

# The JMAK!

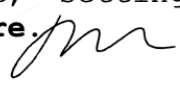
A journal of student discourse at Roberts Wesleyan College

The JMAK ("jay-mack") is an American multimedia op-ed journal and news source run by Roberts Wesleyan College undergraduate students [Joseph Marziale '23](#), [Alyssa Kear '23](#), and [Vincent Liberto '23](#).

Joe and Alyssa originally founded The Marziale Telos and By Grace, respectively) as a digital alternative college newspaper in July 2020 during the social unrest provoked in part by the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of that publication was to unify the student body with professional perspectives on contemporary politics, economics, religion, social justice, academia, and the arts. The newspaper and reform the discourse by aimed to refresh the bulk of modern priorities of introducing the speaking truth, upholding literary integrity, and exhibiting cautious optimism as humans navigate through a world in which these are scarce resources.

The ideals that sparked the success of the newspaper are maintained today in 2021 as The JMAK expands into a multimedia entity. The newspaper has expanded its distribution across its all of campus at Roberts Wesleyan College. Moreover, The JMAK has welcomed computer science major Vinny Liberto as a co-owner to assist in the development and production of a podcast, an Instagram presence, and a website.

At present, The JMAK primarily serves the Roberts Wesleyan College student body; however, its staff works daily to ensure its future expansion and influence across the world stage, setting its own calendar for doing so. **Welcome to the future.**





## Fireworks, Freedom, and Faithfulness



by Alyssa Kear

Every July, we eat hotdogs, watch parades, and view spectacular fireworks in the sky to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence many years ago. We celebrate the initial freedom that the American colonies had from Great Britain's rule. Freedom is surely something to celebrate.

Freedom in the geopolitical sense is great, but only on the macro level. What about people's hearts, minds, souls? Is there freedom to be discovered there?



Yes! There is freedom found in Jesus. This freedom is rooted in God's absolute and perfect love for us. He loves us so much that He decided to take the burdens and effects of our sins upon himself by sending His son Jesus to the cross to die a criminal's death. By doing so, He liberated our souls from the crushing hold of our sinful nature. As Galatians 5:1 says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

Being free, in this sense, does not mean the capability to go wild for our fleshly desires or to do whatever we want without penalty. Actually, this freedom means quite the opposite. Freedom found in Jesus means life that is "free from the law of sin and death" because of the price Jesus paid for us (Romans 8:2). Because of God's work of

**"[The] freedom we have is the opportunity to find new life in Jesus by following His word. Freedom is faithfulness."**

sending His son to spare our very souls, we are called to be obedient to Him. Being obedient to God means going against our sinful human nature - called our "flesh" in scripture - which has the potential for us to make dangerous and destructive decisions.

Freedom is gained by escaping the bondage of worldly masters. I think it is so important to note that while writing about freedom in Christ, Paul mentions "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24). So in actuality, this freedom we have is freedom from being stuck in our sins and being condemned to death. This freedom we have is the opportunity to find new life in Jesus by following His word. Freedom is faithfulness.

I hope we make the choice to find freedom. Only in the Father is true, eternal freedom found. God assures us that there is so much more for us than the sins that hold us down. Now feel free to go light some fireworks. Take time to celebrate what Jesus has done for you!



## Live Every Day

by Vincent Liberto, a brand new CO-OWNER  
of The JMAK! 100



What's the first thing you do when you wake up? For most of us, we check our phones to see what notifications have been collecting over the last few hours of sleep. We then get ready to head off to work/class and go on with our days. After work we head home, do whatever needs to get done or relax, then head back to bed to restart that cycle again. This is our routine and we love the comfort that our routine brings us. One aspect of everyone's day that gets thrown in the background like white noise is life itself. Believe it or not, we take this life we've been blessed with for granted. For most of us, unless some traumatic experience happens we rarely take a step back to thank God for blessing us with the life we've been given.

Now, I haven't written this to make you feel bad. But, to give you an insight into the great gift we've all been given. I do not subscribe to the thought of living every day as if it's your last. This can cause many unwise decisions. I live by a thought I think you should all challenge yourselves to live by. A few years ago I was watching a Dave Chappelle comedy special, though Chappelle is one of the funniest people in the world, he said a phrase in this special that changed the way I wanted to live life.

