Jonathan Eigege and Laura Sterenberg win student senate election

BY KAYT GERBER Guest Writer

For senior Carlos Ezrao, an average week is not only occupied with college papers, readings and projects, but also with filming and producing a weekly video for his Youtube channel—one with more than 62,000 active followers.

When he was a sophomore at Calvin, Ezrao decided to combine a lifelong interest in video creation and editorial with a growing desire to communicate Christianity and young people's impact on today's world. He published his first episode in 2011, calling his channel Proyecto GTG, meaning Project Glory to God.

More videos followed each week, filmed across Calvin's campus, highlighting topics ranging from pornography to dating to tattoos to homosexuality to evangelism: issues which Ezrao knows are relevant to teenagers curious about living a Christ-like life.

Over time, this vision began to resonate with Youtube audiences beyond Ezrao’s friends. Proyecto GTG now has 62,974 followers. The most popular videos have been involved all over campus and currently works for Knights 4 Life, so their skill sets match up perfectly.

Along with the new executive team, seniors Erazo and Jonathan Manni were elected to the senate cabinet. Smil explained that because a third person did not run for cabinet, “the new executive team will appoint someone.” The incoming executive team will also determine who will serve in each of the three specific cabinet positions.

Next year’s senators will be Griffin Brent, Joy Christopher, Andrew Darmawan, Ethan DeVries, Jiseo Kim and incumbent senator Laura Steele.

“Maggie and Sam were the best team we could have run against,” said future student body president Eigege. “Both teams worked hard, and though I’m certainly thankful for the outcomes, I’m also thankful for how we go there.”

Eigege echoed Steele’s thoughts. “Laura and I both have so much respect for them — the leaders that they are and the campaign that they ran. I think running against each other made both our campaigns more efficient and intentional. They had the backing of 45 percent of the student body who voted. That’s massive!”

Senior Carlos Erazo’s Youtube channel addresses Salvadoran youth

BY KATY GERBER Guest Writer

Jonathan Eigege and Laura Sterenberg win student senate election

More than 62,000 people follow Ezrao's discussion, in Spanish, of religious issues relevant to teens

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Senior Carlos Ezrao is a force for good.

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2013-2014

CAMPUS NEWS

Cello Cabaret promises unique concert experience

BY BETHANY COK
Staff Writer

The Cello Cabaret, a concert that takes place every spring at Calvin College, promises to be a unique experience this year. The event features 20 cellists, including some of Calvin's Got Talent winners and advanced musicians. "We want to give people a chance to showcase their skills," said Plaisier. "It's a beautiful view. That's the only thing they can do. I think that Calvin needs to do that." It really makes you strong in that way and it develops a sense of community. All in all, student senate sees this project as part of a larger goal to make campus hospitable for the entire Calvin community. "In order to best represent everyone, we believe that every student should feel valued," said Manni. "Through this project and others, we try our hardest to be the perspectives that we as students have about each other."
This year's Festival of Faith and Writing brought in around 2,000 writers, readers and aspiring authors, including Gene Luen Yang, Anne Lamott, Peter Orner, Christine Byl and Rachel Held Evans.

**Wake Up Weekend to feature vegan and animal rights advocates**

**BY JOSEPH MATHESON**
Editor in Chief

This Friday and Saturday a succession of events, including talks, demonstrations and meals, will be held by various advocacy and vegan cooking.

The opening events, which will take place on Calvin's campus and in the Commons Annex Lecture Hall, according to its website is “an annual grassroots celebration of animal-friendly advocacy, art, food, education, music, philosophy and poetry.”

The weekend is sponsored by a host of organizations, including the Calvin College Office for Multicultural Affairs, Calvin Students for Compassionate Living, the Calvin College Office of Community Engagement, Bartertown, CVLT PIZZA and Vegan Grand Rapids.

Among the many headliners Jill Fritz, Paul Shapiro, Charles Camosy and Steve McMullen will speak on topics including banning wolf hunting in Michigan and the connection between the pro-life and pro-animal movements. There will also be an art exhibit, a cooking workshop with noted vegan blogger and author Sarah McMinn, a potluck on Friday and a chill cook-off on Saturday (both vegan).

Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Commons Annex Lecture Hall, Charles Camosy, a professor of theology at Fordham University known for his intercessory talks with Peter Singer on the connection between animal rights and human rights, will give the 7th annual Animals and Spirituality Lecture.

“it is clear that Christians are called to live out our lives of non-violence and concern for the marginalized and vulnerable in all circumstances,” said Camosy. “As we do, we become more marginalized population subject to more violence than non-human animals.”

Preceding him at 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. are Jill Fritz and Paul Shapiro, of the Humane Society of the United States.

Shapiro, the vice president for farm animal protection, echoes Camosy’s sentiments as he discusses how he became involved in animal advocacy.

“whether it was on the playground between kids or it was in human-animal relations, the ‘might makes right’ mentality genes that have not necessarily been taken very seriously, but she does take them seriously, and there are a lot of people who do.”

