

THE CROWN

REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1983

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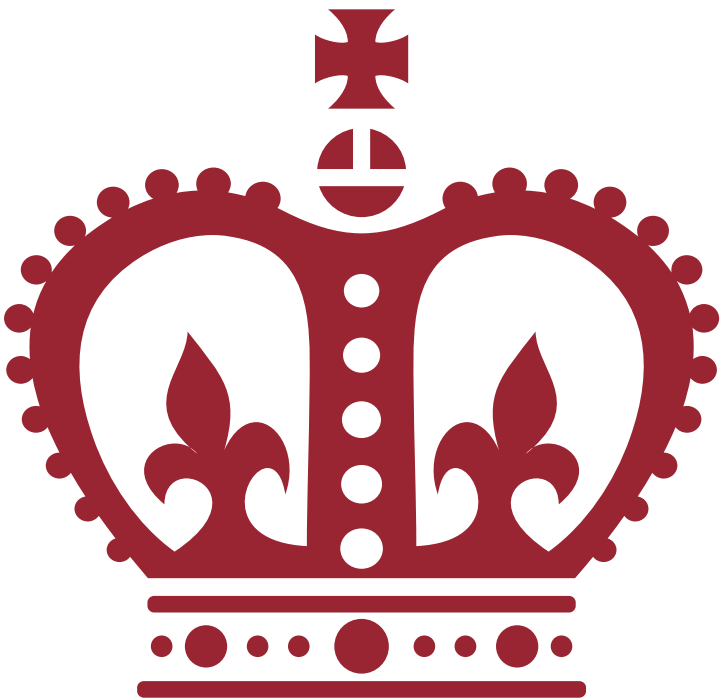


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THE CROWN

Letter from the Editor



We are another month closer to the end of the fall term and I'm sure things are looking similar for you as they are for The Crown; it's a busy time of year. As we head into the Christmas season there is something of hope to take hold of. Not only does the Christmas break offer us hope as we try and make it through the last few weeks of this term but it also offers us a perspective shift. Over the course of the next 4 weeks we will all undoubtedly look to the Christmas break as a glimmer of

light in our student lives of chaos. This excitement, this anticipation and long for the Christmas season is something I don't think I would want to trade. I find that Christmas, for me as a student, is similar to the wait before a highly awaited vacation. When I look back on all of the family vacations I looked forward to, I begin to realize how important the wait was before the actual trip. There's a strong correlation here with our wait for the Christmas break and the need to finish strong.

I don't really want to stop here with Christmas and vacations though. Ultimately, I believe that there are parallels to how we should be living out our lives as Christians and the importance of the waiting period we now find ourselves in. The Apostle Paul continually reminded others, within his letters, that they were currently living in the "last days." The last days are not something

that we look towards but something that we are currently living in. What we look forward to is the return of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the reason for our Christmas celebrations.

So while we head into this busy Christmas season I encourage you to recognize the importance of the "wait" before the excitement ahead. I also encourage you to always keep the perspective that Christ is with you ALWAYS even within that waiting period. I hope that this issue of The Crown blesses you, there are a variety of articles to get you thinking, some to get you excited and a few to reflect on. Within the whole issue we've tried to "whet your appetite" for the Christmas season, we hope it provides you with some more strength in this busy season.

Until next month, God bless!

Being Mayor Ain't all It's Cracked Up to Be

**MATTHEW BOKMA
REPORTER**

"Have you purchased illegal drugs in the last two years?" asks a member of Toronto's City Council on November 13, 2013.

Now, dear Redeemer, count to eight (one Mississippi, two Mississippi, etc.), and that is how long it took Mayor Rob Ford to respond, "Yes, I have."

Although Mayor Ford has finally admitted to various acts of misconduct, such as his betrayal of the public's trust, his crack use, his salty language, and his drunken fiascos at the State of the Danforth street festival as well as on St. Patrick's Day, allegations continue to rise: apparently he hired prostitutes, sexually harassed co-worker Olivia Gondek, and was seen doing lines (i.e. cocaine) at a downtown Toronto restaurant.

What should our attitude be to-

ward Mayor Ford? Should each of us follow in the media's footsteps and cast yet another stone? Or should we agree with Diane-Ford's mother--and follow Alexander Pope's dictum: "To err is human, to forgive divine?"

First let's address the media bombing. Rob Ford has reached international fame; he is currently the most popular subject on YouTube, the butt of every joke on the DailyShow and David Letterman, and the Dixie Chicks, during their performance at Copps Colosseum, dedicated their song "Sin Wagon" to him: "Wherever Mayor Ford is tonight, whatever he's smoking, we send this out to him." Even the car company Ford Motors is losing business!

But perhaps we shouldn't be as critical as the media. Let us consider the family's defence on behalf of Rob Ford:

Douglas Ford, the Mayor's brother, informs CNN that "Rob does

not come into work drunk. He said he's tried illicit drugs under a drunken stupor. He's not doing drugs and not drinking and so is moving in the right direction in my opinion." Furthermore, Diane suggests that his weight problem must be dealt with before his alcohol and drug use: "He's got a weight problem. He's got a huge weight problem. And he knows that, and I think that's the first problem he has to attack because this will change your whole demeanour." His sister Kathy adds: "Robbie is not a drug addict. I know, because I'm a former addict..."

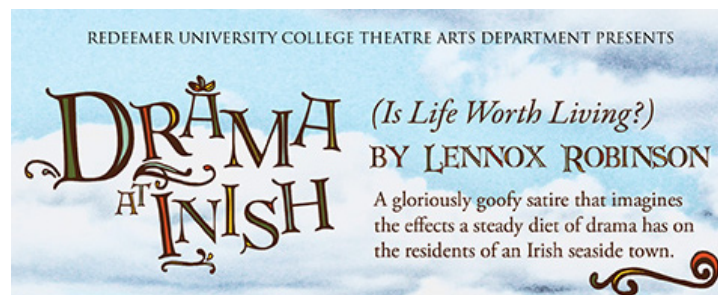
Maybe Rob's family is right. Who are we to judge? Why do we expect the Mayor--or anyone who is supposed to be a leader and a role model--to act perfectly responsible anyway? Not everybody can throw a football, dodge camera lenses, resist the "red cup," or lose weight. (And after all, don't some students excuse themselves by implicitly suggesting that they "have enough to eat at home" as well?)



Save the Date

NOVEMBER 19-23 DRAMA AT INISH

Is Life Worth Living? is a gloriously goofy satire that imagines the undesirable effects a steady diet of serious drama might have on the amiable residents of the provincial seaside town of Inish. The play explores what happens when a traveling repertory troupe comes to a small village in Ireland. After a week or so of Ibsen, Chekhov, and Strindberg, the townsfolk are driven mad. Although it is a comedy, Robinson's questions about the relationship between art and life, and the nature of community are serious, and applicable even today.



NOVEMBER 20 VOLLEYBALL (NIAGARA KNIGHTS)

This event is approaching fast, in fact it's tonight! Come out to support your famous Royals

NOVEMBER 21 LAST DAY FOR STICKER TAG SIGN UP

Redeemer's popular game is back! You don't want to miss this

NOVEMBER 22 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING DOWNTOWN DUNDAS

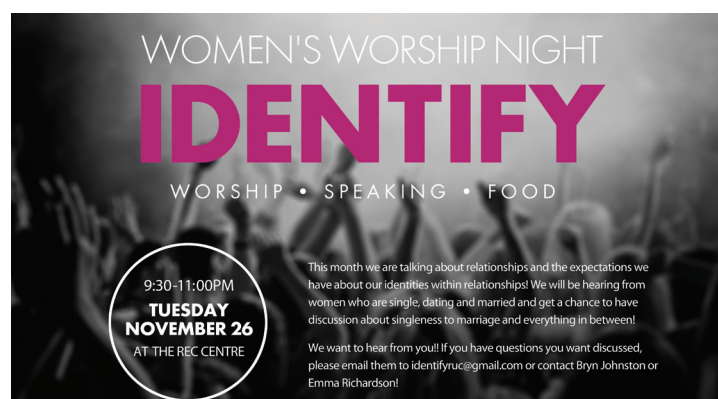
Join us at 7PM at Memorial Square (King & Sydenham) in Dundas for the annual tree lighting ceremony!

NOVEMBER 23 BASKETBALL (NIAGARA KNIGHTS)

Come out and support our talented group of Royals who have taken this season by storm

TUE. NOVEMBER 26 IDENTIFY WOMEN'S WORSHIP NIGHT

Redeemer's second womens only worship night, come out to enjoy a night of worship, speaking, friends, and food



NOVEMBER 29 BASKETBALL (SHERIDAN BRUINS)

NOVEMBER 29 HAMILTON BULLDOGS VS. TORONTO MARLIES 7:30 PM COPPS COLLESUEM

NOVEMBER 29 JAMES STREET JAMS

Hamilton's monthly live music crawl. An evening of live music, indoors and on the streets. 20+ venues showcasing the best of Hamilton's up and coming musicians.

NOVEMBER 29 SINFONIA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Redeemer's Music Department is pleased to announce this new series of concerts to celebrate Christmas. The concert will feature Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto no. 1 in g minor performed by James Naphtali, a first year award-winning Redeemer student. James performed this piece with the Scarborough Philharmonic after winning a competition last year.

NOVEMBER 30 VOLLEYBALL (ST. CLAIR SAINTS)



DECEMBER 6, 2013 CHRISTMAS TREE OF HOPE - TREE LIGHTING AND FREE CONCERT

Free- The City of Hamilton, in partnership with the CHML/Y108 Christmas Tree of Hope and the Hamilton Downtown BIA, will light up Gore Park for the Holidays.

THE CROWN

Dear Deer



DEAR, DEER, HOW DO I DEAL WITH MY PARENTS STRONG OPINIONS WHEN THEY DO NOT SPEAK THEM OPENLY, BUT RATHER ELUDE TO DECISIONS AND CHOICES IN A WAY THAT IS VERY OBVIOUS TO ME!?

Realize that you are now an adult since you have been at university. Yes, you need to respect your parents. Know that although you need to respect them, you have the right to have your own opinions and should be able to voice them. Let them know how you're feeling. Maybe your feeling like your opinions don't matter so let them know. I'm sure they value your opinion more than you know. Don't be afraid to confront in a respectful manner.

DEAR DEER, USUALLY I WAKE UP FIRST IN MY DORM AND GO DOWN INTO THE KITCHEN TO



FIND DISHES AND CUTLERY IN THE SINK. I DON'T WANT TO BE PETTY, SO USUALLY I JUST CLEAN THEM MYSELF, BUT IT'S BEEN HAPPENING CONSISTENTLY AND I'M STARTING TO GET ANNOYED. I'VE MENTIONED IT DURING DORM DEVOS, BUT I HAVEN'T NOTICED ANY IMPROVEMENTS. WHAT'S THE BEST WAY I CAN GET MY DORM MATES TO START CLEANING UP AFTER THEMSELVES? -SIGNED, DONE WITH THE DISHES!

This is a classic Redeemer problem. For centuries students have been struggling with this. I hate to tell you, but there's no clear way to make them do what they don't want to do. Some practical ways of managing if you have already talked to them about it are maybe suggesting they keep their dirty dishes in their room until they're ready to clean them. Talk to your RA/ HA, and let them that this is frustrating you. It's a tough situation, but you only have 2 years of living in this kind of situation, so try and enjoy it and try to remember that people aren't perfect.

