

TALKING POINTS

MULTICULTURAL CITIZENSHIP
 ANTI-RACISM & ACCOUNTABILITY
 RECONCILIATION & RESTORATION

**CULTURAL
 CALENDAR
 OF EVENTS**

- Feb 5, African American Read-In at Chapel, 10am. The Fish House, 10:30am-2pm
- Feb 5-9, Five Days in the Black World, www.calvin.edu/go/multicultural for a complete schedule
- Feb 7, Nikki Giovanni at GRCC, 7pm
- Feb 8, Christian Comedy Night (MSDO) featuring Chinnitta Morris (formerly known as "Chocolate"), 7pm
- Feb 10, Black Knight Formal, Commons Dining Hall, 6-9pm
- Feb 12-14, MSDO showing film, "When the Levees Broke," Boer-Bennink, 6:30-7:30pm
- Feb 13, Kevin Bales' lecture, "Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy, Commons Lecture Hall, 3:30-5:00pm

*Calendar continued on page 4

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

MICHELLE LOYD-PAIGE

The other day I was asked, "All I hear is talk, talk, talk about how Calvin College wants to become a multicultural campus; but what has the college actually done to achieve this?" For a minute, my mind was racing through all the changes that I have seen in the last twenty years as a faculty member... and all the changes that I would yet like to see. For one thing, I am no longer 100%, or even 50%, of the African-American faculty on campus (Praise the Lord!!).

While I understand where the question comes from, in a less guarded moment I would have responded



with my own questions, "What have YOU done? What does YOUR class material look like? What multicultural dialogues have you initiated or participated in? Why are you waiting for Calvin College to do something, why don't YOU do something? When will this project become YOUR responsibility and not just that of a few people?" As I said, in a less guarded moment, I would have unleashed my own set of questions to that

individual, but it was not the right time or place.

However, these are questions that I have for the whole of the Calvin community (myself included). When will this project of "multicultural citizenship, anti-racism and accountability, and restoration and reconciliation" become OUR responsibility? When will we hold ourselves accountable (not just the institution) for the racism that has been and is present, whether intentional or not? When will WE find the time and energy to be the change we want to see?

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

There are no winners and losers in the battle against racism. Its defeat is not a victory for one particular group, but for society as a whole, and for us all as human beings.

PROJECT HIP-HOP, 1997

"And don't call me a racist!"

Argonaut Press, 1998, pg 94

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HIGHLIGHTS OF FALL 2006 ACTIVITIES

Multicultural Lectures

- Sponsored several speakers for M. Bierling Spanish 370 class—Fall 2006
- Co-Sponsored with English, Slavoj Zizek “In What Sense was Nietzsche a Christian”—Nov 10-11
- Co-Sponsored with English, Ingrid de Kok, poetry reading—Sep 19
- Co-Sponsored with Byker Chair, Jose Casanova—Nov 13
- Sponsored Mwenda Ntarangwi lecture, “Cross-Cultural Engagement in the Classroom”—Nov 3

Cultural Celebration/Multicultural Artists

- Initiated and Sponsored Hmong New Year Celebration—Nov 16
- Co-Sponsored with President’s Office, Nathaniel Dett Chorale—Oct 27
- Co-Sponsored with Student Activities, Sierra Leone Refugee All Stars—Nov 3
- Co-Sponsored with Student Activities, Keith Butler—Sep 15

Faculty Development

- Sponsored Research Roundtable Discussion and Lunch for faculty of color—Dec 11
- Sponsored travel and attendance to Joint Conference of Librarians of Color—Oct 11
- Co-Facilitation: Anti-Racism Caucusing group (people of color group)—Fall 2006

Staffing

- Welcomed Mr. Razel Jones as administrative assistant for the office of multicultural affairs—Oct 16



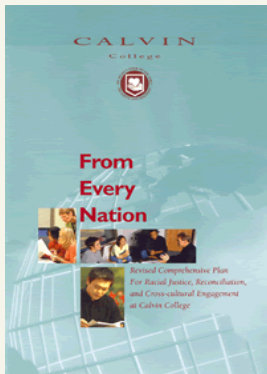
Students at the Hmong
New Year Celebration in
November

OUR GOAL . . .

The goal of racial reconciliation and restoration—a goal that rests upon an active commitment to identify and root out racism—remains paramount. In the words of the original Comprehensive Plan, we must continue to strive toward “integrating North American ethnic minority persons and their interests into every facet of Calvin’s institutional life.” At the same time, as noted earlier, we must recognize that this North American focus is only part of the

larger commitment to justice and a multicultural community that is incumbent upon us as citizens of an increasingly interdependent global society and a truly global Kingdom of God. In the pursuit of this commitment, there is no need to put one set of goals against another. The sensitivities and attitudes engendered by a focused commitment to anti-racism should work to foster a genuine multicultural community not only for “North

American ethnic minority persons” but also for international students and faculty, and even for white students and faculty who may have felt alienated by Dutch-CRC exclusionism in the past. The pursuit of restoration in racial and cultural relations should work to reinforce, even as it is reinforced by, the pursuit of restoration in other areas such as gender and class relations and ability issues.



I N C R E A S I N G O U R A W A R E N E S S

“Calvin College will develop a more racially and culturally diverse community (faculty, staff, administration and student body), one that increasingly reflects the multiracial and multicultural character of the Body of Christ, [a community] able to discern and counter racism in all its forms and to embody the reconciling power of the Gospel.” (FEN 40)

Calvin's *From Every Nation* document serves as our handbook on racial activities.