This weekend’s event will include British author and animal rights campaigner Peter Singer, and new Heads of Calvin College, Jill Fritz.

**Preparation for the festival was not a half-hearted undertaking.** The three-day event took two years of recruiting, planning and preparing by committee members and professors. The student committee was instrumental in preparing and managing the festival.

“The student committee is great, we have nothing new. This has been the case for as long as we’ve been using the venue,” said Ward. “The student committee is one of the best things about the festival — for the festival governance, for the festival committee and for the festival itself — for the same thing, all around.”

In the time slots during the festival, attendees had a wide array of authors and speakers to choose from. But the multiplicity of options did not seem to diminish audience attendance at lesser-hyped events, Ward said.

“One of the things you worry about is that once when you got some big names up, the Anne Lamott interview or something like that, and then there are six or eight other sessions going on at the same time,” Ward said.

“But all the reports I heard is that there were good crowds in all the sessions.”

Overall, the festival committee is pleased with the event and is already looking forward to Festival 2016.

“At this point it’s just a lot of gratitude,” Ward said. “Gratitude for the hearing, the passion, the energy. There are so many people spontaneously saying ‘thank you’ when we were out on campus.”

The festival committee already has discussions with several interested groups who have expressed interest in participating in Festival 2016.

**Two days of programming, two waves of activities and a weekend to remember.**

“The weekend also includes a talk by Gene Luen Yang, noted author of ‘Afro-Vegan: Farm-Fresh African, Caribbean, and Southern Flavors Remixed’,” on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 106 S. Division, after brunch at Bartertown and CVLT PIZZA. Sarah McMinn, a Calvin grad and author of the vegan cooking blog The Sweet Life, will be hosting a cooking workshop on making classic vegan recipes.

At 3 p.m., Calvin economics professor Steve McMullen will be giving a talk on the relationship between capitalism and violence to animals in modern society, in which he proposes that animal advocates if we understand well the economic context of animal industries.

“We can be far more effective advocates if we understand well the economic context of animal industries,” he said. “At the same time, I think economists need to think seriously about the hard ethical questions that arise within market economies.”

Although McMullen is criti- cal of capitalism, he also acknowledges that consumerism currently result in dire consequences for animals, he said in an interview.

“What I advise is conscious consumption,” he said. “We need to be more careful about the animal diets and lifestyle — and political support for animal welfare initia- tives and animal-friendly legislation. I want to help people envision a better commoditization, and then move toward it.”

The weekend also includes a talk by Brett Colley, assistant professor of Economics at Calvin College, on “The Economic Analysis of Art” at Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 106 S. Division, after an art exhibit showing animal artifacts curated by Calvin art professor Adam Wolpa and GVUS art professor Brett Colley.
The band performed in the Van Noord Arena on April 12

BY BEN RIEPEMA AND LEAH JONKER
On-Call Writers

The band warmed the audience up quickly and brought vivacity to a crowd over hung with mid-week gloom.

Katie Salyer, "The Lone Bellow"

Festival brings Hollywood to Calvin

BY NICK KEELEY
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The concert featured great harmonies of the entire thing slowly increasing as the person is questioned. Moreover, the characters are very interesting and many of them are quite mysterious. As the episode went on, I felt as if each character revealed something about him/herself that added a little more personality to the al-ready complicated atmosphere. Some witches, ruthless priests, đevish maidens and an angry, hard-headed soldier (see Shane West’s character) are just a few that show up during the course of the pilot. This series helps that the acting is on point, with each actor and actress giving a little more depth to the mystery to each of their characters.

The band performed in the Van Noord Arena on April 12

The National's distinct style wows

BY KATIE SALTER
Staff Writer

I was slightly worried about this concert. Not to say I had any bad things about The Lone Bellow; they seemed decent from what I had listened to online, but being actually at the show, not one knew of them. They had no opener. And to top it all off, they had a middle-of-the-week day. I stepped outside on a Friday night in a mid-week gloom. Their foot-stomping, hand-clapping Southern sound filled the Covenant Fine Arts Center with an inviting vibe. The band was composed mainly of three vocalists who harmonized so well together that goosebumps broke out on the audience in excitement. The band pulled in the audience with their rich tones and tight harmonies. The conviction in their voices brought renewed vigor with each song. It did not seem possible for their heart and trust to radiate through the entire concert, but it drove the band from the first chord to the encore.

As the band warmed up, they had an incredible presence on the stage that matched the quality of their songs. The audience joy and pain they share so wholly with a crowd of strangers. I was thrilled to have witnessed the excitement of the performance. The audience, which was set to small as they radiated their way through their performance. And when the song was mournful and required a gentle ear and spirit to hear, the audience swayed with empathy to the sorrowful harmonies. A truly good band understands that they empty are found not only in the chord progressions, but in the rests between notes. The Lone Bellow reeled in the audience with careful but authentic emotion and then would virtually wait in silence before resolving the chord. In these moments you could feel the audience collectively hold its breath, waiting on tine for the resolution to ensue.