Don't let the weight on your branches bring you down. Chappelle said, "I ask everyone to make one incredible memory for themselves and/or somebody else." Fulfill your days with memories you will never forget. It could be something as simple as taking your s/o out for ice cream or having a movie night with your friends. Make an impact on others and be proud of the person you're becoming. Do so, through God's grace. Love like Jesus loved, this will rub off on others and positivity will flourish. Trust me, there will be down days. Remember those days and build off them to achieve the happiness and fulfillment that you deserve. Go out and participate in charitable acts, be proud of yourself for helping others. The great part about every day is that you decide to put in

that extra effort to make someone's day. Have a self-care day when you're tired. Stop pushing off that adventure you want to take with your friends, go out and do it!

Make God a priority in your life. I know the last year was rough to go through. Looking back on it, yes there were a lot of negative things that took place. But, looking at the past and feeling down for what could've been, gets you nowhere. Look at the positive results of the last year. Many found out how to teach themselves and learn in ways they would've never thought would be achievable. Many other opportunities resulted in missed opportunities. We all think we have this set in stone plan in life. We've done everything in our power to make this plan doable, but I'm sorry to inform you, it's unlikely your plan is going to go the way you think it will. Life would be boring if it did. God has a plan and you can try to go against it all you want but you'll fail every time. The quote goes, "Let go, and let God." He knows what's best much better than you do.



"Make an impact on others and be proud of the person you're becoming."

When I was younger, every day before my dad would leave to go teach he would yell to us kids, "This is going to be the best day of your lives!" It's up to you if you want to make that memory, do that act of kindness, or make the most out of whatever comes your way. Live life with a happy outlook, and don't let the negative push you off your path to success. God will guide you, all you need to do is hold on.



**Vincent Liberto** is the Chief Operations Officer (COO) and co-founder of The JMAK. Vinny specializes in computer science but also discusses faith and productivity with a focus on introspection and self-growth. He is a sophomore at Roberts Wesleyan College.



# Free Speech in the Digital Landscape

by Ben Deacon

*Ben Deacon is a senior management & social entrepreneurship major at Roberts Wesleyan College and a guitarist for ReapR. He is a pro-capitalist with a libertarian slant, looking to depict modern events with a Judeo-Christian worldview.*

**"We as individuals are left with the responsibility to reach across the aisle and attempt to honestly understand the concerns of those who disagree with us without looking for a "gotcha" moment to shut down the other side."**

On January 8th, 2021, a sitting President of the United States was banned from Twitter and Facebook. The word "unprecedented" has been thrown around a lot over the past year, but the act of cutting off a political leader from the largest social media platforms in the world can only be described under those terms as well as the violent events in the capitol that led to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg making those decisions. This has led to the questions of where the concept of freedom of speech fits in a world where discourse primarily takes place over private social media platforms and whether or not certain statements can be seen as equal to violence.



The issue of censorship on social media platforms is difficult because it relies on the reconciliation of two facts that for the time being will not change:

**(1) Free speech is absolute and is guaranteed by the constitution no matter how heinous the words said by an individual or group (some legal exceptions in cases of incitement to violence and slander, but for the purposes of this article it is best to treat free speech as being absolute);**

**(2) Social media platforms are privately owned companies that are free to set their own rules in terms of what is said on their platforms.**

Twitter's "incitement of violence" policy lead to the ban of now-Former President Trump among other right-wing politicians.

Barring a radical change in the Constitution or the adoption of a "Digital Bill of Rights" as has been proposed by certain lobbyist groups, any debate over online speech needs to treat these facts as absolutely true or else the conversation will go nowhere. With that being said, what is to be done when roughly half of the country feels that they are being censored by large social media corporations? Simply stating the fact that social media companies can do what they want is true, but it doesn't do anything to push people away from political echo chambers

where they are doomed to become radicalized without opposition to their ideas.

So what are we left with? We as individuals are left with the responsibility to reach across the aisle and attempt to honestly understand the concerns of those who disagree with us without looking for a "gotcha" moment to shut down the other side. We are led to possibly spend less time on social media and more time interacting with our friends and family members who hold radically different views as human beings. The United States of America is looking less united every day, but instead of digging our heels in for our ideology of choice at the expense of our fellow countrymen, taking on the radical responsibility to freely speak our mind as honestly as possible and listen to others as openly as possible seems to be the only way forward. No government policy, administration, or social media company can take away your freedom to work as an individual to take on the culture of outrage and partisanship to lead to **real unity**.



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