

## CALVIN COLLEGE



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## Le Roy adds Hulst, Loyd-Paige for first female-majority cabinet

BY HAYLEY COX  
On-Call Writer

At the beginning of the year, President Le Roy expanded his cabinet to include staff additions of chaplain Mary Hulst and Michelle Loyd-Paige, executive associate for diversity, making the first female-majority cabinet in Calvin history.

"I am sure that there is no other Council of Christian Colleges and Universities with this ratio of men and women," said Shirley Hoogstra, vice president of student life.

The current cabinet consists of Claudia Beversluis, Russell Bloem, Ken Erffmeyer, Shirley Hoogstra, Todd Hubers, Mary Hulst, Doug Koopman, Michelle Loyd-Paige and Sally VanderPloeg.

"It's great to serve on a cabinet where gifts matter more than gender," said Hulst. "Each of us serves out of our God-given gifts and passions and encourages the others to do the same. This is what Paul writes about so passionately when he speaks of the body of Christ — 'having gifts that differ, let's use them.' God's gifts are not handed out based on gender."

The importance of their areas — campus ministries and diversity — to the college drove Le Roy to appoint these two women to cabinet.

"The cabinet has spent a great

deal of time assessing our needs for the future and the college's current strengths and weaknesses," said Le Roy in a communication in August. "I believe that we will all make better decisions when we have the benefit of multiple perspectives on an issue."

Le Roy was not available for further comment.

Le Roy added Hulst, college chaplain, as a member of the cabinet to help integrate the pastoral voice for the campus community and assist Le Roy with matter related to the college's relationship to the denomination.

"Dr. Le Roy wanted someone who was ordained and well-connected with the CRCNA to serve on cabinet," said Hulst, "both to help him think well about the connections between school and the broader Christian community and between the school and the CRCNA. Dr. Le Roy is deeply Reformed and is committed to shepherding the college as a Reformed Christian, but he is less familiar with the CRCNA."

Hulst also brings the benefit of closer connection to the Calvin community.

"He wanted someone to be thinking of the campus as a whole," she added, "what am I observing, what are the trends, what are people bringing to me

as concerns or joys — and use my particular vantage point to speak into the conversations on cabinet. Each of the other VPs has a 'portfolio,' that is, a specific area that he or she represents. I am there to speak and listen as the pastor of the campus as a whole."

said Loyd-Paige, "just as it has done for every committee I have worked on as I self-identify as an African-American. However, my presence also brings sociological knowledge (my academic home is in the department of sociology and social work), institutional

priorities of the college.

"Visits across campus and multiple conversations with students, faculty and staff reveal[ed] that the competency, capacity and composition of our faculty, staff and students must improve if we are to meet our theological commitments articulated in From Every Nation and the practical necessity of preparing graduates for work in a diverse world," he said in his communication.

One unique facet of Hulst's new role is that she pastors the cabinet members as well.

"[Dr. Le Roy] also wants me to serve as a pastor to the other VPs," she said. "When I know their pressures and needs, I can serve them well as counselor and prayer partner."

Loyd-Paige is also pleased with the new cabinet structure.

"As a graduate of Calvin College and an employee of 25+ years," she said, "I am pleased to be able to witness structural, demographic and attitudinal changes that favor a more racially and ethnically inclusive campus. The work is by no means complete, but the college is moving in the right direction. I hope that I have had some small part in that movement."



PHOTO BY RYAN STRUYK

With the addition of Michelle Loyd-Paige and Mary Hulst, cabinet has five women and four men: the first majority-female cabinet in Calvin's history.

Le Roy also appointed Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige to serve as the executive associate to the president for diversity. Loyd-Paige is the only ethnically-minority member of cabinet.

"My presence brings diversity to the president's cabinet,"

memory (I have been at Calvin for over 25 years) and leadership skills (I have served on key governance committees and served as a department chair)."

Le Roy realized his cabinet's need when reviewing the composition of the cabinet and the

attitudinal changes that favor a more racially and ethnically inclusive campus. The work is by no means complete, but the college is moving in the right direction. I hope that I have had some small part in that movement."

## Volleyball, soccer, cross country win MIAA conference titles

BY JESSICA KOSTER  
Sports Co-Editor

Calvin continued its conference sports dominance this fall, winning MIAA titles in five fall sports over the last week: men's cross country, women's cross country, women's volleyball, men's soccer and women's soccer.

Men's cross country continued their dominance of the MIAA with their 27th straight MIAA championship — all under coach Brian Diemer. Junior Josh Ferguson took third in the race but led the Knights. Senior Paul Lewis from Albion won the race and was named Most Valuable Runner, the first time since 1984 that a runner from a school other

than Calvin or Hope has earned the title. The Knights move on to regionals, which they will host, on Nov. 16.

The women's cross country team won their eighth title in nine years — also under Coach Diemer. Freshman Cassie Vince won the race with an 11-second victory. Second place finisher and senior Sheri McCormack from Hope was named Most Valuable Runner. The Knights move on to regionals on Nov. 16, which they have the honor of hosting this year.

The volleyball team won their fourth straight MIAA championship against Kalamazoo on Friday, clinching the shared possession of the title with Hope. Senior Megan Rietema is the writer's choice for MIAA Most Valuable Player. The Knights start MIAA tournament play on Friday night when they take on St. Mary's at the Van Noord arena, this year's location for the MIAA championship.

Men's soccer clinched their seventh straight MIAA title on Saturday. Junior Travis Vegter

is the writer's choice for MIAA Most Valuable Player since he leads in goals and points. Calvin will host the first round of the MIAA tournament on Thursday and the top remaining seed after semi-finals will host the finals on Saturday.

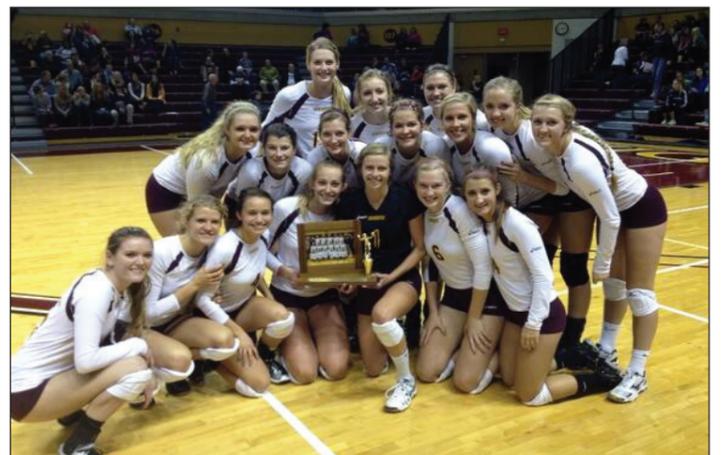
Women's soccer won their seventh MIAA title in nine years after defeating rival Hope College

1-0 on Monday afternoon. Both teams came into the game in a tie for the conference lead, but a goal from sophomore Taylor TenHarmsel in the 29th minute was enough to make Calvin the conference champion. Calvin will now host the first round of the MIAA tournament against the fourth-seeded Adrian Bulldogs.



PHOTOS BY JEFF FEBUS

Women's soccer won their seventh MIAA title in nine years.



Women's volleyball won their fourth straight MIAA title.

## Student life finalizes events

*Gatsby formal wins student popular vote*

BY VALERIE GREER  
Staff Writer

You may soon get the chance to relive your prom night, but this time with your college friends while dressed up from the era of *The Great Gatsby*.

Recently, students had the opportunity to vote on a number of proposed student events for next semester and interim.

The proposal to have a Great Gatsby formal showed to be the popular student choice, taking 166 votes. Wilson explained they may even add in a new element to the night—poker night.

“We’re going to have it off campus,” Wilson said, “so it’ll be one of the first off-campus formals that is also campus wide.”

Wilson said the committee is very excited that this event will be off campus and open to all students.

“There are dorm banquets for those living on campus, but we thought it would be fun to include the entire campus in a formal event,” Wilson said.

While this won’t be a Buck Friday event, Wilson said it won’t be too expensive.

“We’re going to strive to keep costs extremely low, of course,” Wilson said. “But we still want to make it a night to remember.”

While most of the proposed events are tentative, Wilson said the Great Gatsby formal is in the schedule for the end of February.

The second place winner of the voting wall was for an event with a puppy patch and petting zoo. Wilson said that will be coming during interim and will be a Knight-Life event in the field house.

While these were the two winning events, Wilson said there are a few other new events in the planning.

“We’re wanting to bring in a dance crew; that had a lot of interest on the voting wall,” Wilson said. They’re looking into bringing in different groups from Chicago or Detroit to have a dance battle.

Another new event in the planning is a Hunger Games weekend. Wilson said in March they would show the new Hunger Games movie. Then that same weekend, there will be a campus wide hunger games event, including a reaping.

Wilson said there is one event that is not tentative.

“We’ve got Bancheck the Magician and that’s been solidified,” Wilson said. “He came last year and blew the crowd away, so he’s coming back this year.”

Bancheck is scheduled to be here on Friday, Jan. 17.

Wilson said the line of events will be wrapped up with the familiar Calvin’s Got Talent show.

“We’re glad that students came by and voiced their opinion,” Wilson said.

The student event committee is pleased that they could include students into their planning stages.

## Provost search officially begins

*Committee encountered election hiccups*

BY BEN RIETEMA  
On-Call Writer

After initial confusion over electing the committee, the provost search committee has started looking for a new provost and plans to have a candidate by the beginning of February.

The difficulties in the beginning stages of the committee stemmed from technical and communication difficulties.

“Initial communication soliciting faculty nominees for the election did not clearly state that committee members must be on campus in January for candidate interviews,” said Judy Vander Woude, co-chair of the search committee.

As well as not being clear that members had to be on-campus for interim, the ballot to elect members of the committee didn’t send successfully to every faculty member.

“The software for the election ballot did not support Outlook 365 well,” continued Vander Woude, “so not all faculty received the emails announcing the election rounds.”

“President Michael Le Roy, the other co-chair of the committee, was not available for comment.

The new provost will replace Claudia Beversluis, whose term ends this June. The Provost is second in leadership at Calvin College, and is chief academic officer.

Beversluis’ original term was set to end last spring, but

was extended after Le Roy asked her to stay on for strategic planning and prioritization.

According to the provost opportunity profile, the committee is looking for specifically a Reformed Christian candidate with a “rigorous intellectual capacity” and “the gift of listening and clear communication.”

Faculty, staff and the board of trustees all had input into what the provost search committee is looking for, and their opinions show up on the provost opportunity profile, according to Vander Woude.

“The descriptions [on the opportunity profile] are outcomes of surveys and on-campus focus groups held with faculty, staff and the board of trustees earlier this fall,” said Vander Woude.