They finished the encore with an unplugged guitar and microphone, letting their voices ring out with the audience singing and clapping along. By the end of the night the audience had become part of the performance. No one left when the band had wrapped tightly around its finger. They had participated in a work of art.

Matt Berninger leads The National during their show at CalvIn.

"It was really cool that Berninger came out with the other performer," Devon Early said. "He didn't do much but he did echo things and stand up there solo, he looked uncom- mitted and electric. Berninger came out he looked genuinely happy and more comfortable. The acoustic set at the end with her was killer." Nevertheless, the band, Berninger in particular, reso- nated with audience members. "I love that guy," senior Nat Hennans said. "I want him to stick around and sing to me more slowly. The leader's voice—that's the most dominant feature. The band pulls in the audience with a bigger reputation," said sec- retary of the band, Washburn College, has the most frequently banned books in the world. The novel's Christian themes were addition- ally discussed, with Testa argu- ing that the book "explodes the spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood" and that it addresses "conversion and grace." Schelhaas also looked at the role of Christianity in storytell- ing, focusing instead on what it is like for a Christian to be a TV writer in Hollywood. Schelhaas, who was a part of the performance. No one left when the band had wrapped tightly around its finger. They had participated in a work of art.

The band performed in the Van Noord Arena on April 12

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Every single person on the team knows what our ultimate goal is for the season.

Grant Van Putten, “Baseball in spotlight”

Golf fourth at MIAA
Team wrapping up their spring season

BY BRIAN EXNER
Sports Editor

The Calvin College men’s golf team finished up their brief spring season on Saturday, April 19, placing third at the MIAA’s final NCAA Spring qualifying tournament. The Knights ended the three tournament competition in fourth place.

Calvin shot 315 at the first tournament, 321 at the second and concluded with a 318 to give them an overall score of 950. Regular season champion Hope also won the spring season with a score of 919. Trine took second and third, respectively.

Junior James Van Noord and senior Jake Hooogstrate led Calvin at the first tournament last weekend, both finishing with a score of 78. Senior Ross Ryzenza led the team in the second tournament with a 77 and Van Noord shot a 73 during the final round on Saturday to finish in eighth place overall as an individual. Ryzenza also shot a 76 in the second round, which gave him a team-leading 153 for the weekend.

The Knights also went on to compete at the DeVie Tyler Memorial Invitational under the guidance of volleyball coach Amber Warmers on Monday. They shot 319 and finished in third place as a team, with Van Noord again leading the team with a 77.

Senior Jake Hooogstrate shot 78, and four back from Hope.

Calvin is scheduled to play in the DeVie Tyler Memorial Invitational on May 3 at Watermark Country Club to finish up their season.

Baseball in national spotlight
Calvin’s team featured on ESPN2’s nighttime talk show

BY BRIAN EXNER
Sports Writer

After a walk-off win with a steal of home against Albion was posted to YouTube, Calvin's team gained attention from the MLB FanCave and even-ually ESPN. The play was also featured on ESPN’s Keith Olbermann Show on April 15 and continued to circulate around the country on several different news programs. Junior Grant VanPutten stole home to give the Knights a win, but he wasn't thinking about the fame when he made the play.

“I had no idea at the time that we were going to be huge — I was just excited to have pulled off the victory. My teammates also recognized that while the play and attention are exciting, there are bigger goals at hand. VanderWall made his teammates refocus on the task at hand. "As fun and crazy as all the attention is, don't let it get away from you. Every single person on the team knows what our ultimate goal is for the season."

All of the excitement seems to have helped the team find their zone. "It helps swing the momentum in our favor," said Peter Cuperus. "As a team, we seem to be playing with more confidence."

The Knights find themselves continuing to play well as they sit in second in the MIAA with a conference record of 12-8 and 18-12 overall. Gaining more attention in such fashion is good PR for the program, and coach Sparks acknowledged that in an interview.

The video displays the hustle and competitiveness instilled in each member of the team. Coach Sparks believes that the attention should be handled humbly. "Anytime you get publicity, you want to handle it in a modest way and realize that it is ultimately the Lord that gives us the gifts — the speed and ability.

The Calvin Knights swing back into action on Thursday, opening a four-game series with Trine. With two Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) series remaining, the events with Trine are quite important. The Cavaliers have taken the last two meetings, giving the Knights a 1-1 record in the four-game series. Calvin is 8-3 overall in MIAA play.

It is hard to think Texas A&M should have much leverage with Johnny Football when he is the superstar.

BY JACOB KUYVENHOVEN
Sports Editor

Imagine this: You are an absolute brilliant young engineer with an amazing brain for design and mechanics. You created your own software before you hit puberty. You took apart a computer and put it back together in the first grade. You won every science fair and science olympiad event you entered all throughout middle and high school. Videos of you explaining theories and theorizing yourself were put online and watched by thousands of people.