DEAR DEER:

I LOVE RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR BUT FIND THAT DURING THE WINTER, I CAN NO LONGER GO FOR A NICE 10K DUE TO THE BAD WEATHER. I DON'T REALLY LIKE RUNNING INDOORS. HOW CAN I STAY MOTIVATED THROUGHOUT THE WINTER? THANKS.

SIGNED,
A RUNNER WHO HATES SNOW.

Wow, what a runner you are! I understand, I don't really like running outdoors either. Why not try wearing a running jacket and a headband to keep the heat in. Make sure you wear shoes with grip so you don't slip on the ice. If this is not appealing to you, try a different kind of workout, like running on the treadmill in the gym, or doing a workout video on YouTube. Lastly, why not try running through a forest, that's where I like to do most of my running!



DEAR DEER, WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME TO GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT? THERE'S THOSE WHO BLAST THE FALALA'S AS SOON AS NOVEMBER HITS, THOSE WHO WAIT FOR THE FIRST SNOW-FALL, AND THOSE LATE BLOOMERS WHO FORBID ANYTHING TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS UNTIL THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. PERSONALLY I LOVE CHRISTMAS BUT WORRY ABOUT GETTING TOO EXCITED TOO EARLY AND HAVING THE NOVELTY WEAR OFF. WHEN IS THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO BRING OUT THE DECORATIONS AND TURN UP THE CAROLS?

SINCERELY, CONFUSED ABOUT CHRISTMAS

This is a very relative call. It really depends on the person. Some people whip out the tree a day after Halloween. Some hate the sound of the bells before December hits. Here's my advice. It you want to be safe, start December 1st. That way, you have 24 days to blast the Christmas beats and get excited, opening your advent calendar each day. It does only come once a year, so don't be afraid of wearing off the novelty. Remember what Christmas is really about. That's something you should be excited about ever day of the year.

DEAR, DEER, HOW CAN I MAKE MY DORM ROOM FEEL LIKE HOME SINCE I HAVE TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME THERE?

There are two keys to this question. One, my friend, it is not about the place, but the people you live with. Make sure you are spending quality time with the fine folks in your dorm. It is a special thing to be able to live with others, and bonding with them will make it feel more like home. Key number two, decorate. This may seem a little silly, but it makes a world a difference. Try checking Pinterest for some great décor ideas. Put up pictures of people you love, and some nice lamps to set the mood. There's a lot of cool and cheap decorations at Talize, try that! Remember, home is where the heart is.



The Forecast for Paper Season

ARIANA BANKS

Tappidy-tap-tap. I listened to my fingers rushing against the letters, “a,” “n,” “d,” and the period, which were the most frequently used keys. Every light in my room was turned on, which does not speak too kindly for my electricity bill. Such is the life of a university student. Avoiding looking at the right-hand corner of my screen (and yet the numbers seemed to stare at me), I resumed focusing on my document and glanced to the left of the page to press on typing. my. next. sentence. only to catch a glimpse of my cell phone at the edge of my desk taunting me, signalling that it's shutting down for the night, a mode I had set up, figuring that I would be sleeping before midnight. I clicked it back on. Just in case. “Maybe someone else will be fighting the fatigue that comes with procrastination,” I imagined.

I massaged the bottom of my eyes. Then with one hand I brought my large coffee mug, my favourite one, labelled with the single word of “peace” on the front, to my face while using my other hand to waft the smell of the most delightful balance of hot chocolate and coffee to my nose. I even stretched my eyes open enough to receive both the heat and the smell—any possible serum that would help me endure the next 6 hours. At this thought, I checked my facebook; checked my school email.

That night, there were times where all I could think about was, “What was I busy doing for the earlier 12 hours of the day (the ‘normal awake’ hours)?!” Bussed to school, diligently took notes in three classes, met with a friend in the cafeteria for lunch, stopped in the hallway to talk to a professor, tutored a first year History student, went to the library to find myself engaging in small talk with students in the computer lab that I have never met before, bussed home, made dinner, called my family, washed the dishes, and at last, here

I was. Tappidy-tap-tap. Checked facebook. Checked email. Gave a quick yet expectant glance at my phone. And what did I do the week before? Researched the topic and wrote a detailed outline. Good. The month before? I had checked out all of the books on the Enlightenment that were in the library... Clearly no one was writing on this topic tonight.

“Was there anyone else awake at this time?” I wondered. 1:00am. At least I had the images of vibrant university life mulling around in my mind to remind me that I am not the only one awake: first year dorm-mates eating an after-midnight snack and laughing over the surprises of the day, some second-year students possibly watching the 12th episode of their favourite T.V. show, and third-year students bussing home because their work shift just ended. They were still wide-eyed, and so was I. Checked my facebook. Checked my email.

4:00am rolled around. The hour that seemed to laugh at me. One that seemed to disagree with my stomach and slowly bring my face closer to the screen. The hour that seemed to necessitate my chiropractic care. Slouching, leaning. Thinking that everything that moves is a bug. Checked my facebook. Checked my email. You would think by now I would come to understand that most people were now snuggled in their beds with their heads resting on the coolest and fluffiest side of the pillow. My bed had a pillow top; my sheets were flannel; my pillow still had remnant smells of a freshly washed pillow case. I sighed thinking about this long night/early morning, take your pick, which ever sounds less outrageous. I have heard since high school the expression “midnight genius,” when you get these ideas and have the urge to write them down, which is helpful when writing papers but disappointing at 4:00 in the morning when you realize that almost every sentence sounded brilliant. Maybe it was?

And from there was a blur. 5:00, 6:00, dawn was breaking, the rhythms of tappidy-tap-tap picked up speed, al-

most trying to race the birds who were finishing up their morning song. It was difficult to admit that it was morning. Here I was, pressing my face even closer to the screen than before. My back weighed too much to lift. 6:07am. Done, edited, almost every sentence sounded brilliant (the consequences of midnight genius were in effect). I motioned to press print (on a printer that can be louder than the washing machine) only to remember that everyone else was snuggled in their beds, heads rested on the coolest and fluffiest side of the pillow. Maybe they had a pillow top mattress, flannel sheets, and through their dreams could smell the fresh sent of a washed pillow case. One can imagine. I pressed print anyway, and they stayed asleep.

Checked facebook, checked my email, checked my phone. And for what seemed like mere moments, I slept.

8:00am class rolled around, and I handed in my paper. You may be able to tell who endured the night awake, at least for girls. Hair in a bun, a small smudge of mascara at the corner of their eyelids, eyes that are blood shot (perhaps even from some tears), wearing the same outfit as the day before.

I received the paper back a couple weeks later. I do this every time: open up my mailbox and pull out at a large stack of paper stapled in the top left corner. But it's the other top corner I'm interested in, the one screaming at me with a circled, fresh, red letter. I peak at it with only one eye open after making sure that no one I know is in sight or peering over my shoulder.

Paper season has now officially started. That night is more of a distant memory. I know that I need a strategy for getting every single one of my papers done efficiently, brilliantly, and on time, and yet, sometimes, the worst thing about doing an all-nighter... is getting an A.

Liar Liar Obamacare is Haywire



MICHAEL EMMANUEL

On October 1st, the nationally funded insurance exchange at HealthCare.gov, part of Obamacare, went live. As if foreshadowing the dour future of healthcare in America, those who tried signing up were met with cryptic error messages or with extremely long wait times. Contrary to sound website-making practices, where private software companies test websites for bugs, HealthCare.gov was tested by government agencies alone. More specifically, by the same government that wants to run the American healthcare system. More than a few dissidents have noted the irony there. But this is only a surface issue surrounding Obama's healthcare reform.

Obamacare, also known as the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA, for short) is an American tax law that was passed in 2010. The law requires all Americans to have health insurance with the aim of increasing quality, affordability, and accessibility of healthcare in the United States. Those who don't have health insurance by March of 2014 will be subjected to a 1% tax raise on their adjusted gross income. Along with the law came the creation of government-run insurance exchanges, which essentially are marketplaces for insurance plans. Obamacare has always been fiercely controversial, but even more so recently.

It turns out Obama lied. During his previous term and during the election campaign in 2012, Obama made repeated promises to ensure Americans that Obamacare would only benefit Americans. He promised them they could keep their plans, insurance premiums would go down, and that Obamacare was not a tax. Allies.

"We will keep this promise to the American

people... If you like your healthcare plan, you'll be able to keep your healthcare plan, period. No one will take it away from you, no matter what," said Obama to the American Medical Association in June of 2009 when the bill was being written. What he meant to say was, "You won't be allowed to keep your plan unless it follows these prescriptions I've decided on." Basically the same thing, right? Obamacare came with a list of requirements. You can keep your plan if it was in existence before March of 2010 and it meets 10 other minimum requirements. Some of these "minimum" requirements include paying for hospitalization, which can cost from \$2,000-\$20,000 a day, and for prescription drugs. Are you a young, healthy person who doesn't need or want to pay for such a plan? Too bad. Because of Obamacare's prescriptions, about 93 million Americans have been kicked off their policies. What's especially disconcerting is that, not only did Obama know this would happen, he deliberately kept this knowledge from the American public because it would cost him votes to get Obamacare passed. In the past, Hillary Clinton had proposed a similar health insurance reform, but it fell through because Americans didn't want the possibility of losing the plans and doctors they already had. Hillary was honest, and lost the vote. Obama lied and won.

Obama also famously assured Americans that, "families will save" on premiums, and warned that, without Obamacare, "premiums will go up." What he meant to say was that some families would save. Or, in the words of Ezra Klein, a Washington Post columnist and Obamacare advocate, Obamacare's "changes are raising insurance premiums for some people who did well under the old system." "Some people" translates to middle class citizens on the individual market and small business own-

ers, and anyone else who only wanted to pay a minimum. Now everyone must pay more for an expanded pool—except for those exempt, the poor, and, of course, the political elite.

The same political elite who lie about taxation. That was Obama's third big lie. In an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ABC, when directly asked if Obamacare was a tax, Obama responded, "I absolutely reject that notion." By that he must have meant, "I reject the notion that Obamacare is not a tax." Undoubtedly, biased editing cut off the latter part of the sentence. How could he have said Obamacare was not a tax when the very reason the American Supreme Court deemed it constitutional was because it was a tax law? Mind you, a tax on only the middle class.

Last November, Americans triumphantly re-elected Barack Obama, hailing the beginning of his healthcare utopia where everybody got affordable, quality care. Obamatopia is looking more and more like a dystopia to an increasing number of Americans who are waking up to the lies they voted for. If Obama lied about all this so far, what else has he lied about? Will healthcare really become cheaper? Will it really be higher quality? Will there really be increased access? I doubt it. I'm reminded of 1 Samuel 8 where Samuel warns Israel of their future king saying, "And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day." Last November, Americans chose their king. This November, they are crying out. Will the Lord here them? Obama's health insurance exchange website suffered many failures. A superstitious person might call that a sign, or at least a warning. I'll leave the rest to you.

White Poppy?



MATTHEW BOKMA
REPORTER

You don't watch the news, but perhaps you've seen the Facebook posts regarding the peace activist campaigners who were handing out white poppies—not red—in front of the National War Memorial during the week leading up to Remembrance Day.