The committee will consider candidates both inside the college and external to it.

“[The provost] will play a key role in nourishing vision and building for future faithfulness amid financial challenges and rapid cultural and technological change and will concretely address issues of sustainability in ways that are effective and sensitive,” the opportunity profile for the provost said.

Each of the three elected committee members comes from a different academic division in the college — arts, language, education; natural sciences and mathematics; and social sciences and contextual disciplines.

A Calvin student is not on the search committee, but a student panel will be consulted before the decision is made.

## Nearly 2,000 attend KE Apartments’ annual Light in the Night

*The No. 2 trick-or-treat event in Grand Rapids doubled in size from last year*

BY NATHAN GROENEWOLD  
Religion Co-Editor

What do you get when you cross 11 decorated apartments, well over 300 hours of work and 22,000 pieces of candy?

A whole new world. At least, that’s what it felt like for the children trick-or-treating Thursday night through decorated halls of the Knollcrest East (KE) apartments.

Two thousand parents and children converged on the apartments for the 19th annual Light in the Night, an evening of safe, warm and (mostly) dry trick-or-treating.

“It’s been awesome! They’ve really taken back the holiday from so many other Halloween options,” Brant Porter said of the event. He came for the first time with his wife Mary and their three smiling children, dressed as “Despicable Me” minions.

Parents and children were guided through each of the apartment buildings, all decorated with a different theme, from “Alice in Wonderland” to “Kung Fu Panda” to Mario World. KE residents dressed up according to their building’s theme and handed out candy outside their doors.

“I just hope to make some child’s night,” said senior Kirsten Gustafson, who dressed as Princess Peach from Mario World for the evening.

She did just that, when a six-year-old boy came up to her and said, “Princess Peach! I’ve been

trying to save you my whole life!” But the evening wasn’t just about fun and games, though the abundant candy and carnival games ensured this. Josh Song, a third-year resident assistant (RA)

members of families from the community,” Song said.

Annie Mas-Smith, area coordinator for the KE apartments, said that many people don’t realize how much of a community

Megan Peshek, an RA in Heyns Hall, said that a surprising number of students don’t know about the magnitude of the event, that it reaches far beyond the Calvin community.

“Don’t you mean MidKnight Madness?” was the reply Peshek received from some students who confused Light in the Night with MidKnight Madness, an event planned on the same night to promote Calvin’s winter sports’ seasons.

Mas-Smith said the goal of Light in the Night was to provide safe and welcoming trick-or-treating for those in the Grand Rapids community who might not otherwise have the opportunity. Each child was also encouraged to bring a canned good item for donation.

The event almost doubled in size from last year. Mas-Smith thought this might be because nearly every media outlet advertised the event, and it was one of the few indoor trick-or-treating events in Grand Rapids.

“It’s the number two spot in the city for trick-or-treating,” said Kathryn Knox, an RA in Gamma. The event was only second to a seven-day Halloween event at the John Ball Zoo that charged \$7 for admission.

But Light in the Night did not come together overnight.

“My RAs worked really hard,” Mas-Smith said. “It was one of the best years for decorations.” She also thanked Jana Biegel, assistant area coordinator for the apartments, who did a majority of the long-term planning.

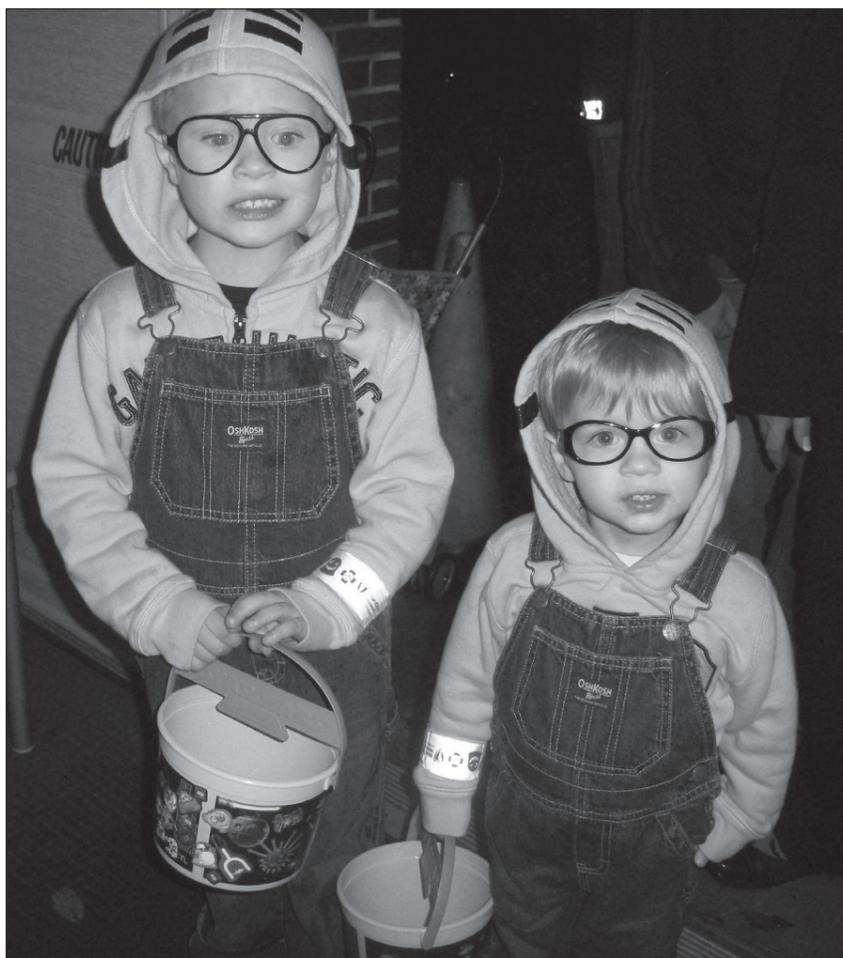


PHOTO BY BEKAH COGGIN

Trick-or-treaters were able to get candy indoors at KE and avoid the rain.

in KE, reflected on the purpose behind the event.

“[The night] is a chance for KE students to meet and bless

outreach the event is.

“For many who attend, this is their only connection to Calvin,” Mas-Smith said.

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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.*

# Calvin College sign on west side of East Beltline vandalized four times

Campus safety is looking for a group of four to five college-aged white males who used a sledgehammer to destroy sign

BY CONNOR STERCHI  
Campus News Co-Editor

The Calvin College sign on the west side of the southbound East Beltline has been vandalized four times this academic year. The vandalism occurred in late August, mid-September, early October and most recently on Halloween night.

"It's almost been a monthly thing," said Bill Corner, director of campus safety at Calvin.

The vandals have damaged the same sign repeatedly, which is unusual for vandalism at the college, Corner said.

"This is something new this year," he said. "I'm not sure why, but we haven't had this type of behavior in the past. Granted we have had isolated incidents of vandalism, but not when they come back and do the same thing over and over again."

The expense of repairing the damaged sign amounts to about \$1,000 per incident. This cost includes almost \$700 for the plexiglas, \$150 for the bulb light behind it, and the cost of labor.

"We need to find out who's doing this and make it stop," Corner said. "Because these are the kinds of things, over and over again, that start adding up ex-

pense to the college, and we can't afford to keep replacing these signs."

Campus safety does not have any leads or suspects at this time. The parking lot surveillance cameras are too remote to be used to identify the suspects; however, witness reports have narrowed down campus safety's search.

"All we have is an idea that we're looking for a group of four to five white males — college age — and they're using some kind of a sledgehammer or a bat to smash these things out," Corner said. "The first couple of times they found retaining wall bricks from somewhere and used them to smash it out."

The plexiglas "heart and hand" seal on the sign is strong and takes considerable force to break, Corner said.

Although campus safety has not verified suspects, Corner's suspicion is that the perpetrators are either current students or former students who have an issue with the college.

Campus safety is implementing strategies and preventative tactics to try to put an end to the vandalism. Recurring vandals are usually caught eventually, Corner said.

"It's a hard thing to prevent, but at the same time we're trying some things. I can't get into

a whole lot of detail, but we are taking measures to work to identify these people," he said. "Obviously the more damage they do, once they get caught, the more it's going to cost them, and I'd even advocate for criminal charges just because of the

repeated behavior."

Students can anonymously report information about a crime through Silent Observer. Corner is encouraging people at Calvin to step forward if they have any information that can assist campus safety in their search for the vandals.

"If anybody knows anything or has seen anything, either contact campus safety or submit a silent observer tip — those are great ways to help us out," he said. "As we get more information [about the vandalism], we'll try to release that information to the community."



PHOTO COURTESY CAMPUS SAFETY

Vandals have smashed the "Heart and Hand" seal on the Calvin College sign on the East Beltline.

# Chimes triumphs 4-2 over senate in first annual soccer game

BY ALDEN HARTOPO AND  
CONNOR STERCHI  
Campus News Editors

It was an epic duel of the fates, destined to go down in Calvin College history. On Saturday, a soccer match pitted the college's two historic student organizations against each other in a battle royale for pride and glory.

The age-old rivalry between *Chimes* and student senate reached its embodiment in Saturday's soccer game at Calvin's Phi-Chi Field. The first annual *Chimes* versus student senate soccer game engendered blood, sweat and tears from both teams.

But for student senate, it was mostly tears.

In a stunning display of grit and prowess, *Chimes* defeated student senate in a 4-2 victory. But the win was not given on a silver platter. The student senators, who were spotted a half hour before the game started doing warm-ups, resolutely contested the *Chimes* staff.

"I thought we all fought really valiantly," said David Kuenzi, student senate president. "I thought that both teams did a great job and put in a lot of effort. I'm really just glad we could make it happen."

Religion co-editor Nathan Groenewold was the top scorer for team *Chimes*, scoring a hat trick while striker Connor Sterchi kicked a clear shot by the left goal post scoring against senate-bike-program-director-turned-goalie Joel Altena.

Following a lead taken by *Chimes*, senate striker Dan Ferrell was able to equalize the game before team *Chimes* scored the next two goals. Senate's Kuenzi was able to swiftly score another goal before team *Chimes* secured the lead with a final goal by Groenewold.

Ryan Struyk, *Chimes* editor in chief, was happy about the outcome and anticipates that the *Chimes* staff will continue the winning streak into the future.

"Overall I am so proud of our *Chimes* staff for never giving up, coming out strong and being aggressive," Struyk said. "And that's really what *Chimes* is all about. I have no doubt that *Chimes* will continue its streak well into the future. I think that for the long history before this soccer game, *Chimes* has maintained superiority over senate, and they will continue to do so, except this time on the soccer field."