With a 4.0 in your high school graduation, you were accepted into the several high-profile engineering firms who all offered you positions, with them for upwards of $75,000. That is the kind of money that athletes are earning.

The position offer two years of guaranteed employment and the option for two more years if you are performing up to standards. After that, you can offer your services to the highest bidder as a “free agent.”

You would take this job. Right? The only way you would decline it is if you are looking for a financial basis, and you are still not making sense for you on a financial basis, and someone of your ability would not really gain that much from a college education, anyway.

But there is a problem. You are not allowed to take the job. You are still considered an “amateur” by the (fictitious) National Collegiate Engineers Association, so you have to go to college. You will give conferences and speeches for which the university will charge $50 a ticket, but you will not see any other profession, it would be seen as incredibly unfair. I am someone who recognizes capitalism and American principles above all else, but I still believe that if you offer a service that people are clearly willing to pay for, you should be allowed to enter that market, would be sued.

The National Collegiate Engineers Association (NCAA) likes to hide this practice and diminish it behind the shield of statements like “these students are first students and athletes second,” and “their scholarships are compensation enough.” There is no denying this is true for many college athletes. It is probably true for that baseball player at Georgia Southern and that distance runner at Minnesota. But using the same rationale for top NFL and NBA prospects that are already celebrities, like Johnny Manziel and Jabari Parker, is borderline ridiculous and seems like satire. These guys could make thousands of dollars just signing a couple autographs if they wanted.

Their universities are not doing them any favors.

No, not really. And this illustrates the problem with forcing basketball prodigies at least three (and at least a year of college and football prodigies at least three (and then some) before they can enter the NBA or NFL. If an organization or school is going to make millions of dollars for charging high admission to games that feature athletes and using their likenesses in advertising, the athletes should receive some of that money. I see this as an example of capitalism.

If an organization did this in any kind of business practice not related to college athletics, they would be sued.

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Sports Editor

NCAA not fair to highly marketable, unpaid college athletes who make them millions of dollars

The NCAA not fair to highly marketable, unpaid college athletes who make them millions of dollars

The athletes should receive compensation, and state that the idea of “amateurism” is still a priority for them. This has to be evident of the widespread ignorance of the success of the athletes.

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Their universities are not doing them any favors.
Meijer Gardens announces summer concert series
The record-setting 30-act lineup includes Carlos Santana, John Legend and Phillip Phillips

BY GRACE RUITER
Local News Editor

Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park’s summer concert series will feature a record-setting 30 different acts this year. The lineup for the series features a number of popular perform- ers, including John Legend, NEEDTOBREATHE, Phillip Phillips, the Barenaked Ladies and the Beach Boys.

Meijer Gardens president and CEO David Hooker told MLive.com that organizers originally hoped to book 25 different acts for the concert series, but when the opportunity arose to book more, they said yes. Hooker said he felt confident that, based on previous seasons, the concert series could support a few more acts.

The concert series, which is held in the outdoor amphitheater at the gardens, kicks off June 1 with 10-time Grammy Award winner Carlos Santana and wraps up on Sept. 7 with popular country artist and nine-time Grammy Award winner Sheryl Crow.

Eighteen of the acts will be performing at the gardens for the first time, including veteran R&B performer and songwriter John Legend and the Barenaked Ladies, a Canadian pop-rock group.

“We target 25 because if we tell our guests that, we feel very confident we can deliver,” Hooker told MLive.com. “We’ve confirmed 30 that we judge to be real solid artists we want to play in the amphitheater.”

The concert lineup has already generated a lot of buzz among locals. Many are especially excited about John Legend’s June 18 performance. Legend stands out to Calvin junior and musician Jenny LaJoye because he appeals to a broad audience.

“He’s a classic. He’s got a killer voice, and he grooves like nobody’s business on the piano. He’ll satisfy the singer-songwriter type and the critical musician.”

LaJoye also encourages concertgoers to check out the less well-known John Butler Trio, as well as music veterans like Ray LaMontagne:

“[John Butler Trio] up on Youtube. He’s such a great guitar player. He shreds on an acoustic like nobody’s business. Ray LaMontagne is another absolutely classic singer-songwriter.”

However, LaJoye says she is most excited about seeing Nickel Creek, which just released a new album after a 7-year hiatus.

“They’re rootsy, organic, experienced, brilliant and some of the best musicians you’ll ever encounter,” LaJoye said. “I will spend an irresponsible amount of money to see them perform live.”

Tickets for the concert series go on sale publicly on May 10. Prices vary depending on the popularity of the performer. Prices for specific concerts can be found at http://www.meijergardens.org.

Ten-time Grammy winner Carlos Santana will kick off the concert series on June 6.

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Jenny LaJoye, “Concerts”
On April 23, 1984, Dr. Robert Gallo and a team of colleagues discovered that human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) contributed to individuals receiving auto immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). As the 30th anniversary of this discovery took place this week, Dr. Gallo and fellow scientists claimed that two recent cases of apparently successful HIV/AIDS treatment on HIV-infected babies suggest that a functional HIV/AIDS cure may be in sight.