As you continue to crop your selfie, you remain appalled at the comments of Celyn Dufay, head of the Rideau Institute, and his posse of young people. And you concur with Maxwell's remark that "the red poppy is a symbol of sacrifice, it's not a glorification of war."

However, waging war against Dufay and the handful of students who distributed white poppies only heightens hypocrisy. If the poles are true—that over half millennials between the ages 18 to 30 fail to mark Remembrance Day on their calendar—and if you participated apathetically or didn't participate at all, to hate on the Ottawa students and the Rideau Institute is to commit a disservice to the Legion and those who died during war.

Only if the Rideau Institute dogmatically insisted that white poppies alone must be worn in order to promote peace would you have just cause to protest. However, little to the public's knowledge, Dufay and the students themselves wore red poppies along with their white ones.

Although insisting that people should wear white poppies on their lapels in order to promote peace is somewhat naive, the controversy will nevertheless rekindle our hearts to remember the fallen as well as the peace they wished to ensue.

Therefore, Oh, Canada, let us not war amongst ourselves, let us not sit in the seat of the mockers (the reporters for the Toronto Sun and Sun News Network); rather, let us inspire the next generations to sing the national anthem with greater fervour, to consider those have died so that we might be free, and show our gratitude by observing Remembrance Day.

McDonald's Tells Heinz to 'Packet' Up

MATTHEW BOKMA
REPORTER

For 40 years, McLovers enjoyed dipping the world-famous fries into the world-famous tomato sauce: Heinz Ketchup. This complimentary relationship, however, has gone through a dramatic McBreakup.

Last June, Warren Buffet's Berk-

shire Hathaway Inc. and Brazilian hedge fund 3G Capital bought the Heinz company for \$28 billion U.S., and gave the CEO position to Bernardo Hees, the former chief executive of McDonald's rival, Burger King.

McDonald's affirms: "As a result of recent management changes at Heinz, we have decided to transition our business to other sup-

pliers over time." And adds, "We have spoken to Heinz and plan to work together to ensure a smooth and orderly transition."

McDonald's currently operates over 34,000 restaurants around the globe. Therefore, this transition will likely benefit Heinz's rivals, such as Hunt's and Del Monte. However, it still remains uncertain as to who will be the

next supplier for McDonald's.

Pray that McDonald's will not pull the same blind study as our parents: fill the bottle with knock-off ketchup and, despite the children's complaint that it tastes crappy, continue to insist that there is no difference.



pROFL Quotes

“

Dr. T: “Someone has been stealing music. I bet it’s Jonathan Juilfs. I’ve seen him in here. I’m going to check his office.”

Dr. Payton: “Zeus mates with everything that moves in the universe.”

Dr. Bartholomew: “What do you know about Sweden? IKEA.”

Dr. Payton, noticing the lack of students: “Where is everyone? Did some people get raptured last night?”

Dr. Payton: “I am sure Philadelphia is a wonderful place, as long as you have gun, that is...”

Dr. Schuurman, when asked how webpages go from the written form to an actual webpage, answers, “Automagically.”

Dr. Rosborough, discussing the fight for New France between Champlain and the Kirke brothers: “Champlain told them where they can put their demands.”

Dr. Barkman: “Does my being in authority right now mean that I am more manly than Josh here? No... my beard does.”

Dr. Kosits, while wielding a laser pointer: “You didn’t know I was a Jedi

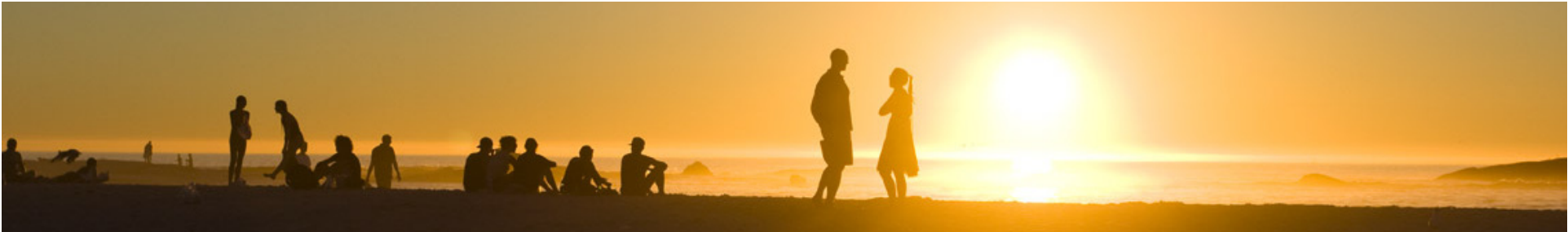
warrior did you? No one wants to mess with me now eh?!”

Dr. Vriend: “I know there’s a spy in here from the Crown. Next time, I want to have a more philosophical quote. Like, there are two kinds of people: those who think there are two kinds of people, and those who don’t.”

Dr. Vriend: “...because of course Justin Trudeau is just so young and sexy.”

Dr. Shuurman: “There’s more than one way to skin the metaphorical cat.

”



“Redeemer’s Great...I’m getting Married”

MICAH VAN DIJK

A discussion surrounding the Hollywood film “27 Dresses” was well under way among mostly female students and a panel involving two professors on a Friday night. They had all just watched the movie as part of Engaging Culture Weekend, where different cultural elements get placed on the lab table to be discussed, dissected, and understood better. This year, it was “chick flicks” under the spot-light, and debate raged over whether these movies were valuable for Christians to watch, were harmless fun, or were harmful to those viewing them. Jonathan Juilfs, an English professor knowledgeable in Arthurian legends, spoke to the origins of “romance” and Psychology Professor Brenda Stephenson shared the value of “myths” in society. And then the bombshell question was asked, identifying an unseen elephant in the room. “Do you think there is a romantic myth (a.k.a. romantic culture) at Redeemer?” The room went silent as eyes grew wide. Students glanced back and forth pondering the question. A student tentatively answered “yes,” not knowing if this was a trick question. As we eased into this topic, Professor Juilfs asked, “Have you guys ever felt pressure to be in a relationship at Redeemer?” Over 75% of the hands went up.

Some people may look at Redeemer’s romantic culture as a harmless and fun topic. Others may view it as an uncomfortable reality that they just have to silently and painfully endure. One of the four great goals at Redeemer University College as stated in the Strategic Plan 2010–2015 is “developing and equipping the whole person.” This means that Redeemer ambitiously hopes to teach and mentor students towards a healthy view of community and romantic relationships. Students are familiar with slang terms that characterize relationship patterns at Redeemer and universities across Canada, such as the Turkey Dump (breaking up at Thanksgiving of first year), Spring Fling (dating in the Spring), and Senior Scramble (finding a relationship partner before graduation). One unique addition to these general cultural assumptions about relationships in university is that, when one attends Redeemer, it’s assumed that it’s normal to leave with the academic education and a marriage partner. Cultural assumptions have practical consequences, and understanding the Redeemer community’s perceptions of romantic relationships can lead to a healthier understanding and ultimately a healthier community.

As students navigate this time of heightened romantic awareness, they generally value the Biblical view of marriage and keep it a priority. John, a second-year student at Redeemer, explains that “students are generally moving in the right direction, but its pace seems faster than modern society.” In some ways, the priority of marriage is not that different from the hopes and dreams of the mainstream culture. Tim Clydesdale in his book *The First Year Out* explains that “being married and having children, despite their declining proportions in the United States at large, are tightly woven into the future expectations and life scripts of culturally mainstream American teens” (Clydesdale, 83). However Clydesdale also notes that mainstream American teens have separated sex from the context of

marriage (Clydesdale, 84). Redeemer’s context as a liberal-arts Christian university encourages students to enjoy sex in the context of marriage only. The majority of students are attempting to understand the practical implications of biblical teaching on their view of romantic relationships.

When pressed for evidence to prove the statement that students should leave university in a committed romantic relationship, students and alumni will often give anecdotal evidence. A typical timeline cited involves students they know who met in first-year, dated in second-year, were engaged in third-year, and lived in the married apartments in fourth year. This pattern is seen as the ideal. If students at least graduate while in a dating relationship, they are on their way to accomplishing the community expectation. And students who leave university without a relationship to show for it are perceived to have missed the golden opportunity for finding a fulfilling relationship. They are now entering life after university at a disadvantage. Rarely will examples of students who stayed single throughout university be cited as showing an advantage that was gained through that experience. The pressures to conform to a “normal” romantic Redeemer experience comes from peers, family, and community, and these pressures can cause anxiety, gossip, and poor decisions.

The Redeemer community doesn’t easily allow singleness to be a relationship option. Emma, a 22-year-old nurse who did not attend Redeemer but knows the community well, says that her perception of Redeemer is that of a marriage school. Students are feeling both peer and community pressure to perpetuate the reputation of Redeemer and find a fulfilling romantic relationship as a student. Phil, a graduate of Redeemer, remembers giving in to pressure to be in a relationship in his fourth year of university and, looking back, he acknowledges that this wasn’t a healthy relationship to enter. Phil was not presented with strong alternatives to the narrative of romantic relationship. Heartache and brokenness could have been avoided if the community surrounding Phil presented options of singleness and friendship as viable and noble active decisions.

Exploring friendships with the opposite gender outside of a romantic relationship is very difficult in Redeemer’s current culture. Redeemer’s culture assumes that the primary role of the opposite gender is to be a pool of potential partners and, once they do not fit the criteria, they become secondary characters to the university experience. Ivan, a second-year student, says that “the ladies here are more friendly than they would be at a secular university in general, because some of them are trying to find their MRS. Degree.” Deanna, a fourth-year student, echoes this by saying that “friendship is with an ulterior motive.” Students have to either hide their friendships or publically face intense social pressure. At a dorm dinner where a member of the Student Life staff had the privilege of being a fly-on-the-wall, a first-year student shared how he was interested in getting to know a girl better. Advice was offered from his peers and dorm leaders (RAs) which made this desire to invite her for coffee seem like a large step in their friendship. The RAs gave advice to have the coffee off-campus to minimize the campus gossip. In the end, the first-year appeared less

confident in what to do and even suggested that, if so much was riding on grabbing a coffee with a girl, maybe it wasn’t worth it. This student felt unsafe to explore friendship with this girl because of an unhealthy community expectation.

During the “chick flick” discussion, Professor Brenda Stephenson pointed out many benefits to having myths which highlight creational norms as long as we are striving to be more self-aware. Self-awareness helps each person discern reality from myth and become a unique and healthy individual within community. If it’s agreed that students currently face unnecessary and unhealthy pressure surrounding romantic relationships, the question then becomes “How can the Redeemer community move towards a healthier atmosphere?” An important first step towards a healthier community view of relationships is for everybody to take a deep breath and relax. If students are not continually asked about whether they’ve found the “one” at Redeemer, they can explore and grow holistically, as hoped for in Redeemer’s fourth great goal. When a student is in their home church over the Christmas holidays, the community can ask whether they learned to cook a cool new meal. Did they find out something neat about Hamilton? What cool concepts are they learning in class? Have they started playing a new board game or sport? What do their friends do for fun on the weekend? Relationships can be one of the topics but shouldn’t be the only one. A calm community teaches through action a healthy emotional state that shows balance rather than fixation. The second step towards a healthier community is for members to use inclusive language for all life-possibilities. Shifting our language to “if” instead of “when” you get married can be helpful, as well as verbally recognizing that many students do not find their marriage partners at Redeemer. Honest discussions about singleness, marriage, divorce, and dating can help students navigate personal desires within reality. The “chick flick” discussion was just one example of many where students responded with challenging and insightful questions to professors who talked honestly about marriage or single-life. And finally, the extended Redeemer community can support students who end significant relationships. The Redeemer romantic myth can cause the community to be zealous for marriage for those they love. These members of community sometimes outwardly show disappointment when a relationship ends because it didn’t turn into the community ideal of marriage. The break-up actually becomes more difficult and isolating as the individual perceives this disappointment from their support community. A healthy community shows love that respects their individuality and helps the student work through the grief.