Despite the defeat, student senators looked for the positive outcomes of the game. The game was a great bonding experience, said freshman student senator

Laura Steele.

In an unforeseen incident of potential friendly fire, *Chimes* defender Alden Hartopo inadvertently kicked the ball toward the *Chimes* goal in an attempt to clear it from the goalie box, forcing editor in chief Ryan Struyk to make a courageous dive to make a save, losing a contact lens and suffering a blow to the head in the process.

"Thankfully my cat-like reflexes and amazing hand-eye coordination were enough to stop the ball from entering the goal," Struyk said in response to the mishap. "I also was proud to sacrifice my well-being and my eyesight in order to make the heroic save that kept us in the game. I look forward to continuing to give my all for *Chimes* no matter the cost throughout the rest of the semester."

"Everyone makes mistakes," Hartopo said. "But without that slow attempted clear, David Kuenzi would have had a perfect shot in a one-on-one encounter with the goalie."

Hartopo's aggressive defending skills through clean slide tackles also prevented dozens of potential

goals by senate's strikers.

Student senate vice president Alicia Smit thought that the game was a great way to foster camaraderie between disparate student organizations at Calvin.

"It was a great reminder that sportsmanlike inter-student-org competition still exists on campus," Smit said.

Regarding the iconic photo (pictured bottom right) showing her depleted after the game, Smit said, "I collapsed in defeat because the first thing I could think of was how long *Chimes* would gloat over this victory."

Addison Smith, finance chair of student organizations, refereed the game, ensuring that the players followed the rules and avoided unsportsmanlike conduct.

"I felt terribly honored to referee this game," Smith said. "It was a hard-fought match with two teams who were more passionate than myself."

The two teams plan to make the *Chimes* versus student senate soccer game a tradition that continues for many years.



PHOTO BY HAYLEY COX

David Kuenzi, Calvin's student senate executive president submits to editor in chief Ryan Struyk.



PHOTO BY HAYLEY COX

Striker Ruthy Berends fights to take the ball from Alicia Smit.



PHOTO BY HAYLEY COX

Student senate executive vice president Alicia Smit collapses in defeat as *Chimes* players celebrate.

“ It couldn't happen without this great community, the people, the artists, the food culture and walkability of Eastown.

John Hanson, “Lamplight” ”

# Right to Life files lawsuit against Obamacare

BY CARISSA VANHAITSMA  
Staff Writer

The Affordable Care Act, most commonly known as “Obamacare,” is a controversial topic in politics and also for many people of faith. Right to Life Michigan recently filed a federal lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act. The lawsuit targets specific legislators in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Right to Life is a national organization whose mission is “to protect and defend the most fundamental right of humankind, the right to life of every innocent human being from the beginning of life to natural death.” Right to Life Michigan is the branch of Right to Life located in Michigan.

The Affordable Care Act mandates birth control coverage; Right to Life Michigan takes issue with the required coverage of all forms of birth control.

Ed Rivet, legislative director for Right to Life Michigan, explained why the lawsuit was filed and what parts of the Affordable Care Act he believes are unconstitutional.

“It's not that the law is unconstitutional, per se, but that implementation of the law violates our constitutional rights,” Rivet said. “There is nothing in the law that says abortion and birth control should be covered, but it is how the law is being implemented.”

The law could have passed and they could have decided not to require coverage of all forms of birth control, but they are.”

Right to Life Michigan opposes all forms of birth control whose use could result in an abortion, including “Ella,” a birth control pill that can cause abortions, and the intrauterine device (IUD).

Rivet did not state Right to

Care Act, in forcing the organization to provide coverage for all forms of birth control, even though they do not believe in specific types.

Rivet says that Right to Life Michigan is in a unique position because they are neither a reli-

“Our issue with [the Affordable Care Act] has a narrow focus, in that we only oppose specific kinds of birth control. We are also in a unique position in that the law forces us to violate our organization's mission.”

Right to Life Michigan joins

believe it was the federal government's right to require coverage of all birth control.

“This was an extreme overreach for the federal government to say that we have to provide this coverage,” Rivet said, “especially when this coverage conflicts with our mission.”

We are not given the discretion to decide. It's offensive to people whether it is their religious beliefs, their morals, or their organizational mission. In this case, the Obama administration has gone too far.”

In addition to the lawsuit filed on Nov. 4, Right to Life Michigan began a petition in June 2013 supporting the “Abortion Insurance Opt-Out Act.” The organization needed to collect 258,088 signatures in 180 days.

Right to Life Michigan submitted the petition with 315,000 signatures, two months before the deadline.

This petition would allow Michigan to join 23 other states that have opted out of abortion coverage, as long as the majority of Michigan's Senate and House uphold the Act.

Rivet said that the petition dealt specifically with abortion coverage through the Affordable Care Act, and the lawsuit deals with contraception coverage through the act.

“The petition and the lawsuit deal with two entirely different issues, both involving [the Affordable Care Act],” Rivet said. “The petition is about abortion being covered by healthcare. According to the Affordable Care Act, it is the ability of the state to opt-out of abortion coverage.”



FILE PHOTO

315,000 Michigan residents signed the “Abortion Insurance Opt-Out Act” petition in June 2013.

Life's position on the morning after pill, saying, “the jury is still out on that one.”

The lawsuit claims that Right to Life Michigan's freedom of religion and freedom of speech is being violated by the Affordable

religious company, nor a business.

“This is a unique issue for us because we are not a business, and we are not affiliated with the church, but we are an organization focused on protecting human life,” Rivet said.

many businesses and organizations with lawsuits filed against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rivet also mentioned Right to Life Michigan's reason for the lawsuit, saying that he does not

## Eastown hosts Lamplight Festival

*Festival features live music in house venues*

BY MATTHEW SCHANCK  
Staff Writer

Live music, friends and food, all inside the homes of Eastown. This is the premise of the Lamplight Music Festival.

The Lamplight Music Festival is three days of house shows, food and workshops in Eastown on the weekend of Nov. 1. This year marks the festival's second year of existence. John Hanson, an Eastown resident, is one of the founders and organizers of the festival.

The festival was founded as a continuation of what already happens in Eastown, Hanson said. He said his experience as a musician and his exposure to different types of shows influenced why he chose to help found the festival.

“I value house shows the most because there is a genuine quality that is worth more than money,” Hanson said, “There is a genuine connection between artists and the audience.”

A house show is a performance by a band inside a person's house. The show is either held in the front room or basement, depending on how the house is set up.

Justin Majetich, a recently graduated Calvin student and a house show host and performer at this year's festival, shared Hanson's sentiments about house shows.

“House venues, which are so evocative of the localized Eastown culture, blur the lines between a hangout and a festival, very homey,” Majetich said.

This year the organizers asked five residents to open up their homes to the festival. The five houses were given names for the festival.

The houses were called the Bird House, Hen House (both located on Benjamin Street), Neighborhood House, Waffle House and House of Pancake (these three houses were located on Sigsbee Street). The houses' residents had to do some preparation work for the festival.

Hosting a house show for the festival is not a hard task, Majetich said. The only requirements are to clean up the house a little bit and open the doors, Majetich said, and the organizers did the rest of the work.

On Saturday, all the afternoon and early evening shows were held in the Bird House and the Neighborhood House, which are front room venues. All the late evening shows were held in either the Waffle House or the House of Pancake, which are basement venues.

Eric Domke, a festival attendee, enjoyed the informal environment of the festival.

“It's a different way to experience music,” Domke said, “It allows you to talk to people, audience and performers more comfortably.”

Mandolin Orange, from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, performed at the Bird House before an audience of more than 20 people who crammed into the space. The band performed acoustically.

Andrew Marlin, one of the two members of Mandolin Orange, said he enjoys these types

of venues.

“We've done house shows before,” said Marlin. “It is cool that people here are interested in different styles of music and that people are willing to listen.”

The festival showcases many different styles of music, including Spanish rock, folk, folk rock, rap, free-style poetry, dark rock and many other styles. Showcasing the different styles of music is part of the goals of the organizers, Hanson said. He also mentioned the festival was organized by a small group of people.

“As simple as it is, myself and few other people carry the showcase,” Hanson said, “and if we aren't excited then we don't expect other people to be excited.”

The festival cost \$15 for a one-day pass and \$35 for a weekend pass. None of the money returns to the organizers, Hanson said. All the money goes to the bands, food, people who provide services, and for materials, like the website, he said.

Hanson said he doesn't believe the festival could happen without the Eastown community.

“It couldn't happen without this great community, the people, the artists, the food culture and walkability of Eastown,” Hanson said, “It couldn't be possible without DITGR [Do It Together Grand Rapids], a new embodiment carrying the torch of the house show scene in the city.”

Hanson said he believes anyone can change their community.

“I would like to tell people to do the same thing,” Hanson said. “Make stuff, make it up, make this place what you want it to be.”

## Retailer comes to GR

*H&M opens in Woodland Mall*

BY JERONICA ANDREWS  
Staff Writer

Crowds lined up in Woodland Mall for a special treat on Halloween as H&M opened its first West Michigan store here in Grand Rapids.

A live DJ playing the latest hits and the promise of a chance to win \$300 worth of shopping was enough to keep the crowds coming.

Customers who were first in line before doors opened and first in line for checkout were given coupons for discounts and freebies such as T-shirts and gloves.

The store, which spans a total of 19,000 square feet, is divided into different sections that each cater to a specific group of people.

The store sells clothing and accessories for men, women, teenagers, children and expectant mothers.

H&M is short for Hennes & Mauritz, a Sweden based clothing company that started in 1947.

It is best known for its affordable European style clothing. The store has a total of 3,000 stores in 53 markets worldwide.

The Grand Rapids store will be H&M's seventh store in Michigan according to its website.

According to a 2012 Forbes report, H&M is the world's second largest clothing retailer behind Spanish

clothing retailer Zara.

For many Calvin students who awaited H&M's Grand Rapids branch, the new store is welcomed.

“I was very excited for the opening because H&M has been one of my staple stores to visit whenever I am in another city,” said 2013 alumna Taylor Vanderveen.

“I love that I will be able to shop at H&M in GR now, even though it makes it a little bit less special to go to another city,” she said.

Senior Esther Hui also expressed enthusiasm for H&M's arrival in Grand Rapids.

“I was super excited for H&M to open in Grand Rapids because I have always lived in cities that had a store,” she said. “It was really weird for me to live in Grand Rapids for the last three years without an H&M near by.”

She wondered why the retailer took so long to reach Grand Rapids.

“I am very surprised it took so long to get here,” Hui said. “But I am glad to have a piece of home here now.”

While some students expressed excitement at the new store, some were disappointed the store has come to Grand Rapids.

