

CALVIN COLLEGE



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Budget gap shrinks 33 percent after first round of cuts

BY RYAN STRUYK
Editor in Chief

Calvin administrators are one-third of the way to closing the school's \$11.5 million budget gap after cutting three to seven percent of spending in most departments across campus this fiscal year.

"I'm elated with the progress we've made," said President Michael Le Roy. "Our goal is to get this behind us as soon as we possibly can so we can focus on the future."

But the progress comes at the expense of campus-wide cuts: eight percent from the president's office, seven percent from administration and finance, six percent from student life, five percent from advancement, five percent from academics and three percent from enrollment, according to a 24-page report obtained by Chimes.

Information technology, physical plant and human resources were not cut.

Le Roy hopes to use fundraising and more income sources to reduce the number of cuts Calvin will have to make in the

near future.

"We're looking at a variety of steps to close the gap by 2017," Le Roy said. "We're going to try to be very successful in revenue growth strategies. The more successful we are there and with fundraising, the fewer expense reductions we will need."

Cuts also included a nine percent reduction to the Prince Conference Center, four percent to the Hekman Library and three percent to Creative Dining Services.

"We are determined to close our gap by 2017," he said.

The \$11.5 million budget gap mainly comes from having to add a debt service payment of \$9.7 million to the operating budget by 2017. The rest of the gap stems from balancing the current budget.

This first round of cuts did not go through the full prioritization process expected to end this spring. Instead, heads of departments around the college identi-

fied five percent and 10 percent cuts in their division.

Then, Le Roy's cabinet and the planning and priorities com-

said Sally Vander Ploeg, vice president for finance and administration. "We didn't take them evenly across the board, though.

college millions of dollars on healthcare coverage.

About \$2 million of the current \$6.2 million debt service payment is currently integrated into the operating budget and administrators hope to have another \$1 million added by the next fiscal year, according to Vander Ploeg.

However, administrators hope the debt service payment will be lowered from the expected \$9.7 million in 2017, through possible debt restructuring.

Looking forward, Calvin leadership is optimistic, but realizes there is still work to be done.

"We made a lot of progress last year, and that's gotten us a long way," said Vander Ploeg. "But we're going to have to continue to be innovative and creative about how we go about the business of higher education."



PHOTO BY RYAN STRUYK

President Le Roy and provost Claudia Beversluis meet to discuss the budget and budget cuts.

mittee decided which of those items to cut.

"Each division came to the table with their five and 10 percent cut as promised,"

We tried to be strategic about the cuts we chose."

The board of trustees approved the budget last May, ending 22 staff positions and saving the

Faculty skeptical of process for new core

LAUREN DEHAAN
Local News Editor

Professors from the English, philosophy and religion departments say the new core draft does not make a good enough case to prompt changes to current core.

These faculty members argue the process of core revision was rushed and has left some major gaps in the core draft.

"One of the concerns I had was that the proposal generated a lot of changes to core without input across campus," said philosophy department chair Ruth Groenhout.

The changes proposed in the draft include eliminating some current core classes and combining classes from different departments into the same categories. Many humanities professors say this kind of major change cannot be made rashly.

"There has been no real opportunity for faculty to sit down and talk about the current core and potential problems," English professor James Vanden Bosch said.

According to religion professor Richard Plantinga, the process of revising core has so far seemed under-the-table and has not been an open discussion. This can "generate hostility among faculty," Plantinga said.

The initial concerns about lack

of transparency meant a lot of people had negative reactions to the draft, said Groenhout.

Some professors say there was no room for faculty input at all. "The faculty role in the creation of this proposal has been non-existent," said religion professor David Crump. "It is a complete violation of due process."

Moreover, many faculty members doubt the current core has major problems in the first place.

"I would like to be assured that we have looked at lots of different issues and problems with the current core," said English department chair Elizabeth Vander Lei. "My fears have not been assured."

Most of the problems presented in the core proposal do not seem carefully researched and based on facts, said English professor Don Hettinga. "I am not so sure that there is a demonstrated problem with the current core," Hettinga said. "Much evidence seems anecdotal."

According to Vander Lei, faculty members across departments need to work to identify potential problems with the current core, find evidence to support these perceptions and then examine all possible solutions before any decisions are made.

If problems are determined, it

will take a significant amount of time to draft a new core, Plantinga said.

"Even if it is confirmed that Calvin's core is too large, there may be other ways to reduce it," Plantinga said. "We think things through carefully here [at Calvin], and we haven't done that with this proposal."

The process of core revision may be drawn out in light of faculty concerns.

"I can't imagine how we could complete all the processes necessary to pass a new core by the end of this academic year," said Vander Lei.

Faculty say the recently drafted core model may have too much criticism to become a reality.

"My main observation is that without that campus-wide discussion of the current core's strengths and weaknesses, there is no reason to move forward with the proposal," said Vanden Bosch.

Groenhout said the combination of concerns about losing faculty, good courses and the integrity of a core education at Calvin seems to mean this specific proposal does not have much of a chance.

"We [the philosophy department] do not think it is a done deal at all," she said.

'Fault in Our Stars' review

BY KATYA BRINK
Guest Writer

"The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green attempts to distinguish itself from the average cancer novel. These aspects, however, lead to the novel's faults. Green has written other novels, though some people might know him for his part in the popular YouTube channel The Vlogbrothers.

Green's signature style mixed with a stereotypical book about cancer results in "The Fault in Our Stars." The novel features a witty protagonist with extreme intelligence and interesting quirks. Meet Hazel Grace, a girl afflicted with terminal lung cancer. Since this is a Green novel, Hazel cannot be a person with average intelligence. As a 16-year-old, she goes to community college and speaks with thought-provoking wit beyond her age.

Enter Augustus Waters, a boy Hazel meets at a cancer group. Augustus Waters takes an interest in Hazel, putting cigarettes in his mouth to prove a metaphor. Little quirks such as this add dimension to Augustus' character. Instead of defining him, they help shape his character.

Both Hazel and Augustus struggle with their illnesses. Hazel feels like a grenade, ready

to blow up and hurt those close to her. She keeps her distance from people because she wants to lessen the pain of her death. Augustus has lost a leg and deals with the aftermath of this. As they fall in love, they must deal with the cancer and these issues.

Hazel meets Augustus and feels attracted to him, allowing someone to love her despite her terminal illness. Conversations about her favorite book, "An Imperial Affection," result in a slow process of falling in love, as well as a trip to Amsterdam. The teenagers speak unrealistically, giving grandiose, insightful speeches.

By using some of his typical conventions, Green has created an important novel on a well-trodden topic. The cancer aspects of the novel are quite heartbreaking. Characters such as Hazel and Augustus' friend Isaac and Hazel's mom and dad fully come to life. However, it's a pity that Hazel's only female friend takes a backseat in the novel. It would be nice to see her fleshed out a bit more and become more than a plot convenience.

Overall, "The Fault in Our Stars" will appeal to fans of Green's previous novels and those wishing for a funny, yet heartbreaking read.

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Chimes is the official newspaper of Calvin College. The mission of Chimes is to serve the community of Calvin College in a variety of ways: we aim to reform, review, challenge and foster dialogue within the community.

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWS-
PAPER OF CALVIN COLLEGE
SINCE 1907

Talks continue on RA work load

BY BEN RIETEMA
On-Call Writer

Dorm worship, Chaos Day, retreats, one-on-one meetings with the resident director (RD), one-on-one meetings with dorm residents, resident assistant (RA) meetings, being a presence in the dorm, working at the front desk — too much!

“With so many events, meetings and activities that you are expected to go to as an RA, I find myself going through the motions but not really giving 100 percent,” senior Megan Peshek said. “If I am going to give my time to something, I’d rather really give it my all than just being present so that other people notice.”

Are any changes being made to RAs’ workload? While the dialogue has continued between RAs, RDs and residence life regarding these pressures and feelings of being overworked, no adjustments have been made yet.

“Their feedback is important,” said John Witte, dean of residence life, “and even as we acknowledge that not everything about the job can change, I think this will be a good process.”

In the future, changes may be forthcoming. Residence life and RDs are making an effort to hear what RAs have to say about their workload. Recently, residence life sent a survey asking how valuable certain events were to RAs.

Witte said the survey was formed to give specific feedback and will be helpful information for residence life.

Not everything can be changed, but one thing Peshek found frustrating is all the events that RAs have to attend. These events are not all particularly useful to the RAs, and some of them conflict with academics.

“There are so many events on campus and in dorms,” Peshek said. “Besides being on your floor you have other commitments and even being a student first becomes hard.”

Junior Zee Kandanga, who sometimes had to miss events

related to her major for RA duties, echoed the mindset of being a student first.

“There is a lot of stuff to be present at,” she said. “Sometimes we are not able to get out of our RA responsibilities for academics, which can be frustrating because I’m here to be a student first and [an] RA second.”

However, Kandanga pointed out that the pressures of an RA fluctuated, and the key was to find a balance — although the balance was hard to find on certain days when many events overlapped.



PHOTO BY GRANT ALPHENAAR

RAs are now required to be on deskie duty.

“What’s most stressful about being an RA is the ability to find a balance between your job and everything else outside of it,” Kandanga said. “There are three hours or so a week when it feels really overwhelming. And that one day, it feels super stressful. But as a whole, it’s not that stressful.”

Finding a balance, limiting social events and continued conversation are all being mulled over because, as Witte affirmed, RAs are key to the workings of Calvin College.

“The work of our department in managing our living areas and caring for our students couldn’t be done without them,” he said. “It’s an intense experience, which we try to make rewarding through fair compensation and professional, personal and spiritual growth.”

Although RAs are appreciated, Witte said that he was not sure if any changes would occur in the RAs’ workload.

“I can’t really guess if any changes will be made,” Witte said, “and I’d like to say as little as possible at this point, given that I just haven’t heard enough from our staff.”

World Food Fair showcases dishes from 17 countries

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS
Guest Writer

Students celebrated culture while tickling their taste buds at the World Food Fair this Friday.

Held on the east end of commons lawn, the final event of UnLearn Week was set up carnival-style, featuring a table from each country, colorful flags from all over the world and upbeat music. Students could purchase four tickets for \$1, 10 tickets for \$2 or all-you-can-eat for \$3. The tickets were then exchanged for servings of food at the various tables.