These are just a few practical steps towards a more healthy community that supports Redeemer students as they look to understand and live out the practical implications of creational norms of relationships. The beauty of community is that there are multiple perspectives on this subject and the hope of this article is that it will spawn helpful dialogue that ultimately can serve Redeemer students better. What are your ideas on how to make Redeemer’s romantic relationship culture a healthier one? Continue the discussion at thecrown.ca!



What Would Martha Stewart Do?: Dorm Dinners

LUKE MCKEE

Dorm dinners have long been a classic Redeemer tradition. It is both a way of getting extra food and a fantastic way to meet people that you would not get to interact with during class or club activities. While the lead-up to a dorm dinner is exciting and filled with mystery and wonder, the dorm dinner itself can sometimes be filled with awkward pauses and moments of silence as both dorms seek to understand the vibe of the dorm dinner. While many of the dorms may be well equipped deal with these sorts of situations, or they may be the best of buddies already, there is a sure fire way to avoid the awkwardness: the dorm dinner question. As many will know, it is the responsibility of the visiting dorm to come prepared with a question to spark whimsical conversation. While this may seem like a simple task, it is truly a heavy burden as the perfect dorm dinner question is an elusive find.

The question itself can be funny or serious, but it cannot be one that crosses the line of community-building into the area of tearing down others. Indeed the art of finding this balance in a dorm dinner question is a tricky one but, fear not, it is manageable. These questions offer an opportunity for the entire group to learn something about each other on a different level than simple questions about classes and such.

A question such as, “If you could be one movie character in any movie, which would it be and why?” allows for a great conversation to happen. It opens a door to both their favourite movie, but also a part of who that person is and what makes them special. Other fun questions, such as, “If you could have any superpower what would it be?” or “If you were getting a tattoo what would the graphic say or be?” or even “What was your favourite childhood toy?” are great ways to learn something new about a person. The goal of the question is to not make others feel uncomfortable and awkward, but rather to spark conversation and community. Avoid questions about things like intimate relationships or anything that could bring up a negative atmosphere that would tear someone else down. If you’re asking a question like, “If you could kill one person in your dorm, who would it be,” the rest of your dorm dinner is not going to go well. The dorm dinner is an amazing tool to build community, but asking questions with the intent to make people feel uncomfortable and awkward only tears community down in the long run.

Remember to have fun with your dorm dinners; it is a unique activity that other university campuses do not get to enjoy. Try to make sure everyone is having a great time and your dorm dinner will be vastly successful. To the visiting dorm, remember to do the dishes following the dorm dinner and also to not set a pie on fire in their oven (trust me—that never goes over well).



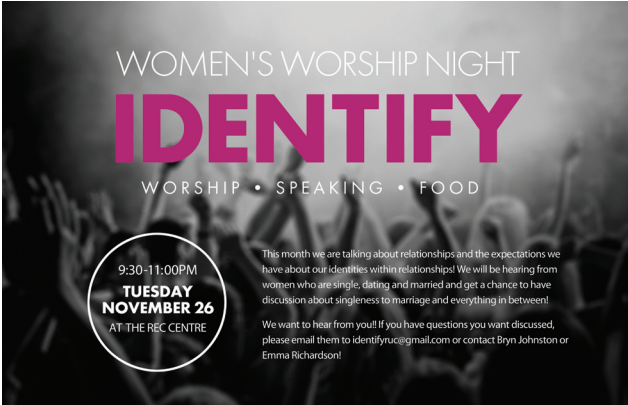
Humble Hero: Jordan Miller

JUSTIN OLTHOF
STAFF

Without this month’s “Humble Hero”, Redeemer’s halls would be much louder – literally. There would be the clanging of crutches, the squeal of wheel chair tires, and worst of all, the agonizing cries of pain from injured students. Jordan Miller is Redeemer’s Athletic Therapist, and injury prevention wizard. His office door is always open, and he is always more than willing to help anyone on a moments notice. Jordan isn’t just another therapist who wraps students, fits them in crutches, or subtly tells them to get over their pains. Rather, he actively gets engaged in the student’s lives, and has meaningful conversation with each student that comes into his office. His wisdom, humble attitude, and quiet demeanor can stop the whines of any hurting student as he simply asks how their day’s going.

Jordan’s selfless attitude has been reflected by his constant attendance at all varsity practices, Royal’s home games, and his general presence within the athletic center. He is one of the most essential pieces of the puzzle in making Redeemer’s sporting events the highlight that they are. Thank you Jordan for all your time and care that you pour into the Redeemer community. You serve with a humble heart, and Christ’s virtues are portrayed through the way you carry out your work. The campus would literally be hurtin’ (for certain) without you. You are greatly appreciated at Redeemer.

Identify: Can’t Be Held Within Walls



LAURA HEMING
REPORTER

The team raced to nearby dorms, scrounging for any chairs they could find. 96 chairs, 120 women. The Rec Centre had never looked so crammed.

On Tuesday, October 29, the first Women’s Night, Identify, exceeded expectations. Crowds of girls poured into the dimly-lit, church-like atmosphere, eager to see what this campus-wide girls’ night would be like. Identify is a women’s worship event that takes place once a month in the Student Rec Centre at Redeemer.

Emma Richardson and Bryn Johnston both had a dream. That dream was to see a ministry develop on campus that would be the first women’s ministry at Redeemer. When the two met up to discuss their hopes for a potential new ministry, they were shocked to see how perfectly their plans lined up. They knew how badly this campus needed a place where the girls could learn from each other, ask questions, and help each other along, because life on campus can get confusing and often pretty frustrating.

The name Identify comes from the overarching theme of finding out who we are in Christ and what He calls us to do. This counteracts the calls from society to find our identities in our looks, men, or negative things that may have happened to us in our past.

Emma and Bryn have developed a heart for ministering to women and helping them to draw closer to God. This ministry has created an opportunity for them to do exactly that. The need ministry on campus is often overlooked. So many times it’s assumed that a Christian school is not a place for ministry per se, and that we don’t really need help because it is already filled with people who know enough about Jesus. Ministry should be overseas or somewhere foreign, we say. This is an awful misconception in Christian culture.

Christian campuses are often the places where ministry is desperately needed. The labeling of schools as “religious” often covers up a lot of the brokenness in these schools.

The preconception is that this is already a Christ-centred school, so there’s no desperate need for Christians to teach other Christians. This is a very frightening position to find ourselves in. A ministry such as Identify is an example of the type of community-based event that should be more frequent here.

Identify is not just for first-years. It’s a prime environment for discipleship. Its aim is to allow the women of this campus to realize the potential they have in Christ, contrary to what the world may tell them. It’s a time for learning from the experiences of others, sharing things God has done, communally worshipping as women, and preparing to disciple others outside of Redeemer.

“The hope,” says Bryn, “is to see women rise up from comfort zones, learn more about their capabilities, and stretch themselves.”

The next Identify will be November 26th. This new ministry shows immense potential to have a great impact here, as well as outside these campus walls. The school is excited to see the dent that this night, which started out as the dream of two passionate women, will make in our school, and maybe one day, in our surrounding cities.

But they’ll take it one month at a time.



Social Justice Isn’t Just for Hippies

LAURA HEMING
REPORTER

So often our community at Redeemer is referred to as a bubble. It is pointed out that Redeemer is stuck inside another sort of reality where the only things that exist are the things that happen on campus, whether that is with the people at the school, schoolwork itself, or events that frequently happen. Whether or not you agree with the statement, one thing to agree on is the fact that our lives often become consumed with our own problems. You’ve probably heard this a hundred times, or you’ll skip over this whole article because maybe you just don’t really have a heart for social justice. But what if we were to dig a little deeper into the Good Book and see a little more clearly what our calling as Christians is. Maybe it’s a little more than growing our own relationships with God, and also about stepping out with Jesus’ eyes to see the injustices that happen in our own neigh-

bourhoods, like the millions of women who are being sold, passed off and traded as sex objects. Maybe its realizing that the red, orange and yellow leaves that we so often instagram didn’t just get like that themselves, and that there is a call to protect this incomprehensible beauty on earth. Or maybe it’s walking down the muddy streets of downtown Hamilton and seeing the hundreds of kids sleeping in the parks, people struggling with mental illness without the means to get help, and thinking that just maybe there’s a part for you to play in all of this as a son or daughter of Jesus. Whatever may pull at your heart, the bottom line is our faith isn’t meant to be just our own. It isn’t meant to be for our own personal gain, but it’s supposed to be walked out in the most literal ways possible. There are a few key ministries that have made a huge footprint in our community lately. They have been started by people who ache at the injustices that are so real, yet so often ignored. Here are some of the stories of these ministries, and how we get more involved than we think.

The Top 10 Ways You Know...



10. LIGHTS START POPPING UP ON HOUSES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Some dedicated dorms actually go so far as to string Christmas lights across their porches in order for Redeemer to get some of the cheer that we all see as we drive or walk through the neighbourhood surrounding the school at Christmas time.



9. YOU WALK INTO THE MALL AND SEE SANTA (FOLLOWED BY A LINE OF ROUGHLY 100 KIDS).

Santa seems to be hitting the mall early this year, with kids flocking to sit on his knee and tell him all the things they really want this year.



8. YOU FIND YOURSELF READING UP ON ALL OF THE BLACK FRIDAY DEALS ONLINE.

Now, not everyone heads over the border on Nov. 29 to grab all of the incredible deals and finish their Christmas shopping, but with Redeemer located so close to the states it’s not a bad option!



7. YOUR MOM IS ASKING FOR, NO, DEMANDING A CHRISTMAS LIST FROM YOU.

Some people think of items all year long that they could ask for at Christmas time but others scramble last minute and end up asking for fairly random things. Good luck getting that list finished between writing papers, studying, and looking towards exams.



6. TIM HORTONS AND STARBUCKS ROLL OUT THE HOLIDAY CUPS AND DRINKS.

It has to bring a smile to your face when you order your coffee and get a cup with people enjoying a winter wonderland on it. These cups are a staple for spreading that holiday cheer and the delicious drink that fills them is even better. Don’t skimp on the whip cream and make sure you get that chocolate drizzle. Enjoy the taste of Christmas!



What is it?

A Rocha is an international Christian organization that participates in scientific research, environmental education, and community-based conservation projects. A Rocha aims to change places into healthy communities through a movement of individuals and groups caring for God’s world. The Canadian headquarters for A Rocha is located in Surrey, BC.

