

The Paper of the Regent College Student Association

SACRIFICING WHO I AM TO FIT IN

My journey of embracing my ethnicity has been a complicated one. My family immigrated to the United States from China when I was four. I remember feeling so scared and powerless in a new country, dreading my first day of school because I feared my English wouldn't be good enough. I remember wondering why my eyes were "too small" after being teased by the other kids. I remember feeling embarrassed by my Chinese family whenever we were in public because of our cultural quirks. I hated feeling so alone and small, so I fought hard to be the most western person I could be. I studied the white people on TV to become what I thought was more "normal" and "acceptable."

Growing up with this deep shame of feeling different, I would willingly sacrifice who I was to be who I thought I should be. Coming into my twenties, it finally felt like I had succeeded in "fitting in." I had a white girlfriend, was a leader in a hip, trendy white church, and had moved up to be a National director for a global missions organization. I got good at presenting myself in a way that those with privilege and power celebrated and rewarded.

Despite all that, I was still very much marginalized. I still felt invisible, that I was never enough, and I began to see the glass ceiling for future leadership opportunities. I slowly became tired of fighting and tired of accommodating others when the accommodation was rarely ever reciprocated.

I decided to move to Vancouver in the hopes of truly reclaiming my Chinese identity. I knew I had a lot to detox from so I committed to some extreme changes. I was going to limit white relationships even if I was lonely or came off rude. I would make conscious steps to cross cultures back into a world I had long ago rejected.

At first, Vancouver was amazing. With so many Chinese immigrants here, I joked with friends that I had moved to the Asian "Wakanda." For the first time in my life, I felt like I had full access to society. I could not have ever imagined a place where Asian people were in all different industries and were setting the culture within a city. And because I started my time in Vancouver during the pandemic, I was shielded from Regent life as I pursued relationships outside of the classroom.

Then Regent reopened. People say Sunday mornings are the most segregated day of the week (referring to the underlying racism and cultural incompetence within the church). Regent unfortunately wasn't the exception that I hoped it would be. I had to navigate seemingly "inclusive" white people who took for granted that the way that they offered belonging required significant adjustment from those that came from other cultural backgrounds. I was even more disappointed by some of the professors at Regent who were unapologetically dismissive when a European framework for the theology they were teaching didn't connect with my experiences. At first, I found myself making excuses in these situations because I knew that students coming to Regent were navigating new relationships and were at their relational capacity. With the professors, I told myself since they are just teaching what they know, how could I expect reflections on a lived experience that they never lived? Though I was frustrated, it honestly just felt like what I was already used to.

As I've been reflecting on our conversations around race, ethnicity,

and belonging, It's easy to feel quite hopeless. For most of my twenties, I fought for the courage and boldness to challenge older white bosses and leaders when their actions were culturally insensitive. Becoming weary and disillusioned now, I don't even have the capacity to offer international students at Regent the hospitality I know they need. And now, on top of older "boomers" making ignorant comments that come from another time, many bright, young, white Regent students still make me feel small and insignificant while they are oblivious to their power and privilege. It is hard to feel hope for a world where I can feel fully accepted when even in this increasingly interconnected generation, I witness the same trappings and biases.

Yet, I have to remind myself that the gospel means that I am enough. I don't need to flex my intellectual capacity with the "Theo-bros" at Regent or fight for approval in social settings. It's not my responsibility to hold the weight of the world's problems. While this journey still surfaces bitterness for me, I hold my loneliness and powerlessness now with the grief that it deserves instead of fighting harder to try and make myself on top. I'm trying to fight for the tenderness in my heart to just let myself be myself.

- DANIEL DU

This piece was written as a reflection on Regent's "Wisdom of Each Other" event.

AROUND CAMPUS:

ZOOM WORKSHOP: LIVING FRUITFULLY: A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF WORK

WEDNESDAY, MAR 29, 2023 AT 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PACIFIC TIME)

FEATURING: [MARK D. ROBERTS](#), SENIOR STRATEGIST (MAX DE PREE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP, FULLER SEMINARY)

[ONLINE EVENT](#): EXPERIENCE REGENT ONLINE

WEDNESDAY, APR 5, 2023 AT 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (PACIFIC TIME)

OUR EXPERIENCE REGENT EVENTS INTRODUCE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO REGENT COLLEGE. WHETHER ATTENDING AN EXPERIENCE REGENT ON ZOOM OR ON CAMPUS, WE THINK YOU'LL WALK AWAY WITH A DEEPER SENSE OF WHAT MAKES THE REGENT COMMUNITY SO SPECIAL, AND WHAT LIFE AS A REGENT STUDENT COULD LOOK LIKE.

