

CALVIN COLLEGE



CAR FALLS OVER LEDGE PAGE 3



LGBT FEATURE PAGES 5-7



VOLLEYBALL PAGE 8



ELEPHANTS PAGE 11

Calvin considers three-year on-campus residency requirement

BY RUTHY BERENDS
On-Call Writer

Calvin's new strategic plan could include a three-year on-campus residency requirement, although the requirement would not take effect for several years, Vice President of Student Life Shirley Hoogstra said on Tuesday.

Hoogstra explained that the idea stems mostly from a need for more on-campus housing, a desire to build community among upperclassmen and a desire to underline on-campus residency as a distinctive Calvin feature.

"We have more demand for on-campus housing than we have room," Hoogstra said. "That's what triggers this ... And a residential college is a particular distinctive in a world now pressured for online education, and we want to highlight our distinctives."

Calvin's percentage of students living off campus is much higher than peer and Ivy League institutions comparable to Calvin based on undergraduate population and freshman retention rate, according to Hoogstra.

"There is some question about whether retention would be improved by a longer residency

because other elite schools with longer residencies have higher retention," Hoogstra said.

John Witte, dean of residence life, also commented on the positive impact that a three-year on-campus housing requirement could have.

"It's pretty compelling that when you have a three-year residency requirement it changes the sense of on-campus community," Witte said. "And it creates things that happen between first- and second-year students and upperclassmen that aren't happening right now."

But both Hoogstra and Witte acknowledge the positive impact that off-campus housing can have as well.

"We have also developed a campus culture that involves living on campus and living off campus that some people have grown very fond of, and that's important also," Witte said. "That's the question. We know it changes things; would that

change be beneficial?"

Junior resident assistant Christina Pickett is hesitant about the three-year requirement and the loss of independence for students that could result.

"I think students are hesitant to live off campus," Pickett said, "but once they do, they realize that's where they want to be. I

quirement grew out of Calvin's history of a local population, i.e. students from Grand Rapids attending Calvin while living at home.

"But now," Hoogstra said, "Calvin is a regional, national and increasingly international college, so the strategic plan is thinking about the future, not

could be relevant to the next five years at Calvin.

Witte said that if Calvin were to consider further on-campus living requirements, the college would face more questions regarding space and may consider building new living facilities.

Hoogstra also stressed that the requirement would include a lot of flexibility and provide more options for varying personalities and needs.

"The overarching goal is variety that fits students' needs in the future," Hoogstra said.

Witte echoed Hoogstra's emphasis on flexibility.

"If we did [implement a three-year on-campus residency requirement], it would probably be with lots of ability to get exceptions," Witte said.

Freshman Donovan Silva sees the value in living both on campus and off campus during college, and he said if it were affordable, it could be a great idea.

"I think there's a lot of growing up and responsibility to be learned by living off campus," Silva said. "But then again there are some students who are not ready for that, so this could work to their interest. I think it could be awesome."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Early drafts of the strategic plan include consideration of requiring students to live on campus for three years.

don't know if it would be beneficial because students have to see how the real world works and get out of the Calvin bubble and grow in independence."

Hoogstra explained that Calvin's two-year residency re-

quirement grew out of Calvin's history of a local population, i.e. students from Grand Rapids attending Calvin while living at home.

just being wed to the way we've always done things." Hoogstra explained that the strategic plan, which will not be finalized until later this academic year and is still in its draft phase, includes various categories that

Women's soccer tops MIAA, heads to NCAA tourney

BY BRIAN EXNER
Staff Writer

On a day full of Calvin-Hope matchups, the Calvin women's soccer team brought home the win as they defeated the Flying Dutch 2-0.

Neither team was able to take a lead in the first half of the MIAA Championship matchup as both defenses were able to keep the pressure on. Calvin had the best opportunity of the half when Paige Capel played a through ball to Heidi Scholten in the 38th minute.

Scholten won the ball and was taken down trying to weave through the defenders. Taylor TenHarmsel stepped up to take the penalty kick, but Hope keeper Kat Dickson kept the game level by tipping the shot wide.

The teams finished the half with five shots apiece but no goals to show for their efforts.

In the 60th minute, the Knights were able to find the back of the net for the lead. TenHarmsel saw Christina Drost making a far post run and had faith in her teammate. "Tina is

so good at headers and I knew she would get there."

Drost was able to capitalize as she sent it to the back of the

net past a diving keeper. She had been hoping for that moment, "I knew Taylor would send [a cross] in ... I realized I could get

a solid touch."

Shortly after the ensuing kickoff, the Knights regained possession and kept the attacking

pressure up. Danielle Carter found herself with the ball in the middle and saw Kelly Koets with space. Koets sent a shot into the far lower corner for a 61st minute goal.

Drost and Koets both felt the momentum shift and knew that their teammates could keep up the energy for the rest of the game. The Knights' defense kept the Hope offense to only four shots in the second half and Ashton Hearn made one save in the shutout effort.

Accompanying the MIAA Championship victory was an automatic qualifier for the NCAA Division III National Tournament. After scoring her 10th goal of the year, Koets felt ready. "We have a lot of energy going in to [the tournament] and we have been there before so we know what it takes."

The NCAA Tournament begins the weekend of Nov. 15. The Knights travel down to St. Louis to play Aurora on Friday night. If they win, they play the winner of the Washington-St. Louis and St. Norbert game on Saturday.



PHOTO BY ANNA DELPH

Tina Drost and Kelly Koets scored Calvin's two goals to give Calvin the automatic qualifier.

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Elizabeth Mulcock

Chimes
Calvin College
3201 Burton Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

chimes@calvin.edu
advertise@calvin.edu
Phone: (616) 526-6578

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.

Climbing competition draws over 45 students in its fifth year

BY ANNA DELPH
Photography Editor

Competitors and spectators alike gathered Saturday afternoon at the Spoelhof Fieldhouse rock wall to take part in Calvin's most recent climbing competition.

Calvin has hosted competitions like this every semester since the facility opened in the spring of 2009. Participants compete in one of four experience brackets (recreational, intermediate, advanced and open) and climb a variety of routes all afternoon. Each route is worth a certain amount of points depending on its difficulty level. At the end of the day, each contestant's top four routes are added up, and the bottom three brackets declare a male and female winner.

In the open bracket, the top four males and top four females compete in sport climbing, which requires them to bring their own rope and clip themselves into the wall as they go up. This year's men's open champion was senior Nate Bia. The women's open, which opted out of a final round this year, ended in a tie between seniors Melissa DeMaagd and Kellan Day.

Entrance into the competition is open to all Calvin students. The \$10 fee includes an official T-shirt and entrance into several raffles and giveaways that happen throughout the day. This

year's competition was sponsored by The North Face, which gave out gift cards and other free items like water bottles, bags and stickers.

Kai Koopman, the climbing wall student manager, was the main organizer of the

Rooks, the campus recreation coordinator. According to Rooks, there is so much interest in the competition that they typically go over the allotted number of spots every year. With only 16 ropes on the wall though, he said top-rope competitions like this can get a

it's an athletic activity and there's a lot of people who regularly do it," said Koopman, "but it's not a varsity or club sport, so it's kind of self-selective in that way."

Erin Barents, a sophomore climber, says she greatly enjoys being a part of this community.

"Everyone is super chill — really welcoming and really friendly," said Barents.

Rooks also added that a massive amount of time and energy are put into these competitions every semester.

"We have over 100 hours of route setting that's involved in this process," said Rooks, "and most of those hours are volunteer hours." He described the process of taking all the rock wall holds off, washing them and re-setting routes as "a Herculean effort."

According to Koopman, over 30 volunteer route setters and 15 staff members helped put up routes for the competition.

"It's a whole climbing community effort," said Koopman.

Koopman said that rock wall staff members had help with this year from various professional route setters, including one that was USA Climbing-certified. The route quality on the wall, he says, is very high right now.

Rooks said that the routes change about four times a year, and the recreation department tries to host an event or competition like this each time to celebrate the "refreshed wall."

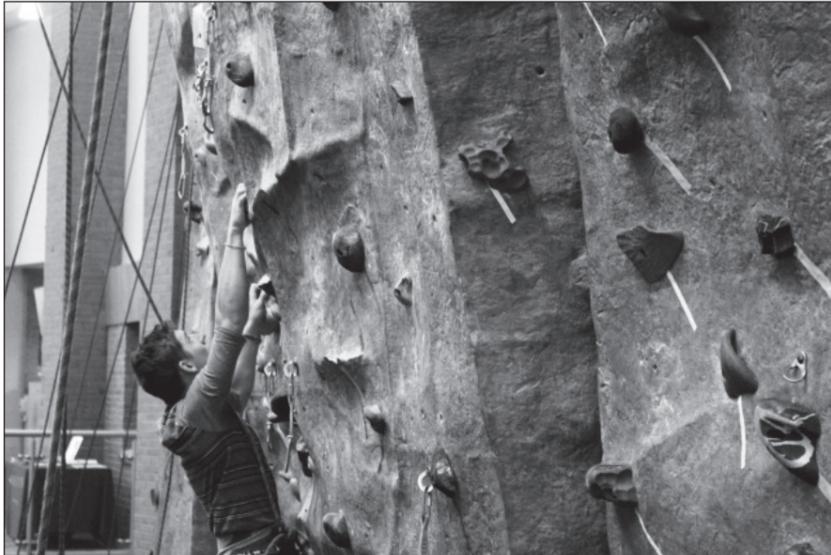


PHOTO BY ANNA DELPH

Last Saturday's climbing competition, at the Calvin Climbing Center, was hosted by Calvin Outdoor Recreation and sponsored by The North Face.

event. He said he was glad to see some new faces in the climbing crowd.

"We have a lot of underclassmen here which is sweet to see," said Koopman. A large part of the current group of climbers is seniors, he said, so part of this year's event was geared toward incorporating younger students to carry on the tradition.

Koopman works under Ryan

little claustrophobic.

The first climbing competition at Calvin was bouldering (climbing about 15 feet without a rope), and drew in about 45 students. Their most recent bouldering competition had 66 students.

According to Koopman, the rock wall has created a distinctive climbing culture at Calvin.

"It's unique in the sense that

Senate votes on proposals

Ideas include Calvin Radio and 24/7 study area

BY DANIEL PAULSON
Staff Writer

Student senate is looking to bring a student-run radio station, a 24/7 study area, service grants, a Calvin mobile app and a discounted taxi service to Calvin.

These proposals are among the 30 that student senate received from their recent Proposal Week initiative.

Calvin Radio was proposed by senior Grant Austin and would be an online radio streaming service run by Calvin students through a Calvin Radio student organization.

