Library opens on Sundays

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This statement is an adaptation and expansion of statements written by faculty and staff at North Park Theological Seminary and Westminster College shortly following the election. Faculty from than 160 institutions have signed the statement; among the institutions represented are Wheaton College, Trinity Christian College, Dordt College and Hope College.

The statement begins by expressing the signers’ decision to join their voices “with those who are most vulnerable.” It goes on to give a scriptural basis for human dignity and the importance of serving and seeking truth, justice and reconciliation in our communities,” according to Kumar Singhal, professor of chemistry at Calvin.

The statement identifies Christians in academia who are seeking reconciliation in the contentious post-election political atmosphere.

Thirty-eight Calvin faculty- and staff members joined hundreds of Christian professors and scholars from across the United States in signing a “Statement of Confession and Commitment” in response to the contentious election and post-election season.

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Core exemption for B.S. and B.S.C. programs fails

BY JOSH PARKS
Editor-in-Chief

The proposal to grant an exemption from the Program in Community (PIC) core category was recently voted down by the faculty senate. The proposal, which currently has a PIC exemption, would change the requirement for foreign language students to two years in either language.

The proposal was brought to the faculty senate by Professor Joel Adams, who believes that it is important for students to gain an understanding of a foreign language. He also believes that having a foreign language requirement will help students to better understand different cultures.

The proposal was opposed by several faculty members, including Professor Victor Lynde. He believes that requiring students to study foreign languages is not a good use of their time and that it is not necessary for everyone.

The faculty senate voted 19-23 against the proposal, with 4 votes unrecorded. The proposal was to be put on the fall 2017 ballot for student vote.

Fulbright and Goldwater research scholarships awarded to students

BY EMILY STROBLE
On-Call Writer

Three Calvin students recently received major academic awards: sophomores Nathaniel Kazmierczak and Brianna Busscher received a Goldwater scholar, junior Victor Lynde received a Fulbright scholar.

Kazmierczak, a chemistry major, says that the Fulbright scholarship is a great opportunity to get experience outside of the classroom. He also appreciates the flexibility that comes with the scholarship, as he can choose to take courses anywhere in the world.

Busscher, a neuroscience major, says that she was very excited to receive the Goldwater scholarship. She plans to use the money to help pay for her education.

Lynde, a computer science major, says that he is very grateful for the Fulbright scholarship. He plans to use the money to travel and learn about different cultures.

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By Michelle Hofman
Features Editor

The CFAC was filled as a large crowd came together to see the talent that Calvin College had to offer. Singers, dancers, musicians and even an improv act performed the stage in an attempt to prove Calvin's got talent. The show was a diverse mix of genres, some acting a serious stand, and others producing something different, with comedy acts. Everyone in the audience had a chance to vote, and the winner at the end of it all was the group Our Daily Dance Crew, also known as ODD Crew.

Gabe Gonzaza, the director, writer, cinematographer and choreographer for ODD Crew, commented on what the experience meant to the group as a whole: "Our performance was the biggest and most important. The audience on Friday night were an audience that the dance narrative came from memories of freshman year that seniors involved were fortunate to talk about. The number of different experiences the group gave them made it a lot of material to work with.

The show had a special place in our hearts for giving us a place to dance, meet new people, and develop different passions." Gonzaza said. "Through all these different experiences, we wanted to look forward to how these significant parts of our college experience will carry us into our lives after graduation.

The work for the performance started as early as December of 2016. The process was long and complicated, organizing thirty people that wouldn't all be in the same room until the actual performance. For the video, they had to take one piece at a time, and wait for the snow to melt to get much of the footage. Gonzaza explained, "to see our work come together for one day after all the preparation was very stressful yet ultimately satisfying. In other words, Worth the effort!"

The overall show went smoothly. Gonzaza commented on the organization between the committee and the members of the group, but that was the only snag. This was lessened by the work that the tech and stage crews put into the stage sound and lighting. They helped to ensure that transitions between each act went smooth, and the performances were at their best.

Senior Dillon Carhuff, a weekend Brookings intern from the office of Citizen Life, explained the preparations for the event. Each of the performing acts had a chance to get accustomed to the stage at dress rehearsal on Thursday. They could go through a dress rehearsal, and run through their acts with complete costumes, with only the lights. It was only helpful for the performers, but the stage and tech crews were able to work through their minor adjustments, and set up would go for all the acts.