Calvin’s international students enjoyed sharing their culture’s unique food in a fun environment.

Many students prepared dishes that are considered common, or basic, in their country. The Indian table handed out chai tea and portions of chicken curry on naan bread. According to sophomore Michael David, there are numerous regional variations of curry, but he chose chicken curry because it is an across-the-board standard that repre-

sents the whole nation.

David went on to state why he believed the food fair was an important contribution to UnLearn Week.

“Food says a lot about a country,” he explained. In India, people eat spicy foods because the climate is so warm. Though it seems counterintuitive to northerners, the heat of the spicy food actually cools off the body by making you sweat. “And we just like the effect of spicy food on the tongue,” he added with a laugh.

Another student chef emphasized the importance of breaking down stereotypes and educating people about cultural differences.

“Lots of people think, ‘Oh, you’re African, you eat this, you’re like this,’ but there are so many diverse countries in Africa,” said Grace Thuo, a Kenya native. She hoped that this event would help

Buck Fridays hosts Fall Fest

BY CARISSA VANHAITSMA
Guest Writer

Most Calvin students would not expect to spend their Friday night with goats, but that’s just what many students did at this past week’s Buck Fridays event.

On Oct. 15, Buck Fridays held an event at Post Family Farms, which included a “petting zoo,” where students could pet goats and pigs. This event was Buck Fridays’ sixth event this semester.

For an entrance fee of \$1, students could participate in many events in addition to the petting zoo. These events included a hayride, a corn maze, line dancing, a playground and a zip line. For an additional \$1, students could have apple cider, donuts and s’mores.

Erik Newhouse was the student staff-member in charge of this particular Buck Fridays event. According to Newhouse, the goal of the event was to “get students off campus and interacting with a cultural tradition

want to leave!” Newhouse said. “We expected this would be an enjoyable event, but were honestly blown away by the sheer magnitude of students who came out.”

Corrie VanderBrug, a first-year student living in Noordewier-VanderWerp, was able to attend the event at Post Family Farms and enjoyed the time she spent there.

“It was a lot of fun and we did everything,” VanderBrug said. “The people were really nice; the driver for the hayride let us go back for our friend and then skip the line to get back on the ride.”

VanderBrug said she enjoyed all the activities, the donuts and the cider, but her favorite part of the night was the corn maze. Most of the students who attended the event were freshmen and sophomores. Post Family Farms is 30 minutes away from Calvin College; Buck Fridays did not provide rides to Post Family Farms. A lack of transportation to the farm could be an issue for students living on campus; however, many dorms made transportation



PHOTO BY GRANT ALPHENAAR

Students venture to Post Family Farms for hayrides and cider.

unique to West Michigan — the rural farm community.”

Over 600 students attended the event, which was more than the Buck Fridays team expected. Overall, Newhouse said that the event was a success.

“The huge number of participants were spread out between the hayride, corn maze, square dancing and the bonfire, and it was difficult for anyone to

arrangements for their students.

Many members of the Post family are alumni of Calvin College, so the family has strong ties with the Calvin community, according to Newhouse. The Post family helped drive the hayride and run the event, along with the Buck Fridays team. VanderBrug commented on the friendliness of the farm workers, saying they were all nice and welcoming to the students.

to take away people’s assumptions about her country and give them just one small taste of the rich culture that makes her country unique.

The fair offered a huge variety of dishes to choose from. Student favorites included plantains from

not all the dishes were unfamiliar. “One of the Korean dishes reminded me of my grandmother. She used to make it for us.” Cremean’s memory demonstrates the power of food in connecting us with our home and our family.

For students who didn’t recognize a single morsel, the connection isn’t any less strong. American students were able to see their friends and classmates in a new light; their pride for their country put them in context in a way, and allowed for greater understanding of where people come from.

Many Calvin students reported feeling blessed to be in a community made up of people from all over the world. This event helped to put that community on display; in the words of freshman Maaiké Mudde, “Our plates are like a map of the world.”



PHOTO BY GRANT ALPHENAAR

For \$2, students could choose 10 different food samples.

Ghana, doughnuts from Ethiopia and myodovik, a Russian cake consisting of golden-brown layers with cream spread in between.

For senior Lauren Cremean,

Recent string of thefts hits Venema Aquatic Center locker rooms

BY VALERIE GREER
Guest Writer

Attending a Christian college doesn't necessarily mean your classmates will follow Christian values. "Thou shalt not steal" is one commandment that has been broken numerous times in recent weeks.

According to a campus safety department crime alert on Oct. 3, there have been six theft instances in the men's locker room in the Venema Aquatic Center over the last three months.

Campus safety crime logs show that in five of the six instances, money was the only item reported missing from the lockers. In the one other incident, a pair of khaki shorts and underwear was stolen. The complainant, however, believes that may have been a prank.

William Corner, director of campus safety, said the thefts seem to be strictly money-based overall.

"In most of these cases, when it happens, the person goes into the locker, looks through people's pockets, finds a wallet, removes the money and replaces the wallet," Corner said. "So you could

have a cell phone or credit cards, but none of that's being taken — it's just cash."

Corner noted that there is another similarity of the thefts: none of these lockers were locked.

He said the lockers in the aquatic center are somewhat easy to see into.

"It's not too hard for someone to walk through the locker room and look in the lockers and see property in the locker," Corner said.

While the six thefts have taken place over three months, reported thefts in the Venema Aquatic Center have increased since the beginning of September. According to the campus safety crime logs, five of the six incidents occurred in September. Because of this, Corner decided it was best to send a crime alert to the public.

"Theft happened quite a few times in September," Corner said. "That's when we decided that we should just put a crime alert out to the community letting them know that we've been having a series of thefts from the locker room."

Corner said there aren't any leads on these cases, but since the locker rooms are almost always locked, it's likely to be either a

pretty common to have someone tailgate you in."

Although there aren't any suspect leads, Corner said there

thing to do, especially since none of the locked lockers have been broken into.

Corner also notes the importance of contacting campus safety after observing suspicious activity. He says many people see suspicious instances but choose not to let an official know.

"If you feel something is suspicious or not right," Corner said, "a lot of times your instincts are correct — people just have to listen to their instincts."

Corner said without a suspect description, it's hard to find any leads. Campus safety has installed a camera outside the men's locker room in hopes of gaining more information in case the thief returns in the future.

"Without witnesses," Corner said, "it's kind of one of those invisible crimes — you don't know who's doing it."

Although the theft incidents are occurring during the same time frame of the bike larceny incidents, Corner said there is no connection between the two.



PHOTO BY ANNA DELPH

Six larcenies have occurred in the men's locker room since October 3.

person with a student ID card to swipe in, or someone who is "tailgating" other people into locker rooms.

"That's a common thing on campus," Corner said. "When you go into a spot where there's card access or it's locked, it's

are preventative measures the college community can take.

"We're encouraging people to lock their lockers," Corner said. "Bring a padlock and lock it up, or don't leave valuables in your locker — one or the other."

He said using a lock is the best

Dining services cuts weekend hot breakfasts, bonus bucks, B-quiv

BY LEAH JONKER
On-Call Writer

At the beginning of this term, Calvin's dining hall service made changes that affected more than half the student body: cutting hot breakfasts on weekends, reducing bonus bucks by \$15 per meal plan and eliminating morning breakfast equivalency (B-quiv).

"We've tried keeping all the changes as seamless as possible," said Richard Balfour, the director of dining services.

Balfour said the bonus bucks reduction was the cut that students noticed the most.

In reference to the bonus bucks cut, Balfour said, "It's probably the only item that's not seamless with you guys, but we're trying to maintain our fiscal responsibility to the students."

Students agreed that the drop in bonus bucks was noticeable.

"It's necessary, but it's unfortunate that it affects the students," said Maria VanDyken.

"I would like it back

since we pay the same price for a meal plan," Hannah Pettinga said.

The other changes have mostly gone unnoticed by students, partly because the number of students who eat breakfast, especially on weekends, is so low, said Drew Esterline, lead student manager at Knollcrest Dining Hall.

"Feeding students can be a tricky business when trying to figure the numbers to provide for," Esterline said.

But for many students, the changes have not gone unnoticed.

"It's not worth \$8 for a bowl of cereal and maybe toast," said Lauren Mixon. "I don't think it's fair that we have to pay the same price while getting less."

However, Balfour assures students they'll still receive a good amount of food.

"We're still providing a well-balanced meal on weekends,"

Senior Kirsten Gustafson has a 60-block meal plan and

for her money.

"There are fewer options in general and the portions have toned down," Gustafson said. "But I understand that priorities change and by decreasing one thing, you can increase another."

Even fewer students took advantage of the morning B-quiv, partly because not many students knew it was offered.

"Only a handful of people were affected by this change," said Thia Oracz, the food service retail manager.

Yet, for students like Pettinga and Mixon, these changes are a loss.

"Every department is facing these cuts and food service is not omitted from these challenges," Balfour said. "We're just trying to continue

a successful program and keep the changes as smooth as possible."



PHOTO BY ANNA DELPH

Because of budget cuts, dining services has discontinued hot breakfasts at dining halls.

Balfour said. "We serve hard boiled eggs, waffles, cereal, toast...etc."

doesn't find it worthwhile eating breakfasts if she could go somewhere else and get more

GRPD joins prolonged investigation after 17 bikes stolen from Calvin

BY LOUKAS PETERSON
Staff Writer

A total of 17 bikes have been reported as stolen since mid-August, including 13 locked bikes, and now the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) is getting involved after a Calvin student's bike was recently recovered from a pawn shop on the northeast side of Grand Rapids.

"The GRPD is more equipped to handle a case like this, and I am hopeful once they track down the person [who sold the bike] that maybe we can figure out where more of the bikes went to, maybe that pawn shop or other locations around the city," said Bill Corner, director of campus safety.

A student looking for her own bike stumbled across the bike that had been reported stolen.

Campus safety and the GRPD contacted the pawn shop and returned the bike to its proper owner.

According to Corner, the recovered bike had been stripped

of its permit and serial number, removing any form of identification that would lead the bike back to its rightful owner.