Student senator Jerry Grieser explained, "It's basically like an online radio streaming service but it would be music for Calvin students."

He continued, "Calvin students will be able to request songs. If there are any upcoming concerts, it would play music from those bands. It would play music that is big at Calvin and also announcements."

Calvin used to have a student-run radio station, WCAL.

WCAL began in 1965 and broadcasted via the campus cable system for most of its existence. Students could attach their stereos to the coaxial cables in the residence halls or just listen via their TVs. WCAL broadcasted over 95.1 FM for a semester before shutting down in 2001.

Before shutting down, WCAL even added online streaming for several years. In 1997, the station manager excitedly announced that "[online streaming] will allow as many as 40 people at a time [to] listen to the station from anywhere in the world."

The new radio initiative is intended to require less time commitment from students than the

old model of multiple DJs selecting tracks in real time.

"You just make a playlist and upload it to the website and it just plays them all," Grieser explained.

Besides Calvin radio, student senate is working on a new 24/7 study area for students.

"[The 24/7 study space] is addressing the needs of upperclassmen and those who need to study after midnight," Grieser explained. "Underclassmen have dorm basements to study in, but they are not very conducive to good studying."

Johnny's is currently open until 2 a.m. on weeknights but student senate hopes to keep the area open through the night. Additionally, senate hopes to extend the hours of the Fish House coffee shop to at least midnight.

Student senate also hopes to make Johnny's officially open on Sunday.

"Long-term we want to do something a lot bigger but we're looking for temporary solutions," said student senator Hannah Biggs.

Other proposals include service grants, where students can get funding for self-designed service projects; a Calvin mobile app, with mobile versions of calvin.edu, the Hekman website and some Portal services; and a partnership between Calvin and a local taxi service to provide discounted rates for students.

The "puppy patch" initiative, however, has been postponed.

"We're just going to try to do something with Nite-Life," Grieser explained. "They're [already] planning to do something."

"Because of the wintertime, it'd be hard," he added.

Student senate plans to continue with its puppy plans in the spring.

New Director of Finance hired

BY BEN RIETEMA
On-Call Writer

Fifteen months after the top financial position was vacated and Calvin's financial difficulties came to light, the college has a new director of finance.

Joel De Bruin, a 1990 Calvin graduate and certified public accountant, has taken over that role. After graduating from Calvin, De Bruin worked for seven years at the financial firm Ernst & Young as well as spending 15 years at Gordon Food Service (GFS).

De Bruin was well aware of the college's \$11.5 million budget gap, pending budget cuts and \$115 million debt before signing on, but believes that it is worth putting the effort into Calvin College.

"I sit on the Calvin Center for Innovation in Business governing board, so I understand what's going on," De Bruin said. "But I'm really excited about all the programs Calvin has to offer ... and how they stay consistent with the Reformed faith. I appreciate the discipline to do that. A lot of organizations slide — they started out as a Christian organization, and they're no longer that way."

De Bruin said the many years of technical experience in the audit department at GFS has equipped him for the director of finance position.

"I've had a number of different experiences in the financial arena from the technical side with auditing," De Bruin said. "GFS was a 100-year-old company that had never been through an audit. When I was leading the general accounting area, they asked me to step out of that role and lead the team through their first audit."

De Bruin said that the decision to take the job was informed by his wife and by prayer.

"My wife and I discussed it," De Bruin said. "We did a lot of praying and trying to understand where God wants me to be right now. I can be in my comfort zone or I can step outside of it. And after a lot of prayer and thought, we decided this is where I should be. I feel 100 percent at peace with the situation."

Sally Vander Ploeg, vice president for finance, said that De Bruin has qualities that fit the goals of Calvin.

"He has strong leadership skills and he's a very effective communicator," she said. "He's a humble and patient person with a strong financial mind ... He feels this is a calling to come [to Calvin], so he's very encouraged about coming. He and his wife have been prayerful about it."

Sam Wanner left the director of finance position in September 2012. During the 15-month gap in which the position was vacant, members of the finance department Sally Vander Ploeg, Todd Lohman and Ruth Witte oversaw the position.

"The team has been working extremely hard," De Bruin said. "And I appreciate the effort they're going through, because it's not easy being short-staffed."

The director of finance is responsible for a large swathe of the running of Calvin, including endowment (money that is gifted to the college) reporting.

"Basically, you are responsible for the financial operations of the college: supervising the financial services offices, payroll, accounts payable, Calvin travel service, budget and financial reporting," Vander Ploeg said. "They are responsible for a pretty large area ... They'll have some role in risk management and evaluating risks for the college."

C/O Exist, Dialogue collaborate

The latest edition focused on Middle Eastern art

BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

Despite recent concerns — published in this very paper — about ongoing budget cuts, Calvin's art, literature and culture magazine Dialogue has published a significant new issue. In collaboration with C/O Exist, Calvin's Middle Eastern art and culture festival, and several contributing writers, the new issue was feted with a release party on Nov. 7, including a featured musical guest named Joshua Davis. Davis, who was visiting Calvin for the second time, is a Jewish American singer-songwriter who entertained the audience with stories and songs inspired by his adventures running across Palestine, which are recounted in the documentary "The People and the Olive."

The issue itself is no less considerable than the release event. Acting as a survey of current Middle Eastern issues, it collects articles from several professors and students both past and present. Before opening the issue, however, the reader is confronted with the beautiful hand-drawn cover by Anna Hanchett, a tribute to the floral and geometric complexity of much Middle Eastern art. Her work also adorns the Table of Contents and a few other places inside the publication.

Several of the articles in this issue of Dialogue cover the ongoing conflict in Syria. A map from the Humanitarian Information Unit (HIU) helps contextualize the issue with relevant facts and figures.

For instance, by April of this year, there were over 1.4 million Syrian refugees, displaced because of the fighting. Most of these have settled into what are benignly named "refugee camps" in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey, with some also displaced into Egypt and North Africa.

Political science professor Joel Westra's contribution, "Summary on Syrian Panel" presents a less optimistic picture of the current state and future of the conflict, which in the media has been dominated by the negotiated settlement to dismantle Syria's chemi-

cal weapons arsenal. Though that settlement averted American armed intervention, it has done nothing to alleviate the conditions of normal Syrians. In some detail, Westra explains the reason why chemical weapons seem to have excited such an agitated response from the world while the deaths of 100,000 did not. His article is an apt analysis of the current situation, laying the foundation for the next.

History professor Dr. Bert de Vries picks up from Westra's more theoretical essay with an "on-the-ground" perspective of the refugee camps themselves. Because he does archaeological work near a major concentration of Syrian refugees in Jordan, he has become more directly involved in the lives of several of those displaced. His master stone mason borrowed money to bring his family across the border and escape the violence in Syria, and de Vries and others have continued to raise funds to support them in their displacement. The magazine also features photographs of the family as well as glimpses of a United Nations run encampment.

As the issue continues, the focus shifts to more meditative and persona pieces, including recipes for Middle Eastern food, a photograph of Istanbul taken by Joel Bulthuis, Mariano Avila's narrative piece on a journey through Palestine and an essay by Josh Lee on the revolution and continuing tumult in Cairo.

The final piece, composed by religious professor David Crump, offers us a reminder that, as its title explains, "Peace Alone is not the Answer." Exhorting us to support the cause of true justice for the Palestinian people rather than an "unjust peace," he offers a twist on the C/O Exist theme of mutual coexistence and enrichment.

Indeed, without justice, the future in the Middle East is bleak indeed. However, this issue of Dialogue hopefully goes some small way toward enlightening and even angering students, educating them of our culture and the Middle East's interconnections. This allows them to better appreciate the beauty and the troubles of this region in which their lives are deeply involved.

Thefts fall as police progress

Police have arrested person involved in thefts

BY HAYLEY COX
On-Call Writer

This semester has seen a high number of thefts — bikes, valuables from lockers rooms and thefts from vehicles — but with help from the Grand Rapids Police, they seem to have come to an end.

Campus safety sent out a crime alert on Nov. 1 informing students that since Oct. 24, there had been five thefts from vehicles on campus.

Since then, the local police arrested one person and are looking for another.

"They recovered some credit cards belonging to people whose vehicles had been burglarized [by] using a search warrant on the suspect's house," said Bill Corner, director of campus safety. "We are confident we can catch the other guy."

This is also the status of the other strings of crimes.

"A lot of things have happened at one time," said Corner. "The thefts in the locker rooms have stopped. The bike thefts have stopped and the police have a couple of suspects. The

[thefts from vehicles] have stopped, with the police catching one guy and having a couple of suspects."

As with the bike thefts, this recent string of thefts from cars did not just affect Calvin.

"It's happened in East Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Grand Rapids," he added. "The crime spree is in three cities."

Corner emphasized the need for proper safety measures even when crime isn't prevalent.

"People think that this sort of thing never happens at Calvin," he said, "but we're part of a larger community. Things that happen around us also happen to us."

Corner pressed the importance of not becoming complacent in times of decreased thefts.

"These were crimes of opportunity," he said concerning the vehicle thefts. "They smash, grab and go in a few seconds. It is important for people to keep their cars locked and don't keep valuables in plain sight."

Corner added, "A little bit more has happened this fall, but that doesn't mean stuff doesn't usually happen. Everyone needs to be vigilant; that's what a community does."

Woman drives car off ledge near DeVos

BY KELLE DRAGT
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, a woman drove her car off a ledge and through a retaining wall on the east campus in front of the DeVos communication building. It was about a 21-foot drop. She was attempting to put her car into park, but accidentally hit the gas instead of the brakes.

"Remarkably, she was not

seriously hurt," said Bill Corner, head of campus safety. "Maybe a laceration to the head, but that was about it."

The car was a Saturn Vue and was completely demolished. The Jaws of Life cutter was used to pull the hood off the car, which fell on its side, to get the woman out. She was the only person in the vehicle.

Only minor damage was done to the landscaping around the retaining wall, which has already been cleared up.

"She called here the next day, inquiring to where her car was towed to," said Corner.

The lady in the car is not a student and was just visiting the campus for reasons that aren't entirely clear.

There was an unusual amount of firemen on the scene due to a training exercise that was happening near the scene.

"Thankfully, there was no one walking by, or on a bike, so it was a one vehicle accident," said Corner.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SEABURG

Ambulances, fire trucks and police cars arrived at the scene of the car accident on Tuesday night.

New Calvin mission statement in progress

BY LEAH JONKER
On-Call Writer

Of the 40-page document painting Calvin's identity, vision and mission, one important feature is missing: a mission statement.

"I don't think the school has ever had a mission statement," said Tim Ellens, director of communications and marketing.