"There was a lot of coordination that needed to happen between our times, each act, and the OCCE [Office of Conferences and Campus Events] leading up to the event," explained Carhuff. "We had to figure out when rehearsal groups of the team were going to happen and when the tech and stage crews were going to be there. We felt the event went very smoothly."

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Students make cases for new org charters

BY JOSH POLANSKI
On-Call Writer

Thirteen potential student organization charters have applied to be among Calvin’s 70 officially chartered groups for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The proposals accepted for this year’s charters (listed above) include the International Religious Liberty Forum,.available to Calvin students. The forum organized the 2017-2018 academic year.

The proposals accepted for this year’s charters (listed above) are: Theological Soc, Alumni Club, Astronomy Club, Calvin Democrats, Christian Leader Institute, the International Justice Missions, the Museum of Asian Art, and Human Rights and Water Polo.

Each organization is required to present their case to the Student Body in order to be considered. Out of the 13 applications, four proposed organizations are: the Student Life Committee (SLLC), the Students for Self-Asian Student Organization, and the Social Work Organization.

The remaining nine organizations that will not be among Calvin’s 70 officially chartered organizations this year are: the Public Health Organization, the Student Senate Committee, the Student Leadership Council, the Student Life Committee (SLLC), the Student Senate, the Student Leadership Council, and the Student Government Association.

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This would leave only three new open charter spots.

To create even more open spots, the Student Life Committee (SLLC) took the organizations that would lose the bottom seven spots. The bottom seven spots are determined by an annual evaluation system, of the 70 remaining organizations.

The annual evaluation is a score from zero to 100 that considers each organization’s participation, self-evaluation reports, and budget efficiency, amongst other considerations. The scores are then compared to each other. The Student Life Committee (SLLC) then determined the lowest scores for each organization during the 2016-2017 school year.

The seven previously existing organizations with the lowest scores (Feast of Knowledge, Our Daily Dance Crew, Organization of Student Social Life, the Student Life Committee (SLLC), the National Black Student Union) will compete with the 35 new student organizations for the ten charters.

The decisions will be made this Friday, May 5 by the SLLC.

Though Britton expressed that “it will have no implication on our decision,” there is also a budgeting process taking place. While each organization receives an appropriate budget, the college has asked SLC to review the overall budget for student organizations by $17,000.

Instead of reducing the number of available charters for student life, the college has decided to use the reduction for student organizations.

In the past, student senate has used Qualtrics software to conduct elections. Rodrigez said that in “an internal decision” to use SurveyMonkey instead of Qualtrics this year, and SurveyMonkey had been “suggested by various sources” to the election committee. Rodrigez, whose members include Rodriguez, Warners, Reitsma Rodriguez, and Hans Leisman.

“To maintain integrity in internet voting, you need a way to limit each person to one vote per candidate,” said India Daniels, a student assistant at the Center for Social Research.

SurveyMonkey has the capability to conduct voting through individualized, anonymous URLs, so one ballot per voter is guaranteed.

But it does not appear that the elections committee had these safeguards in mind when voting began. “We were unprepared,” said the incident “a mistake,” and expected. We were unprepared.” They were expecting students to use “the honor system” and expected students to think about in favor of a charter sport for their organization.

“They submitted applications to be organizations. These applications were reviewed and now they are waiting for a charter spot,” said Britton.

The nine proposed organizations have more competition for the charters than just the other nine new organizations.

Of the 70 total charters, 67 of the previously existing organizations applied again for next year.Active Minds, Culinary Club and the Science and Religion Forum decided to not refile applications for a charter.
Calvin students describe their role in the research

BY CAROLYN MYSKUENS AND TANNER VINCENT
Local Editor and Staff Writer

Calvin student Grace Maurer and Calvin alumnus Ari Vangeest led teams of surveyors last fall to study racial bias in Grand Rapids policing.

The results of their study, which found that black drivers are about twice as likely as white drivers to be pulled over by Grand Rapids cops, were released last week in a series of town hall meetings in the community.