Their centre is a place for practical conservation, as well as education and sustainable agriculture work. The centre frequently hosts hundreds of volunteers and interns, who come to study wildlife, restore habitats, plant gardens, and educate kids. Because this work is done in community and alongside others who share a passion for a sustainable future, interns and volunteers are changed and go away more deeply committed to honoring the Creator by caring for creation. A Rocha also has a centre in Manitoba, which provides environmental education in summer camps and school groups, and initiates community gardens.

What are they doing now?

After a lot of interest in the ministry at their past two Hamilton events, A Rocha is currently raising money to extend their ministry in the Hamilton area. They recently hosted a fundraiser in Hamilton to raise money and educate supporters about their newest initiative at which they raised over \$ 10,000. They are in the process of opening up a farm in Flamborough, and are hoping to start up community gardens in the Beasley community. They will use space around Hamilton to grow food for those who are homeless or in poverty, as well as to educate people on health and the environment.

How can I play a part in this growing ministry?

Because its base is still currently in British Columbia, there are obviously some restrictions on involvement. What you can do is donate to their programs and their conservation and international projects, and keep up with their upcoming plan to plant in Hamilton, at which point opportunities to get involved first-hand will become much easier. For more information on the ministry visit www.arocha.ca

TRUE CITY HAMILTON

What is it?

True City is a connection of churches in downtown Hamilton joining together to make a more significant impact on the neighborhoods surrounding them. The purpose is for the churches to join together, learn from each other, and have conversations and partnerships for the purpose of having a more united church body with more support. The focus of True City is to zero in on the rough neighbourhoods that tend to be avoided, the socially marginalized, and the city as a whole. On a practical level, serving the city as a whole means coming alongside single parents, at-risk youth, mental illness survivors, the elderly, immigrants, and refugees. Because of some of the things God has done through this ministry, there has been increasing, sustainable economic growth, less self-destructive behaviour, and a lower prevalence of poverty, which is a huge and important step. The ultimate goal for True City is to be a catalyst of change in the city.

What are they doing now?

True City has their foot in many places. For one, they have started Refugee Ministry Coopertive, partnered with Micah House. This is essentially the sharing of information and resources throughout all the participating churches regarding refugees. This is important so that the church congregations are generally more informed and can carry out their calling to reach out to this often-neglected community of people more fully. True City facilitates many of the events that you may be familiar with but never knew the backgrounds of. They are also continuing ministries such as Ride for Refuge, a yearly bike-a-thon supporting charities across Canada, Cross Culture which many from Redeemer have actively participated in, 24/7 Prayer, partnered with the Greater Ontario House of Prayer, and Christmas Hampers, which provides necessities for people on the margins, to name a few. True City is also dedicated to engaging in honest and respectful conversations with the First Nations communities of Hamilton. They are aware that they cannot simply fix the damage that still exists, but they also recognize that ignoring the hurt will never fix anything. The goal is to converse and try to understand the existing divide more deeply.

How can I get involved?

To learn more about things that are happening in the city, attend the True City conference each February at Philpott Memorial Church. Getting involved in a ministry like True City means connecting with one of the churches involved, and seeing where you can combine your passions with one of the ministries they run. Whether you have a heart for street youth, for the environment, for the refugee community, and more, there really is a place for everyone who hopes to serve the city on the bottom of the mountain. Some churches involved in True City that you may consider connecting to include Wentworth Baptist, Philpott Memorial, Eucharist, New City, Hughson Street, Grindstone, and Mount Hamilton Baptist. For more information on the churches involved and the latest happenings in the ministry visit www.truecityhamilton.ca

HOPE FOR THE SOLD

What is it?

Hope for the Sold is a campaign against sex trafficking, started by Jay and Michelle Brock. If you are unsure of what sex trafficking is, it is the trading of humans for sexual purposes. It is the recruitment, transportation (within nations or across international borders), transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. It is the third biggest criminal industry next to drugs and arms trafficking. It is a lot more common than people realize, and takes place in our own city of Hamilton. Their campaign started after the couple attended a conference in Atlanta about modern-day slavery. They were given tickets to view a documentary called TRADE, centred on sex trafficking. After seeing the film, they were deeply shaken by the disgusting reality of this issue. So they took matters into their own hands.

What are they doing now?

Hope for the Sold has created awareness of this issue at various art shows, concerts, banquets and university events. After receiving a grant from the government, Jay and Michelle drove across Canada to make a documentary about sex trafficking here in our country. They are currently driving across and the U.S. touring their film, Red Light Green Light. One of their stops was made earlier this semester at Redeemer. They are firm believers in creating change by spreading the word. They are doing this by blogging, making films, writing articles, researching strategies to prevent trafficking, networking with similar initiatives, and promoting by bringing their film to events by request.

How can I be a part of the change?

Jay and Michelle need help fundraising for their next documentary, so if you can donate in some way that would definitely help raise more awareness. The more people who become aware of sex trafficking and its crippling effects on people’s lives, the more this issue will be talked about and taken seriously. Another way to help is to make this injustice known to local leaders, and to sign the petition that enacts laws which reduce demand for commercial sex. This is easy to do, and can be signed in less than a minute at www.redlightgreenlightfilm.com/petition. For more information about Hope for the Sold visit www.hopeforthesold.com

...Christmas is Coming

5. THERE IS GREATER NEED IN THE COMMUNITY.

This is a part of Christmas that people can often forget about. If you are able, it is so important to donate to the food bank, give a toy for a toy drive, or volunteer at a local charity. This time of year there are many people in need. Find a way to get involved in the midst of all your busyness!



4. THE RADIO STATIONS START PLAYING 24/7 CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

Chym 96.7 is the best for this, just saying.



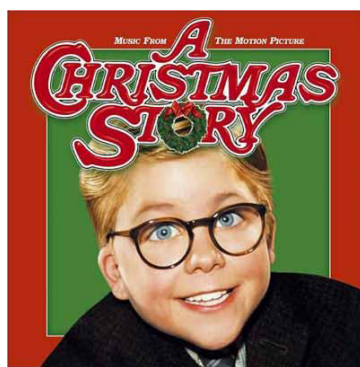
3. PEOPLE START TO POST THEIR CHRISTMAS TREE PICTURES ON INSTAGRAM.

The early birds already have the halls decked and the star on the tree! From couples to families to dorms, all of a sudden everyone is in the holiday spirit with decorating, watching Christmas movies, and sharing every moment of it with everyone else via social media.



2. CHRISTMAS MOVIES START POPPING UP ON NETFLIX.

The closer we get to Christmas, the more selection we see! Enjoy those cheesy made-for-TV movies and the Christmas classics with friends and families this year. It is a great way to take a break from all the studying!



1. IT'S THE "MOST BUSIEST" TIME OF THE YEAR!!!

You could almost sing this title. One sure sign for students that Christmas is right around the corner is that exams are even closer! Right now everyone seems swamped with papers and studying, but just remember that the final exam day will come and you will get to enjoy Christmas (even if it means you won't get to do any of your Christmas shopping until a couple days before)!





Survive the Season

AMY WISEMAN

It’s getting chilly, people. The time of scarves, mittens, and skates is upon us. How will you prepare yourself for this winter? Will you wear socks that are too thick to fit into any of your shoes? Perhaps you’ll swap jeans for jeans with a pair of leggings underneath. How about an endless supply of blankets for days that you swear there’s a draft in your house?

Well, let’s not forget the shorter days. For some of you, this seasonal change may make no difference because you’ve forgotten what sleep feels like since the beginning of midterms. For others, it steals your sunlight and reminds you that colder times cometh.

But will we let this get us down? No! The wind may howl and threaten us with snow, but it also hails in a new season. The season of colds and sickness! Sorry, just kidding. It signals the beginning of hot chocolate and cookies! Christmas music and sweaters! Ice skating and snowboarding! You might try to escape it, but perhaps the best move would be to embrace it. Winter is inevitable. This is Canada.

Should you still wish to avoid the weather outdoors, here’s a few options that might help. They might sound a bit silly, but so is denying the fact that winter is at our door.

Build a blanket fort inside your dorm. I think we can all agree that this is fun. However, if used for defence against the elements, not so great. Sure, you’ll be toasty and safe, but your roommates may eventually want their blankets back and you’ll be without a fortress in no time.

Never leave the school building. You’ll be able to get all of your work done. However, you’ll run out of money on your Student Card pretty quickly and perhaps run out of friends because you haven’t left the school, and thus haven’t showered or changed your clothes.

Run away to Mexico. No, don’t do that.

Hibernate. You are not a bear. You are a human. And you need to go to school.

Hold a protest. Let me know how that goes for you.

So, as you can see, it’s kind of pointless to try to avoid winter. Let’s enjoy winter! I know that it is easy to complain about the cold, but if you swap that scowl for a smile, you might just start to enjoy yourself. And remember, Christmas isn’t that far away!

Students Speak

HEADING INTO THE WINTER MONTHS AND SHORTS DAYS, “HOW DO YOU GET THROUGH, OR ENJOY WINTER?”

NATALYA BERG: “I get through winter by enjoying the outdoors! Snow on trees, softly falling or against a bright sun is beautiful and picturesque; it is easy to appreciate if you are warm enough! Walks, hikes, or even drives can be lovely. Last season particularly, cross-country skiing at the Chedoke Golf Course was fun, not to mention a great work-out!”

MICHAEL EMMANUEL: “Winter always gives me a good excuse to stay inside drinking coffee and reading excessively.”

JOSHUA VOTH: “Although my answer is simple, it is sweet! One of the ways which I ‘get through’ winter is: toast and tea and a good book—cannot be beaten!”

ALEX WOUDA: “Hi. To enjoy the winter I go for walks during sunny afternoons, and drink some tasty hot chocolate once I get home!”

SARAH SPEER: “One way to get through the winter months is to find a crafty friend who knows how to knit and learn to make mittens and scarves to keep yourself warm! Curl up on the couch with friends and enjoy some hot chocolate and holiday movies, perhaps Home Alone, Miracle on 34th Street, or It’s A Wonderful Life!

GILLIAN BOULT: “I like to put on a candle, drink some coffee, and read a good book.”

AMANDA JOSE: “Keeping a plant (alive) in the house, taking a walk all bundled up in the snow (when you aren’t being rushed anywhere... just walking) either in the early morning or later at night.”

HOLLY CZEPEK: “Cozy blankets, hot chocolate, and long conversations.”

BETH MOFFETT: “Snowball fights and lots of hot chocolate.”

ALICIA WHEATLEY: “To enjoy winter, I snuggle up with hot chocolate with a candy cane in it, a good book (or Netflix), and a soft blanket. Sometimes I

gather friends and play a board game. I decorate my living space in November to have plenty of time to get into the holiday spirit by hanging lights and playing Christmas music, as well as picking up some Dollar Store candy canes. On snowy days I go outside and sometimes lay in the snow or build a snowman. At home I build snow forts after the driveway has been shovelled. I pretty much just act like a kid.”

LEAH COBER: “I get through the winter months by drinking lots of tea and hot chocolate.”

SARA WIEBENGA: “Curl up by the fire with blankets, tea, and a good book.”

ANONYMOUS: “Enjoy hot beverages from Starbucks...especially those super delicious holiday drinks!”