A mission statement, as opposed to a vision statement, is a general single-sentence planning tool that defines the school's direction rather than the foreseen future.

"Calvin has an identity statement, but that doesn't encompass what we do," said Ellens. "We're bogged down in who we are rather than what we do."

This summer, Ellens led a team of professors, students and faculty to discuss what the statement of the school should look like. Many of these members are inactive in the process this fall.

"[President] Le Roy wanted to step back and look at how we're articulating our mission, who our focus is and what discussions it creates," said Ellens.

Le Roy was not available for comment on the process.

"We had a vision statement that we were using as a mission statement, but it was actually more of an identity statement," said John Witte, dean of residence life. "And if that sounds confusing, it is!"

The team met face-to-face

twice and several times through e-mail, analyzing Calvin's current document and comparing it to the mission statement of similar schools.

"Calvin's mission wasn't inaccurate; it just wasn't as strong as it could be," said Chad Engbers, an English professor.

"There are really beautiful words already written about our mission," said senior Kathryn Van Zanen, "but it's important to revisit those, particularly in a time of strategic planning. This is a new time and a new season for Calvin, so we need to communicate who we are in a

by Reformed Christianity," Engbers said.

With an increasing diversity in religious traditions, Calvin's mission statement is designed to reach an audience without any prior experience with the Christian Reformed tradition.

"The implicit mission works well for those born, raised and steeped in it, but as the community attracts faculty and staff from different traditions and a diverse collection of students, this implicit mission becomes more elusive and threatened," Ellens wrote in the vision frame.

Though the majority of the work was accomplished this summer, the statement remains unfinished as it goes through the editing process and receives approval. Once it's complete, however, more than just prospective students will benefit.

"I think it benefits an organization to refresh the way it communicates its mission and identity — both for internal people who do the communicating and external audiences who are new to this place," Witte said.

The team agreed that the mission was not in need of change, but instead a refreshing to succinctly clarify its meaning.

The completion of the mission statement has an unforeseen end, since the process is not simple.

"Finding ways to accurately communicate big concepts, such as the entire 'Expanded Statement of Mission,' with rich words and phrases is like writing poetry," Witte said. "It's hard, but it can speak volumes when done well."



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

The Calvin mission statement team has worked on the new draft since summer.

new way."

The process, as Engbers explained, is more of a rewording project focusing on a wider audience than just that of the Reformed Christian tradition.

"We can't make assumptions about the audience. There are a lot of people who aren't from this tradition, so we need to articulate what we mean

Grand Rapids faces questions about panhandling

BEN RIETEMA
On-Call Writer

Bracing against the frigid wind, a grungy-looking man stands with a sign stating, “Anything helps. God Bless.” He has a lean, hungry look about him and is shivering in the cold. But should you give him money?

“The Bible tells us ‘I was hungry and you gave me food; I was naked and you clothed me,’” said Cindy Longyne, communication manager of Mel Trotter Ministries. “Is giving money to someone asking for money the best way to answer Christ’s call for that?”

With recent law changes making panhandling legal in Grand Rapids, this ethical dilemma is becoming increasingly prevalent. The legalization occurred when two Grand Rapids men fought Michigan’s anti-panhandling law, arguing that the law abridged First Amendment rights. The men won a settlement of \$48,000.

But regardless of the law’s constitutionality, Christians are left with the question of the best way to help those in need.

“Giving money to panhandlers is a tricky situation,” Longyne said. “We will never know whether or not someone is telling the truth on their signs. You do see people that look like they are very desperate. We don’t

want to be the ethical police to say that they’re all people who are trying to get money for their next fix because I truly believe that there are people

greater issue concerns a Christian attitude of love.

“We so often ... ignore the humanity of those asking for the money,” Admiraal said. “And

sue about themselves and not the people who are hurting.

“Does \$1 really matter to most of us?” Admiraal said. “Probably not. The circumstances which

said one way is to give a tangible product such as food or clothing.

“I know plenty of people who have said, ‘Hey, do you see that McDonald’s across the street? I’ll buy you food there,’” Longyne said. “Maybe they’ll say yes, maybe they’ll say no. You can always say, ‘I’ll go get some food and bring it back to you.’”

Mel Trotter Ministries also has a program designed to help those in need in the greater Grand Rapids area.

Longyne explained that, in this 90-day program, each participant is paired with an advocate to achieve their goals, whether the goals are employment, housing, or both.

“People who do want resources are not going to have everything handed to them,” Longyne said.

“Someone who hasn’t worked for months or years because they get their check on the first and 15th of the month forget that it’s going to be really hard not to sleep in until noon every day and to go to work at 7 o’clock in the morning,” Longyne said.

Longyne also said Mel Trotter Ministries has been working with the Wyoming police to hand out pamphlets to panhandlers. The pamphlets explain where to find organizations that help individuals find employment and housing.



PHOTO BY BEN RIETEMA

Two men from GR won a settlement of \$48,000 in a lawsuit against Michigan’s panhandling ban.

that think that that is their best option.”

The larger issue may be if our hearts are in the right place. Calvin College professor of social work Kristen Admiraal said the

we rarely, if ever, explore their needs — whether physical, social, emotional, or basic.”

Admiraal said the Christian community often makes the is-

lead to people being forced to panhandle should.”

With hearts in the right place, some are left to wonder what the Christian way to help is. Longyne

Michigan debates puppy mills State senators seek to regulate industry

LAUREN HUBERS
Staff Writer

In recent weeks, state senators have proposed Senate Bill 560, which — if it becomes a law — would put significant pressure on dog breeders, pet shops and animal shelters across the state.

It could improve the way animals are handled or make the animal adoption process more complicated than it needs to be.

According to Michigan’s legislature website, two of the most important changes Senate Bill 560 proposes would require large-scale breeders to register with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and animal holding facilities to observe holding periods for particular animals before they can be adopted, euthanized, transferred, or sold.

In addition, the bill would prohibit an animal being killed by any means other than euthanasia and would regulate the sterilization and adoption of all animals.

The bill would also revise some prohibitions applied to pet shops and animal shelters and extend some of them to large-scale commercial dog breeding kennels.

Finally, the bill would define “large-scale commercial dog breeding kennel” as a service in which more than 15 female dogs older than four months are kept for breeding.

Jennifer Self-Aulgur, the humane education director of the Humane Society of West Michigan, sees Senate Bill 560 as a hopeful step toward better treatment of animals.

“We do believe more oversight is needed on large-scale dog breeding operations,” she said.

“In the last two years alone, we have seen several puppy mills get busted — thankfully — and I am sure many more exist. There is not really a lot of oversight on these right now and some dogs are kept in horrific conditions.”

Bob Darden, president of the Michigan Association for Purebred Dogs, believed that the bill proposed some good changes, but he didn’t agree with other changes it would make for animal facilities across the state.

He specifically disagreed with how the bill defined a large-scale commercial dog breeding kennel.

“They’re trying to identify what a commercial kennel is,” Darden said, “and they’re trying to do that by using numbers. It depends on how the animals are treated; numbers should not determine how a kennel is kept. You need to be a responsible breeder.”

Additionally, Darden is also concerned about what the bill would mean for hobby breeders.

“If society were to lose that component of dogs being available,” he said, “you’re losing that segment of being able to have a particular dog that you might want. We put on dog shows where judges choose the best dog to continue breeding programs, and we promote responsible dog ownership. The bill could limit the ability to produce healthy, well-rounded dogs to provide to the public.”

Carly Luttmann, the program supervisor of Kent County Animal Shelter, doesn’t believe there will be any changes.

“Who would enforce that, exactly?” she asked. “There’s a lot of animal shelters. You need to make sure people are following the rules. When you’re running a shelter, you need to know what you’re doing.”

City Farmers brings fresh produce to GR Urban farmers sell produce at new downtown market

SIERRA SAVELA
Staff Writer

The brisk autumn breeze sends dry, crackling leaves through the rows of produce. The leaves make their way through the radishes, lettuce and kale. A shiny gray shed sits at the far left corner, looking over the small field; four wooden picnic tables sit near the entrance, a place where the farmers come together to eat the product of their hard work.

This very green, small farm is in the middle of the city of Grand Rapids. It does not reside out in the country or out in farmland, but instead sits in between a house and a store that sells wigs. It faces the busy brick road of Wealthy Street in the heart of Grand Rapids. It is called Uptown Farm.

On Monday, a man sat on his porch, smoking a cigarette and scrolling on his iPhone. I asked if he had anything to do with the farm adjacent to his house. He shook his head.

“I wish,” he said. A group of local families meet to tend to the farm and sell to local Grand Rapids restaurants like Trillium Haven, he explained.

On Monday nights, when the weather is nice, they meet to eat dinner on the picnic tables, although the weather wasn’t nice this week. In fact,

it was quite cold and the plot was empty of people and yet, still filled with life.

This in-city farm is just one of the few vacant lots acquired by City Farmers, an urban growing collective in Grand Rapids. Their website describes themselves as “urban growers, entrepreneurs and food lovers.” The group provides a place for local families to make a profit by selling the food



PHOTO BY SIERRA SAVELA

Uptown farm faces Wealthy Street in the heart of Eastown.

they grow to local restaurants.

Andy Dragt, one of the collective’s founders, started Uptown farm about one and a half years ago in order to bring some of the local farmers together. Small-scale farming isn’t always easy. He explained finding time to manage supply and demand and to deal with bills is difficult.

Dragt explained why a collective would be beneficial to the farmers.

“A collective of growers in the city all managing their own land and growing techniques, could act bigger and maybe support a bit of infrastructure that would let the growers concentrate on growing and let someone good at

managing a business coordinate the systems,” Dragt said.

Uptown is not the only small farm in Grand Rapids.

“There are quite a few small urban growers around,” Dragt said, “but we all act quite independent of each other and I think we’d benefit from coordination to meet the growing demand for ultra local fresh produce.”

Uptown’s produce was sold to many different

places in Grand Rapids this season. The Downtown Market was the primary outlet along with a few restaurants, such as Bartertown, Cult Pizza, Grove and even the downtown YMCA.

Their website contains the mission statement of City Farmers.

“Every city has its share of vacant land.

What if cities could build teams of urban farmers to cultivate these parcels — to produce quality, organic produce sustainably, while making money at the same time? City Farmers’ mission is just that.”

City Farmers also supplies to Doorganics, a group that delivers local produce right to the doors of customers. These groups are all part of a movement to bridge the gap between the marketplace and the urban farmer.

Grand Rapids isn’t the only city making this happen — other urban farms are popping up in Los Angeles, Chicago, Baltimore and many other cities across the United States.