“I don't think I will shop at H&M anymore because it is so close now,” senior Sam Lee said. “I feel like everyone will be wearing the same thing.”

Due to company policy, store employees in Grand Rapids were unable to comment to the press in regards to this article.

## Yellowstone magma measured

BY NATASHA STRYDHORST  
Staff Writer

At 80 kilometers long and 20 wide, Yellowstone National Park’s magma reserve measures are two and a half times the previous estimate. The park housing this large cache is located at the junction of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho in a mountainous region renowned for the geysers and hot springs stemming from the heat of its magma reservoir.

But the region’s resident magma blob isn’t the only feature distinguishing the park. “It’s a living, breathing, shaking and baking place,” Smith reports, and is known for its frequent earthquakes. While the most recent volcanic eruption in the region is estimated to have occurred 70,000 years ago, the last earthquake of a magnitude above 7.0 struck within living memory, resulting in the deaths of 28 people in 1959.

The seismic activity of frequent, smaller magnitude earthquakes has provided a valuable data set to scientists involved with the mapping of the magma body below the park’s surface. Seismic wave data collected from over 4,500 earthquakes was used to map the layout of the rock (solid and molten) by the difference in the rate of wave transference between the two mediums, which can be logged by a seismometer.

When an earthquake strikes (regardless of its magnitude), it releases energy waves in every direction from the epicenter. These are the seismic waves,

and they travel more quickly through solid than molten rock. Even if the quake in question is imperceptible to human senses, a seismometer can pick up the minute differences in seismic waves to determine what medium they traveled through to reach the ground surface. It is thanks to the thousands of minor earthquakes that researchers can collect data on the volcanic properties of Yellowstone National Park. By compiling and analyzing this data, Jamie Farrell, a researcher at the University of Utah, was able to map the reservoir at the center of the park.

The magma cache fills the underground space below the caldera (a collapsed depression resulting from several major volcanic episodes in the past 2,000 millennia) and extends slightly farther on the northeast side. It consists of a rock structure resembling a vast sponge that contains about six to eight percent molten rock and is overlaid with five to 10 kilometers of colder, brittle, solid rock prone to fracturing in earthquake events. Small quakes have been detected in the park — occurring in intervals separated by as few as several seconds (more frequent by far than the more conspicuous geyser eruptions). It is suggested that these minor earthquakes serve as pressure-releases for the force created by the build-up of volcanic fluids in the earth’s crust.

Frequent, minute earthquakes are convenient for gathering data on the park’s volcanic and other geologic elements, but also indicate a hazardous instability in the region. Smith warns that massive quakes remain a greater risk to Yellowstone National Park than a volcanic eruption.

## Bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics

BY PETER WIDITZ  
Staff Writer

One of the greatest medical achievements of all time is considered to be the discovery and isolation of antibiotics. They have become associated with technological progress and have become a symbol of human ingenuity.

In 1943, penicillin was first used to treat wounded soldiers and by 1946 it cost 55 cents per dose. Penicillin was cheap, safe to take and was considered to be a “magic bullet.”

Ever since their discovery, antibiotics have been considered a miracle drug capable of curing anything the world of disease could throw at it. The media, the public and the scientific community could not have been more wrong.

It is important to understand that medicinal antibiotics have only been around for about 80 years. Within that time frame, the genetic development of millions of bacteria, viruses, archaea, parasites and fungi have been drastically altered with the introduction of medicinal antibiotics.

Since medicinal antibiotics are a relatively recent phenomenon, there is still much which is not understood about their long term impact on the microbial world. The entire world around us is covered in microbes, from the paper or screen on which you are reading this to the skin on your body. It is a “micro universe” filled with exotic life forms that live together in community.

However, in order for these communities to survive and evolve, they must be able to protect themselves and their fuel sources. Most microbes have a chemical defense system made up of small proteins called defensins. Defensins are an example of naturally occurring antibiotics that most microbes use.

Whenever we hear about antibiotics in the press, we hear about laboratory produced antibiotics that have been formulated for medicinal use, such as the common penicillin variant, amoxicillin. The story is usually set up so that there is a horrible bacterium that is

going to destroy the world and that the valiant antibiotic is going to destroy it.

Popular media makes it seem like antibiotics are smart bombs that selectively target and destroy the bad bacteria and leave the good cells around them alone. In reality, most antibiotics are like indiscriminate nuclear bombs that wipe out whole populations of bacteria — both good and bad — and leave behind debris and poisonous chemicals.

Before I progress any further I want to establish that there is such a thing as good bacteria. For example, the human

it comes in contact with, including bacteria that are beneficial to the body.

After the antibiotic treatment has concluded, the surviving bacteria in the body begin to multiply and fill the old spaces where the dead bacteria used to be. The result is a new community of bacteria. New genes will be exchanged among cells, and if there are any of the harmful bacteria that were somehow resistant to the antibiotic, these resistant bacteria can now increase in number. This is how antibiotic resistant bacteria such as Menicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) have developed.

Over the past 20 years, antibiotics have surged in their prescription rate and sometimes are even used as marketing gimmicks to parents of young children, such as in antibiotic covered play sets. The rate of antibiotic resistant pathogens has correlated with the surge in the applications of antibiotics.

There is a natural balance of power within the microbial world between microbes, and in some cases where antibiotics are overused, this balance of power between the microbes is disrupted.

Scientists have taken notice of the alarming number of antibiotic resistant organisms and are trying to both formulate new antibiotics and to contain the spread of antibiotic resistant organisms. Hospitals have become ground zero for antibiotic resistant bacteria including the bacterium responsible for the highest number of hospital acquired infections, Clostridium difficile.

A new strain of Clostridium difficile has recently emerged that is resistant to some of the more powerful antibiotics, such as ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin.

The CDC recently released a threat report warning of the increase in antibiotic resistant bacteria, focusing on improving medical and healthcare practices to combat the spread of disease.

However, it is important that everyone understand that they too can help prevent the spread of disease by practicing good hygiene, taking a day off from work or school when sick and keeping up on vaccines for bacterial infections. Antibiotics are sometimes very necessary and can be lifesaving, so it is important not to forget this. However, too much of a good thing can be unnecessary and, in the case of antibiotics, harmful.

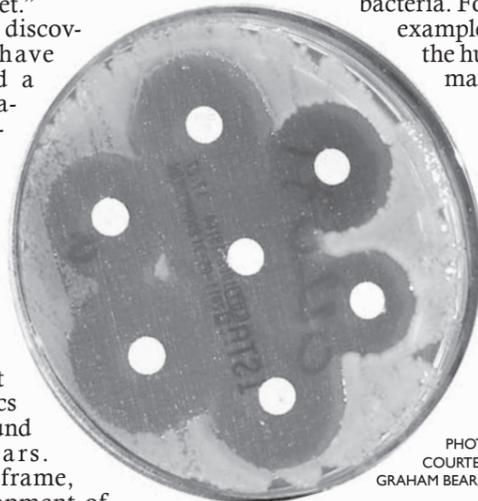
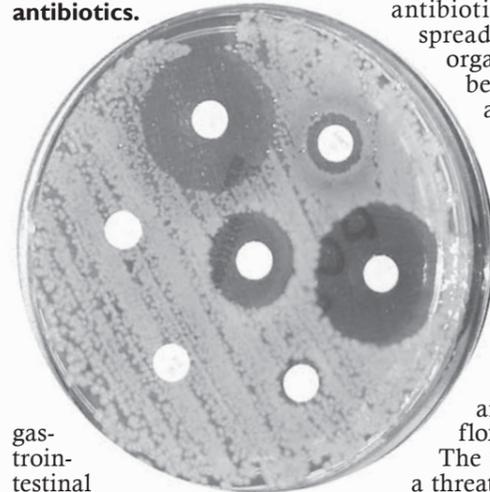


PHOTO COURTESY GRAHAM BEARDS

Bacteria (below) resist antibiotics.



gastrointestinal tract is loaded with bacteria that enable us to digest our food and gain nutrients. Without these bacteria, we would not be able to properly digest our food and would suffer severe medical problems.

About 98 percent of bacteria that come into contact with the human body each day are not harmful to us; in many cases these bacteria are beneficial to us, such as the bacteria in the intestines. When you take antibiotics when you are sick, the antibiotic does not seek out and destroy only the harmful bacteria, but it destroys many of the bacteria that



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Yellowstone’s Steamboat Geyser is the tallest active geyser in the world with spouts in excess of 300 feet.

SLICE & DICE

Calvin Dining Service Announces the  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dorm-Wide  
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Commons - 4:45-6:00 PM  
Knollcrest - 5:00-7:00 PM

# TCK THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A THIRD CULTURE KID

BY ALDEN HARTOPO  
Campus News Co-Editor

Not too long ago — at a dinner with friends — I was asked where I was from. I calmly responded that I am from Indonesia. After some short conversation my friend proceeded to ask, “I hope you won’t find this offensive, but how do you speak English so well?” Upon hearing that question I laughed and replied that I grew up in the U.S. for nearly eight years before spending the next decade in an international school in Jakarta.

This was not the first time I have been asked this question.

## What is a TCK?

“A Third Culture Kid (TCK) is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents’ culture. The TCK frequently builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership in any.”

- Sociologist David C. Pollock

Countless times I get the bewildered expression when a newly introduced stranger remarks how fluent my English is and I in turn explain once more the story behind the accent. In fact, I was recently introduced to a fellow Indonesian who asked me if I spent any time in Indonesia at all. In contrast to the majority of international students, my fluent American accent throws off any hint of the possibility that I am not from this land. When it comes down to it I am just another third culture kid, born in Indonesia to an Indonesian family who grew up in Philadelphia for a significant part of my childhood, returned to my home country and am now in Grand Rapids for my third year of college.

For those of you who may not know what this means, a third culture kid (TCK) is a term coined by sociologist Ruth Hill Useem which refers to an individual who has spent a significant number of years outside their parents’ culture. Unlike many TCKs I am not a missionary kid, a military brat or from a business family; rather I was in Philadelphia for the bulk of my time as my dad completed his masters and doctorate studies.

When you ask many missionary kids where they are from, you might find that that student is unable to name a specific nation as a result of living in multiple places. Fortunately in my case, I simply have the option of two hometowns: Philadelphia and Jakarta. Though I would ultimately call Indonesia home due to my passport, I have at times replied Philadelphia for

the fun of it because it was that convincing to pass as a citizen from either country.

A common difficulty that TCKs experience is the identification of a sense of belonging. Since English is my first language, when I returned to Indonesia I was confronted with the challenge of being labeled as a foreigner in my own motherland. My inability to speak fluent Indonesian had alienated me from my fellow countrymen.