The pawn shop neglected laws in requiring proper identification from the seller, including a fingerprint signature, when they bought the bike, Corner said.

He noted that this case suggests the bikes are being sold intact instead of being scrapped for parts.

"It's probably more than one person [stealing bikes] because it's so frequent," Corner said. "It's evenly dispersed around campus."

Corner admitted bike thefts had been a problem a few years ago but is troubled to see such a drastic number of bikes stolen in such a short time.

"These are only reported cases, and unfortunately, I anticipate that there will be a few more that get reported even if there are no new thefts," Corner said.

Other schools are also reporting increased thefts, Corner said, suggesting there isn't just one person involved in the crimes.

According to the campus safety records, there is an increase in the total number of bikes on Calvin's campus right now, which may make Calvin a target.

An official campus safety map displaying the locations of the larcenies showed multiple thefts from Knollcrest East, Seminary housing, on-campus dorms and administrative and academic buildings.

"There isn't a pattern to the thefts or the types of bikes being stolen," Corner said. He admitted bike thefts can be done quickly by just one or two people, often at night with a small pair of bolt cutters. According to Corner, a thief can snap a lock, stash the lock and cutters in a backpack and ride off in a matter of seconds without drawing much attention.

Students are becoming increasingly wary of the bike thefts. Senior Jack Amick owns multiple bikes and no longer feels comfortable leaving them in any public area on campus; he has taken security measures to maximize his bikes' safety.

"I invested a lot into my bikes. I have a kryptonite lock — no one is cutting through that," Amick said. He and his roommates keep all their bikes in their living room overnight.

"I want to find out what the police say before I make any of-

ficial statement on a suspect," Corner said. "But I can say that students should take action to guard their bikes better." He recommends that students store their bikes inside or acquire a thicker and more durable bike lock.

All One Body invites you to attend the Room for All Biennial Conference October 24-26
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www.roomforall.com/events/national-conferences/

“ We will always need a new workforce to take the jobs our current workforce does not want to do

Don Coe, “Immigration” ”

CRC joins with Michigan farmers to fight for immigrants

Michigan United hosts press conference to discuss role of migrant workers in agriculture industry

BY ANNA DELPH
Head Photo Editor

On Thursday, Oct. 10, representatives of Michigan farmers and growers gathered for a press conference to advocate new laws on immigration reform. The meeting took place at the headquarters of the Christian Reformed Church, the denomination that owns Calvin College.

The CRC itself has been fighting for immigration reform since around 2007, so its Office of Social Justice (OSJ) was happy to host the meeting.

CRC leaders believe that fighting for immigration reform is an issue of justice. On its website, OSJ compares the issue of immigration to the story of the Good Samaritan, quoting Leviticus 19:16: “Don’t stand idly by while your neighbor bleeds.”

“We lure people in [to the country] with all these job openings, but don’t pay them well and make it so difficult for them to work legally,” said Marie Vogel, who works for the OSJ. “If we cannot offer them citizenship or an easy pathway to that, it’s pretty inhumane.”

The event was organized by Michigan United, a coalition of over 100 faith, labor, business, social service and civil rights members all across Michigan,

fighting for the rights of homeowners, renters, immigrant workers, families and students (from miunited.org). Michigan United is trying to get those affected by immigration laws to speak up, and

farmers and growers. So, the CRC felt very connected to the agricultural issue.

According to the OSJ, immigration laws are so strict and the process to gain citizenship

Tom Stenzel, a Washington lobbyist for the United Fresh Produce Association, described how the inefficiency of immigration laws is affecting the agricultural industry.

Diane Smith, executive director of the Michigan Apple Committee, said that the workforce to harvest Michigan’s apple crop is currently down 20 percent. Growers are taking extra measures such as working night shifts to try and get the crop harvested.

According to Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner Don Coe, migrant workers are essential to the agricultural workforce because farm work, which pays a competitive average wage of \$9 an hour, is unappealing to most Michigan residents.

“We will always need a new workforce to take the jobs our current workforce does not want to do,” said Coe.

A bill on comprehensive immigration reform was passed this summer in the U.S. Senate, but is being stalled in the House of Representatives.

Michigan produces the second-largest number of crops among all states. Half of the state’s farm-gate value is specialty crops, which are often hand-picked, trimmed and packed by a short-term migratory workforce native to Mexico and Latin America. Agriculture is a \$91.4 billion industry in Michigan and employs more than 1 million Michigan residents.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN DEHAAN

One-third of CRC members live in Michigan; many of these members are agricultural workers.

then connect them to legislators who can do something about it.

“We hosted the meeting because we care passionately about immigration reform, and the media isn’t likely to go to a farm for a press conference,” said Vogel.

One-third of all CRC members live in Michigan, added Vogel, and many of those members are

or a work visa is so difficult that migrant workers are not coming to fill the jobs they usually do out of fear of deportation. Much of the harvesting workforce in Michigan is made up of migrant workers. Without them, a large portion of this year’s crops is rotting in the fields, unpicked.

At the press conference,

“Across the country, states like Michigan with the highest production levels of fruits and vegetables are facing chronic and deepening labor shortages,” said Stenzel. “Although fruit and vegetable growers pay highly competitive wages, realistically we must rely on foreign-born labor to harvest and pack our crops.”

City votes against building new Starbucks

Opponents argue the Starbucks building model does not “fit” in Medical Mile

BY SIERRA SAVELA
Staff Writer

It looks like the sweet scent of brewing coffee will not be replacing the uninhabited gray apartments on Medical Mile.

Last week, the Grand Rapids Planning Commission ruled a drive-thru Starbucks does not belong on Medical Mile. The

concerned for the safety of the occupants.”

When the leases expired, he did not renew them and even asked the judge for an eviction order to get rid of the residents who refused to leave.

But although the occupants have left, the building still has a problem with frequent squatters. This month, the squatters included unconscious drug users

Joshua Leffingwell, the founder of Salon, a local urbanist advocacy group, explained why the Starbucks was not right for the area.

“It was less that it was a Starbucks, and more the structure that would have been built to house the Starbucks,” Leffingwell said.

A drive-thru Starbucks has a very specific layout and structure. Once Starbucks is done using the building, not many restaurants or business can utilize the space.

According to Leffingwell, the city of Grand Rapids has envisioned a plan for Michigan Street that has had years of community input. The plan is to make the street as walkable as possible. This includes new buildings having at least three stories, which would allow the city to utilize the

space effectively.

Grand Rapids’ plans have really stressed walkability.

“Walkability means more than a walk-up window,” Leffingwell said. “Walkability means a building that fronts the street and has proper context to the block and has a permeable front, a place to be able to see in or walk in. This building offered neither density nor walkability.”

Wynsma’s proposal was not turned down because it was a Starbucks, but because it did not meet the community’s vision of a dense and walkable Michigan Street.

Leffingwell says he does not expect Wynsma to understand good urbanism.

“That is up to the planning commission,” Leffingwell said. “The planning commission did their job, turned this poor urban plan down and we move on.”

Next to the lot is a drive-thru McDonalds, which does not meet the community’s vision.

“They envision a multi-story mixed-use development on the site,” Wynsma said, “despite the fact it is only 0.24 acres and is wedged between a McDonalds, an electric substation and a road that dead-ends at the highway and serves no other businesses.”

Wynsma spent two years trying to get Starbucks to agree to build a store on his lot and with the pressing issue of drug-using squatters he is disappointed the plan was not approved.

“Any time someone wants to install a drive-thru lane,” Wynsma said, “it automatically requires the blessing of our city planners.”

It’s frustrating that they’ve chosen to exercise an entirely new and different set of rules here, starting with me as the example.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN DEHAAN

Many say a drive-thru Starbucks is not right for the area.

commission members met to consider several proposals on Oct. 12, including plans to build a Starbucks on a lot located at 421 Michigan St. NE.

The lot is owned by Eric Wynsma, president of Terra Firma Development, a real estate company that focuses on buildings in West Michigan.

Wynsma bought the property before the recession hit the United States, and after a couple of years, the apartment buildings on the lot were in poor repair.

Wynsma feared the building was unsafe.

“I became wary of the structure,” Wynsma said. “I was

who were removed by police and an ambulance, Wynsma said.

The old apartments have been trespassed upon many times since its been vacated in 2011 and Wynsma wants the building gone as soon as possible.

“I was hoping to have demolished these buildings as part of a redevelopment plan — a new store for Starbucks in this case — but the city planners have rejected my request on the notion that ‘this is not what we want to see here,’” Wynsma said.

The commission’s vote was unanimous and Wynsma did not receive the necessary permit to begin the building process.

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“With a perfectly paced build-up and a wonderfully executed conclusion, ‘Captain Phillips’ surprised me on many levels.

Christian Becker, “True-life thriller”

True-life Somali pirate thriller delivers the suspense

Tom Hanks gives an Oscar-worthy performance as Captain Richard Phillips in the 2009-set film

BY CHRISTIAN BECKER
Staff Writer

Telling the dramatic events of a person's true life story is always a challenge. Making it into a thriller, I can imagine, is even more daunting. Director Paul Greengrass and two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks set forth on this task as they created “Captain Phillips,” bringing the story of Captain Richard Phillips to life on the big screen.

Richard Phillips is the captain of an American container ship that is hijacked by Somali pirates in April 2009. Once the pirates are aboard the ship and take control over the whole operation, Captain Phillips is taken hostage on a lifeboat until the U.S. military is able to comply with the pirates' every demand. After this takeover, the film has a tight grip on the viewer. Even when the outcome of the story is known, watching it happen is still an intense ride of suspense. Only watching the trailer, general moviegoers may mistake this for an action film. While it has action, a majority of the film involves sitting and watching these characters strategize to survive while they wait for the other side to make their move.