FEATURES

Listen First: Eight stories from students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender

BY ABBY PATERNOSTER
AND NATHAN GROENEWOLD
Op-Ed and Religion Editors

Almost two months ago, our editor in chief Ryan Struyk approached us with what seemed a simple idea: publish a feature that shares the stories of students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) here at Calvin.

We were hesitant at first. So often discussion surrounding sexuality turns to shoving matches between sides. But as we developed the idea, we think that this feature is exactly what the Calvin community needs.

People on all sides of the topic are often polarized by agendas and hasty assumptions. Amidst the debate, we forget that we are talking about real students and leaders on campus. And with this in mind, what we need to do first is listen.

Many of the students who are LGBT have not experienced a supporting, caring community at Calvin.

A 2011 Calvin Sexuality Series poll found that 4 percent of Calvin students self-identified as LGBT. Of this 4 percent, almost half had told nobody at Calvin. That means, on average, about one person on each dorm floor is keeping a tough secret.

That fact alone motivated us to publish these stories.

And to avoid more polarizing discussion, the writers have left out any reference to positions on moral and political questions. We do not want to continue to discuss in a way that causes us to forget to listen before speaking, or blurs our vision of Christ as the source of absolute truth and love. We hope the stories might stop abstract conversations and shatter false stereotypes.

For those of us who are not LGBT, we hope these stories provide a glimpse into the lives of some of our brothers and sisters at Calvin. For those of us who

do identify as LGBT, we want you to see that you are not alone, and the Calvin community cares deeply about you.

After we hear stories and place a face on an issue, we may still take our differing positions, but we will refuse to do battle. Join us as we listen attentively, respond thoughtfully and love graciously.

We encourage you to add your voice to our conversation by sending a letter to the editor to chimes@calvin.edu.

Drew E.

A fifth-year senior from Hillsdale, Mich., Drew E. is the lead student manager at Knollcrest Dining Hall. With his Japanese major and English as a second language minor, he plans to teach English in Japan after graduating.

Before I came to Calvin, only a handful of people

I was comfortable in my own skin, something my Christian classmates and professors did not offer me.

When I returned to Calvin the next semester, I was a new person. I was less afraid of what other Christians might think of me. I had experienced a life free of the fear of constant judgment.

I did not want to lose what I experienced, so I decided to work towards conquering my fears about being gay at a Christian school. I turned to education as my means of fighting my fears.

I became a regular attendee and eventually a leadership member of SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Awareness), came out to my coworkers, took courses that expanded my view on theology and sexuality and then jumped off into the deep end: I spoke at the 2012 LGBT Panel.

However, the fears I worked so hard towards eliminating began to slowly creep back. Even though I had the support of some faculty and staff, along with vice president for student life

Shirley Hoogstra, I was still afraid of exposing myself to an entire crowd of unfamiliar people who would no longer look at me as just Drew, but as Drew: the gay kid.

I was afraid of being harassed, looked down upon, and worst of all, feeling again like I was singled out for my sexuality. As I spoke on stage that night, something inside me clicked. I didn't feel fear; I felt empowerment to fight my fears and to hopefully help fight for other LGBT students as well.

I began to not fear Christians like I once did. I was able to call them my brothers and sisters again. I was not afraid to say yes to the "Are you gay?" question and I was not afraid to stand up for other LGBT students around me.

I recognize that my view of the campus has also changed over time — no longer being completely blinded by irrational fears, but still acknowledging some of the very real ones.

Over time Calvin's campus has changed from the days of my freshman year to a campus with more open ears and hearts — a step in the right direction. I am truly thankful for this.



Richard Martin

As a writing and film and media studies double major and member of the Calvin Theater Company, senior Richard Martin from Bowmanville, Ont., hopes to make music and write screenplays after graduating from Calvin.

During the spring of my freshman year, I was eating lunch with a table full of friends and somehow the conversation turned to, "What if someone at Calvin is gay?"

Most people were honest and said that gay people weirded them out. A couple people said that they knew gay people and that fact didn't bother them, but one guy at the table said that if a gay guy hit on

me, someone might notice that you're bisexual."

That's how I felt in a lot of situations at Calvin. I felt a constant, underlying anxiety that if I accidentally brushed past a guy on the path, shifted uncomfortably when a professor implied that every man in the room would marry a woman, or hugged one of my guy friends, the secret would be out.

When I first came to Calvin, I didn't think there were any safe spaces to have this conversation.

But as time passed, I made friends and as those friendships deepened, I was able to begin being honest with others and myself, even though that continues to be difficult and sometimes frightening.

On one of the couches by the tall tables and low-hanging lights in the Fish House, I sat across from one of my best friends trying to formulate a complete sentence.

She might tell you I didn't seem nervous, but I was terrified as

opened in different places on campus with different people, but thus far, every response I have had has been a welcoming and accepting one. No one has cast judgment; no one has tried to change me.

But I chose to tell these people because I love them dearly and know that they love me too. However, the silence that surrounds honestly discussing LGBT topics at Calvin cultivates a space that does not seem welcoming or safe as a bisexual member of the community.

Walking down the hall in the dorms and hearing "that's so gay," "faggot" or "no homo" does not create a welcoming environment. It actively shuts down the potential for good and healthy conversation.

When living in the dorms I felt there was a blanket belief that everyone living there was heterosexual, and that everyone acknowledged these slurs and conversations as acceptable. That feeling is one of the reasons I never came out to my floor.

I have met many great people on campus and found spaces where I feel truly safe and I am able to be myself. Not just most of myself, but all of it.

What makes these places feel safe is not agreement on political or religious views, but a mutual willingness to communicate honestly and respectfully.

As education and discussion on LGBT topics continue at Calvin, I pray that these areas of safety will grow and strengthen.



him, he would, "punch the guy in the face."

Maybe he was trying to be funny or the conversation was making him feel uncomfortable. He seemed to think that no one at the table or within hearing distance would challenge him on his hypothetical actions.

I can remember trying not to show shock, anger, fear or anxiety. "Keep eating," I thought. "Don't look suspi-

my mind reeled with worst case scenarios involving her disowning me as a friend and outing me to everyone.

Nineteen years of my life had gone by, countless days of lying to others, and myself, and I was about to tell her the truth about my sexuality. I am bisexual. When I finally spoke coherently, being the wonderful person she is, she proved my worries had no validation.

This conversation has hap-

In our feature, we define being gay as being attracted to the same gender. While some circles use the word gay to mean that the person is sexually active, the term in our feature refers only to the attractions and orientations of individuals and not to their sexual activity. Being gay — that is, being attracted to the same gender — is not a choice. This has been affirmed by the Christian Reformed Church since 1973. We define being transgender as having a gender identity that does not match the person's biological sex.

Listen First: Stories from students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender

Eden McCune

Eden McCune is a senior from Odessa, Ukraine, studying film and social work. She is also involved with Sexuality and Gender Awareness (SAGA). After leaving Calvin, she plans to continue studies to get a master's degree in social work and work for a non-profit organization.

I'll start out by saying that writing this article has shown me how unsafe I feel as someone who is bisexual.

With every word I write, I fear that this could be a problem for my future job prospects or even for my boyfriend's job prospects.

I fear that people outside of Calvin who I have not come out to will get a hold of this article and think poorly of me and my family.

However, despite these fears, and perhaps because of them, I feel that I need to tell my story so that perhaps future students at Calvin need not have these fears.

Fear is a debilitating thing. Fear is what I felt when I realized that I had a crush on one of my female friends junior year of high school.

Fear is what caused me to run headlong into an emotionally abusive relationship with a man to prove to myself and others that I was not attracted to women. Fear is what I felt about God, because how could he love such a broken being?

Fear has also wormed itself into my time at Calvin, as the topic of homosexuality has crept into many of my classes. Classmates have treated the topic as merely an academic argument to discuss and debate.

Classmates have called people like me unnatural. And, in a corner of the room where the professor can't hear, classmates have called people like me fags. This has caused me to feel invisible, voiceless and unwanted.

Fear is not the only thing that

I have felt, but also loneliness as a bi woman. There are very few openly gay or bi women on Calvin's campus.

To give some perspective, in my entire time at Calvin (I am a senior) I have known of six gay and bi women at Calvin as opposed to at least 19 gay and bi men.

I have read several Christian books about homosexuality, but none of them from a female perspective. These things make me feel out of place at Calvin and in the Christian community.

Fortunately, fear and loneliness are not the only emotions that I have felt at Calvin. God has enveloped me into the safe pockets of Calvin College.

I have many people in my life who listen to me and support me as I struggle. My roommate freshman year took the time to listen

and get to know me.

My parents have shown me

told someone that I was planning on telling my pastor that I was bi.

We had been arguing about homosexuality up to this point, but then the person paused, and said, "If that conversation does not go well, come over to my house and my family and I will cry with you."

I cannot express to you the immense warmth I felt from this offering. It was in that moment that I understood

what a community in Christ meant.

And that is what I want for the future of Calvin College — for us to listen to each other, understand each other and cry with each other. If that happens, the future LGBT students of Calvin College will feel — and be — welcome and safe.



Ryan Struyk

Senior Ryan Struyk from Grand Rapids, Mich., is majoring in political science and mathematics. He is currently the editor in chief of Chimes and has served as a student senator and worship apprentice during his time at Calvin. He plans to pursue a career as a political journalist.

white picket fence.

So for 20 years, I faked my way through too many conversations, while trying to figure out why all my friends wanted girlfriends and I didn't. I hid a lot of unwanted feelings in a box, hoping they would all just go away.

My attraction to guys, much like any straight attraction, is so much more than the physical. It's a deep emotional draw, a desire to have a best friend, to know what makes a guy smile, to know his fears and his dreams and not just what's under his clothes.

But I was terrified that if anyone ever found out, my life would

clothes for more than 20 minutes without stopping to buy food. But I digress.

I'll tell you why I wrote this article: because there's a freshman in your English 101 class and there's a guy on your sports team and there's a 14-year-old kid in your church's pew who is hiding a pretty big secret too.

And they're terrified about what could happen if anyone finds out.

So often our picture of people who are gay is limited to a vocal minority, and we forget that there are even more who have come out only to close friends — or maybe no one at all.

But we can help in this effort, and it starts here: remember that when we have these conversations — no matter our views on the "issue" — we're talking about real people, just like me.

Use respect. Speak with love. And remember that silence doesn't count as being welcoming. Encourage dialogue and education, so talking about this part of my life isn't taboo anymore.

It's often easy for a religious debate or a political stance to overshadow the fact that, when it comes down to it, I'm

just Ryan.

I definitely don't have this all figured out. I've asked and still have a lot of questions. Just remember there are a lot more people where I came from.

They're our good friends, our classmates, our teammates — and they're scared that their world might come crashing down. Let's show them it won't.