AT THE STILL POINT OF THE TURNING WORLD | MUSIC AND POETRY FOR HOLY WEEK

THURSDAY, APR 6, 2023 AT 6:00PM - 7:00 PM (PACIFIC TIME) ROOM 100

ENJOY AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH THE MARK GLANVILLE TRIO & FRIENDS AS THEY BRING US "AT THE STILL POINT OF THE TURNING WORLD." MUSIC AND POETRY FOR HOLY WEEK.

•• HUMANS OF REGENT ••

JULIE SCHUURMAN



“I’m Julie; I am a teacher and part time student at Regent.”

“At first, my greatest struggle at Regent was just getting oriented. I have not been a student, or in an academic setting for almost ten years. So getting back into the rhythm of keeping up with reading schedules and allotting time for research, and writing was tough. Writing especially; it is actually a passion of mine and sometimes I can be in the zone where the words just come, but getting into the flow of writing academically and constructing a thesis and finding arguments that contest or corroborate with it has been a big struggle. I’ve never studied theology before and I don’t have a seminary/Bible background outside of church ministry, so studying at Regent has felt similar to learning a new language. Half of the time I’ll be in my class and my professor will say three or four different terms and I’m constantly making a list on my phone that I should google later so I can understand what they mean. So overall, getting back into the rhythm of being in an academic space and all the responsibilities that come along with that has been my greatest struggle since beginning at Regent.”

“I’ve been loving the chapel services. They have been really enriching and restorative. I love how much thought goes into them; the varieties of song choices and languages that are sung, spoken, or prayed, the testimonies of my fellow students that are in my shoes or have been in my shoes are really encouraging to hear, and the teaching has been really good. I came to Regent not necessarily with a specific plan in mind, but to just dip my toes into this water and seeing how far I want to swim into the graduate diploma program. What I wanted to get out of this program was to know more about the historical picture behind the Christian faith and what happened between the end of the book of Acts to where we are now. How did we get from a small group of people meeting in an upper room and receiving the Holy Spirit for the first time to these factions and tribes all around the world who have different practices and works that they do to get closer to God and spread the gospel; these groups can believe completely different things and interpret the Scriptures in completely different ways. So, shoutout to Prabo, I’ve really really enjoyed my history course with him for painting that picture from a global perspective, not just a Eurocentric perspective. It’s been very enlightening.”

“Recently, God has been everywhere, and I’m not just saying that as a cliché...God has been teaching me recently when I’m with my students,

he’s been teaching me late at night when I’m at home working on a paper, he’s across the table from me when I’m having a cup of coffee with a friend, and it’s all of those things put together. Even though school is really hard and balancing work life, family, and studies is very challenging, when he shows up in my workplace or shows up in my studies, or in my conversations, it is this overwhelming evidence that I am where he wants me to be... even though it doesn’t quite make at the moment. And that he’s got the plan in all of this.”

WHO IS @DANK_REGENT_MEMES?

On February 10th, a meme was posted on the social media app, Instagram, by a new account named @dank_regent_memes. This meme account continued to post memes personally tailored to Regent College. As fast as the meme account circled through the community, people began asking the same question: who is @dank_regent_memes?

The account is run anonymously. No names attached. The bio simply reads “Dank Regent Memes - Soup Restaurant - “Have you ever been so bad at Greek that you went into the ministry?” - DM to submit memes or Regent Confessions.” The standard meme account content. The chances of such a meme account being an official publication of Regent College are about the same as Lisa Sung not mentioning Dallas Willard in a lecture. Slim to none. But the smoke was clearly coming from inside the house. Or in this case, the green roof. And I was determined to find out who started the fire.

You could say I’ve been interested in solving mysteries from a young age. My first favorite show was Blue’s Clues. I read through my elementary school library’s collection of the Nancy Drew book series. I watched countless hours of Scooby Doo, Inspector Gadget, and Mystery Hunters. My obsession was likely tied to my deep need for answers. Every puzzle has a solution. Every mystery can be solved. So I thought, until I came across @dank_regent_memes.

This would be my hardest case yet. There were no blue paw prints to follow, or someone hiding behind a latex monster mask. This was the internet, where anyone can be anything. I knew if I was going to solve this mystery, I was going to have to do it the hard way. No hacking the system. I also knew whoever was behind it did not want to be found and would never willingly give me a confession. No matter how many ‘prettys’ I put before please with a cherry on top.