Director Paul Greengrass, of “The Bourne Ultimatum” fame, has made a name for himself in

the action genre by being one of the few in the field who can use “shaky cam” effectively. I watch a ton of action movies — probably more than any man ever

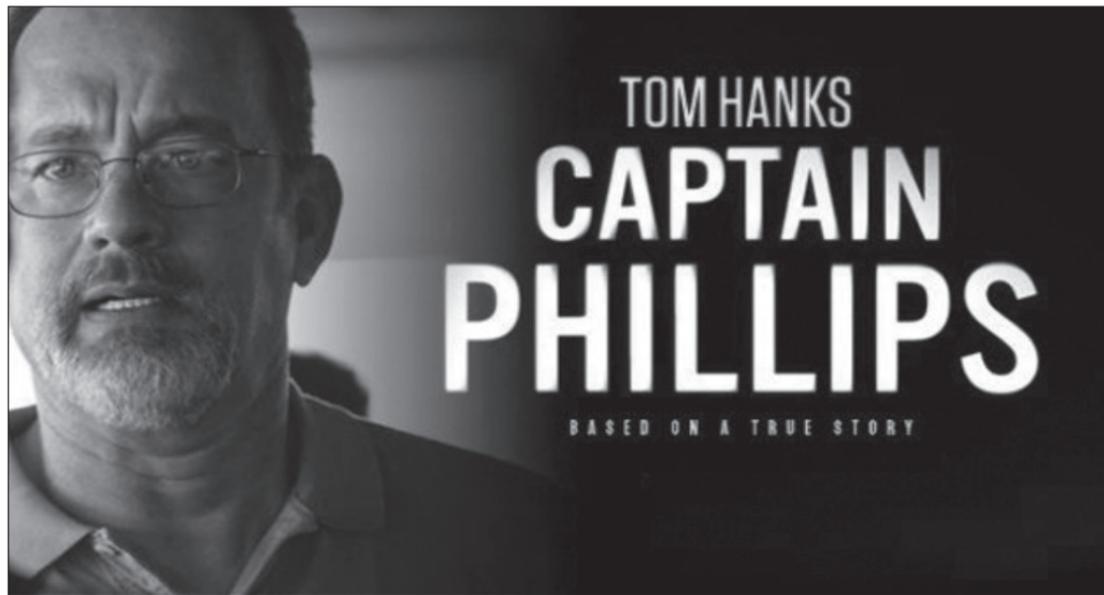
His style puts you in the action making you feel levels of panic and suspense without losing your lunch in the process. He creates a breathless atmosphere while also

circumstances, and it shows. Hanks makes this character as innocent and terrified as possible; the last 10 minutes of this ride showcase some of the best acting

gave plenty of opportunities for exploration of the protocols the ship's crew and military needed to follow in order to make sure everything turned out for the best. The political depth of this film took me by surprise, but it never once beats you over the head with an agenda of any kind.

The story also took an interesting turn when it showed some of the backstory of the pirates who hijack the ship. There are whole scenes devoted to just them, in which we get to see the struggles of the culture and the motivation behind their actions. This makes us feel a bit of sympathy for them, knowing the drive for their actions, even though they are clearly the antagonists of the story. With the pirates being a main focus of the film, newcomer Barkhad Abdi has a chance to shine as the rebel leader. If this is a showcase of his raw talent, then I hope to see this man in many films in the future.

With a perfectly paced build-up and a wonderfully executed conclusion, “Captain Phillips” surprised me on many levels. While almost every aspect of the movie is above average, I'd say that the main reason to go out of your way to see it is for Tom Hanks' performance as Captain Richard Phillips. I could not praise him enough for his work here and I hope an Oscar nomination is in his near future.



should — and, when watching, I'm upset by the number of scenes I would have loved if I'd been able to see them smoothly on screen. Instead, directors often have this fascination with making their cinematographers shoot scenes seemingly in an earthquake. Greengrass, on the other hand, has mastered this technique.

making you care for the characters at the center of it all.

This is where Hanks comes in. If you're not interested in the tension, see the movie for Hanks' performance. Interestingly, the character of Richard Phillips is not made out to be a hero of any kind. He is just a normal guy who has fallen under terrible

of his career.

When I saw that the running time was over the two-hour mark before walking in, I became a tad nervous. These types of situational stories tend to last around 90 minutes so as not to bore the audience. I'm happy to report that it was not a problem with “Captain Phillips.” The script

A night of worship

All Sons & Daughters plays at Calvin

BY NICK KEELEY
Arts and Entertainment Editor

It was a night of worship for All Sons & Daughters as they performed a nearly 80 minute concert Friday night.

Playing for a full house in the warmly-lit Covenant Fine Arts Center (CFAC), All Sons & Daughters performed a set centered around worship music, led by the passionate vocals of David Leonard and Leslie Jordan.

Coming into the concert, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Knowing that the band from Franklin, Tenn. and their opener, Tim Timmons, were going to be playing worship music left me with a little uncertainty. Like many others at Calvin, I was raised on contemporary Christian music (CCM), but I've never been the stand-up-and-praise-God-through-song type. Hearing hundreds of voices echo through the CFAC in praise of God and his glory is great, but that just isn't me. I also found myself wondering the following: can All Sons & Daughters separate themselves from the many other Christian music bands out there today?

Where All Sons & Daughters excelled was in their engaging sound. Full of passion for praising God and his works, Leonard and Jordan's vocals impressed throughout the night. From the opening proclamation that “we will sing out, hallelujah/we will cry out, hallelujah” to songs like “Great Are You, Lord” and “All the Poor and Powerless,” Leonard and Jordan's big voices and ability to extend each note to its fullest gave each song a powerful edge.

In addition to their great vocals, Leonard and Jordan added to All Sons & Daughters' impressive sound through their play on the

keyboard and guitar, respectively. The other members of the band, including more guitarists and a drummer, also helped with giving the worship music an intriguing folk rock sound, particularly on the song “Rising Sun.”

As compelling as All Sons and Daughters' sound may be, they fall short of separating themselves from the large pack of Christian music artists currently working today. This is due to the lyrics of their songs. Though thoughtful and passionate, All Sons & Daughters' lyrics ultimately sound like the offerings from every other CCM group; they lack the engaging edge of the music they are sung to.

And yet, whether All Sons & Daughters were impressive or not wasn't the point of Friday's concert. As Jordan said part way through the set, “tonight's not about us; it's for you — it's for worship.” Working under the theme of “a night of worship,” the concert was a time for the band and the audience to come together to praise God and worship his name.

All Sons & Daughters also led the audience in worship through non-musical means. At a couple points in the set, Leonard and Jordan paused to read Psalm 13 and Psalm 22:22-31. The band also set up prayer stations on either side of the stage for people to use over the course of the concert, of which many did.

Jordan and Tim Timmons also spoke during the intermission about their ties to Feed One, an initiative to help combat world hunger that Jordan called a “tangible” opportunity to help those in need.

With countless arms lifted heavenward, hundreds of voices filled the room in praise of God's glory — a wonderful sight and sound.

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Summer Research Poster Fair

BY JOSEPH MATHESON | Head Print Editor

Today in the DeVries Hall atrium from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. will be the Science Division and McGregor Summer Research Poster Fair, which showcases the academic research of students across all disciplines. Students in the sciences worked with Calvin professors as well as a variety of outside organizations, while students in the humanities received McGregor fellowships to work with Calvin professors.

One hundred different students received funding to perform research over the summer. 73 percent of whom received their funding from grants outside of Calvin. This follows a trajectory of constant expansion in the amount of students doing research over the summer, from 18 in 1997 (when data began being collected on students doing summer research) to 83 in 2011 and 100 this year.

External funding this year came from dozens of places, including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the National Institutes of Health and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (via the Plaster Creek Watershed Restoration Project).

Students studied with 41 different Calvin professors in the biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, GEO (geology, geography and environmental studies), mathematics, nursing and physics/astronomy departments; 12 of those professors were involved in the McGregor fellowship projects.

Five students who will be presenting did research at other institutions, from the University of Michigan to the University of Hong Kong. Not all students who did research off-campus over the summer will be presenting at the poster fair, however.

The students, 49 women and 51 men, will receive valuable experience in academic research skills as well as presenting their research, many in a verbal presentation at department seminars as well as the poster presentations.

Posters will be on all four levels of the DeVries Hall atrium and refreshments will be provided.



PHOTO COURTESY SCIENCE DIVISION
Pictured: Maggie Van Winkle and Nicole Michmerhuizen.

MONICA LANGELAND

What inspired you to pursue your particular research topic?

I applied for this in the spring of my freshman year and have worked on it for two years now. I was drawn to this project because it involves the impact that humans have had on the environment and how we can assess and remediate those effects.

What did an ordinary day this summer look like?

We (fellow students Sylvia Fuhrman and Stacy Hooker, Professor Keith Grasman and myself) convene at Calvin around 7:00 a.m., hook the boat and trailer up to our truck and drive across the state to the Saginaw Bay. We put the boat in at a fisherman's launch and boat 10-30 minutes out to one of the islands that has our bird colony on it. These colonies are loud and smelly, with populations of gulls and other birds well into the thousands. On the island, we collect three- or four-week-old chicks, band them, take growth measurements, administer and immune test on site and collect blood samples to take back to Calvin to analyze. After boating back to the launch, we process our blood samples in a mobile lab we set up in the back of the truck. Then we freeze the blood components in liquid nitrogen and head back home.



PHOTO COURTESY MONICA LANGELAND

What's the craziest thing that happened during your research?

When we walk into a gull colony to collect chicks, all the adults get angry. They fly up in the air, and bird poop comes raining down. Then they try to scare us away by swooping down at our heads and sometimes even running into us. I've had my hat knocked off many times.

What did you conclude?

Our results, combined with similar data collected from the past four years, show that the birds in the contaminated areas around the Great Lakes still exhibit effects of the pollutants, namely deformities, increased embryonic mortality and suppressed immune function. The hope is that, with continued monitoring, we will eventually stop seeing these effects of pollutants and these areas will no longer be considered dangerously polluted.



PHOTO COURTESY SCIENCE DIVISION
Pictured: Amanda Witte.



PHOTO COURTESY SCIENCE DIVISION
Pictured: Margeaux Carter

October 18, 2013

12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

De Vries Hall Atrium

JEROME NAVARRO

What inspired you to study engineering?

It was an educated, undeclared guess. Political science was my first love, but after seeing the movie "In The Loop" I decided being a politician wasn't for me. My parents recommended engineering. That's the honest truth. I didn't grow up thinking I would be an engineer.

Explain your topic to a 5-year-old.

I make bad water into good water. I'm a water nurse.

What did a typical day look like?