Last summer, I walked into Pastor Mary's office and forced out the deepest, darkest secret this CRC pastor's kid had to offer: I'm gay.

I never thought I would say those words out loud. To anyone.

I remember several late nights leading up to that day spent sitting in my car, clenched fists on the steering wheel, screaming and begging God to let me be attracted to one girl. Just one. Please.

Being attracted to guys was never supposed to happen to this pastor's son who had gotten straight A's through 16 years of Christian education, or to a Calvin College worship apprentice who has led worship since fifth grade.

I hoped and hoped that one day the switch would flip: I'd suddenly want a girlfriend and I'd get my 2.5 kids and my

come crashing down. After all, I had spent 20 years as a poster child for the church — and being gay definitely did not belong on the poster.

If people knew this part of me, wouldn't they throw me right out the back door?

I thank God that, over the last 16 months, the answer to that question has been a resounding no.

Campus ministries staff here at Calvin, especially Pastor Mary and Aaron Winkle, have been phenomenally supportive. My friends and family have accepted me, without exception.

That doesn't mean we don't have lots of questions or we don't have different opinions on how my faith ties into all this.

But it does mean that I haven't turned into a political issue — I'm still Ryan: a guy who loves a good math joke and roots hard for the Detroit Tigers and can't shop for

Kristopher Zasadil

Kristopher Zasadil, a sophomore from Wayland, Mich., is studying English writing and classics in hopes of becoming an author. Kristopher serves on the Sexuality and Gender Awareness leadership team.

When I was little, two of my best friends were in Boy Scouts. They told me stories about all the adventures they got into. It sounded like heaven to me. Yet when I asked my parents if I could join, they put me in Girl Scouts.

This is just one example of countless difficult times in my childhood when things just didn't match up for me. It has always been difficult, feeling in my heart like I was a boy, when everything else told me otherwise.

In elementary school, I knew that I was not like the girls in my class. It's hard to try to put that difference into words, even now, but I just always had an intrinsic feeling that I was a man. I knew there was something not right about the way I looked and the way I was supposed to act.

Puberty was probably the hardest time for me growing up. My friends were excited to go shopping for makeup and dresses and bras, or to dream about their futures as potential mothers and wives.

But I felt none of that joy or hope. I thought about my future as a woman with dread, not wanting any part of it.

So when my body began to

change during puberty, it was like a bomb had been dropped — I finally was forced to realize that there was no way I was ever going to become the man I wanted to be. Not when my

chest bloomed out and my hips flared.

I was uncomfortable in my own skin; I was almost sickened by looking at myself in the mirror. I innately felt like I was a boy, but it was like I was trapped in a female body. Even though everyone said I was a girl, I wasn't so sure.

Through high school, trying to live as a woman felt like wearing a mask and going through motions.

I began thinking of myself as a man, realizing how right that felt.

When I was home alone, I would cross-dress. I would bind my chest, stuff a pair of socks in my pants and steal some of my dad's cologne. Then I would swagger in front of the mirror, lower my voice and act all suave like Shatner's Kirk. This was my secret that I kept hidden from everyone else.

It wasn't until my junior year of high school that I came out as transgender to myself. When I told my friends about a year later, they were not at all surprised and treated me no differently. My parents were skeptical at first, but are now more supportive than I could have asked for.

As a Christian space, Calvin has a lot of work to do in becoming welcoming to all people. One thing that stands out is the strong heteronormality in things like serenades and floor dates.

The assumption that everyone on the floor wants to sing love songs to, or go on dates with, floors full of the opposite sex, can be ostracizing. They can be fun rituals, but they can put some in an awkward position.

It's hard for me to identify as a man and live on a girl's floor. I often feel like the odd one out.

But despite how hard it can be sometimes, I've found Calvin to be a great space. Sexuality and Gender Awareness is a beautiful, welcoming group where I have found my place.

My resident assistant and resident director know my struggles and do everything they can to help me out.

While Calvin has a way to go yet, I'm glad to say that we're on the right track.



FEATURES

Ian Gackowski

Ian Gackowski graduated from Calvin in 2012 with a double major in psychology and Spanish. He is from Bloomington, Mich., but is currently in his second year of graduate school at Roosevelt University in Chicago. He is working toward a doctorate in psychology in order to become a clinical psychologist.

It wasn't until my senior year at Calvin that I fully accepted that I was gay. Trust me, I tried my hardest to avoid that realization.

I spent a large portion of my time in college, and most of the years prior to Calvin, hoping that my apathy toward females would somehow change if I just avoided thinking about the topic altogether.

This wasn't challenging during most of my Calvin career, being that I was a relatively sociable and involved student. I had several different circles of friends, most of whom are still on Calvin pamphlets. I was even a dorm president and an orientation leader.

But by junior year, I was confronted with the hard truth that I was gay, and I began the slow and difficult process of telling my closest friends.

It's hard to explain the hurt and discomfort of convincing someone — a close friend or a parent — that you are still the same person in light of your sexual orientation.

I didn't want to become the ambassador of the queer community for Calvin. I didn't want to be anyone's "gay best friend" or some emasculated version of the old Ian.

No one was going to put me in the "gay box" if I had anything to say about it, so when I first came out, I avoided saying the words "I'm gay" altogether. I opted for the more nuanced "I'm not attracted to women," thinking I could avoid the stereotypes. Subtle, right?

I was only ever out to a small group of close friends during my final year at Calvin, and I was amazed by their love, support and validation. To the rest of the Calvin world, though, I was

awkwardly "straight."

I suddenly became an "undercover" gay man who often found himself in the middle of blunt conversations about homosexuality:

"Being gay is just like alcoholism."

"I don't care if people are gay, just don't act gay."

I heard that all the time, and "fag" and "no homo." Those made me cringe the most. Was I the "fag" they were talking about? What if they knew that I was the "homo"? It was all I could do some days not to shout:

"You know you're talking about me, right?"

Maybe my coming out would've helped change the understanding of what it meant to be gay, but I didn't want that responsibility. I didn't want to educate.

Now that I'm more open about my sexuality, I make no apologies about who I am. Before graduating, I had always felt as though my sexuality was a talking point.

It was something to be dissected in the context of faith and weighed in on by every side except my own. In reality, I am more than my sexuality. My being gay does not define me, but it does inform who I am, just as much as someone's opposite-sex attractions inform who he or she is.

The pain and exclusion I experienced because of my sexuality doesn't negate the validation and support I received from certain members of the campus community. I've been away from Calvin for more than a year now, and I still find myself back in town for unplanned weekend visits.

I end up people watching in Johnny's or stealing food from a commons lawn picnic. I can't shake Calvin, even though I know some people here see me as less than what I am for reasons that I can't change.

It's taken me years to understand that my sexuality doesn't hinge on the validation of others, and it will take even longer to learn how to live without that validation.

C.V.

Currently a resident assistant in Knollcrest East apartments, C.V., a senior, has been a member of various bands and ensembles and served as a Barnabas.

Of everything that has happened in my life, I can think of one thing that has brought me more happiness and yet also more sorrow, tears and angry nights than anything else: my sexuality.

I first realized that I was bisexual in sixth grade. While I was beginning to notice girls in ways I never had, I also began to see beauty in men as well.

I came from a background in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) and had heard about this "gay" and immediately went to my school counselor.

For three years, she was the only person who knew. I couldn't bring myself to tell anyone else.

I was filled with shame — shame of something I didn't understand. I was paralyzed with fear — fear of what could happen if people found out. I was filled with hate — hatred at myself for something I never chose and could not get rid of.

In high school, when I was at a point where I felt so completely isolated from the world because no one knew the true me, I finally talked to my mother.

She reassured me in my faith and her love for me, a priceless gift that I was silently pleading for. She advised me that it would be better if I didn't act upon those homosexual feelings.

I went to a Christian high school, where I cannot remember this topic ever being discussed until two students came out during my junior year.

The school board was forced

to make some quick decisions, and the choices they made about these students scared me so much I swore I would never reveal my sexuality to anyone ever again, no matter how much pain it caused me.

I thought, "I do find women attractive, so I will just find one, marry her and never have to deal with my sexuality." But try to put yourself in my situation.

I hated a part of myself — a part I had not chosen and could not get rid of. I laid awake so many nights in my room, begging and pleading to wake up and not have those feelings and thoughts anymore. But that was not how God worked in my life.

Calvin is where things began to change for the better.

My experience at Calvin has been wonderful. I have made many wonderful friends that I trust with my whole story. Finding one or two friends to trust with everything gave me the space to talk through the things I had never been able to say before.

I slowly began talking to spiritual counselors and then to my roommate and friends about my sexuality my sophomore year, and I received nothing but positive support.

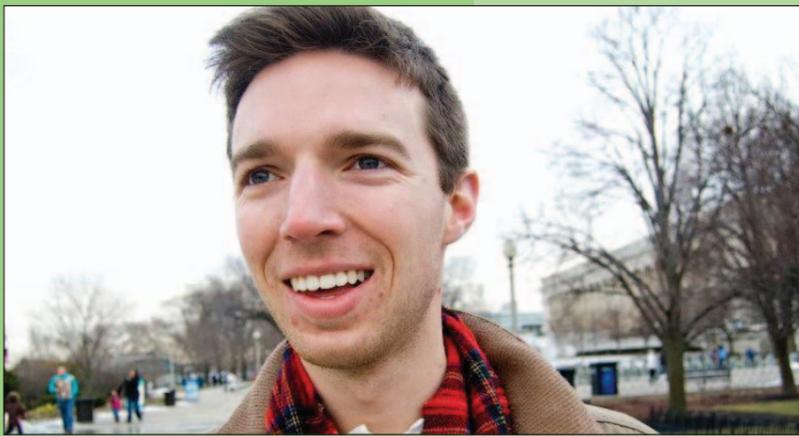
Opening up and speaking aloud my struggles gave me room to grow and see how my sexuality is not a weed that is wringing the life out of me, but instead has been put in my life so that I can see the world through a view that is not often talked about.

Through my journey with my sexuality, God gave me a desire to really look into the Bible, he taught me to trust people and he taught me how even pain can come with a lesson to teach us.

My journey with my sexuality has also given me a heart to help others deal with this issue and come to their own decisions.

I came to realize through my own story that I didn't need someone telling me what to do. What we all need to begin with is someone who is willing to listen and love unconditionally.

While people may hold different views on this topic, I know in my life it has been a lesson from God himself. God has used this one aspect of who I am to teach me so much in my life.



Anonymous

Editor's Note: This writer is a sophomore student in a leadership position at Calvin. We think it's important to include an anonymous voice to represent the dozens of students here who did not want to include their names in our feature.

