

NOVEMBER ISSUE

# THE BEACON

RWU MAGAZINE

**RWU  
BATHROOMS**

**REVIEW ON OUR  
CAMPUS  
BATHROOMS**

**THANKFUL FOR**

**BRAINROT, JOEY  
SAIA, AND AUNT  
SUE?**

**IS DR. IAN SLATER  
IN LOVE WITH  
ALTERNATIVE  
ROBERTS MEMES?**

**IAN SLATER, PhD**

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE  
TITLE IX COORDINATOR**





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## Letter from the Editor

So much has happened in the past month! We've had Homecoming, concerts, sports events and so much more. Roberts has been bustling with activity. As the semester gets busy for all of us, it can be so easy to feel overwhelmed. Focusing on the difficult things in life is only too easy. So, as we approach the Thanksgiving season, I want to embrace a time of thankfulness. Even in the midst of stressful times there are so many things here to be grateful for. God is always good to us. In this issue, I hope to highlight the gratitude that many of you said you felt. So, take a deep breath and enjoy this month's issue of the Beacon. I hope it provides you some much needed stress relief and smiles.

Psalms 118:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Katy Goodwin ♥  
Editor-in-Chief

Lydia Fanara

# Retro Roberts: Remembering the Testosterhome

*As Assistant Editor of the Beacon, I (Lydia) have unlimited access to one of Roberts' best kept secrets—the old Beacon issues. And wow, are they wild. So sit back and enjoy the saga of the Miner Commune, originally written by Greg Coles and published September 2009-February 2010.*

**Please note the articles shared below are from a past Beacon issue and are not our words or our opinions.**

## Commune-ity

Triple-bunked beds. Seven men sleeping in a room built for two. Communal food. Communal laundry. One couch on the floor and a second one resting on a bed frame behind the first to simulate stadium seating. These are the sights of Minor Suite 202.

Four weeks ago, seven students living in Miner 202 took the plunge into communal living. They moved all their beds into one room, all their desks and schoolbooks into another, and all their entertainment gadgets into a third. Everything that would normally be done in the company of one or two roommates—studying, video gaming, and late night heart-to-hearts—can now be done in the company of six. They've dubbed their creation "the Communal Living Project," or more casually, "the Testosterhome." Luke Buccio concludes, "I don't think it would work with girls."

What lies ahead for the residents of the Communal Living Project? Presidential grandeur, as the case may be. They delivered a formal letter to college president John Martin, inviting him to join them for "an evening of dinner at Garlock Commons, a tour of the Communal Living Suite, a film presentation in The Entertainment Room, and a comforting night of sleep in The Bedroom." Although Dr. Martin respectfully refused a night in The Bedroom, he has accepted the offer of dinner and a film.

Naturally, the Communal Living Project has generated curiosity among other students. "Tourism has definitely increased," observes Bryan Picciotto, the RA. But for the men of Miner 202, the Testosterhome is just another way of life. Is the Communal Living Project an oddity? Or is it the vanguard of a new trend? Only time will tell.

## Miner Commune Becomes "Neighborhood"

As Whitney Houston sang a moving rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," five men walked onto the stage. Four of them were wearing pants.

On February 4, the men of Miner 202 called a press conference to address the rumors which have circulated following the dissolution of the Communal Living Project, affectionately known by its members as the "Testosterhome." After delivering a statement which they had prepared on the back of an Oatmeal Creme Pies box, the Commune's representatives took questions.

In his statement on behalf of the suite, RA Bryan Picciotto introduced plans to convert what was once the Commune into a more segmented but still communal area called the Neighborhood. While the transformation is still in process, the suite has become known as the Ghetto.

With regard to rumors of what brought about the breakup, Picciotto says, "I can confirm the spaghetti and spandex rumor." However, Picciotto wishes to debunk another popular rumor involving a well-trained monkey which allegedly conned the entire Commune into riding on tricycles. Picciotto observes, "We don't have the money to buy tricycles."

The current hard times in the Suite 202 Ghetto can be seen in some of the former Commune members' lack of essential clothing items. Luke Buccio appeared at the press conference barefoot; his RA explained that "the poverty of the Ghetto" had "ravaged" him.

When asked about his lack of pants, Murdock had no comment.



RETRO ROBERTS

# Remembering the Testosterhome





# Dr. Ian Slater

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE  
TITLE IX COORDINATOR

*If you haven't yet met him on the campus sidewalks or heard him cheering on the Redhawks at a soccer game, it's high time you got to know Roberts' new Title IX Coordinator and Associate Vice President of Student Experience, Dr. Ian Slater! We at the Beacon took the opportunity to sit down with him and hear what's on his mind about Roberts.*

## ***What made you choose Roberts?***

Dr. Slater: Roberts has been on my radar for years. I see real people doing real life in real ways, and sometimes it's gritty, and feisty, and has challenges, but it means we have real conversations and we can talk about the messiness of life. Students aren't all the same. They're not all coming from the same backgrounds, and they're not all chasing the same opportunities, but for these few years, we can come together, learn from each other, and figure out big questions in a community. The way that I see Roberts engaging in its commitment as a Christian institution is that it provides an anchor point, but there's also an umbrella of hospitality. And that means we have room to be a little more real and raw, and we don't always have to put on facades and pretend to be a certain way.