Each day involved intervals of taking batch tests of equilibrium concentrations and preparing tests for the next day.

Interesting facts?

Fluoride is safe in water up to 1.5 mg F/L of water (or 1.5 mg/L), and can even strengthen bones. Above this level, fluoride starts to replace calcium in the teeth, making them brittle. At even higher levels, it replaces calcium in bones (leading to more likely bone or hip fractures, etc.) In Kenya the geology of the area leeches fluoride into the water supply, causing levels as high as 57 mg/L. Activated carbon, found in Brita filters, doesn't filter fluoride. We used charcoal made from sugarcane for filtration. This charcoal didn't filter fluoride. However we found that if we infused the charcoal with aluminum, it was able to filter the fluoride.

What was the most difficult obstacle to overcome?

Controlling the variables in the experiment. We had to make sure that the charcoal wasn't releasing fluoride and that the reactor was filtering.

What is the future outlook for the project?

The project has undergone five years of research so far, and it has several years to go through yet before it can be accepted. It's frustrating to look into the world today and to know that you have a useful product that can solve problems.

DEAN PETTINGA

Explain your research topic to a five-year-old.

We try to create better ways to fight cancer by making better drugs. We use a really sensitive instrument, called an Atomic Force Microscope, to test our drug. We then make changes to the drug and try again. Our drug consists of a carrier particle, sort of like a Koosh ball, with a vitamin, sort of like a ping-pong ball, attached to it. But the drug is small enough that it can go in and out of our cells. We study how well the cell can "catch" the drug in its baseball glove-like receptor.

What inspired you to pursue your particular research topic?

I was inspired by the medical applications of Professor Sinniah's targeted drug delivery work. What we are looking at could have real-life medical applications in the distant future.

Did you learn any surprising facts during your research?

I've learned that there are instruments and techniques precise enough to measure how strong a single ligand binds to a single protein. To give some scale, the ligand and proteins are on the order of only five nanometers in diameter — that's 10,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair!

What did an ordinary day this summer look like?

Most days began with turning on and starting up the computer software used to run the very sensitive microscope we measure ligand-protein interactions with. Then three to four hours were often devoted to finishing up the sample preparation for the microscope that was begun the day before. The middle portion of the day was spent carrying out the microscopy experiment and the final two hours were spent preparing samples for the next day's experiment.



PHOTO COURTESY JEROME NAVARRO

student PROFILES

ABBY LEISTRA

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PHOTO COURTESY SCIENCE DIVISION

Pictured: Abby Leistra, Jong Hyun Han and professor Kumar Sinniah.

SAM VAN KOOTEN

What inspired you to do science?

I enjoy doing it. It's fun to know how things work and understand why.

How did you get involved with this project?

I've been doing this for three summers. At the beginning of the summer after my freshman year I discovered an asteroid.

Explain your research topic to a five-year-old.

How long do asteroids last in the asteroid belt before being destroyed by collisions?

What did a typical day of doing research look like?

It was mostly sitting on a laptop in the physics reading room. I was coding, analyzing data and debugging code when it wasn't working.

What is an interesting fact you learned this summer?

Asteroids have colors. We think of them as gray rocks, but they can be gray with a slight hint of red or blue.

What is the craziest thing that happened to you?

I crashed the supercomputer. We had a Fortran program from Italy that crunched asteroid orbits, but it would crash if there was a bad asteroid in the dataset. I ran small batches through the program so if it crashed I wouldn't have to redo as many. To save time, I ran thousands of these programs in parallel on the supercomputer, but they were all trying to write to my home directory over the network at once. Coincidentally that night both the air conditioning units broke in the room with the supercomputer. Gary Draving had to shut everything down.

What was the biggest obstacle?

We had to compare asteroid discovery datasets over the years to make sure we had them all. Asteroid names change as they are discovered. They are first given provisional names, then given a permanent number based on their orbit and then given an actual name. Our files were incomplete and inconsistent.

What did you conclude?

Asteroids get destroyed in collisions more often than we thought before. There are four zones in the asteroid belt with clear separations and varying destruction rates.



PHOTO COURTESY SCIENCE DIVISION

Pictured: professor Steven Steenwyk, Dan Van Noord, Sam Van Kooten and professor Larry Molnar



PHOTO COURTESY DEAN PETTINGA

Pictured: Jenna Kennedy, Dean Pettinga and professor Darren Proppe.

CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

10/8/2013

Campus safety took a report of a larceny of a bicycle from the bike rack outside of Van Reken Residence Hall. The bike was a blue Trek 6500 Mountain Bike. The bike was locked up at the time of the theft and it was registered with campus safety. The victim also reported the theft to the Grand Rapids Police Department.

10/8/2013

Campus safety took an e-mailed report of a larceny of a bicycle from the bike rack outside of Vanderwerp Residence Hall. A student said their silver and blue Pacific Flash bicycle had been stolen. The bicycle, which was not locked up at the time of the theft, was registered with campus safety.

10/9/2013

Campus safety took a report of the larceny of a bicycle from the bike rack to the west of the Science Building Complex. The bicycle was a red and white HARO VGF-V2. The bicycle was locked up at the time of its theft. Additionally the bike had been registered with the campus safety department. The victim also filed a stolen bike report with the Grand Rapids Police

10/9/2013

Campus safety took a report of the larceny of a bicycle from outside the north entrance to the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex. The bicycle is a white and blue Giant Cypress. The bicycle was registered with campus safety. The victim believed the bicycle was locked up at the time of the theft. The victim also filed a stolen bike report with the Grand Rapids Police Department

10/13/2013

Campus safety employees were called to investigate a suspicious condition at the smoker's pit outside of Hiemenga Hall. Students passed a group of people who were smoking what they believed to be marijuana. When officers arrived on scene, the smokers had already left the area. There was an odor of burnt marijuana in the air, but no other evidence was discovered.

The Science Division & McGregor Summer Research Poster Fair Friday, October 18, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. will showcase the work of over 100 student summer researchers. Please join us.

Super Crossword

ALONG CAME JOANS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spar
 - 5 Stomach remedy
 - 11 Tijuana two
 - 14 Bob Marley was one
 - 19 Literary pseudonym
 - 20 Deny
 - 21 Turner or Pappas
 - 22 Remove a corsage
 - 23 Joan Cusack film
 - 25 Joan Rivers line
 - 27 Hero's horse
 - 28 Brasilia architect
 - 30 Neighbor of Mont.
 - 31 Little spot in the sea
 - 35 Psychic Geller
 - 36 Triangle type
 - 39 Cut
 - 42 Coach
 - 43 Parseghian
 - 45 Blabby bird
 - 46 Rhine whine
 - 47 Dana and Seixas
 - 49 Precambrian —
 - 51 Ho Chi Minh City, once
 - 55 Joan Jett's group
 - 60 Ms. Montez — firma
 - 62 Jedi instructor
 - 63 "— vous plait"
 - 65 Cherbourg chapeau
 - 66 Acted like a stallion
 - 69 "Yuck!"
 - 70 Bargain
 - 72 Raven maven?
 - 73 Joan Collins series
 - 75 Joan Osborne hit
 - 78 Mil. address
 - 81 Hit the Haagen-Dazs
 - 82 Fr. lady
 - 83 Showers, in winter
 - 86 Enjoy the weekend
 - 88 Behave like a bunny
 - 90 Rested subj.
 - 92 Rested
 - 94 Israeli airline
 - 95 Joan Didion book
 - 99 Declare
 - 102 Proverb
 - 103 European capital
 - 104 82 Across, farther south
 - 105 De Lesseps' canal
 - 107 Highflying agcy.
 - 110 "Krazy —"
 - 111 Director Peter
 - 112 Nursery noise-makers
 - 115 Gun the engine
 - 116 Guru
 - 118 — polloi
 - 119 Germs
 - 122 Certain marble
 - 126 Joan Sutherland's birthplace
 - 129 Joan Van Ark role
 - 133 Nome dome home?
 - 134 Habitually, to Herrick
 - 135 Clementi compositions
 - 136 Cultural grp.
 - 137 "Superman" star
 - 138 Carrere or Mowry
 - 139 Reduce in rank
 - 140 Disposition
 - 7 Souffle ingredient
 - 8 First base man?
 - 9 Impressive lobby
 - 10 Dieter's snack
 - 11 Casino cubes
 - 12 Endorses
 - 13 Nero's tutor
 - 14 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
 - 15 Farm animal?
 - 16 Where to hear zarzuela
 - 17 Diacritical mark
 - 18 "Puppy Love" singer
 - 24 Drivers' lics., e.g.
 - 26 Shawls and such
 - 29 He gets down to work
 - 32 Etna ooze
 - 33 Hockey's Lindros
 - 34 Vulgar
 - 37 Meadow
 - 38 Ovid's fate
 - 39 "The Simpsons" creator
 - 40 Groening
 - 41 "— ignorance is bliss . . ."
 - 44 Part of M.A.
 - 48 "Twist and —" ('62 hit)
 - 50 Out of the way
 - 52 Trail mix
 - 53 Butter sub
 - 54 Hoopster Archibald
 - 56 Nail type
 - 57 It's down in the mouth
 - 58 Nervous
 - 59 Contented sigh
 - 64 Composer Janacek
 - 65 Most morose
 - 67 Rock producer Brian
 - 68 Salt serving
 - 71 Workers' grp.
 - 74 Has a ball at the mall
 - 75 Bus starter?
 - 76 Peachy-keen
 - 77 Push a product
 - 78 Hockey's name
 - 79 Lucre
 - 80 Norwegian name
 - 82 Merry month
 - 84 Make one's hair stand on end?
 - 85 "Heidi" author
 - 87 "He's making — . . ."
 - 89 Scheme
 - 91 Chores
 - 93 Godunov, e.g.
 - 96 Cognizant
 - 97 Cabbage concoction
 - 98 Bit
 - 100 Furrow
 - 101 Diva Nellie
 - 106 Radical
 - 108 Socked a shuttlecock
 - 109 Pilot
 - 111 Little house on the prairie?
 - 112 It makes women blush
 - 113 Passageway
 - 114 Bookstore section
 - 117 Ginnie —
 - 118 It grows on you
 - 120 "Later!"
 - 121 Grad
 - 123 Singer
 - 124 "So — You" ('77 song)
 - 125 "Heavens to Betsy!"
 - 127 "Mazel —!"
 - 128 "Sheila" singer
 - 130 Ancient Tokyo
 - 131 Ensnare
 - 132 Nationality suffix
- DOWN**
- 1 Cat calls?
 - 2 Heaps
 - 3 Father
 - 4 Comprehend
 - 5 Lodging
 - 6 Violin part

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Calvin takes MIAA lead

Knights beat Alma and Trine to take over first place spot

BY BRIAN EXNER
Staff Writer

The Knights were focused on defending the home turf in two conference games against Alma and Trine. Both games resulted in exciting wins and were pivotal in securing the Knights' standing as the current leaders of the MIAA.

