



## Reed Officials Consider Instituting “Fall Break Break”

Today, as they have done for time immemorial, students are stumbling back into their Monday classes, having mysteriously gotten nowhere near as much work done as they intended. Despite having had an entire week off to catch up on work, many students feel even more tired and behind at the end of the break than they did before. Professors, noting how dazed and ill-prepared their students are after fall break, have petitioned administration to establish a second fall break after the first, with the intent of giving students the opportunity to recover from fall break.

Many students have responded positively to the idea. “A week isn’t long enough to catch up on sleep, finish all your work, and scrape your mental health together. You have to pick one, maybe two if you’re lucky,” says junior Jessica O’Malley. Martin Connolly, a freshman, agrees. “I figured I would have tons of time, but 30 hours of video games and a lot of pizza later it was Friday! I can’t explain it to my Hum conference leader after I turned in my last Hum paper at 3 am with chicken-wing grease on all of the pages.”

Such a change could be instituted as early as next year. However, other professors are pushing back against the idea, saying that “we’ve always expected people to make do with an inadequate amount of time, rest, and personal well-being, and stopping now would just be inconsistent.”

by FS

## The Truth About Neutron Bears: An Interview With a Reactor Operator

Reed College, a liberal arts college in SE Portland, is famous for its hyperactive squirrels, hypoactive students, and a nuclear reactor. The operators are undergrads licensed by the NRC after a year of intense training in all things nuclear. They go through rigorous emergency drills and memorize dozens of pages of dense legal documents in order to impress the government enough to let them push a few buttons on the console. For those outside of the reactor bubble, the secrets of nuclear physics can be very mysterious. Thus, *The Pamphlette* conducted an interview with licensed operator Sarah Brodesser ‘18 in order to lift the Cerenkov blue veil of mystique.

**Pamphlette:** Why the fuck do we even have a reactor?

**Sarah:** Well, nobody really knows. It appeared on campus back in 1968, when Arthur F Scott was Chemistry overlord of the college. Students of old Reed reported that one day, the entire facility was just let swaddled in a light blue blankie on the doorstep of the chemistry building. Staff went to Scott to see if he knew anything about it, but he had mysteriously disappeared in a flash of ozone. He took any knowledge he may have had about the origins of the reactor with him to his grave in 1982. Modern operators have acquired a ouija board in a vain attempt to contact Scott’s spirit and learn more about the many mysteries of the reactor. Rumor has it there is a secret chamber hidden somewhere in the facility that only the one true heir of Scott can access. Within it lies a powerful beast that sleeps dormant until called upon to defend the college.

Personally? I think it’s some sort of amphibious creature that *nests inside the core itself*. That blue glow? Forget all the fancy physics nonsense you heard on some tour. I bet it’s coming from the monster itself. You’ll also notice that the lights on the blue bridge glows the *EXACT SAME COLOR!* Could they really be eggs that the reactor beast laid decades ago? Nobody really knows anything for sure. But I believe that one day, in Reed’s hour of need, the chosen operator will awaken the core beast and it will protect us all.

**Pamphlette:** What are neutron bears?

**Sarah:** The Reed Research Reactor is the only reactor that is operated by undergraduates. It is also the only reactor that is operated by a team of highly trained grizzly bears. During finals weeks, all of the operators are too busy crying into textbooks and cups of coffee. This is when our backup staff, the neutron bears, take over. We dress them in black skinny jeans and blue underscuts and the bears actually blend right in with all the other reedies here. It’s surprising that no one has noticed that the reactor is literally ran by bears for two weeks out of the year.

**Pamphlette:** What happens when the reactor goes critical?

**Sarah:** When the reactor goes critical, it means that we are at a steady power. This happens when the fuel is fissioning and producing lots and lots of neutrons. However, the neutrons are not being produced at the correct rate, so the core starts getting very judgmental and begins criticizing the fuel’s work. This results in a surplus of emotionally compromised neutrons. All of these neutrons begin running away from the core as fast as they can because it’s become very toxic. The neutrons run away and make it into the neutron detectors. They hide there the entire time the reactor is critical. Because there’s the same number of neutrons hiding in the detectors as the core, we’re at a steady power.

by HZ

## Last Freshman Gives In, Starts Smoking

Stressing that it had nothing to do with trying to look cool, Anna Bartman ‘19, the last freshman who did not smoke, finally surrendered and purchased a pack of cigarettes from the Paradox cafe.

“I mean yeah, all my friends started smoking, but that had nothing to do with it. Seriously.” said Bartman, peeling the plastic wrapping off of the Camels carton she had just purchased. “I just... Whatever, I’m just stressed, okay? ...These help with stress, right?”

Walking over to a group of freshpeople smoking by commons, Bartman proceeded to stick a cigarette backwards into her mouth and then begin to light it before being stopped by a friend.

“Yeah, we were wondering when Anna was gonna come around.” said John Myers ‘19, a friend of Bartman’s. “I guess she just like, didn’t want to be cool for a while or something? I dunno, some people are just like that I guess. But I’m glad she changed her mind.”

At press time, Bartman had just taken a long drag and was coughing profusely.



*Look at how cool she is. So cool.*

by JG

## Trump Rally Devolves Into Violent Brawl; What Else Is New?

CW: violence, bigotry, racism, homophobia. This is satire but somehow not the *funny* kind. Sorry.

This week, yet another rally for presidential hopeful Donald Trump came to a violent end. Trump haters and supporters alike combined forces in the huge arena as everyone present began murderously attacking each other. The fight dragged on for hours, leaving mutilated bodies and rampant destruction in its wake.

Reports say that much of the violence was prompted by bigotry, as each self-proclaimed “all-American” attendee of the rally found a reason to hate each and every one of their neighbors.

*The Pamphlette* was lucky enough to speak with a survivor of the event to get the inside scoop on the progression of occurrences.

“It all started with Trump’s anti-immigration platform,” recalls the anonymous informant. “He was just giving his speech, some of us were cheering, you know, it was great. Then this Mexican guy appears out of nowhere and starts yelling back. Screaming some shit about fundamental human rights or something, I don’t know. And the entire front row just *freaks the fuck out* and a bunch of people run up and totally maul the guy. It was nuts. And it was all downhill from there.”

As the crowd of white people gathered around, sharing their common hatred of anyone different from them, they began to realize that each individual among them was different in some way. At least twelve men were attacked for being suspected of homosexuality, and a handful of families with skin a couple shades darker than an eggshell were smashed to pieces.

“It got even worse. Shit like eye color entered into it. Like Aryan supremacy to the extreme, man. It entered the realm of the absurd. I saw a girl get punched in the face because she was wearing a scarf that looked vaguely like a hijab. Everyone who was wearing red without white or blue was called a “filthy commie” and got kicked firmly in the groin. And things only got bloodier when people started discussing their favorite superheroes and video game characters.”

Apparently, Trump and most of his campaign staff managed to escape in their van before the worst of it. But by then people had become caught up in the fight and were determined to eliminate anyone who didn’t fit their mold of perfect citizenship.

Another informant with a deep gash through their forearm recalls getting jumped for admitting that they preferred peach pie to apple and a Scottish brand of whiskey over good old Kentucky bourbon. Yet another claimed that Black Widow was way cooler than Captain America and promptly lost an ear.

There were even a few shootings, because who wouldn’t bring their gun to a Trump rally? This is America and we have freedom here.

Just not freedom to be unique in any way.

by ER