I'm a gay student at Calvin, and fear of losing what I love the most is why I'm choosing to remain anonymous.

I'm also worried that I would be stereotyped as the token gay guy, instead of people actually getting to know me. So to help you get to know me, I'm going to tell you part of my story.

Before I told anyone that I was gay, I was terrified that my perfect life would fall apart if anyone knew. After so many years of

repressing everything, I finally worked up the courage to talk to a friend.

It felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. This secret that I had been carrying for most of my life wasn't just mine anymore.

I finally had someone who could bear the weight of this secret with me. Having someone I could process and be open with has helped me with my thoughts toward faith and sexuality, my feelings, my frustrations and my questions.

Over time, I've also realized that I find my identity in Christ and not in being gay. And while it's easy for people who are gay to find their identity in their sexual orientation, it's important to realize that first and foremost, you are a

child of God.

Having someone you can talk to is also incredibly helpful for that person. I am the first gay person that my confidante is close with, and because of that, her views on people who are LGBT have changed drastically.

Our friendship has also given her space to process and form educated opinions on this topic with some knowledge of what it is like to be gay.

While I've shared my sexual-

ity with my friend, I don't want to take the risk of sharing my orientation with everyone.

I love what I do and the people I work with at Calvin, but I'm only a sophomore, and I would have to deal with the consequences of coming out for two and a half more years.

I worry that my chances of holding more leadership positions in the future might be smaller, and I don't want to risk that.

I'm also a leader at my church and most church leaders and parents would be pretty upset to find out that a gay man is a youth group leader.

I love my church, and the people there are the reason why I am who I am today. I can't risk giving up serving at my church in order to come out to everyone.

I honestly haven't even had an actual conversation with my family about this. They do know that I'm gay, but when they found out two years ago, my dad told

me that I was f—d up in the head, and my mom told me that I would never see my family again.

Nothing has been mentioned since, and while I know that they're more understanding now, I couldn't put them through the pain of seeing me share this with everyone I know.

I would encourage anyone who is scared to come out to gather the courage to tell someone. It takes away so much of the shame and guilt that comes with holding a secret this big and relieves the burden of carrying something this heavy alone.

It may seem like your world will come crashing down, but it won't. And I've found that the personal relationship you have with your friend will hugely outweigh any stereotypes he or she may have about gay people.



Calvin beats Hope in exciting MIAA final

#2 Knights win five-set thriller over #1 Dutch and clinch automatic berth in NCAA Tournament

BY JACOB KUYVENHOVEN
Sports Co-Editor

The much-anticipated MIAA tournament final that featured the No. 2 Calvin women's volleyball team taking on the No. 1 Hope Flying Dutch did not disappoint, as Calvin pulled together a comeback and won a five-set thriller: 20-25, 25-22, 20-25, 25-15, 15-12.

With the win, Calvin clinches an automatic spot in the NCAA tournament. Hope is expected to gain an at-large bid for the tournament.

The first set was close, as neither team had more than a three-point lead until the closing points. Hope was up 5-2 early; Calvin fought back to go up 10-7, but was unable to sustain much momentum and didn't register a block for the entire set.

Hope pulled away and won the set 25-20. The Dutch were unable to close out the second set, though, despite winning five points in a row early in the set to go up 9-6. Calvin tied the set at 17 and fought off a push by Hope to take the set 25-22.

Hope's block proved to be too

much for the Knights to handle in the third set, as they hit only .176, their worst percentage of the match. They were up early, taking a 12-8 lead that forced a Hope timeout, but the Dutch went on

But with their backs against the wall, the Knights dominated the fourth set from the start, at one point going up 17-6 and forcing Hope to use its last timeout.

tum back after a close call went their way, but Calvin held them off and won the set 25-15.

The deciding set did not disappoint in terms of excitement. Hope charged out of the gates with a block and two aces to go up 3-0, and Calvin took a timeout with Hope up 5-1. Calvin broke the run to make it 7-2, and then proceeded to score 7 points in a row with sophomore Maggie Kamp serving.

The Dutch did finally break the serve, but the disadvantage proved to be too much. Calvin sealed it with an ace by freshman Laura Danhoff and a kill by Kamp.

Senior Ellie Diepersloot led Calvin with 13 kills, Kamp had 12. Senior Megan Rietema had 40 assists, 11 digs and 9 kills, and senior Kristi Zietse led all players with 20 digs.

Hope had some stat-sheet stars too: sophomore Lauren Hazekamp had a sterling 46 assists and 17 digs, and junior Jenna Grasmeyer tallied 21 kills.

After the match, Calvin swept the three major MIAA awards, as Rietema was named most valuable player, Zietse defensive

player of the year and Danhoff freshman of the year.

“It's a big honor, but individual honors don't really matter in comparison to the team winning. It's humbling, but we'd rather have the wins,” said Rietema about being named MVP.

Coach Amber Warners was proud of her players' effort when they were down.

“I'm proud of their fight,” she said. “We gave up a run and came back even though we're still relatively inexperienced with that. I could see it in their eyes that they weren't done.”

“It was a really tough match, but we never thought we were gonna lose, not even in the fifth set,” Kamp added.

Calvin has a decent chance to host the tournament now that they will presumably be the No. 1 seed, being the #2 team before the victory over the top-ranked Flying Dutch.

“It could be very helpful to host, but we can't control who we're going to face, so we have to just play our game and take it a match at a time. If not, we could be the ones going home,” Warners said. Their first tournament game is Thursday.



A serving run by Maggie Kamp sparked the team in the last set.

a 17-8 run after that and took the third 25-20 as well.

The Dutch looked like they may have gained some momen-

Hot seat: Danielle Carter

Senior midfielder dishes on soccer, movies and Underwood

BY JESSICA KOSTER
Sports Co-Editor

Co-editor Jess Koster sat down with Danielle Carter to talk about life in and out of soccer. This is her seat.

How old are you?

I am 21. I'm a senior.

Where are you from?

DeWitt, Mich. It's by Lansing.

How many siblings do you have?

One younger sister who is a freshman in college at Central Michigan University.

What is your major?

Kinesiology, pre-professional.

free time?

I like to hang out with friends — go to the movies or just hang out at home.

Tell us about a significant person in your life who you really look up to.

Definitely my mom. Both of my parents have come to basically all of my soccer games here at Calvin. They'll make the drive every week and my mom's always been there through everything — just that person who I can look up to.

What are some of your greatest soccer accomplishments before coming to Calvin?

My senior year in high school

the chance.

What are your plans for the future?

Hopefully soon, I'll get accepted to PA (physician's assistant) school, then I'll have grad school for a couple of years and then start working.

What are your fondest memories of soccer at Calvin?

Here at Calvin, I think all the tournaments we go to at the beginning of the year. And then last year, the MIAA championship against Hope, scoring with one second left to get the bid into the NCAA tournament. And then this year, going to a tournament and beating two top ranked teams in overtime.

What is the best Calvin dorm?

I was in Kalsbeek so I would have to say that.

Commons or Knollcrest?

Commons.

What is one thing you cannot survive without?

Food.

What would I find in your refrigerator right now?

Pasta.

If you could trade place with any person for week, famous or not, living or dead, real or fictional, with whom would it be?

I would go with Carrie Underwood just because she is amazing — so talented in singing.

What is the last movie you went to see?

“Gravity.”

Was it good?

It was interesting — not my favorite. The plot was just so-so.

What is your favorite song?

Anything country.

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see play you?

Alex Morgan, why not?

What is the best pizza topping?

Pepperoni.

Dogs or cats?

Dogs.



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

What brought you to Calvin?

A large part of it was soccer and then obviously the Grand Rapids community and the great academics Calvin had to offer.

What first got you interested in soccer?

I started playing when I was four so I think it's just been part of my life since I was young.

What do you do in your

our team went to state semifinals for the first time ever as a program. That was kind of cool to be on that team and to be able to lead.

What advice do you have for younger players?

Definitely just to play with their whole heart and give it their all — to not take any games for granted and just be able to keep playing while they have

Men lose shootout

Knights fall to hope in MIAA final

BY SYDNEY CHIPMAN
Staff Writer

The Calvin men's soccer team fell in a nail-biting shootout at their home field in the MIAA tournament final game against rival team Hope College, with a 1-1 tie after double overtime and a 5-4 score in shootouts.

Hope earned an automatic bid to the national tournament, meaning Calvin had to

answered back quickly, scoring less than 3 minutes later, as junior Sean Broekhuizen scored off an assist by sophomore Taylor Pruis. This was Pruis' 17th assist of the year, which tied an all-time Calvin single-season record.

Both teams were unable to score again during regulation time and were forced into an intense double overtime situation.

Again, both teams matched each other evenly and were forced into a shootout. Hope was successful on its first four kicks



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

Taylor Pruis and Travis Vegter were both first-team all-MIAA.

hope to gain an at-large spot in the tournament. They did not receive one, and their season is over.

“Both teams played really well. I can't say we didn't do something we should have or that Hope did something we didn't do to win the game,” said Calvin head coach Ryan Souders. “One team has to be disappointed in this situation no matter what, and it just happened to be us. I really believe it was overall just a great game on both ends.”

Both teams were incredibly evenly matched throughout the game. They were able to hold the other scoreless the entire first half and continued that trend all the way up to 15 minutes into the second half, when Hope was finally able to slide one in past Calvin defenders.

Undeterred, the Knights

while Calvin netted three of four, giving the Dutch a chance to seal the deal. But Calvin's junior goalkeeper Andrew Claucherty stonewalled a potential game-winner, and freshman Stephan Hooker scored on the next kick to send the kicks to the next round, sudden death.

This would be as far as the Knights would go, however. Hope scored, and Calvin was unable to answer and took the loss. Their season ended officially on Monday when they did not receive an at-large bid.

After the tournament, Calvin's junior forward Travis Vegter was named MIAA MVP, and was joined on the MIAA first team by Pruis, Broekhuizen, and senior Zach Willis. Hooker was named Freshman of the Year.

“It just came down to penalty kicks,” said Souders. “I'm really proud of our guys, though. We played really well.”

“ It was an emotional ride that built up the tension from the first minute and never let go.