When the Knights found themselves down 2-0 at halftime of Tuesday's game against Alma, they knew they needed some gutsy play to get back on top. Danielle Carter and Kailey Jo provided the momentum the Knights needed in the 71st minute as Carter fired a shot on goal that was deflected to Jo, who was in the right position to start the comeback.

In the 87th minute, Jo was again in the right position as Heidi Scholten headed a ball from the corner in her direction to put the Knights into an overtime battle with the Scots.

The Knights put two shots on target in the first overtime to no avail, but the ladies were not going to settle for a loss. With less than three minutes left, Kelly Koets sent a cross in to Scholten who flicked it on to Jo who put it away to finish the hat trick, earning a key victory for the Knights and putting them one point ahead of the Scots in the MIAA table.

Scholten was more than happy to provide Jo with two assists.

“Seeing your teammate score a goal is probably the coolest thing,” she said. Scholten also helped pave the way for her team in the Trine game with an assist and a goal as the Knights were

who slid the ball past the keeper in the 18th minute.

Later in the half, Jenna Bouwer was able to find Scholten inside the box for a second goal. Trine had only been able to go on one counter attack in the first half, but the defense shut them down.

In the second half, the Knights came out strong. Paige Rindels added to the blanket of support with a beautifully curled shot into the far netting. Trine was able to pull a goal back, but the Knights didn't allow another chance after that.

Capel leads the Knights with eight goals on the season and wants to stay competitive. “It feels great to contribute to the team ... I expect us to play up to that level [each game],” she said.

Scholten also expects some pressure. “The goal is to remain in that place of excellence and show up to every game. We don't want to just stay at the top, but improve while we



PHOTOS COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

Kailey Jo had two goals against Alma.

able to hold on for the 3-1 win.

Calvin dominated possession, locking Trine on their own half for much of the game. After spreading the attack wide many times, Scholten was able to split the defense with a through ball down the middle for Paige Capel,

are there.”

The Knights face a tough challenge as they head to Wheaton on Tuesday to take on the No. 1 ranked team in the country, and then return to home turf on Saturday to take on Saint Mary's.

Calvin freshman leads team

BY ANDRE OTTE
Staff Writer

Freshman Zac Nowicki could be running in one of the biggest conferences in the country. He could be on a scholarship, get free Nikes and roam around the campus of a Division I school. Instead, he arrived at Calvin this fall, where he doesn't get an athletic scholarship or the perks of being a Division I athlete. In high school at Calvin Christian, he was a three-time top 10 finisher at the Division III cross-country state finals and a three-time track all-state finisher.

When he had to make his college decision last spring, it came down to Calvin and Michigan State. He had accomplished all of the things necessary to go the Division I route and perhaps some day be a successful runner in the Big Ten. Despite this, he turned down Michigan State in favor of Calvin.

When asked why he chose Calvin, Nowicki stated, “I really chose Calvin because of the style of program that goes on here. It is much more team-centered and personal. The coaches here have more of a relationship with me than they would at a bigger school. It has more than just me running on their team.”

This team-focused attitude has carried on into the heart of the season when individual goals or concern about place on the team can easily cloud a runner's head. When asked what his goals for the season were, Nowicki said, “I want the team to do well at nationals because I know that we can do a lot better than we think.”

Individually, Nowicki has a shot at doing something that very few Calvin freshmen have done in the past: joining the company of two other Calvin runners who have been cross-country all-

Americans as freshmen. This season, he has been the top finisher in all three of Calvin's competitions. The highlight for him so far was winning the MIAA Jamboree meet on Sept. 28.

Coach Al Hoekstra said that it was the first time he had seen a freshman win a conference meet since he started coaching 28 years ago. At the Notre Dame Invite two weekends ago, Nowicki got his first real taste of a crowded collegiate race. He went out hard

and paid a little price for it in the last mile, but was still the third freshman finisher in a race that was made up of more than 70 percent NCAA Division I and Division II teams. Head coach Brian Diemer said, “He is a very talented youngster who brought a lot of excitement into the program with him. It has been huge for the team to get a gem like Zac in a year that so much talent was lost to graduation.”

So why is it that Nowicki has had, and is having, so much success in running? For one, he has been blessed with great talent and an efficient runner's build. He's about five feet nine inches and a trim 130 pounds. But there is more than his talent and build that gives him an edge. Nowicki is a fierce competitor. Along with being a successful runner,

he was also an all-state wrestler in high school. This has taught him a toughness that is extremely valuable in cross country. Diemer emphasizes that Nowicki has a good head on his shoulders that will enable him to succeed and continue to get better.

“I knew that there was a good freshman class coming in this year,” Nowicki said. “Knowing that pushed me every day this summer.” His teammates see the tenacity that he brings on a

daily basis. Fellow freshman Andrew Rylaarsdam, who was also teammates with Nowicki at Calvin Christian, said, “He is very much a competitor, one of the most competitive people I know. Sometimes he just gets this look in his eye and you know he is going to bring it.”

This weekend the Knights will be racing at Wisconsin-Oshkosh, the last race of the regular season. With championship racing right around the corner, the team is looking to come together and really do something inspiring.

Nowicki and some seasoned veterans, such as Sam Kerk and Philip Spitzer, are leading the team into the post-season, looking to win the regional and accomplish the goal that Nowicki shares with each of his teammates: to cross the finish line at the national meet on Nov. 23 and show that they are still a top team in Division III.



Zac Nowicki is the top Knight.

Golf season recap

Team battles to a second-place finish

BY JESSICA KOSTER
Sports Co-Editor

The golf team is moving on to play again in the spring. Here is a jamboree-by-jamboree recap of the Knights' 2013 fall season:

Jamboree #1 at Albion: Calvin came in fifth with 324 strokes, their worst score of the season. Junior James VanNoord led the Knights, scoring a 74 and finishing tied for second.

Jamboree #2 at Adrian: Calvin won this jamboree with 298 strokes, 3 strokes ahead of Adrian. Senior Jake Hoogstrate shot a 73 to lead the Knights with his fifth place finish. VanNoord and sophomore Justin Crow tied for sixth, shooting 74. The Knights came out only one stroke behind Adrian for the MIAA lead.

Jamboree #3 at Olivet: Calvin came in second with a score of 309, eight strokes behind Hope. VanNoord won, scoring a 71. Knights moved back to tied for second

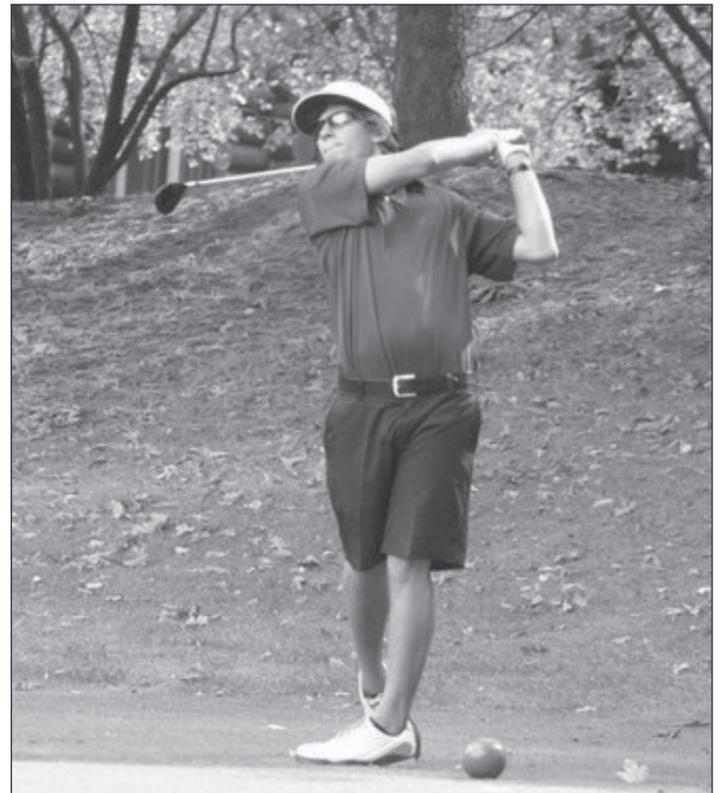
into first place, six strokes ahead of Hope in the overall MIAA rankings.

Jamboree #7 at Hope: Calvin came in fourth with a score of 316, 26 strokes behind Hope, who won the jamboree. The Knights were led by Hoogstrate, who shot a 75 to win sixth place. The Knights moved down to second in the MIAA standings with a 20 stroke deficit between them and the Dutchmen.

Jamboree #8 at Calvin: Calvin came in second with a score of 314, one stroke behind Hope. The Knights were led by VanNoord, who shot a 77. They finished out the season 21 strokes behind Hope, but the Knights are still able to advance to the MIAA qualification tournament, which could allow them to advance the NCAA tournament in the spring.

Despite the sudden drop in standings, coach Brian Bolt called this season “a successful fall season. We won three of the eight tournaments and we had three guys finish in the top 12.”

Throughout the season VanNoord was in contention to win the MIAA Most Valuable



James Van Noord had a breakout season individually for Calvin.

with Adrian behind Hope in MIAA rankings.

Jamboree #4 at Alma: Calvin and Hope tied with scores of 300. Crow tied with two Hope golfers for Medalist titles with scores of 72. Senior Mark Allen was close behind with a 73. Knights took sole possession of second place in the MIAA, five strokes behind Hope.