RACHEL DEBRUYN: “Always have lip balm and portable hand cream with you. You never know when you’ll be going about your day and then BAM! suddenly you have lips drier than the Sahara. And there’s no worse thing than knowing that your lip balm is not with you in class, but on your desk, which would require a lengthy trek through blizzard-stricken Siberia to retrieve.”

JARRAD SAARLOOS: “DRINK LOTS OF TEA TO STAY WARM! Embrace the cold and just enjoy it.”

REBEKA BORSHEVSKY: “I enjoy winter because it’s a chance to dress up in soft, comfortable clothes. It’s an excuse to drink hot chocolate and stay inside to read a book. It’s the herald of Christmas. It’s the time to stand outside and catch snowflakes on your tongue. It’s the opportunity to sleep like the bears and rest before spring and summer bring their usual flurry of activity. Basically, without winter, I wouldn’t love spring.”

STEPHANIE WILLS: “On nights when it’s snowing I like to make myself my most recent favourite tea, curl up on the couch in the afghan my grandma knit me, and watch the snow fall.”

You Know You’re a 90’s Kid When...

MATTHEW BOKMA
REPORTER

- 1. You believe that only the first 150 Pokemon count as genuine; the rest are cheap knock-offs.
- 2. Your mom didn’t let you to watch Tales from the Crypt Keeper, Goosebumps, and Are You Afraid of the Dark.
- 3. You’ve watched Pingu and the episode where Pingu has a nightmare about a walking bed and a

massive walrus.

- 4. You moved out of your parents’ home and settled in a university campus around the same age as Andy from Toy Story.
- 5. You remember when the Creationist/Evolutionist debate was actually taken seriously.
- 6. You listened to the radio for hours in order to record your favourite songs and play them again on the Walkman your parents bought you for your birthday.

- 7. You preferred slamming the phone down to hang up when you were angry; hitting “end-call” on your Iphone just doesn’t cut it.
- 8. You remember when Zelda: Ocarina of Time and Super Mario 64 became your favourite games.
- 9. You remember when all the cool kids wore Ring Pops.
- 10. You would wake up early to watch Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

- 11. You wanted to call a girl but were afraid her dad would answer the phone.
- 12. You can remember what a Tamagotchi is.
- 13. You had a crush on the pink power ranger: the hottest girl on FOX kids.
- 14. You can finish the rest of this song: “From West Philadelphia, born and raised...”

- 15. You remember watching The Magic School Bus, Wishbone, and Reading Rainbow on PBS
- 16. You didn’t mind using a dial-up computer.
- 17. You said, “I’ll be back!” when you were about to leave a room.
- 18. You’ve always loved Buster Baxter but hated Muffie Cross-wire.



Lions Rugby: Kings of the Mountain

LUKE MCKEE

On Saturday, November 16th, the Mohawk Mountaineers and Redeemer Lions Men’s Rugby teams took to the field for another installment in the rivalry between the two Hamilton schools. Every team has a game during their season that is circled on the calendar, and for Redeemer it was this game that they had been looking forward to all season. Fresh off of a victory over the University of Toronto Blues, the men looked to be victorious in back to back games for the first time in the rugby program’s existence. While the University of Toronto match showcased a good rugby team, this game was the coming-out party for a great rugby team. In what was the most complete performance of the entire season, the men emerged victorious in a dominant match that saw them win 27-13.

After a two-week layoff from the previous game, the Lions came out looking to prove a point in front of their home fans. The 200 fans that arrived at the game would not leave from the Dome disappointed. Despite a solid start, the Lions found themselves down 3-0 until a try by fourth-year forward Cameron De Boer put the team

in front 5-3 and snatched the momentum away from Mohawk. A penalty kick later on in the half brought the score up to 8-3 for Redeemer, but it was the Mountaineers who would end the half on a score as they capitalized on a cross-field kick to even the score at 8-8. The scrappy half saw both teams come close to scoring but not able to finish chances, leaving potential points on the board.

It was during the second half that the Lions came alive, aggressively attacking in defense and capitalizing on careless Mohawk turnovers. While confusion began to set in for the Mountaineers, once again Cameron De Boer swooped in to pick up the loose ball for a breakaway try that would put Redeemer ahead 13-8, and the successful conversion afterwards extended their lead up to 15-8. Mohawk quickly countered with an unconverted try that would draw the score to 15-13, but that was as close as Mohawk would come for the remainder of the match. As Mohawk began to feel the burn of the game, the Redeemer forward pack capitalized, imposing themselves upon the other team physically. It was the constant counter-rucking that would see Redeemer dominate the time of possession and eventually lead to Gordon Sykstus’ first try of the season in the corner to extend the lead out to 20-13. After a difficult first half of kicking, fourth-year Luke McKee was able to find

his rhythm as he slotted his third kick of the night from the sideline to expand the lead out to 22-13. The game would be sealed away following Kevin Williams’ first try that would put the final nail in the coffin, as the lead was now 27-13. While the final ten minutes saw a desperate onslaught from Mohawk, strong defense by the Lions brought the match home and following the final whistle the men were able to celebrate a hard-fought victory with their fans. Following the match, Cameron De Boer was named the Man of the Match, with his powerful runs and raw determination a key factor in the win. The team as a whole played with a passion and fire that Mohawk simply could not match, and the ferocity the Lions brought to the contact zone was what would give them the win.

The Redeemer Lions rugby team has now come away victorious against Mohawk in back to back matches, remaining undefeated against their Hamilton rivals. It is an achievement that every single member of the team should be proud of, as well as the fact that this season also marked the first year that the Rugby team would have a winning record, finishing the season at 3-2. It was an incredibly successful season, and the team looks forward to building upon these achievements in the coming years.

Men’s Basketball Wins Home Opener

PETER REID



It was an incredible atmosphere in the Redeemer University College gymnasium on Friday night, as the Men’s Basketball Royals finally played their first home game of the season. In an intense and scrappy game, the home side came out on top, 88-78 over the Sault Cougars.

Backed by their fans, the Royals led for most of the game but couldn’t pull away from the Cougars. Every time Redeemer went on a run, Sault was able to answer.

The early lead proved the difference as the Royals pulled away in the last few minutes of the game for the win.

Benn Ibrahim put on an offensive display for Redeemer with 25 points. Josh DeSchiffert added

19 points, while Jacob Walda and AJ Manguerra also hit double figures with 13 and 12 respectively.

Hugh Taylor had a team high 20 points for Sault.

Redeemer Royals Head Coach Jamie Girolametto commented, “I thought we were a little undisciplined. We didn’t really execute our game plan. We need to do a better job at protecting our home court.”

With the win, the Royals record moves to 2-2.

“The win for us was nice,” said Girolametto. “We are looking to start a home winning streak as our next 4 matches are all at home.”

Round two of the Redeemer/Sault matchup takes place tomorrow at 3pm at Redeemer in the second game of their double header.

Lady Royals Strong in Home Debut

PETER REID

They came out flying and, before the visiting team knew what had happened, the Royals had built a sizable lead allowing Redeemer to cruise to victory on opening night.

Redeemer started the game with a 17-0 run against the Sault Cougars on Friday night in the team’s home opener and ran their season record to 2-2. Final score for the Royals was 60-40.

The Royals held a 20 point lead for most of the night and relied on strong defense to keep the gap throughout.

Lindsay Moffatt had a game-high 22 points, while Rebecca Couperus added 13 points for Redeemer.

After the first quarter, Sault College began to settle down and worked hard to get back in the game but the Royals didn’t give an inch and continued to shoot the ball well.

Brooke Bellerose had a team-high 11 points for the Cougars.

The Royals return to the court tomorrow at 1pm against Sault College once again in the second match-up of their doubleheader.





Kurvits Makes History

PETER REID

Never before has a Royals badminton player at Redeemer University College taken home top spot at a Badminton Invitational, Regional, or Championship at the College/University level. Until now! 1st year badminton player, Owen Kurvits won the highly competitive men’s singles event at the Fanshawe Invitational on Saturday defeating the top two men’s singles players in the Province.

Owen Kurvits went 6-0 on his way to winning the Gold at the event hosted by Fanshawe College in London, Ontario this past Friday and Saturday.

After cruising through the round robin, Kurvits defeated Adam D’Agostino of Mo-

hawk in the round of 16 2-0 before advancing to the semi-finals with a 2-0 win over Jimin Jung of Seneca in the quarters.

In the semi-final, Kurvits faced off against Ryan Chow of Humber, the winner of the Humber cup earlier this year. Kurvits held off Chow, defeating him 2-1 with scores of 19-21, 21-17, 23-21.

In the Final, Owen pulled out the first game 21-19 in a sea-saw battle against Andrew Lau of Humber. Lau responded in the 2nd game with a 21-17 win. Down 17-11, Kurvits dug deep and showed his skill and determination finishing the match on an impressive 10-1 run claiming his first Championship in his young career as a Royal.

Head Coach Benno Kurvits commented on Owen’s tournament play saying, “Owen did not give

up. His level of fight was something to behold. It’s matches like this (the final) that make badminton a very exciting sport to watch”.

Overall, the Redeemer Royals badminton team had an impressive weekend going 33-21 in tournament play. “I think the solid play of the stronger members of our team bolstered the entire team’s confidence”, said Kurvits. “Everyone seemed to play with a reasonable level of confidence. Always lots to work on though. A solid tournament like this weekend should spur us on in our training, knowing we are becoming more competitive as a team”.

Other results for the Redeemer Royals from the invitational are as follows:

- Women’s Singles
Robyn Bennett 3-1
Julie Koopmans 2-1
Tanya Couperus 1-1
Carla Hogan 4-2 (Women’s Singles Consolation Final Runner Up)
- Men’s Singles
Owen Kurvits 6-0 (Men’s Singles A Champion)
Dan Vanden Boogaard 2-1
Shawn Brus 1-1
Nathan Tucker 1-2
Kaleb Antonides 1-1
Trevor Deweerd 1-1
- Women’s Doubles
Robyn Bennett/Carla Hogan 2-1
Julie Koopmans/Rachel Buys 1-2
Tanya Couperus/Humber Partner 0-2
- Men’s Doubles
Owen Kurvits/Dan Vanden Boogaard 2-1
Shawn Brus/Trevor Deweerd 1-2
Nathan Tucker/Kaleb Antonides 4-1 (Men’s Doubles C Champions)

Redeemer Royals Volleyball Open Season with a Pair of Wins

PETER REID

It was a sweep to start the season for the Redeemer Royals Volleyball teams, as both programs defeated the Conestoga Condors with identical 3-1 victories. Both teams started their respective matches slowly, playing nervously in their first games of the season, but when the Royals woke up, they cruised to season opening wins.

The Lady Royals came out flat in the first set, playing very slowly and struggling with their passing. A somewhat shell-shocked Royals team was under fire all set and were unable to play with any consistency. The Condors took the first set convincingly, 25-9.

The second game saw a new Redeemer team out on the floor. “We settled down, came out strong, and got up quickly,” commented Head Coach Doug Veldman. “We started to connect well with our middle hitters and began to put in the effort as a team.”

The strong start in the second set gave the Royals the confidence they needed, as they had little trouble getting back in the match with a 25-10 win. The Royals went on to cruise to the 3-1 victory, with wins of 25-19 and 25-20 in the 3rd and 4th games.