So like any good student does, I started taking notes. This was someone familiar with meme culture, but old enough to call it ‘dank’. That was old slang in internet years. It was also someone fairly tech-savvy. These were original memes. It was also someone knowledgeable about Regent culture. A well-rounded knowledge. This person knew their audience and what they wanted. Quality, niche memes.

These categories still left too broad a pool of suspects. Could I even trust my own judgments of who fit into them? My gut said it was a student. What professor would possibly be able to handle a meme page? But what do I know about the personal lives of profs? Iwan Russell-Jones is an experienced critic of culture. Would it be beyond him to learn how to make a meme? But ‘dank’ is likely not in his vocabulary. It had to be someone younger. Matt Lynch? He could certainly appreciate a good meme. But with a recent book launch, he couldn’t possibly have the time to also publish memes. Staff or faculty were simply wild cards. Too unlikely, but not impossible.

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WHO IS @DANK_REGENT_MEMES?

... Continued from Page 2

I had to focus on students. Look for horses, not zebras. In an early conversation, I was informed that someone suspected me. I was flattered but knew that was one possibility I could confidently rule out. Names were tossed around in many conversations. Who was funny enough? Who was old enough? Who was secretive enough? Who was devoting precious time and energy at this point in the semester to not only meme-making, but account managing? Could it be more than one person? Was there an entire underground @dank_regent_memes team? And who had any answers?

These questions haunted me, depriving me of sleep more than any delicious, reasonably priced caffeinated beverage from The Well. Conversations with other students and staff gave me dead ends. Analyzing the images, language, even mutual followers provided nothing more than speculation. There was simply no hard evidence to be found. Whoever it was left no crumbs to follow, no prints to dust, no clues to reveal themselves. The account sat there on my screen like a mirror. It perfectly reflected the culture of Regent College, but offered not even a shadow of its creator. And that’s when I realized who created @dank_regent_memes.

It was you. And me. We made @dank_regent_memes. The account is just the messenger. We are its creator. Every meme, every joke, was born in the community. We are all @dank_regent_memes because it is all of us. And just like UBC students will never truly know what goes on under the green roof, we will never know what is happening behind the account. And that’s the way it should be.

The best Disney Channel Original Movie (DCOM) ever made is Hatching Pete (2009). It is the story of a boy who secretly performs as his high school mascot. The entire town is wrapped up in the mystery of who is in the chicken suit (technically a rooster). In a candid interview, the disguised student confesses that they don’t want to be known because “the magic is in the mystery, and once the mystery is gone, so is the magic.” This is the reality we now face. We have been given the enchanting gift of mystery. This gift is sending out much needed ripples of energy, excitement, anticipation, and wonder. As the semester comes to an end, should we really try to calm these waters by exposing our anonymous meme-maker? There is much in the news to colour our spirits somber. If @dank_regent_memes is to continue to offer us humorous relief in these trying times, it needs its magic. The magic is in the mystery. The mystery is that it is simultaneously no one and everyone. Who is @dank_regent_memes? We’ll never know. And that is the way these things must be.

- MO HICKMAN

-- EtCetera Call For Reviews --

Do you have a book, movie, album, or TV show that has caught your attention?

We want to hear about it!

EtCetera is looking to publish reviews of books, movies, albums, and TV shows up to 500 words in length.

Reviews should be concise and written with the the Regent community as the intended audience.

The content that is reviewed does not need to be academic in nature, nor does your review need to be written from a theological perspective.