When I started fresh in college I was able to quickly transition from being labeled as an international student because of my fluency in English. If you never asked, you may have never realized that I was international. A question on a recent survey I distributed to co-workers regarding my origins revealed that my American colleagues who were unaware of my citizenship chose Asian-American as my ethnic group rather than solely Asian. Many of my friends have told me that if they never knew where I was from they would have assumed that I was Asian-American from the way I speak and behave.

Nevertheless, I remain an outsider to any American because I didn’t entirely grow up in this land. Although my lifestyle, culture and accent allowed me to fit in, I wasn’t familiar with many of the terms, brands and sayings. I grew up in a different world than them yet I was still able to cling on and fit in. Likewise, I was a



PHOTO COURTESY KHUSHBOO GULABRAI

Khushboo Gulabrai is an Indian student from Singapore who grew up in South Korea before moving to the U.S. to attend Calvin.

foreigner in Indonesia, growing up with a western background and education and carrying an accent in the language. So where do I really belong? In reality this confusion is the essence of being a TCK — the lack of a sense of belonging. The thought of a future here or there has remained a pressing issue that I have not yet decided on. After being here for nearly three years, this place has

steadily become more and more a home.

Here at Calvin I share this identity with dozens of students who have experienced a similar or more diverse background. As TCKs we more readily accept other cultures, having gone through a plethora of engagements with various other cultures ranging from an individual like myself who lived in both eastern and western cultures to a missionary kid who may call five different countries home. At Calvin we embrace both sides of the spectrum. For TCKs, we shift easily between groups of internationals and Americans and are able to easily adapt and participate in either group. At Calvin we are everywhere; we take out the international part of ourselves when we are with others like us, and we can embrace our roots and heritage during those international-themed events while reflecting a different personality elsewhere.

We, the prototype citizens of the future (according to sociologist Ted Ward), are given a gift and a blessing. We have been gifted with the opportunity of swimming through a pool of multicultural diversity. We have been given the capacity to become leaders in a community, a bridge for both parties. At Calvin I have learned to employ that gift in my participation at Chimes by bringing out the diverse stories we have at Calvin.

Khushboo Gulabrai, a junior at Calvin and fellow TCK, also comes from a diverse background. She is an Indian from Singapore who lived in Korea and is now living in the U.S. Her story reflects a journey that many third culture students, including myself, share.

“While most third culture kids constantly move around, adapting in new environments, I have stayed in one place my whole life,” said Gulabrai. “Being born and raised in Seoul, I have always found that to be my home; however, Koreans obviously think of me as a foreigner. I constantly found myself having to make new friends because all my

friends would move every year. While they were able to move to a different place and start anew, I was stuck to make new friends in an old place. I was in an environment where I didn’t look like anybody.”

Coming into Calvin, Gulabrai talks about how the change exacerbated her already confused identity.

“A lot of third culture kids, including myself, find themselves dealing with the issue of displacement. They don’t see their belonging in the world and have a hard time defining home. They don’t know where they should go after their education or even during summer break. They struggle maintaining friendships because they have friends all over their world. It’s like being in a constant long distance relationship with everyone you love and care about,” she said.

Though living as a third culture kid brings forth an exciting prospect of immersing oneself into a pool of different cultures, there remains a downside.

“I’ve found it difficult to accept that I have no place I can call home,” said Gulabrai. “I’ve struggled with the uncertainty of not knowing where my parents are going to be in the future, where I’m going to be, where I can get a job, what visa I need to work here and there.”

Like Gulabrai and many others, third culture kids have learned to embrace the unique identity that we have been blessed with. We carry the experiences of our life journey close to our hearts and it is those experiences and opportunities that have formed who we are today. Wherever we are, we have learned to make that place our home.

“It’s scary not having a physical place we can call home,” said Gulabrai. “But at the same time, third culture kids have learned that home isn’t a place — it’s the people in it.”



PHOTO COURTESY ALDEN HARTOPO

Alden Hartopo in front of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, where he spent part of his childhood.

“ I believe the whole story is a social commentary on the ever widening divide between the rich and the poor.

Sierra Savela, “Elysium”

## Mysterious re-imagining of ‘Dracula’ gets off to decent start

NBC’s version of the Bram Stoker tale stars Jonathan Rhys Meyers and airs on Fridays at 10 p.m.

BY ROSELLE PAZ LANDOY  
Staff Writer

Forget about those Cullens and the diaries—it’s time to talk about the original vampire: Dracula.

“Dracula” starts in the country of Romania in 1881, where viewers meet two explorers as they drop into what seems to be a grave—a very eerie-looking one, to be exact. On top of the coffin is a monstrous figure and around it are images that are more than a bit disturbing.

One explorer, viewers discover, is simply looking for treasure. The other, however, is there for something else. He runs his hand across the images, as if recognizing them. The two begin to destroy the coffin. When a part of its wall collapses, viewers are treated to view of the grotesque corpse.

A little bit (okay, a lot) of blood later and the corpse comes to life.

Fast forward to London, 1896 where the newly alive corpse is American industrialist Alexander Grayson (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) who is holding a grand party to reveal his latest discovery.

After mingling with his guests, Grayson introduces the con-

cept of a geomagnetic power source. While it impresses most people in the party, it threatens the big economists—one even calls him a fraud.

Viewers find out it was Grayson who killed the man and that he is trying to find the leader of a group called the Order of the Dragon.

Several events happen soon after: vampires are suspected to be back in Britain, Grayson gets interviewed by journalist Jonathan Harker, professor Van Helsing is introduced, Mina Murray, a medical student, confesses her problems with surgical procedures and Grayson spends a little time with a Lady Jane.

The moment that viewers were waiting for come soon after as Grayson gets into a fight with Hermann Kruger who, on his deathbed, says to Grayson, “You are Dracula.”

A little while later, viewers find out that Professor Van Helsing was the explorer who raised Dracula from the dead, and, for the past 10 years, he and Dracula have built up a business to eventually thwart the Order of the Dragon.

“Dracula” returns to the

age of the original vampires where vegetarianism isn’t an option and their skin burns in the sunlight. The show is dark, mysterious and beautiful.

While the show received good ratings and people tuned in to watch, the future of the show is a bit unclear. There is no doubt that there is a certain lure to

the show and the beauty of the setting amuses me; however, so far, the plot doesn’t quite bring me in enough to keep watching. And, personally, I don’t always



FILE PHOTO

NBC went all out and undoubtedly spent a lot of money on the show, as is evident in the party scene. They created a beautiful ballroom setting, complete with extravagant gowns that I wish existed in my closet.

the show that would keep audiences coming back, but some people are just not pleased.

I, for one, am both attracted to it and a bit wary of it. The return of original vampires, the science that is incorporated in

feel the 1800s setting.

Finally, I admit that the concept of vampires, old or new, is really starting to get a little old.

Will I watch future episodes? Maybe—at least to see if it gets better and interests me further.

## ‘Elysium’ wastes an intriguing story

Sci-fi film will be playing in the CFAC on Saturday night

BY SIERRA SAVELA  
Staff Writer

What happens when the number of humans on earth exceeds the amount that can actually fit on the planet? What will we do when there are just too many people? “Elysium” explores the approaching doom of overpopulation and what it could possibly mean for our future.

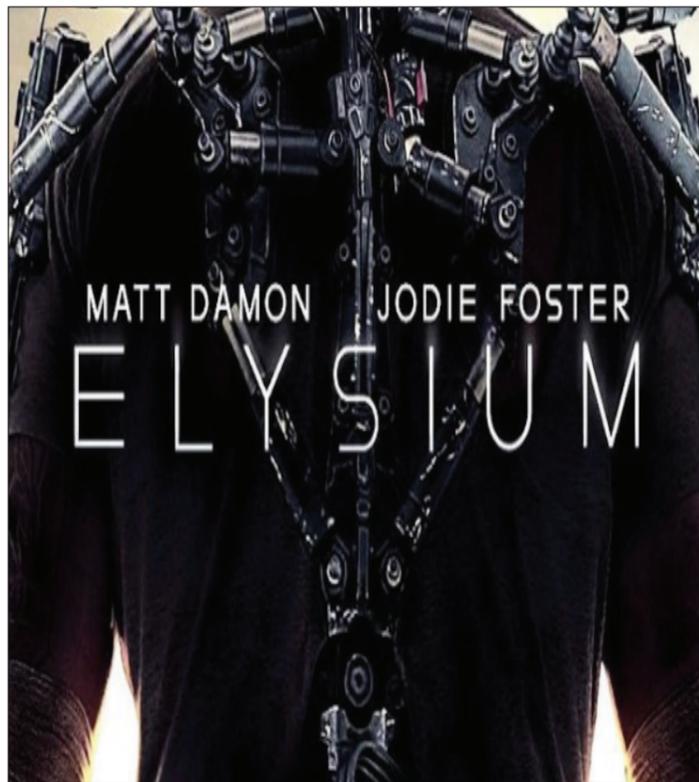
In the year 2154, the wealthy have abandoned our planet and colonized a man-made space station called Elysium, while the rest of the human race resides on a crumbling earth. The cosmic paradise includes machines that have the ability to heal and prolong life. Max (Matt Damon), a resident of earth, given five days to live, decides to lead a mission up to Elysium in order to heal himself and others close to death. However, this is made difficult by secretary Delacourt (Jodie Foster), a resident of Elysium, who fiercely imposes strict immigration laws in order to keep the earthlings out and preserve their luxurious way of life.

The movie is quite action-packed and it definitely entertains. The visual effects are splendid—the space station is beautiful and awe-inspiring. Visually, the contrast between the beautiful, silver Elysium and the brown, ruined earth is stark. This contrast really parallels and highlights the two different lifestyles and conditions of the rich and poor. Earth is ridden with crime and houses that are falling apart—everything is dusty and bare. The citizens work in factories to make things for Elysium; every government worker has been replaced by a robot. Elysium is filled with trees, water and sparkling white mansions. The citizens wear nice clothes and go to parties. This movie deals with some

heavy subjects. I believe the whole story is a social commentary on the ever widening divide between the rich and the poor. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. “Elysium” gives its audience a glimpse into the future to see what it might possibly hold if we continue in this pattern.

I have to say that I find any

with power, Foster is not pleasing to watch. The level of intensity in her face and voice drops to the point where it became ridiculous and I could not take her character seriously. The script has its cheesy parts as well. The inevitable romance seems forced and far-fetched. Many exciting



FILE PHOTO

movie or book dealing with the issue of overpopulation quite interesting. It’s a frightening issue that people don’t typically talk about. The earth can only sustain so many people, and the human race keeps on multiplying at a quicker rate. “Elysium” gives its take on what humanity’s future may consist of when it reaches that point.