2012-2013 OCAA All-Star Curtiss Straatsma led Redeemer with 19 total points including 14 kills. Charlene De Vries

had 12 points for the Royals.

Lauren Hagedorn had a team-high 7 points for the Condors.

Next up for the Royals is their home opener against Humber College on November 1st. “We are looking forward to it,” said Veldman regarding their next match. “As long as we can solidify our serving and our passing we should be in good shape.”

The Men’s match started very similarly to the Women’s match. The Royals came out tentatively and slowly. Head Coach Brad Douwes added, “I think we were a little nervous. I think we were scared to play and scared to lose.”

Like the Women’s team, Re-

deemer dropped their first set of the evening. The Royals were down 17-12 in the second game before the team was able to turn things around. “It took us a while to get things going,” mentioned Douwes, “but once we started playing aggressively, playing our style of ball, it allowed us to turn the match around in our favour.”

The Royals did just that, as they were able to come back from the late 5-point deficit in the second set and reel off 3 straight wins to take the match 3-1.

A huge part of the dynamics on Wednesday night was the matchup against former Redeemer Head Coach Wayne Harris. Harris retired from Redeemer last spring and eventually went on to take the

role as Head Coach at Conestoga.

For new Head Coach (former Assistant Coach) Brad Douwes, it was a great night facing off against Harris. “Playing against Wayne was fun. I think it made the guys a little tentative and nervous but we were able to overcome that, get rid of the nerves, and just play volleyball.”

Douwes expressed his appreciation to Wayne on Wednesday night on twitter saying, “Good win tonight against a good team. Conestoga has a great leader and this was obvious tonight.”

Redeemer takes the court again on November 1st in their home opener against Humber College.

Apologetics: Two Quick Hitters

PJ BUYS

Here are two quick and fairly simple things that are helpful in a discussion with an atheist. One is about meaning in life, and the other is about science.

To deny the existence of God in the universe is to necessarily embrace an objectively meaningless life. Without an afterlife, this

life is all there is and everything about humanity is doomed to be extinct and forgotten. Therefore, in the long run, it is objectively meaningless. However, it is a logical contradiction to believe that life is objectively meaningless. To say “life and everything within life is meaningless” is to make a meaningful proposition or reality claim. You cannot logically maintain a worldview that believes everything is meaningless while making a meaningful

statement. To say “everything is meaningless” meaningfully is contradictory. It is impossible. In order to make a statement that has meaning, you need a world where meaning exists. Either atheism or meaning must be given up; you cannot have both.

Science. Atheist scientists believe that humans were not created by divine intervention, but instead were created from nothing, by nothing, from spontaneous gen-

eration. However, this flies in the face of the well-known scientific principle of the law of biogenesis which states that “life only comes from life.” Science is founded upon empirical data and observation, and life coming from non-life has never been observed anywhere in the world. In order for life to exist it needs to come from a pre-existing form of life (puppies from dog parents, cubs from bear parents, you... etc.) We see the law of biogenesis occurring

around us every day. To claim that life can come from non-life would go against the law of biogenesis, an established scientific law which has come from repeatable empirical data and observation. Meaning in a meaningless universe and the law of biogenesis are your two quick hitters. Use them well and humbly!



Humility and Calling

JASON CHONG

I don’t always read devotional books, but I happened across one the other day and found something interesting within its pages, something which, in my opinion, is worth talking about. What the book said was something along the lines of: “to truly serve God and give Him the respect and worship He is due, you must submit all of yourself to His will; this includes your ambitions, your ideas, your passions, your thoughts, and so forth, emptying yourself so that God can fill you.” To many of us, this no doubt sounds like the right thing to do. Aren’t we supposed to let God take control of our lives and direct us? Surely our call is to be like John the Baptist, who was praised by Jesus for his humility when he said, “He must become greater; I must become less.” Indeed, we are to be a humble people, but my question is twofold: first, what does it mean to be humble, and, second, does following God’s will require the emptying of yourself entirely?

Let’s deal with the question of humility first, as it will help us to understand the second question. So what does it mean to be humble? Some of us may think (and I was once among this number) that to be humble is to downplay yourself. If someone should think you quite beautiful and say so, you might say, “I’m not that good-looking,” or if you happen to be rather skillful at some sport, say basketball, you might say, “I’m actually not that good.” You might mean well in so doing, but this kind of thinking can be dangerous; it has a tendency to cultivate a certain kind of false equality at its best, and a rejection of one’s traits and abilities at its worst. I would suggest that this view of humility is not one that matches up with our model for humility: the God-man Jesus Himself. Jesus certainly never apologized for being who He was (not to be taken in the Lady Gaga sense), nor for the things He could do well. The reason for this is because there is justice in calling each thing as it is, and this includes ourselves, though this is not often stated. To put it simply, if you are called beautiful and you say, “Well, actually I’m not” or something to that effect, what you have said is something untrue about yourself. It is not the case that you are not beautiful; this is not something that coincides with the way things are, or reality. Thus, you have done yourself an injustice. Yes, it is possible.

Where does this leave us then? Furthermore, what of bad traits or abilities? It seems likely to me that it isn’t possible to talk of being humble regarding, say, being good at stealing or being quick to anger; rather, true humility seems tied to virtue, understood here in the Aristotelian sense as excellence. For Aristotle, excellence is tied in some sense to justice, and thus things like having particularly sticky fingers or flying off the handle too quickly couldn’t

be excellent. They aren’t, first and foremost, just. Nevertheless, non-moral things (things that don’t contradict justice, but aren’t required by it) can be included in excellence, such as a tasty piece of gum, a good body check in hockey, getting a good grade, and so forth. This, I suggest, is the basis for humility. It comes from things that are excellent but the key part will be in how one acts in having such virtue or excellence, and this is how we will separate the boasting man from the humble one, as we’ll see.

So suppose we have two basketball players, both equal in skill. Every time one player, let’s call him Jay, scores or makes a play, he makes a big deal out of it, always pointing out to his team how good he is. The other, Adam, makes a good shot or a nice move and says nothing, except to acknowledge the deed when it’s called upon by teammates. Whom would we call the boaster and whom would we call humble? Obviously, Jay is the boaster and Adam is the humble man. The difference between the two is that the former makes much of his own excellence or virtue in the game of basketball, while the latter knows that he has it but doesn’t feel the need to point it out at all, only acknowledging his skill when others notice. We could apply this to Jesus as well: Jesus knows that He is God (He has all the virtue), but He doesn’t feel the need to always make that known to the people around Him, unless the occasion demanded it of Him or He felt it necessary that He do so. Thus, we know that our God is a humble God; Jesus provides one example among many.

This then is probably what we mean by humility: to acknowledge the various gifts which we have been given and not to be conspicuous about them to such an extent that we end up praising ourselves above others unjustly. Implicit in this understanding is that we evaluate ourselves with sober judgement as St. Paul suggests; we ought not to think too highly of our abilities nor too lowly, as we saw with our false view of humility, but rather think of them to the extent which we have them; Aristotle’s Golden Mean (not the extremes but the middle between them) is our target here. Now, how does this apply to our works which we might call doing God’s will?

Some of us might imagine that we are totally helpless when it comes to doing God’s will, and that we need to be emptied so that we might be filled by God and thus equipped for the tasks He sets before us. This might sound alright, but there are a few things which cause me to seriously doubt this is true. In the first place, why are we to imagine that we are completely helpless to do God’s will without Him? I’m aware this may sound heretical, but I think the question is valid. Didn’t He give us resources (the Bible, reason, Natural Law, etc.) to figure this out? Think of it this

way: if God had to help you to do good (presumably, His will) every single time, wouldn’t that be incredibly paternalistic, not to mention that you wouldn’t actually be the one who is doing good? Would God be glorified in basically doing His own will? It seems hard to think that He would be. What parent is ever glorified by their children in such a way? I’m not in any way saying that this isn’t difficult at times or that Jesus doesn’t need to save us, but I’m pretty sure we have the wrong idea should we imagine this.

Second of all, why imagine that we must be emptied? I think this is part and parcel with the previous supposition. If we are completely helpless, due to badness or otherwise, probably we have no ability to do good, which also comes with having no good desires or passions or ambitions. In view of that, it might make sense that we’d have to be emptied so that God could put good ones in there somewhere, but this doesn’t sound a lot like Christianity. It sounds a lot more like Buddhism in lieu of trying to rid ourselves of these things (Barkman’s Intro students might recognize this). The motivation for thinking this way may come from false humility. You may think there is nothing good about you and so God must take the wheel to do good, or, in view of your lowness, that God is so high above you, you can’t know what His will is unless He controls or “absorbs” you. But we saw already that it is probably nonsense to think the former, and, as for the latter, God’s will (among other things) becomes a concept that lacks any meaningfulness to it, as we couldn’t actually determine what it is for ourselves at all.

Suffice it to say, if God’s will doesn’t mean anything or if we’re totally incapable of knowing it, living the Christian life is nothing short of impossible. But we don’t have to think that way. Here I may suggest that we remember what it is we have been talking about; that we remember humility. Acknowledging that we have certain gifts or talents or virtues is part of affirming who we are as people being redeemed by God, and this is very important. In other words, that I should be me with all that entails (in personality, character, ability, etc.), and not someone else or a not-me-but-God sort of thing, is in fact a very good thing. It is to state the best of God’s craftsmanship (which was Sarah Poaps’ message). What this means is that we are tailored to a certain work or art, which becomes apparent upon reflection of who we are. We don’t get this kind of clarity by believing ourselves to be less than we are, nor in emptying ourselves. Following this, we become clearer on what God’s will is, how He wishes for us to use the things which He has given us for the sake of the kingdom, and what our particular task is in making culture.

As a final word, my hope is that this has been a little helpful in solidifying what God may have in store for you.



Chaplin’s Corner



ROB POWELL

“ Never Forget”
6 We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly.
7 When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. [b]
Psalm 106
We have always had memory problems.
I was moved as I saw a tribute to our veterans this year. Particularly, pictures of young men, full of

vitality and promise, looking earnestly towards the camera. They were, they were sure, off to set the world right. I wondered, how many of them would return? And when they did, would they have the same exuberance? Or, would they have a soul full of memories that would haunt them to the grave?
Remembrance Day. What does it mean? What are we to remember? It is something about war, but we are not necessarily sure just what. My own take on it over the years has been twofold. First, it is the recognition that war is a part of the Fall. Ever since Cain slew Abel, we have seen the fruit of animosity, and an unwillingness and inability to sort out our differences in peace. War is wrong. At its best, even its proponents should admit, it is the ‘lesser of two evils.’ The evidence of humanity’s capacity to wreak death and destruction in the last hundred years alone is beyond belief. I am not a principled pacifist. I can see the world in greys, but it is always in the recognition that, to quote William Sherman (who was reasonably successful at it), “War is Hell.” Having said that, it is in the midst of man’s depravity in full display that we can see the magnificence of the human spirit. I have had an ongoing fascination with the Second World War. And in the

stories I have read and gathered, I see deeply moving examples of human compassion and sacrifice. There are stories of human heroism that are soul stirring and even life altering. These are accounts of ordinary people (the Frodos of the world) whose God-given image shone in the midst of the darkness. There are stories of the soldiers who lay down their lives so that I might be able to enjoy privileges that I pray I never take for granted. These stories are deeply humbling.
Remembrance Day? I remember in the biblical sense that I reconnect with the narrative. When our Jewish neighbors celebrate The Passover, they retell their Story. The “Good, Bad and Ugly.” Everyone, from young to old, participates in its retelling. They “Re-Member” the account of their deliverance from Egypt. It is a painful story, complete with tragedy and promise. And they vow to “never forget.” The narrative of Remembrance Day is not to glorify war. It is to remember our debt. It is to remember the horrific cost that many of our brightest and best paid for our freedom. It is to remember the tragedy that is war. And it is to remember heroism and sacrifice.
When I consider heroism and sacrifice, it always leads me to The Cross. And so it is today.