Reviews can be sent to etcetera@regent-college.edu

RECOMMENDED + REVIEWED

IL GATTO CON GLI STIVALI

Death is the Big Bad Wolf. We are all familiar with the idioms around that grim fate we all share. Huffing and puffing at our door! how will we greet the face of death? Do we deny it entrance until it blows down our walls? Do we admit our fear and run? Or do we face our equal end with courage? And considering these questions, would you answer differently if you had nine lives? This is the pressing question that *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* attempts to raise. You may be thinking, “How can I trust a sequel to an already disappointing eleven-years-old Shrek spin-off, to deal adequately with such important questions?” And who can blame you? Many sequels from our era have left us disenchanted. Titles like *The Lion King II: Simba’s Pride*, *Tarzan 2: The Legend Begins*, and *Bambi 2: The Great Prince of the Forest* starring Patrick Stewart have left us expecting the worst. *Puss in Boots 2* however, might get Goldilocks’ porridge just right. Amid the antics one has come to expect from animated films these days it manages to ask these serious questions with welcome honesty. If allowed, candidness can be the key to suspending the audience’s disbelief, allowing the space to take an absurd story – about a cat who wears boots – serious. Where many modern fairy-tales fall short, *Puss in Boots 2* remains true to its roots. To quote J.R.R. Tolkien on the proper function of fairy stories: “[Fairy-tale] does not deny the existence of dyscatastrophe (inevitable defeat), of sorrow and failure: the possibility of these is necessary...” Proud of his natural feline abilities, Puss lives a frivolous and reckless life, when suddenly he is confronted by his own creatureliness. Without any illusion left to delude him and only the bottom of a glass of milk to comfort him, Puss must wrestle with his identity as a cat. What does it mean to be a cat gifted with speech who eats Purina Cat Chow every day, and poops in a box of Purina Tidy Cats litter? As the story unfolds it does not take the viewer by the hand and walk them through the moral-message of mortality. It simply poses a very human reality, all the while, exploring the consequence of its denial as we watch Jack Horner rampage through fairy land, unsatisfied with his plum in life. An argument could be made that *Puss in Boots 2* is too childish, riddled with too many moments that distract from any chance at true thoughtfulness, but I think Jiminy Cricket would encourage me to disagree. In the end, the movie is content with its own attempt and the moviegoer is left with some simple questions that may breach our own illusions if only we let the fairy-tale give them wings. This movie is worth a watch.

- CALEB BERBERICH

We put out a call on our instagram story asking for show, movie, music, and book recommendations. To our surprise, most of you just recommended “Puss in Boots 2”. Thank you, Caleb, for providing this thoughtful review.

If you would like to write a review or recommend a book, movie, album, show, podcast, etc. to the Regent community, please send it to EtCetera via email, or DM us on instagram.

THE BACK 40

“These 40 are easier than lent...”

Dating at Regent ...



This comic was originally published by EtCetera on September 13, 1994

“I’ve dated guys who carried Bibles but never anyone who carried a twelve-volume commentary.”

Overheard at Regent

“What’s the Hebrew word for spaghetti?”



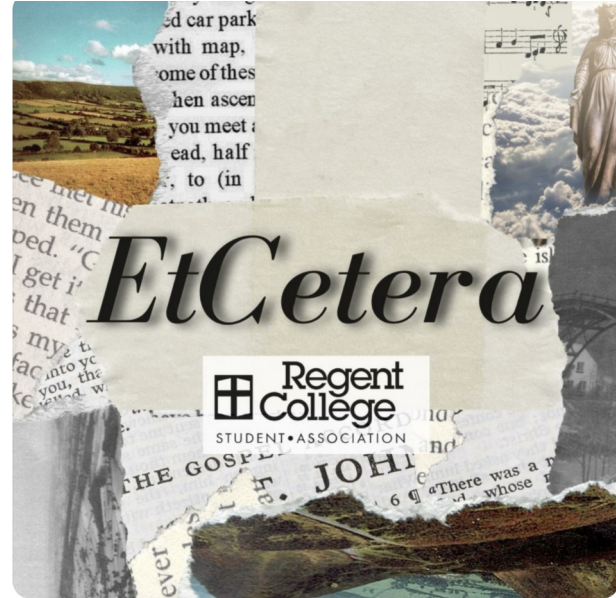
Non-Christian Relative: “so what exactly are you doing back in school?”

Regent Student:



Memes submitted via instagram by @dank_regent_memes

**@dank_regent_memes is not affiliated with or endorsed by EtCetera or the RCSA



Latest Podcast Episode - George Guthrie

Dr. George Guthrie is Professor of New Testament at Regent College and a highly sought-after lecturer, who has taught across North America, as well as in East Asia, the United Kingdom, Germany, South Africa, and Israel. Before coming to Regent in 2018, he taught for twenty-eight years at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, where he served as the Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible and Fellow in the Ryan Center for Biblical Studies.

The EtCetera Podcast is available wherever you get your podcasts.

Dad Joke of the Week

I accidentally ate some of my cat’s food.
Don’t ask meow.

It’s very easy to be featured in EtCetera.

EtCetera accepts all forms of written or visual creativity. Written works must be under 1000 words.

All work is subject to minor edits.

Anonymous submissions are considered on a case-by-case basis.

All submissions must be sent to: etcetera@regent-college.edu

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