9 T H A N N U A L S U M M I T O N R A C I S M

For a decade now, hundreds of participants have gathered at the annual Summit on Racism, as the former Citizens League recommended, in a “public forum at which citizens can testify about personal experiences that promote racial justice, and organizations can describe their work and successes from the previous year...”

On March 23, 2007, we will gather for the Ninth Annual Forum, at DeVos Place, in downtown Grand Rapids, from 8:00-10:30a.m. in a spectacular breakfast event where the tipping point plan will be unveiled.

Registration is \$20 (available online after February 1)

www.graceoffice.org

F R O M E V E R Y N A T I O N S Y M P O S I U M O N R A C E

We are looking forward to our first From Every Nation Symposium on Race to be held at Calvin College on March 14-15, 2007.

Calvin’s Office for Multicultural Affairs with support from Calvin’s Center for Social Research, Education Department, Sociology Department, Community Engagement and the Presidents’ Implementation Group of the West Michigan Colleges & University Presidents’ Compact present the following events open to the public and free of charge:

Wednesday, March 14th

3:30pm-Allan Johnson, Social Construction of Difference, Alumni Board Room

7:00pm-Allan Johnson, What Does Privilege Have to do with Us?, Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Thursday, March 15th

3:30-MAC Listening Session, Commons Lecture Hall

7:00-Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Racism Without Racists-Color Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States, Commons Lecture Hall

T E A C H I N G A M E R I C A A B O U T R A C E

One thing is certain: Americans have strong perceptions — and misperceptions — about the meaning and significance of race. Attempting to poke holes in prejudices and provide the latest scientific and scholarly understanding of the issue, the American Anthropological Association has created an interactive educational

program called RACE: Are We So Different? Also featured is a traveling museum exhibition, and project organizers are developing educational materials for teachers and organizing future conferences.

“We have taken a comprehensive look at race in America and have spent five and a half years pulling this

together,” said Peggy Overbey, the program’s project director. The project’s website, www.understandingrace.org/home.html, presents quizzes, timelines and other interactive activities designed to consider questions on the history of race in America, human variation across the planet, and race as a “lived experience.”

-Jan 11 Paul D. Thacker
www.insidehighered.com/news/2007/01/11/race



R & R READING GROUPS (RECONCILIATION & RESTORATION)

There is still time to join our R&R Reading Groups. All times are 12-1:30pm. Tuesday meetings are repeat sessions of the preceding Monday meeting; it is not necessary to come to both in the same week, so you can choose either. If you're interested in signing up, email Razel at roj2@calvin.edu

Tim Wise's White Like Me
Meets in Student Senate Meeting Room

Reading Schedule:

Feb 19/20	Preface & Born Belonging
Mar 5/6	Privilege
Apr 2/3	Resistance
Apr 16/17	Collaboration
Apr 30/May 1	Loss
May 14/15	Redemption

Barack Obama's Dreams From My Father
Meets in Faculty Meeting Room

Reading Schedule:

Feb 12/13	Preface—Chapter 1
Feb 26/27	Chapters 2, 3, 4
Mar 12/13	Chapters 5, 6, 7
Mar 26/27	Chapters 8, 9, 10
Apr 9/10	Chapters 11, 12, 13
Apr 23/24	Chapters 14, 15, 16
May 7/8	Chapters 17, 18, 19, Epilogue

BLACK HISTORY MONTH, DID YOU KNOW?

- As of July 1, 2004, there were an estimated 39.2 million Black residents in the U.S., including those of more than one race. They made up 13.4% of the total U.S. population. This figure represents an increase of half a million residents from one year earlier.

- The projected single-race Black population of the U.S. as of July 1, 2050 is 61.4 million. On that date, according to the projection, Blacks would constitute 15% of the nation's total population.

- As of July 1, 2004, 59% of the District of Columbia's (D.C.) population was identified as Black—the highest rate for this race group of any state or state-equivalent in the nation. D.C. was followed by Mississippi (37%), Louisiana (33%) and Georgia, Maryland and South Carolina (30% each).

- \$92.7 billion receipts from Black-owned businesses existed in 2002, up 30% from 1997. The rate at which Black-owned businesses increased their receipts was higher than the national average (22%).

- 18% of Blacks 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2004—up 5 percentage points from 1994.

- 1.1 million Blacks age 25 or older had an advanced degree in 2004 (e.g., master's Ph.D., M.D. or J.D.). Ten years earlier—in 1994—only 624,000 Blacks had this level of education.

- In 2004, 2.3 million Black college students were enrolled, roughly double the number 15 years earlier.

- 60% of Black citizens age 18 and older voted in the 2004 presidential election.

That amounted to 14 million voters. Blacks had the highest turnout rate of any minority group in 2004.

- There were 2.3 million Black military veterans in the U.S. in 2003. (Source: American FactFinder)

- 27% of Blacks age 16 and older work in management, professional and related occupations. (Source: American FactFinder)

- There are 50,600 Black physicians and surgeons; 69,400 postsecondary teachers; 44,800 lawyers; and 53,800 chief executives. (Source: Upcoming Statistical Abstract of the U.S.: 2006)

- As of January, 2007, 284 Blacks have graduated from Calvin College with degrees.

CULTURAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED

- Feb 22, Dr. Bernard Taylor, "Public Education in General and Grand Rapids Public Schools in Particular," Chapel, 12-1pm
- Feb 22, Admissions International Student Dinner, Gezon Lower Lobby, 5-8pm
- Feb 23, Leadership Luncheon (MSDO), Alumni Board Room, 12:30-2pm
- Feb 23-24, Rangeela, Fine Arts Center Auditorium, 8pm
- Feb 27, "The Legacy of African American Women: We Keep Moving," Loosemore Auditorium, GVSU Pew Campus, 7pm