Christian Becker, “12 Years a Slave”

‘12 Years a Slave’ a beautiful and disturbing masterpiece

Chiwetel Ejiofor and Michael Fassbender give Oscar-worthy performances in drama about slavery

BY CHRISTIAN BECKER
Staff Writer

“12 Years a Slave” has been getting a lot of Oscar vibes, and for good reason. This gripping adaptation of Solomon Northup’s life account was never entirely on my radar, ever since I heard of its existence a while back. Yes, I figured it would be good, but having never seen a Steve McQueen film before and having just seen an account of slavery in “Django Unchained” last year, I wasn’t really sure what I was in for. Then the overwhelmingly positive reviews from almost every critic across the country piled on and I became more and more interested in seeking this film out. What I got as I sat in the theater wasn’t just a movie, but something way more than that. It was an emotional ride that built up the tension from the first minute and never let go. “12 Years A Slave” was beautiful in its emotion, but brutal in its actions, which is, I assume, what director Steve McQueen wanted out of it. While “Django Unchained” was more of a witty, snappy, revenge fantasy of the slave life in the South, “12 Years A Slave” is a darker, more dangerous type of animal that will reward you for sticking with it.

I’ve always taken a liking to films that can chronicle a period of someone’s life for years and

years. Those types of characters show growth and range as they change and the world changes around them. While “12 Years A Slave” does not account for the entirety of Solomon’s life, it covers the hardest and most interesting parts. This is the true life story of Solomon Northup, an African-American man who lived in New York state in the 1840s. He was kidnapped, stripped of his name and sold as a slave to work on a couple of different plantations. Taken away from his comfortable lifestyle and his loving family, Solomon learns that the only way to regain the life he once knew was to keep his head down, do as he’s told and pray that his masters don’t beat him to death. The story itself is enough to make us feel bad for Solomon. Watching him in the cotton fields, scene after scene, was heartbreaking. But as heartbreaking as that was, I can’t even conjure up a word to describe what I felt watching him get tortured by whippings, beatings and hanging. There

is a scene in the film in which we see Solomon hanging by his neck after a rage-filled overseer decides to punish him for his insubordinate behavior. Barely staying alive and pushing off of his toes, Solomon is left hanging in the tree for hours while the other slaves and plantation

Strong acting is ultimately what brings this film to life and what makes you care about what is happening on screen. Yes, the actions are brutal, but without the right actors to bring them about, they would be pointless. Chiwetel Ejiofor has been a consistently good actor for his entire career,

killed broke my heart, because we know he shouldn’t be there, he knows he shouldn’t be there, but there’s nothing that can be done about it. Benedict Cumberbatch and Michael Fassbender give impressive performances as the two different slave owners Solomon is sold to over the 12 years. Cumberbatch plays a more sympathetic character than you might expect. So much so, that I was actually beginning to like him. He had a real sense of humanity to him that really brought out trust in Solomon and some of the other slaves. On the opposite side of the spectrum, we have Edwin Epps, played by Michael Fassbender. This man represents everything evil about mankind. It doesn’t take a lot to hate him; the real trick was to make you scared of him. This was a challenge Fassbender met with his acting and he nails it.

McQueen’s goals are clear. He wants to present the audience to a world through the eyes of a man wrongly planted into slavery. Something magical is done here to make a story so sickening and dark, yet make it look so beautiful and full of life to the point where you can’t look away. Whether you look at its deep themes of humanity or let the whole experience wash over you, you walk out of “12 Years A Slave” feeling like something hit you, letting you know that what you just witnessed was something special.



FILE PHOTO

dwellers go on with their day, essentially ignoring him. It’s long scenes like this that give the viewer a sickening feeling, while also being able to slowly take in and reflect on the evil nature of this environment. So many times I wanted to look away when a character got whipped. McQueen wants you to see the evil that possessed slave owners, and he does this really well.

but mainly sticks to supporting roles with limited amounts of meat to them. This film gives him the opportunity to show true range and make himself remarkable. Ejiofor, as Solomon, is a wonder to behold. It’s amazing to watch as he goes from a man who has everything, to a man with nothing. Watching him try to survive and keep a low profile so as not to be struck down and

Play boasts great cast

‘An Ideal Husband’ runs until Nov. 16

BY SIERRA SAVELA
Staff Writer

It is 1895 and London’s high society is gossiping and participating in political life. But when secrets are revealed and the true colors of the men who seemed so spotless are exposed, the question is asked: what makes an ideal husband?

“An Ideal Husband” is a wonderfully witty and romantic play that addresses many moral themes while revolving around political corruption. Written by Irish playwright Oscar Wilde, the play takes place in “the present” and follows a dramatic series of events that lasts for just 24 hours.

Sir Robert Chiltern, a member of the House of Commons, and his wife host a dinner party for their friends. One of the guests, Mrs. Cheveley, an old schoolmate of Lady Chiltern’s, blackmails Sir Robert. Claiming Sir Robert’s wealth began with a crime, Mrs. Cheveley asks him to use his political power to do her a favor. Sir Robert, wanting nothing more than for his wife to be disappointed and lose her love for him, searches for help in his friend Lord Goring.

This is the Calvin Theater Company’s first play of the 2013-2014 school year and is directed by Debra Freeberg. The cast is small and the play is filled with wit, charming characters and lots of laughs.

The play is performed in the Gezon Auditorium, which has effectively been transformed into a room from a large Victorian mansion. The set is beautiful and impressive. Each setting is transformed with the mere replace-

ment of furniture while the beautiful gold walls remain. The costumes are authentic and take the audience back in time; the eveningwear, which is worn quite beautifully by the whole cast, is stunning.

The cast is magnificent. Not only does this play take place in London, so accents must be British, but it takes place in the 1800s, so the old time Victorian tongue is needed. The cast definitely delivers. The play is mostly dialogue — this may sound obvious, but there is little action and a lot of talking. I didn’t mind though because the cast spoke so beautifully that I just enjoyed listening to them talk.

Some of the characters are meant to be liked and others to be hated. I found myself hating Mrs. Cheveley, played by Jennifer Kang. It wasn’t just because of her actions but because her personality truly enraged me. I mean this as a deepest compliment; Kang’s acting was so superb that she was very unlikable. At the same time I loved Mabel Chiltern, played by Emily Wetzel. Wilde’s description of her in the script says that she embodies the “tyranny of youth.” She was a very talkative, flirtatious and sometimes sassy character, who Wetzel played beautifully.

The cast in its entirety was splendid. They truly embodied the properness of aristocratic London throughout the play. The proper physicality and character was never broken; the cast drew the audience into the era and kept them interested with perfect comedic timing and exquisite accents.



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CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

11/5/2013

Campus safety took a report of vandalism to a wall in the Commons Dining Hall, specifically located near the Knights Cafe. A brick had been removed from a support column by chipping away the mortar around it. Creative Dining staff did not know who was responsible for the damage or exactly when it was done.

11/9/2013

Campus safety took a report over the phone of a vehicle that had one of its windows smashed out in what appeared to be an act of vandalism. The complainant said they had parked their vehicle in parking lot #7 and went to the Calvin-Hope soccer game. When they re-

turned to their car after the game, they discovered the damage. The complainant said nothing was taken from their vehicle and they had no suspects in mind.

11/10/2013

While checking a vehicle parked in the upper seminary parking lot a campus safety employee found a subject sleeping in the back seat. The officer made contact with the subject and determined that she was intoxicated and had pulled onto the campus to take a nap. Due to the fact the subject was in no condition to drive, the officer made contact with a friend of the subject who came to campus to pick them up and transport them home.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Hospital section
- 5 Nitwit
- 9 "How I Met Your Mother" network
- 12 Chills and fever
- 13 Sandwich cookie
- 14 Matterhorn, for one
- 15 Soft yellow cheese
- 17 Scratch
- 18 "— in Boots"
- 19 Driver for hire
- 21 Took a curved path
- 24 "Oops"
- 25 Reddish horse
- 26 Hinged (on)
- 30 Doctrine
- 31 Autumn tools
- 32 Rage
- 33 Left the flight
- 35 Homeless youngster
- 36 Staffer
- 37 Thin in tone
- 38 Suspect's excuse
- 40 Verve
- 42 Plead
- 43 Ventura
- 48 Prohibit
- 49 Related (to)

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- 50 Watched
- 51 Reply (Abbr.)
- 52 Fat
- 53 Peruse
- DOWN**
- 1 Service-woman
- 2 — Khan
- 3 Pirates' potable
- 4 Dig further
- 5 Moves up and down
- 6 Raw rocks
- 7 "— the fields we go"
- 8 Messes up
- 9 Phnom Penh resident
- 10 Spill the beans
- 11 Agile
- 16 Kids' pie filling?
- 20 Landers or Curry
- 21 Desert-like
- 22 American Beauty, e.g.
- 23 Runs for office
- 24 Newspaper pg.
- 26 Hamlet, for one
- 27 — out a living
- 28 Ireland
- 29 Challenge
- 31 Extreme
- 34 Canadian pol. party
- 35 Having a stronger bouquet, maybe
- 37 Pitch
- 38 "Mamma Mia" group
- 39 Tilt
- 40 Eastern potentate
- 41 Cry from the crow's-nest
- 44 Alias (Abbr.)
- 45 Caustic solution
- 46 Meadow
- 47 Peculiar

Super Crossword

BODY HITS

ACROSS

- 1 Ill-chosen
- 6 See 126-Across
- 13 Grand — (sporty Pontiacs)
- 16 Tattoo fluid
- 19 Port south of Milan
- 20 Milan opera house
- 21 "Citizen X" star Stephen
- 22 "Oh, give — home ..."
- 23 1988 hit for Breathe
- 25 LAX letters
- 26 Poor review
- 27 Co. kingpin
- 28 1972 hit for the O'Jays
- 31 Water color
- 34 Answer an invite
- 38 Dot —
- 39 Invention's origin
- 40 1974 hit for John Denver
- 47 "Evita" star LuPone
- 48 "Sugar, Sugar" group, with "the"
- 49 Parts of dols.
- 50 1975 hit for America

- 54 Machines near mice
- 57 Provide relief
- 58 See 59-Across
- 59 With 58-Across, guys-only
- 60 Kansas town
- 61 Moves on ice
- 63 Cordial
- 68 Take a dip
- 69 Jazzy Horne
- 70 1982 hit for the Alan Parsons Project
- 74 Funny Jay
- 75 Eons
- 76 Absorption process
- 77 Mafia's code of silence
- 79 Overly quick
- 80 "Spring forward" hrs.
- 81 — Beach (Atlantic coast city in Florida)
- 83 "— Dieu!"
- 84 Raised trains
- 85 2000 hit for Creed
- 92 Sue Grafton's "— for Undertow"
- 93 Statistic in a used-car ad

- 94 Mentions
- 96 1976 hit for Elton John and Kiki Dee
- 102 Gulf country
- 103 Lago feeder
- 104 "— I say!"
- 105 Assassinate
- 106 1994 hit for Boyz II Men
- 112 Biblical suffix
- 114 Cotillion girl
- 115 Always, in a sonnet
- 116 1985 hit for Tears for Fears
- 123 Before, in a sonnet
- 124 Brow's curve
- 125 Goddess of the hunt
- 126 With 6-Across, "All Shook Up" singer
- 127 Barrett of rock
- 128 Mao follower?
- 129 One who's hardly saintly
- 130 Tickle a ton

- 5 Stun with a charge
- 6 Fatah's gp.
- 7 Cheering cry
- 8 Jargon suffix
- 9 Antiunionist
- 10 Volcano flow
- 11 Certain util.
- 12 Pull sharply
- 13 Retort to "Am not!"
- 14 Brand of fiber powder
- 15 Swedish car
- 16 Hamper
- 17 Not so far
- 18 Olathe locale
- 24 "Crucify" singer Amos
- 29 Learning inst.
- 30 Offers some menus
- 31 Cleo's doom
- 32 Somewhat within the law
- 33 Messy state
- 35 Copy a cur
- 36 Border (on)
- 37 A little, in music
- 41 Blackjack request
- 42 Bruins' gp.
- 43 Prefix with life or wife (rodeo yell)
- 45 IRS form info
- 46 Piece of mail: Abbr.