One prominent HIV case, which recently captured the attention of media outlets and scientists alike, concerns a baby girl born with HIV in Long Beach, Calif. The girl received high doses of three drugs — AZT, 3TC and nevirapine — four hours after she was born. Eleven days after, no traces of HIV could be found in the girl’s body, according to Dr. Deborah Persaud, the physician who led the testing.

When clinical researchers in Boston on March 5, 2014, for the annual AIDS conference announced two cases of apparently successful HIV/AIDS treatment on HIV-infected babies, it was the first time scientists were able to report cases of what looked like a functional cure. The two cases have nothing to do with drug regimens or medical techniques used to treat HIV-infected adults and newborns.

jeff_kirchner.jpg

**HIV treatment for newborns nearing clinical trial**

BY NATHAN SLAUER  
Staff Writer

“Just the fact that we’re even mentioning the word ‘cure’ in terms of HIV is very exciting.”

Dr. Jeffrey T. Kirchner, “HIV treatment”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, executive director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, described the cases as “huge proof ... that you can cure someone if you can treat them early enough.”

Other scientists are less optimistic, calling for more evidence that the two cases are not mere flukes. “We want to be very cautious here,” said Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga, an HIV/AIDS expert who helped treat the Mississippi baby. Instead of calling the case a complete success, Luzuriaga calls it a “remission because we’d like to observe the child for a longer time and be absolutely sure there’s no rebound.

Scientists also point out that even if HIV can be suppressed at birth, there remains no proof that similar drug therapy could be used to treat HIV-infected adults.

Dr. Gallo argues that even if a complete HIV cure cannot be found, it may not matter if scientists can learn how to prevent HIV from taking hold at birth or how to suppress HIV for the length of an average human lifespan.

“If you say to me [we have found] a virological cure — no virus left, no viral gene left in the body — this is extremely difficult. There are two reported cases in the world right now and honestly, it’s not even possible to conclude in those cases, although it’s likely,” said Gallo.

“Now how about functional cure, where the person lives a completely normal life span? Even in the best-treated people today there’s some evidence for an increased incidence of some cancers like lymphoma. Let’s say we get rid of all those increased frequencies. And [patients] don’t ever have to take the medicine again. Is that achievable? And the answer to that is: I think so. If you say, ‘Put a date on it,’ I can’t. But you can see real possibilities because some of the drugs available now, and some that are just coming out, are truly, amazingly more efficient.”

If the upcoming HIV clinical trial affirms drug therapy’s usefulness in treating HIV at birth, it could benefit the approximately 250,000 babies born HIV-positive every year.

“Just the fact that we’re even mentioning the word cure in terms of HIV is very exciting,” said Dr. Jeffrey T. Kirchner, director of the Comprehensive Care for HIV program at Lancaster General Hospital.

“It lends additional hope that people are working toward a cure for a disease that’s been around for 33 years now.”

**Infant HIV suppression does not necessarily imply a cure for adults.**

I looked at some of the data dumps from vulnerable sites, and it was ... bad. I saw emails, passwords, password hints. SSL keys and session cookies. Important servers brimming with visitor IPs. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion, c-beams glittering in the dark near the Tannhauser Gate. I should probably patch OpenSSL.

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We would like to extend congratulations to the new student senate! All candidates campaigned very well and it was an extremely competitive race. This year’s elections also saw one of the highest voter turnouts senate has had, with about 1,600 students voting.

Applications for governance committees are available now! Applications are accessible via Google Form. For more information, contact Connor Schmidt at senatevprep@calvin.edu.

Applications for governance committees are available now! Applications are accessible via Google Form. For more information, contact Connor Schmidt at senatevprep@calvin.edu.

Sitting on a governance committee, you will have a voice equal to faculty and staff and have the opportunity to make long-term decisions for the college.

Student senate will be changing some of the disabilities signs around campus to an updated version. The new version from Gordon College has already been adopted at Calvin Seminary and depicts the person in a wheelchair as active and on-the-go.

Our hope is that this will be one of the steps that Calvin makes towards increasing access for people with disabilities. Our hope is also that by showing depictions of people with disabilities as active, our psychology surrounding people with disabilities will start to change.

We will be installing these signs in the parking lots over Academic Advising break.

Don’t forget to connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and our website!
We Are Calvin
Seven stories from Asians, Hispanics/Latinos, Africans & Native Americans in the Calvin Community

BY KATRINA PARSONS, LAUREN DEHAN AND JOSEPH MATHESON
Online Editors & Editor in Chief

When we at Chimes read through the Multicultural Affairs Committee’s (MAC) recent State of the Campus report, we were shocked by the statistics and surprised that we hadn’t heard them before. Even after we printed our articles, there was still disappointingly little discussion in the Calvin community about racial diversity.