The movie’s premise may be deep, but the dialogue and acting are shallow. As a villain drunk

scenes were interrupted by tacky dialogue that ruined potentially intense moments.

The movie has some really important subject matter dealing with overpopulation and the divide between extreme wealth and extreme poverty. It is an exciting movie, but the cheesy acting and far-fetched plot points become its downfall.

“Elysium” will be playing on Nov. 9 in the CFAC at 7 p.m.

## Hyped album disappoints

‘Reflektor’ is Arcade Fire’s fourth album

BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA  
Staff Writer

God bless U2. Perhaps the last rock band to achieve universal cultural relevance, they have spawned a veritable army of sincere, quasi-spiritual successors to carry their mantle into the 21st century, while Bono buries himself more and more in condescending charity projects. Arcade Fire has managed to retain a cache of credibility throughout its four albums. While I have never loved any of their albums, their latest “Reflektor” is the first to be truly irritating, mostly because it squanders both a stylistic twist and the formidable talents of producer James Murphy on the most tiresome “dance” record of the year.

Spanning two discs, 13 songs and 75 minutes of music, “Reflektor” was released with an avalanche of hype and corporate-sponsored guerrilla marketing. The first review released was a rapturous hymn of praise in Rolling Stone, comparing this turgid and murky mass to greats like “Achtung Baby” and Radiohead’s “Kid A.”

The comparison to the former makes a degree of sense, as this album, like U2 on “Achtung,” captures a band going through a transition and trying on both new stylistic ideas and a sense of irony. Arcade Fire, however, wears its irony uncomfortably, failing to channel its bitterness into playfulness. Instead, they retain the mirthless sincerity for which they are notorious, capitalizing on well-worn influences and scoring cheap emotional points the way a hack film director tries to wring tears from their audience’s eyes by zooming in on abandoned teddy bears.

Songs stretch on far too long, pounding sermons about the shallowness of digital culture, the cruelty of “normals” and the in-

sensitivity of missionaries. Butler, never a lyrical genius, plumbs the primordial depths of his reservoir of hamfisted phrases. Some of those lines, like the main refrain from “Flashbulb Eyes,” made me do a double-take. Butler croons, “What if the camera really do take your soul?” On “Normal Person,” the most mainstream rock band of our time bristles at all the normal people—especially at how cool they are, oddly enough—and asks if there is anything as cruel as a normal person.

Early on, in “We Exist,” Butler reiterates one of the oldest complaints of pampered rock stars: their audiences don’t respect them enough. While it’s not as bold-faced as Roger Waters’ assertion that rock shows are fascist rallies in disguise, it also lacks panache or justification.

Butler’s wife and fellow lead singer Regine Chassaigne has a far more muted presence on this album than on previous ones, which leaves Butler trying to contort his voice to work on disco beats. Even though those beats normally hang around mid-tempo, he simply cannot manage it, draining all of the fun even out of songs like “Here Comes the Night Time (Part 1),” by far the best track on the record.

That song, which ends with Arcade Fire letting loose in a fiery burst of joy, represents both the high point on “Reflektor” and a cruel reminder of what could have been a triumph. Even a cameo by David Bowie merely reinforces my impression that this whole enterprise is derivative and dull. Though on the first and title track you can hear James Murphy’s influence coming through with a respectable disco pulse, that is one of the few songs that remains danceable for any length of time. This is serious business, and unfortunately Arcade Fire fails to conjure up the needed gravitas or skill to make it work.

## Basketball tops poll

*Knights early favorite for MIAA title*

BY JACOB KUYVENHOVEN  
Sports Co-Editor

The Calvin College men's basketball team enters the 2013-14 season coming off one of their best years in recent memory, where they won 20 games for the first time since 2006, won the MIAA and advanced to the NCAA Tournament's round of 16 for the first time since 2005.

The Knights have the talent and depth to continue this success this year, but some players will have to step up. The biggest holes to in the roster were left by two prolific scorers who graduated

Kyle MacDonald, a junior transfer from Jackson Community College, and sophomores Jordan Daley and Austin Parks, figure to be the main contenders for the job, but freshmen Danny Leach and Brad Visser are expected to garner playing time right away as well.

A definite area of strength for Calvin's team this year should be their frontcourt rotation, as the Knights return four players who received significant minutes during last year's run.

Senior center Tyler Kruis and junior power forward Tyler Dykstra are both returning starters. Kruis averaged 12.3 points

and 6.0 rebounds a game last year and ranks among Calvin's all-time block leaders, while Dykstra has contributed significantly on defense in his first two years and should continue to develop.

Two other players who were effective off the bench and return this year are seniors Mickey DeVries and Daniel Stout, both skilled shot-blockers who will again provide a spark for the Knights. DeVries managed to average over five points and rebounds per game last year despite not starting.

The MIAA coaches certainly appear to respect this team helmed by 18-year head coach Kevin Vande Streek, as they were voted as the pre-

season favorite by the MIAA coaches' poll.

However, Vande Streek has told Calvin Sports Information that the schedule will be tough. "On any given day, someone could come up to knock you off," he said. "We're looking forward to the challenge. It should be an exciting year."

The Knights' first home matchup will come on Nov. 22 when they host the Calvin Tip-off Tournament. They will then take a trip to California during winter break, and will kick off the MIAA season on Jan. 8.



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

**Tyler Kruis will be a leader this season.**

this past spring: Tom Snickers and Bryan Powell.

A key to maintaining this scoring presence will be junior shooting guard Jordan Brink, the only returning starter from the backcourt. Brink averaged 10.4 points per game last year and has been a consistent force for Calvin when healthy. Senior Jordan Mast and junior TJ Huizenga will also figure to receive significant playing time on the wing.

The starting point guard spot is still up for grabs, and finding a dependable replacement will be important for the team.

## XC teams victorious

*Both squads capture championships*

BY ANDRE OTTE  
Staff Writer

At the MIAA Championships the men's and women's cross country teams both took home first place trophies as well as 18 all-conference plaques between the two squads.

On a soggy course at the West Ottawa Golf Club, the women have now finished atop the MIAA for the second straight year and the men for an incredible 27 years.

The women scored 21 points, never letting second-place Hope get into the race and challenge for the victory. Freshman Cassie Vince led the way for Calvin with the individual victory, 11 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Sheri McCormack of Hope.

"Cassie showed maturity today," said coach Brian Diemer. "She was patient and moved at just the right time to get the victory over McCormack who had a very good effort today."

Third, fourth and fifth place were senior Nicole

it up and sparked Oram and Michmerhuizen to fight through that race."

The team seems to be in great shape heading into regionals and nationals in the upcoming weeks. The Knights are fully equipped with a couple of front-runners and a solid pack backing them up.

Vince talked about the confidence that she has in her teammates as they move on.

"Even though I can't always see where they are in the race, I am always very confident that they are giving 100 percent," she said. "This really pushed me and Nicole to run as hard as we can."

The men's team scored 28 points, sealing the the win.

They improved on their MIAA Jamboree finish by 10 points and had twice as many top 10 finishers. Junior Josh Ferguson paced the Knights with a third place finish while freshman Zac Nowicki and senior Philip Spitzer were close behind in fourth and fifth place.

Sophomore Jeff Meitler and freshman Nate VanHaitsma completed the scoring for Calvin. Senior Sam Kerk and junior



PHOTO BY SUSAN HAAGSMA

**Calvin runners got into position early and didn't look back.**

Michmerhuizen, junior Kimby Penning and senior Alyssa Oram. Also finishing in the top 15 for the women were junior Sara Danner, freshman Lauren Brink and junior Paige McGahan.

After the race, coach Diemer expressed his confidence in the pack behind Vince.

"The pack really stepped it up today which was necessary in order for them to stay out of range of the Hope pack," he said. "Penning really stepped

Steven Haagsma rounded out the top seven.

"The pack was extremely successful," said Diemer. "Ferguson and Spitzer ran brilliant races, really stabilizing that pack. This is exciting because I think that we are going to keep gathering around that — we are picking up some steam."

The next competition for the Knights will be at home on Nov. 16 when they host the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional meet.

## Soccer captures regular-season MIAA title

BY BRIAN EXNER  
Staff Writer

Two victories last week placed Calvin's women's soccer team in a position to claim the sole ownership of the MIAA title with a win over Hope on Monday afternoon, and they came up victorious with a 1-0 win.

Calvin entered this match tied for first with Hope at 37 points each. The stakes were high, as Alma, with 36 points, could have snuck ahead with a win.

Key to the match was finding a way to score on Kat Dickinson, who has a .61 goals against average, and holding off Hope's attack.

But to get to this point, Calvin hosted the Kalamazoo Hornets in the first game of the week. The teams were evenly matched on the scoreboard at the half — neither team conceding a goal.

In the second half, the Knights to put two shots on goal in the first half, but it was Sydney Kinney who found the back of the net for the Knights. Off of a corner, Kinney curled the ball towards the near post with enough spin to get past the Olivet defenders.

Paige Capel assisted Kelly Koets in the third minute of the half to break the tie and give the Knights the lead. The Hornets scored a late goal, but it was after Capel had given the Knights an insurance goal less than 10 minutes earlier.

After losing to Adrian in their previous match, this win brought the Knights back into first position in the conference. The Knights then headed to Olivet looking to retain their position.

The Knights were aggressive, taking eight shots in the first half. Heidi Scholten was able



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

**Sydney Kinney scored a goal for Calvin.**

## Scoreboard

Calvin won five MIAA Titles in three days, and will have a chance to add to that total this week. The men's and women's soccer teams both clinched their regular-season titles, and men's and women's cross country teams took home outright championships in their meets. Volleyball earned a share of the regular season MIAA crown with Hope and will have the top seed for the tournament this week.

### Men's Soccer

CALVIN: 4  
Alma: 0

CALVIN: 7  
Albion: 0

### Women's Soccer

CALVIN: 2  
Kalamazoo: 1

CALVIN: 1  
Olivet: 0

CALVIN: 1  
Hope: 0

### Men's Cross Country

CALVIN: 28  
Hope: 59  
Albion: 61

### Women's Cross Country

CALVIN: 21  
Hope: 36  
St. Mary's: 102

### Volleyball

CALVIN: 25, 25, 25  
Kalamazoo: 11, 14, 13

### Men's Swim / Dive

CALVIN: 157.5  
Alma: 84.5

### Women's Swim / Dive

CALVIN: 163  
Alma: 63



ETCETERA

# CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

10/28/13

Campus safety took a report of a larceny of a wallet from their unlocked vehicle in the west Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex parking lot (lot 6). The victim indicated the theft had occurred on Oct. 17, but they were just reporting the incident on Oct. 28. The victim indicated they were alerted to the theft when their credit card company called to check on some suspicious transactions. In addition to reporting the incident to campus safety, the victim was advised to contact the Grand Rapids Police Department and make a report.