- 51 Tranquility
- 52 Linden and Prince
- 53 Supermodel
- 54 Hard rock subgenre
- 55 Most of the 1990s, politically
- 56 Person from Pago Pago
- 57 Harshly bright
- 60 Dot in a lake
- 62 Bit, as of salt
- 63 Point a rifle
- 64 Trio before P
- 65 "TGIF" part
- 66 Yellowfin tuna, on
- 67 Wanna- (imitators)
- 71 Baseballer Eddie or Footballer
- 72 Book before Job: Abbr.
- 73 Long ago
- 78 Be a sponge
- 80 Ailments
- 81 Actor Mortensen
- 82 Abnormal plant swelling
- 85 Freak (out)
- 86 "Botch- —" (1952 hit)

- 87 Narrow estuary
- 88 Jan. b'day honoree
- 89 Six, in Italy
- 90 Mage's stick
- 91 Lower pastry crust
- 92 — Reader (bimonthly magazine)
- 95 Hog's place
- 96 Some electron tubes
- 97 Really testy
- 98 Hauled in
- 99 Satirical dictionary writer
- 100 Diviner's tool
- 101 Belgian river
- 107 Not messy
- 108 Genghis —
- 109 Stout's Wolfe
- 110 "... could — horse!"
- 111 Blissful plot
- 113 Fare-well link
- 117 Texter's "Wow!"
- 118 "C'est la —!"
- 119 Class for aliens: Abbr.
- 120 Longoria of the screen
- 121 Kindled
- 122 Vane abbr.

DOWN

- 1 "Disgusting!"
- 2 Museum-funding org.
- 3 Raggedy —
- 4 Web feeds

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“ I think the mission really brings India to the table of international space exploration.

Andrew Coates, “India Launches” ”

Elephants in herds exhibit psychological scars from mass killing

Selective culling for elephant population control can result in decades of psychological damage

BY NATASHA STRYDHORST
Staff Writer

According to a recent study conducted in South Africa, the human species is not the only one to depend on societal dynamics for social health and growth. The study is the first to explore the relationships between culling (selective killing of animals as a method of population control) and the social health of the animals spared. A research team observed an elephant population whose members had been relocated following a culling event that depleted the original population. While the study focuses specifically on elephants, researchers suggest its findings could apply to all large-brained mammals living in sizeable family groups.

In South Africa, culling has long been employed as a management technique, intending to balance the ecosystem by shielding the food web's producers from the strain of supporting a growing group of large consumers. The main concern stemming from this method is that it focuses on a population's size rather than its societal dynamics, when both factors play significant roles in the group's effects on the ecosystem.

The study found that the social effects of losing members of the herd echoed through the remainder of the group for decades.

Several elephants were relocated from Kruger National Park in South Africa to Pilanesberg National Park in the country's North West province after a cull eliminated their older kin. The extent of psychosocial consequences observed in the animals — even two to three decades following the event — “shows unequivocally that elephants are psychologically damaged by culling,” according to Lori Marino, a neuroscientist at Emory University.

Social instruction is of vital importance in elephant herds, whose young learn appropriate behaviors and reactions from the group's oldest female. In the absence of the older generation's guidance, elephants have been shown to exhibit markedly aggressive behavior — sometimes closely resembling the symptoms of post-traumatic stress

disorder. Some of the male elephants relocated to Pilanesberg, after attracting media attention for killing rhinoceroses in their

older male elephants to the herd, but newer research suggests that a deeper underlying issue continues to plague the group.

compare them to the expected reaction, as exhibited by the relatively undisturbed population of Amboseli National Park in Kenya. For each of the observed groups, the researchers broadcast unfamiliar elephant calls into the midst of the herd. They found the Amboseli elephants' responses demonstrated the appropriate reaction of bunching defensively together and following the matriarch's lead in anticipation of confronting a threat. The stimuli elicited a starkly contrasting response from the Pilanesberg group, which consistently failed to react as a cohesive whole. Karen McComb, a behavioral ecologist and co-author of the study, noted: “the pattern there was no pattern at all — their reactions were completely random.”

The lack of social fitness and societal aptitude may continue to influence the population into the future: other studies suggest that reproductive success in the herd is linked to the skills its members lose to culling.



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Elephants can display symptoms similar to post-traumatic stress disorder.

new home, were flagged as socially inept. The problem was remedied with the introduction of

Scientists set out to gauge the Pilanesberg herd's responses to various social threats and

studies suggest that reproductive success in the herd is linked to the skills its members lose to culling.

India launches mission to Mars

BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

On Nov. 5, the Indian government launched its first mission to the fourth planet from the sun. It hopes to both consolidate its scientific progress over the past few decades and leap ahead of regional rival China's formidable space program. Though the launch has been the occasion of considerable international attention and

one for a nation with a rapidly growing economy and expanding international designs. “I think the mission really brings India to the table of international space exploration. Interplanetary exploration is certainly not trivial to do, and [India] has found some interesting scientific niches to make some measurements in,” said professor Andrew Coates, who works at the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, to BBC News.

The prime minister of the country, Manmohan Singh, offered a defense: “Questions are sometimes asked about whether a poor country like India can afford a space program, and whether the funds spent on space exploration, albeit modest, could be better utilized elsewhere. This misses the point that a nation's state of development is finally a product of its technological prowess.” The answer to skeptics from Indian officials tends to focus on the unintended benefits of scientific research and technological development. At the same time, skeptics have called out the program as mere geopolitical theatre — an impressive show for the Chinese.

India's craft, known as the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), will be looking for methane traces in the upper reaches of the Martian atmosphere. According to the BBC report, NASA's Curiosity rover, which successfully landed on the surface of the planet last August, did not detect any methane in the air. However, the mission is still searching for evidence of so-called methane “plumes” that might exist higher up.

After a slight engine failure that caused a hitch in the project, the craft has made its first burn of the six needed to reach Mars. The craft was placed in an

elliptical orbit after liftoff, and the purpose of the burns, according to a later BBC report, is “to maneuver the MOM into a so-called hyperbolic trajectory so that the probe escapes Earth's sphere of influence.” Since the craft appears to be in excellent health so far, India's hopes of achieving what no other nation has — successfully traveling to Mars on the first try — remain intact.



FILE PHOTO

The Mars Orbiter Mission launches from Sriharikota, India.

media reporting, questions have been raised as to whether the country, which has high rates of poverty and malnutrition, should be prioritizing space research over more basic social spending.

Only three other space agencies (the United States, Russia and the European space program) have managed to drive probes into Martian orbit. This mission, therefore, is a suitably ambitious

Others, however, say that, despite this being an important scientific achievement, the mission's \$72 million budget is unjustified given the dire state of much of the country. Catherine A. Travwick, writing for “Foreign Policy,” noted that, “Though the nation has made a valiant effort to recast itself as a pioneer of space exploration in recent years, it can't seem to get around criticisms of how it spends the money.”

BY NATHAN
MCREYNOLDS

OBSERVATORY CORNER

Sunset times for
Nov. 15 - 21
5:18 p.m. - 5:14 p.m.

There's a change in the weather coming! Next week we are looking at possibly having four clear nights in a row (Monday through Thursday). During the first half of the night, before 10 p.m., several star clusters and galaxies, such as the Pleiades and the Andromeda galaxy, will be visible. The Andromeda galaxy is the brightest and closest galaxy object in our night sky and if viewed under the right conditions, can be seen without the aid of telescopes or binoculars. Jupiter will be visible during the later half of observing hours and the Great Red Spot will be visible Tuesday and Thursday. This red spot is a giant storm in Jupiter's upper atmosphere that was discovered 400 years ago. This storm has been shrinking in size and drifts laterally across the planet. Also, in the last half of the night you may be able to view the Orion Nebula, which is, in my opinion, one of the brightest and most visually pleasing nebulae visible from our local dome.

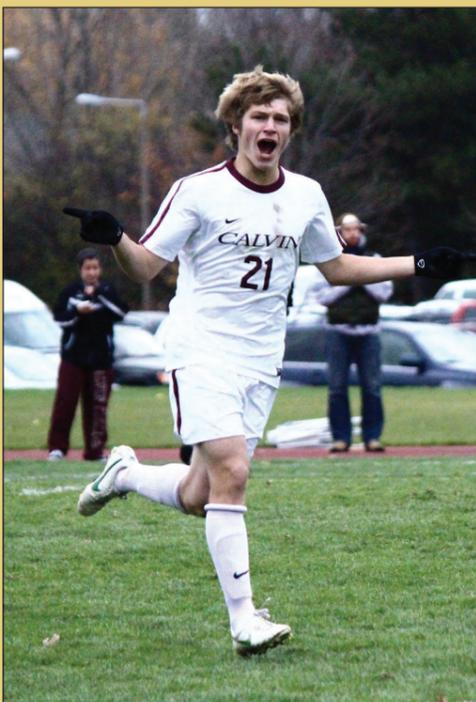


PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Catch Jupiter's spot while you still can.

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In the next couple of days NASA is planning on launching its next Mars bound spacecraft, MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution). MAVEN's mission is to sample the upper atmosphere of Mars in order to better understand the history of the water on Mars. By putting the satellite into an elliptical orbit, MAVEN will be able to take samples of the upper atmosphere and shed light on how the loss of the upper atmosphere has affected the water on Mars.



MIAA TOURNAMENT WEEKEND

VOLLEYBALL DEFEATS HOPE 3-2
MEN'S SOCCER LOSES TO HOPE 3-2 IN SHOOT OUT
WOMEN'S SOCCER WINS 2-0