Jamboree #5 at Kalamazoo: Calvin came in second behind Trine with a score of 307. VanNoord led the Knights with a score of 73, a third place finish. Allen finished with a 74 for fourth place. The Knights were able to tie it up with Hope in the overall MIAA rankings.

Jamboree #6 at Trine: Calvin and Trine tied with scores of 288, Calvin's lowest team score of the year. Freshman Brad Smith led the team with a score of 70, good for second place. VanNoord and Allen shot 71 and were able to claim fourth. The Knights moved

Golfer award. Bolt was appreciative of the effort, saying he was “surprised a little — I knew that James was good, but I didn't know that he was going to be pushing for the top spot in the league. The fact that he finished in a very close second was a great surprise.”

For the spring, the Knights are looking to qualify for the NCAA tournament for the second straight year. Calvin is joined by Hope, Trine and Adrian in the spring qualifiers.

Bolt is thinking of the win, “It's going to be really close. All four teams are capable of getting the win. We're going to prepare for it thinking that we can win, obviously we were dead even with Hope in seven out of eight tournaments so we're right there with them. We have to play better on those two courses, so it's going to be at Watermark and Wuskowhan. We had a really bad outing at Wuskowhan and Hope had an excellent outing. Trine is also very good. So anticipate that any of the four teams could win.”

“ I began a process of bringing my questions to my faith rather than keeping my questions and my faith separate Wesley Hill, “Celibate gay Christians” ”

Hill shares vision of hope for celibate gay Christians

BY RUTHY BERENDS
Staff Writer

Wesley Hill's lecture Tuesday afternoon demonstrated that the veil that has long prevented sexual minorities from engaging openly in the church has finally begun to tear. It is no longer enough for Christians to hide behind a stance on homosexuality without participating in the questions that exist as a result.

Hill, assistant professor of New Testament at the Trinity School for Ministry, spoke carefully and candidly about these questions in his lecture “Between Presumption and Despair: Practicing the Virtue of Hope as a Celibate Gay Christian” in the Covenant Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

An openly gay and celibate Christian, Hill used personal experience and biblical evidence to explore the question of “what it looks like for Christian sexual minorities to experience the hope that the gospel offers.”

Hill explained how typically, this Christian hope for sexual minorities lends itself to one of two options, both focused on marriage. The first, that homosexuals can change their sexual orientation and eventually participate in a heterosexual marriage; the second, that homosexuals can find hope in participating in a homosexual marriage.

“My story doesn't allow me to locate my hope in either of those options,” Hill said. “Instead, what I found is that the hope God

was calling me to in the gospel was hope that came in the form of a positive call to love, precisely in my celibacy.”

Sponsored by Sexuality and Gender Awareness (SAGA), the Broene Counseling Center, the Gender Studies department and various other departments and student organizations, Hill's talk was a continuation of the discussions taking place in this fall's sexuality series.

“Calvin College has a stated position, the position of the Christian Reformed Church, which says there is no shame in being oriented toward people of the same gender, but it would see a sexual relationship as being outside of what scripture allows,” Julia Smith, director of the sexuality series, said in an interview before Hill's presentation. “And that causes people, rightly, to say, ‘OK, how does this look? This sounds like it could mean a life of loneliness and a very depressing prospect,’ and Wesley speaks to those kinds of questions.”

After growing up in a “sheltered environment” where he had little to no exposure to homosexuality, Hill realized in college that ignoring his homosexuality was not the path toward redemption.

“I began a process of bringing my questions to my faith rather than keeping my questions and my faith separate,” he said.

Smith explained how the purpose of the sexuality series is to delve into these questions of faith and to gain richer perspective on issues of sexuality so that Calvin may create a welcoming environ-

ment for all of its students.

Shirley Hoogstra, vice president of student life, agreed that these conversations are vital to creating a safe and healthy learning atmosphere.

“I think in order to love people well you need to be able to understand the context out of which people live and learn,” Hoogstra said. “So the more we can find out for our LGBT students, what their context is for living and learning, the better the environment will be.”

Hill explained that his own context has led him to a hope revolving around a vocation that encourages fellowship among Christians — the vocation of spiritual friendship.

“Identity labels can be helpful in naming the specifics of our stories and to talk about the ways in which my questions look different from your questions,” Hill explained, “but insofar as those labels divide us and prevent us from recognizing a more profound solidarity in light of the gospel, I think perhaps our call is to hold those identities loosely, and find our solidarity in the shared hope of the gospel.”

Hill views this idea of spiritual friendship not only as a call to sexual minorities, but also as a vocation for Christians in

general, which allows more room for those who feel called toward celibacy.

Smith agreed that a stronger focus on this kind of friendship could help create a place of belonging for people who do not see marriage as the “end-all, be-all” of Christian living.

“Regaining a theology like Hill's around spiritual friendship shifts the balance somewhat away

Hill's talk helpful and hopeful.

“I appreciated that as a homosexual Christian and a biblical scholar he can make these arguments about celibacy because in a lot of ways it's an uncomfortable argument to make as a heterosexual Christian,” Van Zanen said. “He offered a way to see that as hopeful instead of just limiting, and that makes it a little bit less patronizing to hold that view and talk about it.”

Smith hopes that next week's speaker, Justin Lee, founder and executive director of The Gay Christian Network, will allow for additional discussion surrounding these questions of homosexuality in the church.

To further engage students in this conversation regarding homosexuality, celibacy and the church, the sexuality series is sponsoring book groups that will study both Hill's book, “Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality,” and Lee's book, “Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate.”

Hoogstra said through lectures and discussion groups like these, she hopes listeners will be equipped to be better church members and improve the way in which the church responds to those with stories that are not mainstream, i.e. heterosexual and looking to be married.

“We can't get better unless we invest the time to learn,” she said. “I really want the church to be at its best, and we have a long way to go.”



PHOTO CREDIT HAYLEY COX

Wesley shares a positive call to love based on his Biblical convictions.

from the idea that romance and sex is what you need in order to be a fulfilled person,” Smith said. Senior Katie Van Zanen found

‘Live without Religion’ billboard posted on US 131

BY ANGELYN GROENBOOM
Guest Writer

“Millions of Americans are living happily without religion.” The U.S. 131 billboard in downtown Grand Rapids bearing these words seems out of the ordinary for the predominantly conservative and religious bubble of West Michigan.



foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry and humanist values.”

CFI Michigan has chapters in West Michigan, Southeast Michigan and Southwest Michigan. A number of these chapters are located on college campuses, including Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College and Ferris

State University.

In Michigan, these billboards can be found in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Detroit. The billboards are scheduled to remain in place until Oct. 27.

Jennifer Beahan, assistant director of CFI Michigan, reflected on the purpose of the billboard campaign.

“I have been asked if we are ‘evangelizing’ or trying to ‘convert’ people with our billboard,” Beahan said. “The answer to this is: no, absolutely not. Yes, we are advertising that we exist, but the purpose of the billboard is not to change anyone's beliefs — each person has to decide what they believe by weighing the evidence for or against any particular religious belief themselves.”

According to Beahan, approximately 83 million Americans claim no religious affiliation. In addition, 18 million Americans identify as atheist or agnostic, and a third of college-age Americans identify as secular.

The response to the CFI billboard campaign has been both positive and negative, said Jason Pittman, chair of the CFI Michigan advisory board. “We have received many messages from people who are amazed that a group like ours exists,” Pittman said.

Pittman went on to discuss the billboard campaign's target audience. “We are trying to reach those who aren't religious and don't realize that there is a community out there for them,” Pittman said. “Most people in West Michigan come from religious households, so it is very traumatic for them when they lose their religion...many assume that they are alone.”

Beahan reflected on why CFI believes its campaign benefits atheists, secular humanists and other nonreligious individuals. “Even though we are a minority, we are entitled to representation and a voice in the public square,” Beahan said, “and we should not be dismissed simply because we do not believe in God.”

Although CFI Michigan promotes examining the world based on solid and scientific evidence, Pittman believes value exists in religious educational institutions and organizations.

“I think [religious institutions] have great value, historically and today,” Pittman

said. “Some are more open to free inquiry than others, but I think they all serve a purpose.”

Beahan had a different view of religious institutions.

“I think that education should be based on reality,” Beahan said. “Educational views — particularly in science and history — can easily be skewed by the individual or group's religious beliefs. Allowing this often causes individuals or institutions to reject good information solely because it disagrees with their personal beliefs, and not based on reality or evidence.”

Pittman went on to explain that participants of CFI come from a variety of backgrounds.

“Many of the regular attendees

at our West Michigan CFI events are graduates from religious schools,” Pittman said. “Some even attended seminary!”

Pittman said throughout the past 15 years, CFI Michigan has gained popularity and exposure in Michigan. CFI's goal for the future is to support nonreligious individuals as well as educate religious individuals about the existence of this growing population.

“I'm sure we will keep growing as more Americans leave their religions and search for alternative communities,” Pittman said. “I think our challenge will be to manage that growth and not lose that sense of community that so many people value.”

Woodlawn CRC

A caring loving family.

Invites you to worship with us

Ten reasons to come to Woodlawn

10. gas is \$3.37
9. A little walk in the morning never hurt anyone
8. you are first in line for lunch (church starts at 9:30)
7. the coffee rivals Johnny's
6. Deacons are willing to sign your bulletin so you can show your mother
5. The sermon can be sighted in your next religion class
4. You may be inspired to rewrite a 16th century dirge
3. Lets face it... an organ kicks a drum's butt
2. We speak Canadian
1. It doesn't hurt to have your professor to see you in church

Meeting at the Calvin College Chapel. A caring loving family.

9:30 AM and 5:00 PM

This billboard image on display will remain until Oct. 27th.

The billboard is part of a nationwide campaign by the Center for Inquiry (CFI) Michigan, based in Grand Rapids. On Sept. 30, CFI launched an advertising campaign that involved placing billboards in Michigan, Indiana, New York and Washington D.C.

Established in 1997 by local freethinkers, the CFI Michigan has grown from a few dozen members to more than 400 atheists, secular humanists and agnostics.

CFI Michigan is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes inquiry into science, religion, ethics, secularism and society.

According to its mission statement, CFI Michigan strives “to

“ There’s a fine line between giving kids the chances to succeed they deserve and being a place where the rich get richer.