Students from the United States who are African, Hispanic/Latino, Asian and Native American (AHANA) make up 13 percent of the student body this year, and the retention rate for AHANA students is 58 percent—seven percent lower than the retention rates for the entire student body. The numbers for faculty and staff are worse: just under 10 percent of faculty and only 6.5 percent of staff are AHANA, as of November 2012. Despite these sobering statistics, the Calvin community as a whole spends little time addressing diversity concerns. The MAC report also noted that less than one percent of students who attended one diversity-themed event in the past year, despite it being a requirement to attend at least one year. Student body participation is likely much lower.

These facts certainly point to a problem of diversity at Calvin, and the bombardment of statistics tend not to inspire people to build relationships. Those percentage points are our coworkers, our neighbors. Those statistics have faces and those faces have stories.

The lack of diversity at Calvin has been a topic of serious discussion at the administrative level, and while that discussion is important for effecting institutional change, Chimes is concerned that the stories of students and faculty who live and work at Calvin have not received the attention they deserve.

We know that majority groups can be defensive when they hear stories of discrimination that minority groups face, and we want to be clear that our purpose is not to accuse, but to illuminate. We want to start difficult but important conversations about real issues and cultural isolation. Every time another friend, staff member or professor of color left Calvin—which was far too often—it rippled through my world like a small shock wave. There were already few people I could identify with.

So why did I stay? The short answer is that I felt God calling me to be at Calvin. I had decided to go to Calvin because I wanted an education that would both respect my faith and allow me to study broadly. And for the most part, that’s what I received. I found professors and staff who nurtured me intellectually and spiritually. Yet, in the process, I also ended up learning what it meant to be a student of color at a very white Christian college. I stayed because I felt called to witness in this environment and to make this a better place for all students who would come after me.

During my first year, I remember an orientation event held at chapel in which we, as an incoming class, were asked to find two or three students from another culture to interact with. Not a terrible idea in principle, except that I was clearly outnumbered, felt cornered and felt objectified by students not shy to come with me that they had never interacted with Latino people apart from those who provided services to them. It was hard to sometimes feel commodified, like a little bit of flavor being upspiced up somebody else’s main dish.

The awkwardness continued when people asked “what I was, when white people tried to act ‘gangster’ around me, when they asked if I was an “illegal,” when some international students didn’t understand why I wasn’t more grateful, when I was surrounded by enthusiasm for concerts and events that didn’t connect with me, when I heard the annual backlash from white students during UnLearn Week who claimed that they were being oppressed. I learned the art of laughing it off because I didn’t have enough time to cry.

The worst part is that I thought there was something wrong with me. When I addressed an incident in which a student drew swastikas on my dorm floor, I was met by silence or made to feel like the problem. I was too sensitive. I was too angry. I learned how the Christian virtues of love and patience could be used to pander to the problem.

Microaggressions, patronizing cultural appropriations were not limited only to a handful of “conscience” students making jokes in dorms or “progressive” students loving the poor in Africa. I also witnessed people of color slighted by a highbrow intellectual racism that kept diverse concerns at arm’s length.

I share my story as someone who loves Calvin. It enriched my faith and gave me amazing friends and mentors. It opened my path to graduate school. I also share my story as someone who has been hurt and seen others hurt at Calvin. We want to learn from our mistakes and our history. There is a rich legacy of faith and a reformed identity to uphold. Yet, there are require- ments and barriers for people of color at Calvin that make you feel like an outsider.

Is there a way for us to honor Calvin’s heritage and reformed identity while also making room for diversity and transformation?

Rachel (Rae) Mason

SENIOR

Most wouldn't expect this from me. My time here at Calvin has been filled with knowledge, fun, pain, growth and everything in between. As a student of color I have felt neglected, singled out and misunderstood too many times. When deciding to attend Calvin I was afraid that I'd have a great experience because I was going to be a part of a thriving, inclusive, God-fearing community. Yet from the first day of my friends and I entering Calvin I knew I would have a better chance of getting a job after graduation because I was a black female—never a word about my gifts, skills or talents, but rather just my skin color and gender. Calvin’s idea of being a Calvin student meant assimilation and while that idea made me feel like just another number at this institution.

It is not welcoming when I constantly get unwanted hands in my hair, or when my fellow classmates ask me if I’m from the “hood,” or how I can teach them how to “twerq.” My hair is not an exhibit, just because I’m African-American doesn’t mean I was raised in the hood, and yes, I may make mistakes, but I can do more than “twerq.”

I have thought about transferring many times. Even though I have been able to thrive in various leadership roles and participate in many activities that have challenged my faith, I have still felt like an outcast at Calvin. The main reason I am still here is because I have a strong support system, especially from the faculty and staff of color at this institution. Without their wisdom and support, I can’t say that I would’ve stayed or thrived. This is my life at Calvin. I love this place and what it has to offer, that’s why I’m still here. But I want my fellow classmates, as well as faculty and staff, to understand my position as a student of color and realize there must be a change in some areas and how we interact in this community. Not just for me, but for others like me and the others to come.