## ***What's your favorite thing about Roberts so far?***

The students. Conversations with students, getting to know their hearts, goals, and dreams. And the staff and faculty have been wonderful. They have been overwhelming in their kindness.



## ***What kind of impact do you hope to have on Roberts?***

I think one practical area is identifying where there's fragmentation in the student experience, and pulling together the organization so that you have a more cohesive experience. There are really good people offering really good care in pockets, but an overarching strategy of care needs development and fortification. There should be consistent institutional integrity—so that you know that from office to office, person to person, the same ethos will be expressed.



## ***Any final word to leave us with?***

I want to listen as much as I can. Open invitation—my office is in Student Life. We can get lunch, grab a coffee, I want to hear it all.

## ***Where do you want to see Roberts in five years?***

We've built the house to serve a different population at a different time, and we have to figure out how to keep the best of that, but also how to adapt our policies. So five years from now, I would want to see an organization that's made those pivots, and supports students who now are feeling marginalized—wouldn't it be great if they felt like this house was built for them too?

## ***What do you think of the meme accounts?***

They are gold. They are a modern creative storytelling device that should never be lost. My first week I started following on Instagram, I realized I didn't know the jokes. But the more I get to know, the more I feel like I'm understanding the inside jokes, and the history. One day I will understand them all. (Alternative Roberts Memes is the gold standard.)

## ***How does Roberts compare to the other colleges you've been at?***

I've studied, or worked, or both, in seven colleges. The community feels closer here, and the campus feels more spread out. It has a really nice blend of warmth, pragmatism, and realness. We always put on our own masks—that's human nature—but it stands out to me that here, people look out for each other and care for each other, and are real with each other.

It also feels like a community in transition. Right now, when I'm stepping in, there's a sense of unsettledness. There's been transition and loss, and that'll open new doors, but it's also something to acknowledge and grieve.

Juliana McNew

# Campus Events: September

*Ah, September. The month when people soak up the last sighs of summer, sing about remembering the 21st, and prepare themselves for the season of spooks, scares, and pumpkin spice lattes. It's also one of the most eventful times on campus, featuring two annual occurrences: The Miner Men Cheeseburger Eating Contest and Homecoming.*

*"But wait!" you might be saying. "That was almost two months ago! It's nearly Thanksgiving!" Well, dear reader, that's exactly why I'm writing this. What better way to celebrate than to look back on our fun experiences and feel grateful that we didn't have to worry about finals?*



## 1 Cheeseburger Contest

This year, the Cheeseburger Contest was held on Thursday the 19th. The reigning champion, Jamison, successfully defended his title by eating a total of ten cheeseburgers. He did not, however, break the record of 15 he had set the previous year. But that wasn't the only thing that happened that night. A couple of hours before the competition, a blood moon could be spotted hanging low in the sky. For those who missed it, worry not: another occurs on March 14!

## 2 Homecoming

Homecoming happened only a week later. It opened Friday with a Studio Ghibli themed concert, featuring music from Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind, Howl's Moving Castle, Ponyo, Spirited Away, and My Neighbor Totoro. Saturday was positively overflowing with activities, including a car fair, a variety of sports meets and games, and a second concert performed by the Wind Ensemble. The center of campus was particularly lively. School clubs and other organizations sold their wares while a live band provided the ambience. (My personal favorite purchases were Hildegard the succulent from the Psychology Club and Saint Petersburg McFluffin, one of the many items at Horizons that Gray crocheted.) Finally, the festivities rounded off with some spectacular SNL performances and a movie. May the next Homecoming be equally if not more entertaining.



# Thanksgiving

And when you lay me to rest I will have nothing left  
The money will be spent  
The poems will be lost  
The love will be given.

One day you will wake up on a dreary Sunday  
And think to yourself how today is the day you will see me  
And yet I have been gone for years.

When you think of me  
I hope you think of the leaves  
Cascading in the fall  
Blanketing the ground  
Keeping us warm

I hope you'll think of the worms  
Inching across the sidewalk  
Digging for earth  
And how I picked them up and put them in the grass

I hope you'll think of coffee  
And tea  
And dinners together  
And that time I brought you leftovers  
And that time you brought food to me

I hope you'll think of you  
Of my mother  
Of my father  
Of our friends  
Of the people I loved

I hope you'll think of me  
And all the things I was grateful for  
Because when the money is spent  
And I can no longer bake bread  
Or tell stories  
Or call a friend  
I'll still be with them  
Because I was blessed  
And loved when I had the chance.