10/29/13

Campus safety took a report of a larceny from a vehicle in the west Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex parking lot (lot 6)

where the rear passenger side window was smashed out and a purse was stolen from the back seat. The Grand Rapids police were also contacted and responded to the scene to take a report. The vehicle was also processed for fingerprints. This was the second of two reported vehicle breaking and enterings reported between 5:08 and 5:15 p.m.

10/29/13

Campus safety took a report of a larceny from a vehicle in the west parking lot (lot 3) where the driver's side window was smashed out and a purse was stolen. The Grand Rapids police were also contacted and responded to the scene to take a report. The vehicle was also processed for fingerprints.

	9		7					6
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8		7			1		3	
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		8			4			3
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3			1		2		8	

S  
U  
D  
O  
K  
U

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Columns' crossers
- 5 Head of st.
- 8 Despot
- 12 Turkish peninsula region
- 14 Crosby's pal
- 15 Predict
- 16 Parks at a bus stop?
- 17 Bowling target
- 18 Danish money
- 20 Covers a present
- 23 Actress Cannon
- 24 Roll call reply
- 25 Skill for an identity thief
- 28 Longing
- 29 "Sesame Street" Muppet
- 30 LummoX
- 32 "Wheel of —"
- 34 Staff
- 35 Operatic solo
- 36 Rouse
- 37 Hedge shrub
- 40 Listener
- 41 Jeans-maker Strauss
- 42 Strong
- 47 Alda or

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47				48						
49				50				51		

- 7 Valhalla
- 8 Royal seat
- 9 Any time now
- 10 Church area
- 11 Back
- 13 Elevator name
- 19 Anger
- 20 "How come?"
- 21 Coral
- 22 River through Florence
- 23 Summer or Shalala
- 25 Productive
- 26 Chess castle
- 27 Harvard rival
- 29 To be (Fr.)
- 31 Swamp
- 33 Gorge
- 34 Mom or dad
- 36 Texas city
- 37 Blueprint
- 38 Move, to a Realtor
- 39 — the Terrible
- 40 Great Lake
- 43 Individual
- 44 Evergreen type
- 45 Submachine gun
- 46 Segment of a trip

**DOWN**

- 1 U.K. fliers
- 2 John's Yoko
- 3 Simple card game
- 4 Treeless plain
- 5 Singer
- 6 Lubricate

## Super Crossword

## STEALING HARTS

**ACROSS**

- 1 iPad downloads
- 5 Erie, for one
- 10 Up high
- 15 Weapons
- 19 "Doggone!"
- 20 Greek salad morsel
- 21 Soprano
- 22 Lunch, e.g.
- 23 Mouselike rodent
- 24 Kind of pie
- 25 Civil War side
- 26 How thumbs are twiddled
- 27 Start of a riddle
- 31 Smoothing tool
- 32 "A Streetcar Named Desire" director
- 33 Kazan
- 33 Sauna
- 34 sitter's sigh
- 34 Big stink
- 36 Former Web reference from Microsoft
- 38 Riddle, part 2
- 43 Bog grass
- 44 Tip of a pen
- 46 University of — Dame
- 47 Spongy ball brand
- 48 Her look was petrifying
- 51 Dawdle
- 52 James Clavell's "— -Pan"
- 54 Riddle, part 3
- 63 In a caftan
- 64 Be cruising
- 65 French coin
- 66 Eyeball
- 67 Like hammy acting
- 70 Travels like Huck Finn
- 73 Largest city in Cyprus
- 75 East Indian flatbread
- 76 Inferior vena —
- 78 Itty bit
- 80 Big chipmaker
- 81 Riddle, part 4
- 87 Suffix with lion or priest
- 88 USMC VIP
- 89 Nonethical
- 90 Snowy birds
- 93 Nerds'
- 95 cousins
- 95 Neither go-with
- 96 Mint output
- 100 End of the riddle
- 105 Like some snowy hills
- 107 Catch, as a perp
- 108 Next-to-last Greek letter
- 109 The "A" of UAW, briefly
- 111 "MMMBop" boy band
- 112 Riddle's answer
- 118 Slimy veggie
- 119 Stick shift selections
- 120 Photocopier additive
- 121 Pulitzer-winning playwright
- 122 William
- 122 Satyrical look
- 123 Accept the loss, in slang
- 124 "The Prophecy" co-star
- 125 Koteas
- 125 Nero's 602
- 126 Small vortex
- 127 Mamba, e.g.
- 128 American patriot
- 129 Silas
- 129 E-mail button

**DOWN**

- 1 One giving counsel
- 2 Irreverent
- 3 Jack of "City Slickers"

- 4 Acquired pop
- 5 Equal business associate
- 6 Emmy winner
- 7 Specialized market
- 8 Is of use to
- 9 "Law & Order" detective
- 10 One reuning
- 11 Filmmaker
- 12 Ken or Lena of Hollywood
- 13 Floodwater of a stream
- 14 Inaptitude for music
- 15 Lady friend, in Lyons
- 16 Bureaucratic busywork
- 17 Big stink
- 18 Guileful
- 28 Atop, to a poet
- 29 Build up
- 30 Fraternity letter
- 35 See 59-Down
- 37 Man Friday
- 39 French writer
- 40 Coup d'— (uprising)
- 41 Have a tiff
- 42 Module
- 45 Pals
- 48 Docs
- 49 Incision reminder
- 50 Operatic highlight
- 52 Garr of Hollywood
- 53 Unlike a person
- 54 Circus site
- 55 Garciaparra of baseball
- 56 Steak cut
- 57 — it ride
- 58 Pixie-esque
- 59 With 35-Down, leave in a hurry
- 60 Lilylike
- 61 Disney mermaid's name
- 62 Batting game for tots
- 68 Jumbo tubs
- 69 Adam's partner
- 71 Forum wrap
- 72 Fruit waste
- 74 Oshawa's
- 77 Seraph, say
- 79 Middle name of Presley
- 82 Flier's home
- 83 Heroic act
- 84 Cross in hieroglyphics
- 85 Lovers' god
- 86 Surprise candidate
- 90 Hold title to
- 91 Swatted
- 92 Worked hard
- 93 Neighbor of a Liberian
- 94 Toast
- 96 Unposed photos
- 97 Truancy, e.g.
- 98 Sweet red liqueur
- 99 Actor Paul who played Victor Laszlo
- 101 Typing class stat
- 102 Old Missouri natives
- 103 Conveyed via a tube
- 104 "Lord Jim" star
- 106 Fleming or McEwan
- 110 "Labor — vincit"
- 114 Statistics
- 115 "Parade" penner
- 116 Tivoli's Villa d'—
- 117 Ogreish
- 118 Bullring call

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“Physically entering the jail and worshipping with those inside has broken down the stereotypes I’ve held and has given me a chance to see the inmates the way their Creator sees them: broken people stumbling down the road in pursuit of their Savior, just like me.

Kelsey Veldkamp, “Worship at jail”

# Eastern Orthodox students find academic freedom

BY LAUREN DEHAAN  
Local News Editor

Converts to Eastern Orthodoxy at Calvin say their transition to Orthodoxy has been well received by Calvin’s academic community.

Juniors Joseph Olivares and Malak Alkanani, recent converts to Eastern Orthodoxy and the only known Eastern Orthodox students at Calvin, say faculty members appreciate their religious diversity.

“Calvin is pretty easygoing about Orthodoxy,” said Alkanani. “Calvin really welcomed the diversity.”

Olivares said he noticed this particularly with his religion professors.

“Even the professors who disagreed with me were still supportive,” Olivares said.

That academic freedom was, however, more difficult to find among fellow students.

“Some people stopped hanging out with me,” Alkanani said. “I had to sit down with people and explain things to my friends. There are a lot of things that [Joseph and I] had to clear up with people.”

These clarifications mainly included doctrinal differences between the CRC and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

“Generally, students don’t know as much about the [Eastern] Orthodox church as [Malak



PHOTO CREDIT LAUREN DE HAAN

Calvin students attend St Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, the only Eastern Orthodox church in Grand Rapids.

and I] do so there may have been some misunderstanding,” said Olivares.

There are in fact, a number of differences between the churches that were challenging even for Alkanani and Olivares to accept initially.

“It was hard for me to accept praying to Mary and the saints,” Olivares said. “It was also weird how they sing everything during the service.”

The major differences between the Eastern Orthodox Church and Protestantism stem from the split of the Eastern and Western

churches in the Great Schism of 1054. The Eastern church has not gone through any major reformation since, Alkanani said.

The fact that the Eastern Church has remained so unvarying overtime was one of the major draws for both Alkanani and Olivares.

“The Protestant Church has changed a lot, which was my biggest setback,” Alkanani said. “I wanted more continuity.”

According to Alkanani, these changes created not one church, but many denominations with no

central authority binding them together. “The Protestant church became sort of the junk drawer,” Alkanani said.

Olivares agreed the lack of a central church authority in Protestantism gave him the push towards Eastern Orthodoxy.

“We [Orthodox Christians] all know that we all believe the same thing,” Olivares said. “If I go to another [Orthodox] church I know what the service will be like.”

Alkanani said the theology and structure of the liturgy are the same throughout Eastern

Orthodox churches.

According to Alkanani, the Orthodox church also has a high sense of reverence. “They approach church much differently,” Alkanani said. “It feels sacred and is very high, very reverent.”

This does not, however, mean the conversion was entirely easy.

“The hardest thing for me to accept was the apparent exclusivity of the [Orthodox] church,” Alkanani said. “I can’t commune at my Protestant church anymore. It was hard to break that connection.”

## Students worship at jail

Bradford leads monthly services and prayer

BY SARAH STRIPP  
Staff Writer

On the third Sunday of every month, approximately five Calvin students go to the Kent County jail. They do not go under an arrest warrant, but instead to worship with the men in two or three different jail pods for Sunday afternoon services.

“Physically entering the jail and worshipping with those inside has broken down the stereotypes I’ve held and has given me a chance to see the inmates the way their Creator sees them: broken people stumbling down the road in pursuit of their Savior, just like me,” said Kelsey Veldkamp, a junior who has been going to the jail for the past year.

Junior Joel Altena also felt like his stereotypes surrounding the jail were broken down in his time there.

“Before I walked into that jail for the first time I thought they deserved to be there,” Altena said, “and I was just coming in to give them grace and what I believed was the truth. They don’t deserve it, though.”

Chaplain Nate Bradford, the instigator of this program at Calvin, wanted students to start seeing the injustices that are built into our legal systems, such as laws that target or more harshly punish those in poor, largely African American neighborhoods.