Jacob Kuyvenhoven, “Christian High” ”

FROM THE EDITOR



When Julia Smith, director of the sexuality series at Calvin, was introducing Wesley Hill at his talk on being a celibate gay Christian on Tuesday, she asked why Calvin holds events like these.

Before she could answer her own question, my mind started formulating the answer: our Reformed identity prompts us to engage every square inch of God’s creation and the messy discussion around sexual orientation is no exception. But Julia Smith threw me

a curveball.

While my answer would have gotten me an A in my capstone class, Julia’s answer was beautifully simple: “Because we love our students.”

And that answer got me thinking. Much to my surprise, love turned out to be a major theme of Tuesday night’s talk on what Christian friendship looks like, and what it looks like for people who are single.

I was amazed at Wesley’s wisdom when he said that, for him, celibacy was not a call to repress

his love, but it liberated him to be able to love everyone.

Of course, he wasn’t talking about a romantic love, but his talk touched on a deep friendship and love for other human beings that we often don’t do well.

And while this love plays an important role with the people he knows personally, he’s also loved people in another major way: he’s sharing his life and God’s work in it with us at Calvin and with the world through his book.

I met with Wesley briefly on Wednesday morning and asked him why he would share a story so close to his heart with so many people.

And his answer, like Julia’s, was beautifully simple: he saw a need. He saw a group of people who needed understanding; he saw individuals who needed encouragement in their own

journeys and he was filled with love for them.

So he took a giant step: what was once a secret between him and professor was sent off to the printing press.

My favorite book on leadership points to this kind of love for people as the foundational basis for any leadership we do: “Leadership is driven by the desire of one person to contribute to the people with whom he or she lived and worked. Love lies at the core of what makes life worth living.”

Loving the people who are around us — whether it’s the student in the desk next to us or a student at a college a thousand miles away — is ultimately what drives us to service and to leadership.

And, as Christians, we follow the perfect example of Love in-

carate, a Love who humbled himself to death, even death on a cross for the people he loved. Isn’t that kind of love exactly what this conversation needs?

On an issue defined by dichotomy, categorizing people into “for” and “against,” with little room for nuance or thoughtfulness, it’s easy to forget we’re talking about real people, most of whom aren’t out publicly.

Our role as Christians and as leaders at Calvin is to extend Christ’s love in this conversation and to promote understanding, even when it might be unpopular and even when there might be pushback.

So to Calvin leadership, I say well done. You’re loving your students well.

~rjs

UnLearn event reveals ethnic tensions

BY ADDISON SUNG
Guest Writer

Initially the Tensions event was going to compare the international student and the American minority student on Calvin’s campus. For example, a Chinese student from Beijing would talk about his or her differences with an American-born Chinese student. The event coordinators also intended for there to be a dialogue between a student with a Dutch background and a student with a non-Dutch background. The event had a panel of Calvin students from many backgrounds, including African, African-American, Asian, Asian-American, Latino, Latino-American, white Dutch and white non-Dutch.

Some of the students described tensions between the groups, but the main discussion shifted to how these Calvin students felt

about race overall. They shared personal experiences of how they were treated with ignorance. One student from Ghana shared a story of how another Calvin student didn’t think people from Ghana knew what volleyball was. Another student is blonde and blue eyed but not Dutch, but people often assume that she is. Although some of these instances are funny, the students on the panel expressed feelings of discomfort and unease. In regards to fixing these problems, the panel agreed that it’s best to not assume what someone else’s culture or race is, but to ask. Rather than saying, “do you eat rice with everything?” say, “what kind of food do you like to eat?”

There were also some positive stories shared — stories of how students were treated with respect. One girl said she hung out with a group of students from Nigeria and Ghana. Those

students tended to speak very fast, so she couldn’t always understand what they were saying. One of the girls from Nigeria then said to her, “Are we speaking too fast for you? I’ve been telling the other girls to slow down when they are speaking so that you can understand us better.”

The Tensions event went well overall. There was a lot of discussion, causing the event to last almost an hour longer than planned. I think what this event sparked, or at least what I took away from it, is that race is still an issue, even if people don’t want it to be, and is even prevalent here on Calvin’s campus. Moreover, many students are interested in talking about race and learning about how it impacts other students. With that said, there’s definitely more that the Multicultural Student Advisory Board (MSAB) can do to raise awareness.

Christian High strays from Biblical mission

BY JACOB KUYVENHOVEN
Sports Co-Editor

I would bet that you, being in some way, shape or form a member of the Calvin community, have an opinion about the infamous Grand Rapids Christian High School, better known as GRCHS. I suppose I have plenty — I wouldn’t be writing this if I didn’t. So today I hope you’ll stay with me as I display some concerns about the direction in which GRCHS is headed, a subject that is very near and dear to me as a graduate of the school.

Here’s my disclaimer before I do so: the last thing I want to do is make GRCHS seem like a bad place. I think the Calvin culture throws that around too much, frankly, and at least based on my experience, it’s not true. In my four years at GRCHS I was challenged spiritually, met great role models both professionally and religiously and was given every opportunity to succeed wherever I chose to go. A GRCHS education is a tremendous blessing. So there’s no need to carry a “GRCHS students are closed-minded, lukewarm, uninteresting, etc.” mindset at Calvin. Talk to us. I believe in our ability to disprove that myth.

But really, this is why I want to talk about GRCHS’ recent decisions. Because deep down inside, despite its imperfections, I do love the school. And I’m very concerned about where it’s headed. Among GRCHS’ recent endeavors are a \$25 million set of athletic arenas, a “Winterim” that sends many students abroad and, most recently, a new building

that compares to the very best facilities in the state. Every student gets a MacBook Air. GRCHS has never been so well-off financially. Taking a trip inside the building looks like a dream, like an IKEA catalog come to life.

Meanwhile, in the real world, local public high schools Grand Rapids Central and Creston have both closed, and were plagued by in-school violence before they did so. Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills and Union continue to be plagued by violence problems and low academic performance. If you grow up in Grand Rapids but not in the Forest Hills or East Grand Rapids districts and want to go to a solid academic school, you really have no choice but to go to GRCHS or Grand Rapids Catholic Central, both of which have tuition above \$7,500 and aren’t an option for many families (City High School is an option, but usually takes the high-achieving students away from other local public schools instead).

And this may not even be the biggest problem. The bigger GRCHS gets, the more power it accumulates, meaning more state championships, more academic awards. I really begin to fear that the mission statement is being left further and further behind. As someone who has a sister with autism that doesn’t attend GRCHS because of its lackluster special education program, I beg the question: why in the world is a football team more important than caring for the least of these at a Christian high school?

Furthermore, why the obsession with winning everything, always being the best, the brightest, the most attractive, athletic

and adjusted? Where does the Bible tell us that’s our calling as servants of the Lord? There’s a fine line between giving kids the chances to succeed they deserve and being a place where the rich get richer. In the minds of many, that line has already been crossed, and I’m starting to align more with that thought.

To be fair to the administration, it’s by no means simple or easy for them. They get donations from the local millionaires to build these specific facilities, programs and resources for kids. It’s not like they can just throw the money back or spend it however they see fit. I very much doubt I’d ever be able to do much better than they do. But at some point, you have to truly evaluate what the Christian high school truly values. Is it service, or success? It is excellence, or dispensing of grace? Is it the best money can buy, or the reflection of a God who has no need for earthly riches? At the very least, I’d go to bed haunted a little bit by these questions if I took the school in this financial direction.

GRCHS remains a fantastic place to go to school. From the looks of things it will only continue to improve and eventually leave the place I remember so well as nothing but a distant memory. It will educate thousands of young Christians that will likely grow up to be hugely influential in not only Grand Rapids, but planet Earth. Big things can happen here — God can do amazing work. It’s my prayer that the school looks and thinks hard at what Christ’s calling is for it in the upcoming years. I hope it’s yours, too.

Church ‘jargon’ alienates

BY KATERINA PARSONS
Staff Writer

“Church” translated into Spanish is “iglesia,” a delicate word that makes me think of stained-glass windows. I can’t always translate everything, but when I’m at a service or mass here, at least I know when to stand and when to sit and when to say “amen.”

This isn’t surprising. I’ve been in churches since before I could say “atonement.” I’ve asked Jesus into my heart, I’ve done altar calls and I am washed in the blood of the lamb, thank you very much. I may not be fluent in Spanish, but at least I’m fluent in “church.”

I’ve had to learn a different type of language in Honduras, one made up of adjectives and nouns and those hid-

eous subjunctive verbs. And as I’ve struggled to comprehend church in a different language, I’ve realized how much “church” is a language in itself.

Is it hard to imagine not knowing the hand motions to “Awesome God”? Can you quote the Apostles Creed upside-down, backwards and in your sleep? These things are cultural, and they’re learned.

Depending on how you grew up, a “quiet time” might mean reading scripture or it might be the punishment of a time-out. When you hear “a time of fellowship” you may whip up some jello salad, or you may go looking for “The Two Towers” and “The Return of the King.” Yet these are words we hear constantly from the pulpit, with the assumption

of full understanding.

This jargon can seem like the password to a secret club, where everyone inside sounds like each other. The truth is it should never be about sounding more like each other; it should be about sounding more like Christ. Being fluent in “church” should never be a prerequisite for being welcome in one.

Rich vocabulary can beautifully express Biblical truths, but only if people understand it. When priests and pastors let words like sanctification, justification and tribulation roll off their tongues without an explanation, it can alienate the people who might have taken a year or two of this language in high school but haven’t brushed up since.

Rich vocabulary can beautifully express Biblical truths, but only if people understand it.

Jargon can also be dangerous — it lends itself to empty prayers. It’s easy to say things automatically that you don’t really mean, disguising a lot of nothing in stained-glass wrapping paper. And there really are just two options. When I sat and let a wave of rapid and devout Spanish pass over me, I realized that no matter what I understand, at the bottom of all those prayers, sermons and messages is either Jesus or nothing.

The goal is not simplicity of thought, but simplicity of purpose. This purpose is not potlucks or discernment or love offerings — it’s a gospel that transcends language barriers. When the pursuit of Jesus Christ becomes the focus of the church, there might be very different accents, but in the end, regardless of the language in which it’s spoken, “church” translated will still be church.

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