Calvin because I wanted an education that would both respect my faith and allow me to study broadly. And for the most part, that’s what I received. I found professors and staff who nurtured me intellectually and spiritually. Yet, in the process, I also ended up learning what it meant to be a student of color at a very white Christian college.
Features

We Are Calvin [too]: Stories from AHANA students, alumni and faculty

By Toniasha Lynn Bagay

In my three years at Calvin, I've had 29 white professors and only one professor of color. These numbers aren't too surprising in light of the recent State of the Campus report by the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) which highlighted the fact that “no faculty of color have ever retired from Calvin and few have been tenured.” The retention of faculty and staff of color is significant because it directly correlates to the experience and retention of students of color. Low retention rates for faculty of color reveal racial injustices, policies and practices that are still deeply embedded within Calvin's structure and suggest the need for further change.

A growing number of students, staff, faculty and alumni of color, along with white allies, frequently address these concerns. Our movement aims to make Calvin a more welcoming space for people of color. This includes telling our personal stories. Many of us have found a tension between our own knowledge that I am here too. I am not just a demographic or a statistic; I am a person of color, who wants to be here at Calvin, just like everybody else.

Kathryn Knox
JUNIOR
Being a student of color here at Calvin is not easy. I came to Calvin freshman year, from a predominantly white high school full of upper-class families who did not fully understand me, hoping for a place where I could fit in among my Christian brothers and sisters. Sadly, I found the opposite.

Living on the dorms freshman year, there were times when I felt like I was living in a zoo. I was insignificant enough for someone to easily ignore and exclude me from social life and intriguing enough for others to mock me, and they couldn’t wait to ask the most inane and ignorant questions possible to entertain themselves with my reactions and appease their curiosity.

In one instance, a minstrel-like drawing of a black man was put on one of the doors of my hall for sheer comedy without regard for the offensive history of these images. No action was taken. No one even batted an eye.

Aside from the ignorance that I encountered in my dorm, I experienced similar, if not more, examples of frustrating behavior and intolerance among the staff and professors in the classrooms. I had professors singing me out for my “non-traditional” views on topics because of my background; students stopping me after every class that had to deal with offensiveness in the classroom. I had professors who were intolerant of my faith as a Pentecostal and made jokes to belittle our practices; and people in places of power at Calvin enforcing their views on issues of faith without any consideration of my own values as a non-CRC student.

Sadly, faculty and staff of color are in short supply at Calvin and are often in positions where they are strategically hidden from the public eye and cannot be beneficial and present for the students, or they are recycled and swapped around in diversity roles like the Multicultural Student Development Office (MSDO) or in Pre-College Programs with positions that involve recruiting minority students for Entrada. Don’t misunderstand me; people of color in these positions are beneficial because they are good resources for AHANA students. However, this strategy deprives white students at Calvin from being able to engage with faculty and professors who have different back-grounds to share that might aid in Calvin’s mission to make our community more culturally aware. If we continue in this cycle, we will never reach this goal.

This piece is only a snippet of the stories I have to tell about the injustices I have experienced here. I love Calvin and I wouldn’t trade my experiences for anything. I could even say that I have experienced more good days than bad; however, my love for this school does not excuse or negate the fact that students in my position have to suffer injustices everyday based on a physical identifier. I am Kathryn, and I am Calvin.

Bianca Edwards
SOPHOMORE
I was so excited to come to Calvin, especially after experiencing Entrada (the summer scholars program for minority high school students). Although my family was against me coming to Calvin because of my background and for financial reasons, I was convinced that Calvin was the perfect fit for me. And that is still the case. I couldn’t picture myself being in another college, even though I am pleased daily to consider a more diverse community.

I will never forget the day the provost made me feel uncomfortable in front of our whole class. We did an exercise called “Privilege Walk.” All the students stood shoulder to shoulder in a line. He directed us to “move forward a step if your parents are paying for your college education.” After a few similar statements I knew that the exercise was a demonstration of race and white power based on the fact that I was only moving a few steps forward while others ahead of me were far beyond my reach. At the end, the professor handed a candy bar to whoever got closest to him. I wasn’t even close to getting that candy bar. I felt that instead of students trying to understand what the professor wanted to show us, they focused on who was left behind. I could feel my throat getting hot, and I was so angry for me.

I talked to the professor about it afterward, and he apologized, but I still wanted to be completely done with the class. This is not the only time that I have been confronted by uncomfortable situations at Calvin, but this is one that impacted me a lot.

I also can never grasp why people don’t come to the Multicultural Student Development Office (MSDO) events and why they think it is only for students of color when the acronym clearly states MULTICULTURAL. It is extremely hard to emphasize to people at Calvin that we must talk about race and ethnicity to become a multicultural college. I couldn’t tell you how many times people at Calvin have told me that I was black, and when I told them that I was Dominican, replied, “oh, I didn’t know you were international!”