A Vision for Free Time



SARAH-ANN WIJNGAARDEN they can see their idea happen.

“I just like where my life is at.”

Few people would say that but, with confident humility and a wide smile, Mark DeVos does. And he’s been saying it for about five years.

DeVos is an Assistant Chaplain at Redeemer University. He cherishes his relationships with family, and is content in his relationship with the Lord. If you met him, you wouldn’t hesitate to call him Mark, for he has an openness and a welcoming joy that’ll put you right at ease.

But if this friendly follower of God had no responsibilities, no restrictions on money or time, if he could do anything, what would he do?

Mark’s laughter pauses for a moment, and he says in all seriousness, “I would do exactly what I’m doing now.”

He would work on the book he’s writing. He would keep investing in the lives of young adults. If money were no object, he would fly his siblings from out west back home to Ontario. He would consider going to the Caribbean for some snorkeling. And he would give to the missionaries he knows.

All of these things show who Mark is. But if he had to choose, he would spend his time working on a project. A big project.

Mark’s passion is the Vocational Discipleship Program that he initiated in the summer of 2012. While the program is in the planning stages, he has gained support from many city partners, including Jeffrey Neven, the executive director from Homestead Christian Care, and Eric O’Neil, the Discipleship and Youth Minister at Wentworth Baptist Church in Hamilton.

This program seeks to “renew the social architecture” of not just Hamilton, but also of North America. It seeks to change the culture.

Christian applicants can come to the program with an idea and a project proposal. In turn, the program will support the individual with contacts, resources, experiences, and expertise, so

“In this program, we seek to launch initiatives that will bless the fabric of society,” says Mark.

He could go snorkeling in the Caribbean, but Mark opts for the Discipleship Program for a simple reason.

“Because I love Jesus,” he says.

Thoughtful, he continues, “It sounds funny but...” Here Mark pauses, but there is no shame of his Savior in his unhurried response.”...I have seen how much of a difference it can make when someone is motivated by love to invest their life to another.”

Mark has seen this love in a few people. Graduating from seminary, Mark met Annie Kizer, a first-year student with a vision. She wanted to bless her city with a counselling organization that had a coffee shop in the same building. This coffee shop would provide jobs for the women who received counselling. Kizer inspired Mark to talk with people so he could start his own vision.

He’s seen it in his father too. In his teens, Mark started a lawn care company called LawnBoyz. One day, he bit off more than he could chew.

“I accidentally bit off a massive five acre property.”

And he way under-quoted it. He was maybe making \$3.00 an hour.

“And that’s if I didn’t pay my Dad.”

His family was struggling. His father had just worked a night shift. But his Dad helped him all day with that job anyway.

“He just loved me,” says Mark. That is the kind of sacrificial love that inspires the Vocational program.

Mark knows it’s a big idea. He knows it might sound ridiculous. But he also knows something else:

“The big and best ideas come from God.”

And he chooses this program because it is all for the powerful, big God he serves.



Review: iPad Air

ANDREW TOSLAND
STAFF

Four years ago, the first iPad was released to the general public. Although some scoffed at Apple’s attempt at creating a tablet, the device proved to be massively popular with the public. With the release of the iPad air earlier this month, Apple con-

tinues the annual trend of improving this popular device and making it more usable than ever.

The newest iPad sheds both its weight and physical dimensions. At 1 pound, it allows for increased portability and extended periods of use without fatigue. The iPad air also has more narrow edges making it easier to carry while still retaining the same 10 inch screen

found on previous iPads. All of these changes are made without any sacrifice of battery life, as the new iPad air still manages to operate for 10 hours without a recharge.

Inside the iPad, users will find the A7 processor that was first released for the iPhone 5S, although it has been increased to 1.4Ghz to power the high resolution screen of the iPad. This speed boost al-

lows applications to load faster than ever and increases productivity. The iPad also ships with iOS 7 and comes with a number of new applications such as Apple’s word processor: Pages. These additions allow for the iPad to be used out of the box as an effective laptop replacement and, with thousands of other applications available from the App store, users are sure to find anything they need.

With all of these improvements, the iPad air may seem like a minor improvement compared to the fourth generation iPad but, for anyone moving from a laptop or even an earlier edition of the iPad, the difference is noticeable in every respect. The iPad air is recommended to anyone looking to move to the future of portable computing and is available now for \$519.



Xbox One and PS4

ANDREW TOSLAND
STAFF

Last week the newest generation of video game consoles became available for purchase by the general public. Over the past year, both Sony and Microsoft have released the details of their newest offerings for gamers, both companies trying to sway consumers to their platform. Although these companies are competitors, they have more in common than we have seen in previous years.

Although the hardware of these systems improves every few years, allowing for better graphics and higher resolutions, the main change this year is found in a common architecture in the parts they use. In previous sys-

tems, both Sony and Microsoft used custom processors to power their systems, with Sony developing a complex but powerful “Cell” processor, and Microsoft using a PowerPC processor. These processors allowed developers to develop games that pushed what we expected from our games, but required more effort to do so due to the complications of working with each system. To remedy this problem, both Microsoft and Sony have moved to a common “x86” architecture created by AMD. This is the same style of processor found in any common laptop and desktop computer and allows for a more familiar development platform. It also allows for faster game development and better quality of visuals. To the end user, this means that cross-platform games will be more common, and

graphics will improve at a faster rate as developers discover what these systems are capable of.

A common processor architecture is not the only similarity the PS4 and Xbox One share. Both feature a Blu-ray drive, 8GB of RAM, and 4K video support. The main differentiating factor between the two systems is that the Xbox One also comes with Microsoft’s audio/visual device, called Kinect. With this device, the user can use voice or hand gestures to control the system. For example, walking into the room and saying “Xbox on” will start the system and have it ready before the user has picked up his or her controller. Sony has a similar system available for the PS4, but they have opted to make it available as a separate purchase, whereas Microsoft will be

including it with every Xbox One. However, this extra hardware will come at a price, making the Xbox One \$100 more expensive than the PS4. It remains to be seen whether consumers will be willing to pay more for the support of this technology or will move towards the less expensive PS4.

Online offerings from both of these companies have also come to parity. Microsoft has charged for online services since they first released the original Xbox in 2001, while, in the past, Sony offered this support for no charge, meaning that they only purchase the consumer had to make was for the console and the game. Unfortunately, Sony has decided that that option will not be available with the PS4 and will now be charging for this online service, bringing it

in line with what Microsoft has been doing for years. The end result of this is more cost for the consumer and one less differentiating factor between the two systems.

As we have seen, the Xbox One and PS4 share more similarities than differences. Although they do have minor differences, they are likely to go unnoticed by the target consumer who is looking for the best gaming experience. With this in mind, it is difficult to recommend one system over the other, and many consumers will likely find that their decision comes down to their brand loyalty over any other factor. So who’s it going to be: Microsoft, or Sony?



App of the Month: Showyou

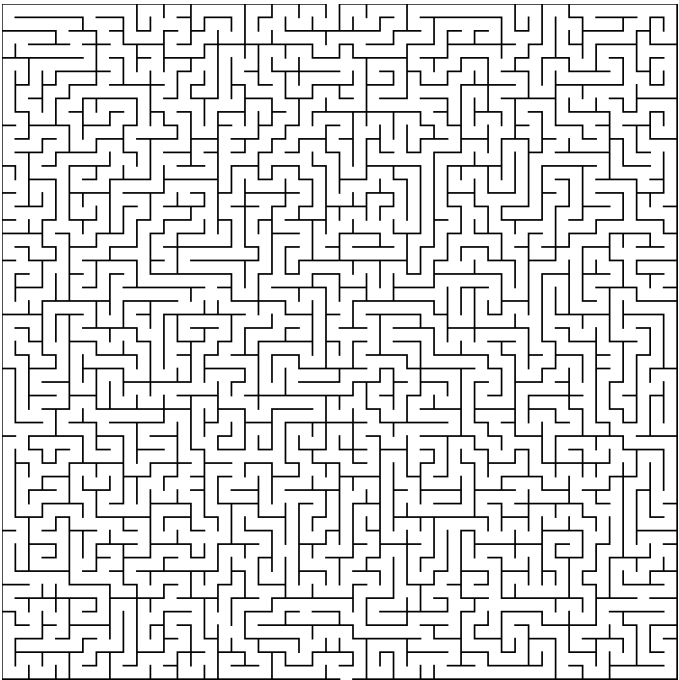


JORDON BOKMA
STAFF

Looking back at how we used our social media in the past can always be embarrassing. From lame “I just worked out” Facebook updates to the “I just did something of no value” twitter posts accompanied by a short novel of hash tags, people have a knack for sharing the unimportant. Thankfully, we have somewhat learned from our past. Today, we see updates with vibrant, often thought-provoking pictures and videos that have gone viral by way of social media companies.

But with so many different outlets of content, how does one get a grasp on the best videos that the vast web has to offer? How can we sift through the meaningless minutiae? Dim the lights, grab your seats, and queue Showyou because its job is to show the important things. Showyou has a dead simple idea—grab the best videos from across all major streaming sites. It is not a complex idea, but it fits with today’s culture perfectly. Today’s culture doesn’t exist on one social platform but many. In essence, it simplifies the process of the best video access on the web. Content-wise, you’ll see everything from Reddit TV, gawker, Youtube, Dailymotion, Vimeo, Twitter, all your Vines, and pretty much any other major video sharing entity. The user interface is easy to understand and you can customize your “grids” by selecting categories that interest you. The rest is up to Showyou to serve the best the web has to offer. If you want to watch the best Vine compilations or simply want to be impressed by the newest, awe-inspiring videos, download Showyou on both Android and iOS.

CROWN



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Enjoy

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Buttertart Squares



EMMA RICHARDSON

This easy-to-make dessert will have you coming back for more! With its sweet, warm topping on a crust that melts in your mouth, these little buttertart squares are to die for! You can easily double this recipe and freeze the squares for later. Serve them warm with ice cream and you have the perfect dessert for exam time, Christmas, or even just a dorm dinner!

- 1/2 c. margarine (or butter, softened)
- 1 c. flour
- 2 tbsp. brown sugar

- Filling:
- 2 eggs, beaten
 - 1 1/2 c. brown sugar
 - 1/2 c. quick cooking oatmeal
 - 1/4 tsp. salt
 - 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 - 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Cut margarine into flour and the 2 tbsp brown sugar until crumbly. Press into a 9x9" buttered pan. Bake at 350 F for 15 minutes. While the crust is baking, mix filling ingredients well. Pour over the partially baked crumb layer. Return to oven and bake for an additional 20 minutes. Cool before cutting into squares.

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Emma Gavey

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