dialogue with a particular person or developed concept that has stood the test of time. What is required on the student's part is a willingness to go beyond what the courses offer, independence and methodological effort. She is speaking, not her peers, not her professor. When engaged with the depth of scholarship the student begins to transform. She allows herself to be inspired by the great thinkers of history, finding any way possible to apply their insights into her current spatial-temporal context. This context is broad and not exclusively academic.

Although this article was primarily written for students as students, I do not want to insinuate that such a paradigm is only relevant within academia. Rather, these insights apply to every facet of life. Before I discuss what I mean by 'experiential content,' I want to make a few remarks concerning the nature of rationality and language. Rationality can be

understood as the ability to place symbolic categories onto human experience. The term 'experience' needs to be understood in a broad sense; a distinction can be made between sensations that are supposedly perceived from a region external to the mind, from sensations that are generated by the mind itself (i.e. those found in dreams). I experience not just what I perceive with my senses, but also the images, concepts, and ideas that I conjure up within my mind. Our experience, however, is infinitely divisible. That is, the experiential content that is represented by a symbol can be further divided and represented by more symbols. In contrast, symbols are finite because at any given instance the human mind possesses a limited number of symbols. Through reason, humans have the capacity to represent experiences with linguistic symbols or logical operators and to formulate equations that enable us to predict future experiences. Thus, I concur with Kant's introductory statement in his Critique of Pure Reason that "there can be no doubt that all our knowledge begins with experience." However, the denotative definition and experiential content that corresponds to a linguistic symbol is sometimes—if not most of the time—incongruent, thereby resulting in both inter-personal and intra-personal miscommunication and misunderstanding.

Our insubstantial theological

lingo is an example of the incongruence between definitions and experiential content. There are people who parade around campus prescribing pop-theological nostrums—such as "God loves you" and "pray about it"—to those who have actually experienced a tragedy, even though they themselves haven't experienced a tragedy, genuine prayer, or love. Captured by the moment, they feel as if they accomplished a holy deed, and perhaps the audience was persuaded by their speech and revered them accordingly. Concerning relationships, immediate attraction becomes the only necessary condition for divine ordinance. Not many reflect on the notion of "partnership" found in the book of Genesis—that would take a measure of passion unprecedented in our culture. What we find in these examples is a profound incongruence between experiential content and superficially imposed words with their corresponding definitions.

One might ask: "How is such an education possible? How can I harmonize my words with my experience?" Perhaps an example might clarify what this looks like. In the "dark side" of the city we find structures of God's good creation designed for human enjoyment—such as dance and even alcohol consumption—that are twisted or directed against God's will, and are now modes of self-indulgence. An inspirational friend of mine applies the same insights into a unique form of

street evangelism. Along with other Christians he intentionally visits the "dark side" of the city, attending the bars and dance clubs in order to drop seeds of Life, pray for those who are in need of Christ, and engage in relational conversation (as opposed to dogmatic imposition). These excursions provide experience that can be categorized by Christian or theological language. Perhaps, for example, these experiences might trigger a genuine transformation in the heart of the student. If so, the term 'sanctification' becomes substantial and the student begins to appreciate her theology classes. By the end of her academic career she can say with honest pride, "I have been placed into a narrative. into a dialogue, into the streets of Hamilton—I have a Christian Education!"

Therefore dear Redeemer community, learn to appreciate your core courses, liberal education, and the Reformed paradigm. Embrace the opportunities to participate in Hobbies for Hilltop, Deedz, and the various mission trips that are offered, while using your special academic training on the field. Allow your experience to define your words. Speak with precision and accuracy. Call on the name of Christ to help you achieve educational depth. Adhere to the battle cry of the Christian soldier: "Surrender nothing; liberate everything!"—such is our calling, our hope, and our rest.



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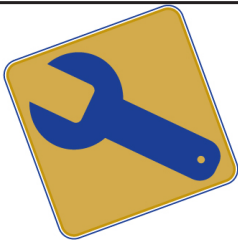
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