“Massive incarceration of the poor that affects African Americans in a greater percentage than others is one of the key problems of our day. There is still a lot of segregation and jail is one legal way to do that,” said Bradford.

“My time working in jail has made me more aware that the reason I am not there has more to do with the color of my skin and

the neighborhood I live in than anything else,” said senior Nicole Schmitt. “People can go to jail for unpaid parking tickets, but I am just not in a place where people get caught.”

“These men are human beings,” said Altena. “They have stories and families. They have hopes, desires and passions. And just because they were caught for their offenses, they are losing these things. They are having their human rights taken away. And that is why they don’t deserve to be stuck there, or if they do, than I do as well.”

“As we sing together, pray together and hear a message of empowerment, of grace and of the love of Jesus Christ, together we affirm the fact that God forgives us for our sins,” Altena said.

Bradford says he would love to get as many Calvin students through this program as possible as a way of showing them that there are victims of injustice just down the road from our campus.

“Any amount of words on a page or even stories you hear can change the intellect, but until you see something or experience something, the heart is not changed and actions will not change ... yet there is a really big reality shift that can happen.”

Bradford also says that this is not just a hobby or issue for some Christians, but for the church as a whole.

“The whole church needs to care about justice and loving our neighbors as ourselves,” Bradford said. “Who is my neighbor? It’s the person most unlike you, not the person easiest to love. We need to think about the people who are near us and most unlike us. How do we love them well?”



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“ The reality is that controversial conversation is a foundational aspect of Calvin’s culture, so much so that our dialogue will only continue to flower when it’s hosed.

Michael Kelly, Letter to the Editor ”

## Letters to the Editor

### Calvin needs to learn how to truly love LGBT+ students

Dear Editor,

Oct. 11 is not a date many people outside of the LGBT+ community notice.

This year, the internationally observed National Coming Out Day celebrated its 25th anniversary, a day commemorating the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

In past years, the “You Are Loved” campaign at Calvin has not been clear in its explicit ori-

entation toward the LGBT+ community, notably writing only “You Are Loved.”

I am completely aware that the LGBT+ conversation is a difficult and sensitive issue at Calvin and that the right of free speech is uncertain at a private institution. I also understand the rationale and need for providing context in light of a broader picture — the “You Are Loved” campaign comes in light of a church that has been and continues to be at times an unwelcoming, unsafe and unloving place for the LGBT+ community.

Citing official miscommuni-

cation as a reason for Calvin’s censorship does not mitigate my own concerns over the ambiguous nature of Calvin’s love toward LGBT+ students. Centering attention on Fridays at Calvin effectively ignores larger issues and the broader context of Calvin student life.

If a statement of unconditional love toward LGBT+ students needs to be framed by Calvin admissions for prospective students, it is questionable whether admissions is truly capable of representing a college that fully loves its entire student body — including the “small snippet” of Calvin that is part of the LGBT+ community.

Jordan E. Davis ‘13

### Admissions office’s concerns about chalk unwarranted

Dear Editor,

I am writing because I have trouble sympathizing with the admission staff’s concerns, which I understand as being uninformed about the campus-wide chalk writings of Calvin’s Sexuality and Gender Awareness (SAGA) organization and, therefore, unprepared to articulate how these writings fit within Calvin’s culture.

I have trouble sympathizing for two reasons:

1. SAGA has written messages in chalk around campus every

year for the last four years that I have attended Calvin, and possibly before that. When students see the messages, they come as no surprise. The admission staff’s surprise at the messages only communicates their detachment from Calvin’s actual culture and their attachment to the imaginary, sentimental culture that they use to persuade prospective students. These messages have never needed to be communicated to admissions before, so why should they be now?

2. As a former tour guide for admissions, I know that Eileen Santee organizes training meetings for tour guides outlining how to respond to prospective students

and their parents regarding controversial topics in the Christian community, specifically homosexuality. Since representatives of the admissions staff are present at these meetings, whether as fellow teachers or learners themselves, it seems that they should be prepared at all times to articulate the college’s view on this topic, whether it presents itself in conversation or underneath our feet.

The reality is that controversial conversation is a foundational aspect of Calvin’s culture, so much so that our dialogue will only continue to flower when it’s hosed.

Michael Kelly ‘14

## College students detached from politics

Why college students aren’t interested in politics and why they should be

BY PETER WIDITZ  
Staff Writer

Last night I sat down on my couch and went channel surfing and found myself watching football. I gradually drifted off to sleep for a few minutes until I woke up and arose to do something else. If your favorite teams are playing, it is easy to pay attention because you feel invested in your team. However, when your team is not playing, it is easy to do other things and not pay attention — the game becomes background noise.

As students, we don’t have a lot of direct influence or money, so it is easy to sit by and become a spectator in the grand arena of government. We learned about the checks and balance system of government so we could pass our junior high Constitution test, but after that test many students have never read the preamble again. The Constitution sits in the National Archives where tourists gape at it as if it were a distant memory formulated by some old dead guys in a room 237 years ago.

We are deaf to the words of the country’s founders and the reasons why provisions are in this government system. Benjamin Franklin said in response to the conflict between England and her colonies that “passion governs and she never governs wisely.” The dead old guys sitting in a room understood that feelings and emotions can lead nations down dreaded paths.

Politics is not fantasy football; it is a reality where all of our decisions have meaning and power. The best word to describe a student’s role in politics would be “responsibility.” Many cringe when they hear

this word. Students do not want to do anything more than they have to, because school and personal relationships are what matter at this point in life. People are naturally reactive and not proactive and the current school system is set up this way. You get an assignment, then you do it; you’re given material, then you take a test.

Politics and intelligent voting involves a proactive approach where individuals must choose to seize information for themselves and make decisions based upon what they see. We are responsible for

to hunt for himself. We must be careful that we do not end up like Keiko, unable to fend for ourselves and reliant on others for everything.

For those who are paying attention to politics right now, the concept of personal responsibility is being debated in side issues such as health care reform, gun rights and homeland security issues. As students, we may not think these issues directly affect us, but when we graduate, find a job, get married and own property, these issues take the center stage. Jobs, marriage and property all involve responsibility by themselves but also carry with them moral responsibility for maintaining the rights to life, liberty and property.

Each generation is not just responsible for the condition of their own natural rights, but is responsible for the rights of future generations as well. However, the more disillusioned students become with government, the more reserved and uninterested they become.

If their children are never taught to embrace their role in their own government, the government will cease to belong to the people.

The dream that all mankind is created equal before the law and that all are entitled to pursue life, liberty and property without inhibition will die and decay with the old guys who drafted the ideas. If we learn to embrace our freedoms now and cast our voices into the political arena, we will be heard and we will carry on the dreams of those who came before us. If we do not embrace these freedoms, no one will embrace them for us and we will lose them forever.

*There are more sources of information on political subjects and politicians than ever before, but in the last decade the United States has had some of the lowest voter turnout ratios in the country’s history.*

what we learn and for what we do with that knowledge. There are more sources of information on political subjects and politicians than ever before, but in the last decade the United States has had some of the lowest voter turnout ratios in the country’s history.

As students, we have become accustomed to being spoon-fed information, so why should we all of a sudden have to proactively search for information ourselves? When the whale used in the film “Free Willy” was released back into the wild, the whale died from starvation because he was so accustomed to being fed by his trainers that he did not know how

## FROM THE EDITOR



There’s a standard conversation that happens on the path, probably hundreds of times each day. It goes like this: “Hey, how are you?” “Good, how about you?” “Good.”

But there’s one that’s becoming more common, in my life at least, and it goes like this: “Hey, how are you?” “Busy, how about you?” “Busy.”

On a campus where it’s common to have students leading student organizations, playing in music ensembles and working a job — all while trying to take classes — it’s no surprise that the answer to “how are you?” is often “busy.” An opinion piece we published earlier this year described it well:

“At Calvin, we are surrounded by an innumerable amount of events provided by academic departments and residence life. Our coursework is what most often takes a backseat as we scurry from a lecture series to dorm worship to midnight breakfast karaoke... My question to Calvin is simply: are we doing too much?”

Then maybe it’s not a surprise that the word busy actually has its roots in the Dutch language, coming from an Old English word meaning to occupy, employ, trouble or afflict.

But what messages get communicated to our friends and coworkers when we always tell them we’re busy?

I think it says that 1) we’re important and 2) we don’t have time for them.

First, saying “I’m busy” means that we matter. It boosts our self-worth and makes us seem important and needed and valuable. It means that there is some corner of this world to which we are essential, and if we aren’t there, that corner of the world might just stop spinning. It’s self-centered and self-aggrandizing.

Second, saying “I’m busy”

means that we don’t have time for the conversation we’re having with the other person. It means that we have so much going on in our life and so many things to get to that we’re probably not going to stick around much longer — and more importantly, that we value our busy schedules more than we value the person in front of us.

And that’s really what being busy ultimately comes down to: values.

Many of us would love to have more than 168 hours in each week, but we don’t. We can stretch those hours and save ten minutes here and a half hour there, but how we ultimately spend those 168 hours is all about prioritizing values.

So for one week, try saying, “it’s not a priority” instead of “I’m too busy.”

Okay, maybe you don’t actually want to say this out loud to people in your life, but at least say it to yourself.

My biology test is a higher priority than grabbing coffee with my friend. Catching up on sleep is a higher priority than going to church. Working on my research paper is a higher priority for me than meeting my family for dinner.

That’s one reason why I’ve worked so hard to carve out each Sunday for sabbath-keeping: resting in God’s love and creating that weekly rhythm is a higher priority for me than my work at Chimes or my homework.

The list goes on, but this way of thinking should bring up interesting decisions that make us rethink where we spend our time.

So whether we are puffing up our own self-esteem or we’re failing to address what our priorities are — let’s stop hiding behind the mask of “I’m busy.”

~rjs

WRITING FOR OP-ED is open to all Calvin students! This is your section and we want to hear your opinions about what is happening at Calvin, in Grand Rapids, in the U.S. and in the world. Send your articles to Abby at [ajp38@students.calvin.edu](mailto:ajp38@students.calvin.edu).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include the writer’s name and class. Letters received without a name will not be printed. The editors reserve the right to edit any letters. The length of the letter should be no longer than 250 words; longer letters may be shortened at the editor’s discretion. The deadline for all letters is 5 p.m. on Tuesday for print on the following Friday. Send letters to [chimes@calvin.edu](mailto:chimes@calvin.edu) with “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line, or send your comments through our website: [www.calvin.edu/chimes](http://www.calvin.edu/chimes)

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KNOLLCREST EAST  
APARTMENTS PRESENT  
THE 19TH ANNUAL

Light  
in the  
Night