Calvin wants to be diverse. I see little effort to try to engage the people at Calvin who are not of color to celebrate the LITTLE diversity that it has. I really love it at Calvin. I always defend it when others speak negatively. I just wish Calvin would love me and acknowledge that I am here too. I am not just a demographic to add to the school. I am a person of color, who wants to be felt welcomed, and a person who earned her right to be here at Calvin, just like everybody else.

Living in the dorms freshman year, there were times when I honestly felt like I was an animal in a zoo.
It is not your responsibility to teach the college about your particularities, it is the college's job to teach all students about the experiences of all kinds of people.

By Toriisha Lyn Bogey

If Calvin is serious about our mission to train students to think deeply, to act justly and to live wholeheartedly, and if Calvin is truly guided by a vision for the Kingdom of God where people work toward addressing Calvin’s problems of systemic racism, then the college and the university should take advantage of every possible opportunity the college makes available to you, don’t type cast yourself because others are build community with one another proudly. Be proud of where you came from, and do not set anyone dis’ your hood or your set. As always, I am Randal Maurice Jelks

RaeAnna Hudnell
ON BEHALF OF HER SISTER RAENOSA HUDNELL, CALVIN GRADUATE

Once during my time at Calvin I was walking from my dorm past the smokers pit and heard someone comment, “I hate black people.” Automatically I felt uncomfortable, because I was outnumbered, and didn’t know if anyone in the smokers pit would try anything. Some people in the group told the commenter to stop. But the person who made the comment continued, saying “Well, they are stupid anyways.”

I knew one of the people in the smoker pit — they actually were one of my friends. I asked them to tell me who made the comment, but they refused. I told my RA, but I did not want anyone to be confronted because I did not know specifically who made the comment.

In our dorm, there was a theme: “Open door, happy floor.” So I usually left my door open. Once when I was doing my hair, three white floormates stood in the doorway and asked if I was ready for dinner. I was, but then one of the girls commented, “Are you sure you are ready, because you don’t look like it.”

She said it like I was an exhibit and like I was doing something so completely weird, when I was just doing my hair. She made a big deal out of it and it was in front of those other girls. After that, I decided to keep my door closed because I did not want that to ever happen again.

Victor Hugo Perez

My decision to attend Calvin was made easy by the Entrada program. I fell in love with the people and the environment I found at Calvin during that one month. As much as I loved the program, however, I felt it left me with a false impression of what Calvin was really like in terms of its diversity and atmosphere.

Something that struck me was how much I felt like I didn’t belong, or I just couldn’t relate to many of the Calvin students. I come from a poor background, so going to college was always talked about in my house. I realized that I came from a different background than most people going to Calvin, but I couldn’t understand the people I met who behaved totally differently from how they actually were outside of Calvin.

We live in a society in which we are constantly told how to conduct ourselves and what is appropriate for each situation. An experience I had in one of my classes quickly reminded me of this. I was asked to answer a question about the readings, so in my mind I said “no problem,” and answered the question. To my surprise everybody started laughing, including the professor. At this moment I’m sitting back thinking I must have answered it wrong — else why would everybody be laughing? The professor finishes laughing and moves on to the next question, so I stop him mid-question and ask, “Was that the right answer?” He says, “Yeah, that was the right answer.” I realized that they weren’t laughing at my answer but instead at the way I said it, because of my tendency to talk with a thickgph accent at times. This experience discouraged me from speaking in class for a time.

At first, I decided to try speaking like the people I chose to go to school with, but then I snapped out of it and decided I should just talk and not worry about what people think. I have always been a very independent person and wanted to forge my own path, but I felt pressured to fit in and go with the flow.

People may want to believe that racism isn’t prevalent in our society or here at Calvin, but it is. It has simply taken on new forms. The way I speak and dress comes from the people and culture I grew up with. Unfortunately, people are trained to look down on people that look or talk like me.

By Tionisha Lyn Bogey

If Calvin is serious about our mission to train students to think deeply, to act justly and to live wholeheartedly, then the college and the university should take advantage of every possible opportunity the college makes available to you, don’t type cast yourself because others are build community with one another proudly. Be proud of where you came from, and do not set anyone dis’ your hood or your set. As always, I am Randal Maurice Jelks

Dr. Randal Jelks
FORMER FACULTY MEMBER

I was fortunate to have been hired by Calvin in 1992 and spent 15 years working in its vineyards. I was abundantly blessed to have come to a history department in a liberal arts college with world-class library facilities. However, like so many minority faculty members over the country, I believe I was both a teacher and the director of an academic program. When I arrived, I was expected to do two things: build academic programs that challenged the intellectual offerings of the faculty to learn more about people who lived in Grand Rapids and from other parts of the world. Wittingly and unwittingly, white supremacy and mis-
The NATIONAL

with

MY BRIGHTEST DIAMOND

and

THE LONE BELLOW

photos by

JAMES LI