**COLETTE ROSICA**



# Weirdest Things: Thanksgiving Edition

**Isaac Fesmire**

You're sitting at the dinner table, Thanksgiving evening. The entire extended family has gathered for food, fights, and football! And everything's going swell until Grandma asks everyone to go around the table and say one thing they're thankful for. The problem? You're at the end of the table, and by the time it reaches you...all the easy answers are taken! So what are you pulling out of your back pocket, that totally 100% accurate answer that no one would see coming? Here's what Roberts students responded with when polled, displayed in the form of everyone's favorite Thanksgiving centerpiece!



## Thanksgiving Traditions

**Nate Magaw**

As the sun starts to set earlier and the weather becomes that typical Rochester cold, Thanksgiving is already almost upon us again. In honor of that, the Beacon decided to poll Roberts students on their Thanksgiving traditions.

One Roberts student mentioned the Turkey Trot. While I don't know if they were talking about the Turkey Trot in my hometown of Webster or not, this is a favorite tradition of mine as well. I'm not much of a runner anymore, but it's fun to do on special occasions like this. I'm looking forward to it even more this year, since I'll get to do it in person, something I didn't do in 2022 or 2023 when I was out of town in Florida.

Metz also chimed in with the Garlock Thanksgiving Meal being one of their favorite traditions. Honestly, I have to concur with this one; it's always a special time. Last year, they had massive turkey legs, which my inner gymrat is praying will make a comeback. The stuffing, mashed sweet potatoes, massive selection of pies and much more are always a huge highlight of this wonderful event. Even if you're someone who doesn't eat at Garlock as much as you used to, I'd recommend turning up for their Thanksgiving meal on November 21.



# Bathroom Reviews

*Note: It should be noted that this author has limited the number of bathrooms to be reviewed due to the excessive number of bathrooms on this honorable campus.*

## 7 Criminal: Garlock

Let's clarify - I don't mean the bathrooms in Garlock by Ellen Stowe. No, I mean the bathrooms with stalls on the other side of the building. You walk into these bathrooms and question if you really have to pee that bad. There's a strange odor, and the floors are always a little bit too sticky. These are the bathrooms of desperation. 0/10 would not cry in these bathrooms.

## 5 Chaotic neutral: Cox Hall

For being one of the oldest buildings on campus, Cox hall has relatively respectable bathrooms. However, music students have reported that their quality has been...lacking lately: lacking hot water in the bathroom and good smells. They are, however, good in a pinch and generally comfortable! Non-music students may have a higher view of these bathrooms than music students - reviews have varied in those I've spoken to. 4/10 -- I haven't cried in these, but many students likely have.

## 3 Just neutral: Upper CLC bathrooms:

These bathrooms would be ranked higher if not for the fact that they sometimes have a certain odor that makes one regret ever stepping foot inside. However, the women's bathroom has a table, floral arrangement, and mirror just by the entrance, making it a sanitary place to place belongings. They are well located, given the number of classrooms in the area. No complaints, but no overly positive comments either. 6.5/10 would cry here if necessary.

## 1 First place: GCEC

It may be because these are the newest bathrooms on campus, but the GCEC bathrooms are a pinnacle of bathroom perfection. The floors? Wouldn't even think of being sticky, ever. The stalls have no gaps in them, allowing one complete privacy. The frosted windows allow filtered natural light while also maintaining privacy. Their cleanliness is something for which every bathroom should aspire (looking at you, Garlock). These bathrooms provide the epitome of peace. 10/10 have cried in these bathrooms.

## 6 Slightly less criminal: Upper VAC

Speaking of slightly sticky floors, next is the upper VAC. While they do their purpose, these bathrooms also always smell a little bit... sweaty. Perhaps it's from the broad combination of students seeking the wellness center, mailroom, campus safety, or sports practices. No matter what, VAC, you can do better. I believe in you. 3/10 would cry here if necessary, but in a very small stall.

## 4 Lightly bacteria-y: Crothers

The bathrooms in Smith / Crothers are somehow both very convenient and out of place. While centrally located, they are the only bathrooms for the relatively large second floor of the building, making for a far walk from any location. A bacterial swab of these bathrooms reportedly grew many microbes, likely due to all the labs in this building. While appearance-wise they are very clean and sanitary, I still wouldn't put my bookbag on the floor. 5/10 have cried here.

## 2 Second place: Library

These bathrooms are almost to GCEC level, but they fall short because they always smell a little bit like old perfume. In general, though, they're quiet and peaceful, which makes a good place to take a break from studying. Always very clean but almost eerily empty, although one can count on the library bathrooms for a moment of calm. 8/10 would cry in here if not for the weird quietness and perfume smell.

# The Beacon



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YOU'RE HERE!)