The city of Grand Rapids hired Lambert Consulting, a national leader in racial bias research, last year to assess racial profiling of motorists by the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD). Maurer, a sociology major, and Vangeest, a 2016 graduate of the sociology program, were hired to be Lambert’s “on the ground” team leaders for the study.

The study determined bias by comparing the racial makeup of the traffic through 20 city intersections against police data about traffic stops and searches from 2013, 2014 and 2015.

It was Maurer and Vangeest’s job to gather the data about the racial makeup of drivers in each of the 20 intersections.

“It’s all about the odds of being pulled over,” Vangeest said. A common misconception about the study, Vangeest says, is that it’s about who gets pulled over more often. The police pull over white drivers more often than they do black drivers, but the key is the relationship between the percentage makeup of area traffic and the percentage of drivers that are stopped by cops.

Maurer and Vangeest described the study as “well-designed.”

“One reason the study is so good is we’re not just looking at census data, we’re looking at the transient population,” Maurer explained. Census data would show who lives in the neighborhood around the intersection, but those who drove through a neighborhood are not always the same population as those who live there. Maurer and Vangeest mentioned how much of a difference there was between the weekend traffic of young adults driving downtown to go to the bars and the weekday traffic of people commuting back and forth to work.

The Lambert study takes this into account by surveying the racial makeup of the traffic at each intersection. Maurer and Vangeest were in charge of organizing teams of four to stand at intersections for four-hour shifts and tally the race of drivers who passed through the intersection.

They used a number system to quickly mark the race of each driver. Maurer said she felt uncomfortable at first putting into categories that the driver might not personally identify with, but she realized that, in order to study racial profiling, she would need to put herself in a mindset of an average person’s assumptions based on appearance.

The surveyors also used bright lights at night to help them identify the race of drivers. In general, despite high volumes of traffic, the surveyors were able to identify race 97.8 percent of the time using the categorization of “black” versus “white.”

These tallies were compiled into data by Lamberth Consulting, a Chester, Pennsylvania, company that used the data to determine the bias.

Maurer and Vangeest noted the growing divide within the police.

Maurer said that the data about police searches results in a common argument he hears from people who disagree that racial bias is a factor in police practices. Though black motorists are 2.6 times more likely to be searched than white motorists in 2015, “the hit rate,” or the rate at which a search turned up contraband, was approximately statistically equivalent (around 25 percent) for blacks and whites in Grand Rapids.

This, for Vangeest, suggests there is “no way that you can say that black people just commit more crime” than white people.

One methodological problem Maurer and Vangeest ran into was the categorization of Hispanic drivers. Since the early 2000s, the GRPD has not categorized Hispanic as a race in their data collection, whereas for black drivers the police indicated that categorization in their data. Though the odds ratio for Hispanic drivers, the researchers looking at the police data had to use the last names of drivers to guess at their ethnicity.

The researchers found that Hispanics overall are stopped at an odds ratio of 1.3, which Lambrth categorizes as “equivocal,” though still above the odds ratio of 1 which would indicate that they are pulled over at rates proportional to their presence in the intersection.

Maurer and Vangeest spent a significant amount of time with police while collecting data for this study. The consulting firm used the police to provide protection for talliers, especially at night, and also used the police to drive Maurer and Vangeest, the supervisors, around to collect data from the talliers.

Maurer emphasized that though she felt uncomfortable occasionally, most of the interactions she witnessed or experienced with officers were positive. She said “lots of people asked the cops for directions” while she was riding along with them, and there were lots of positive interactions between community members and police officers who were self-assured and impressed her, especially when these positive interactions occurred in low-income areas where police and community relations are sometimes strained.

Yet both Maurer and Vangeest noted the growing divide within the police department. Officers who are open to programs like implicit bias training and those who feel it is “no way that you can say that” there is a difference there were positive. Maurer and Vangeest, the researchers looking at the police data had to use the last names of drivers to guess at their ethnicity.

The police pull over Hispanic drivers two times more often than white drivers, with an odds ratio of 1.3, which Lambrth categorizes as “equivocal,” though still above the odds ratio of 1 which would indicate that they are pulled over at rates proportional to their presence in the intersection.

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Men’s tennis secures win over Adrian despite demeaning behavior

The Knights struggled in the singles match, winning two matches out of six. No. 2 and No. 6 singles were won by VanWinkle and Wolters, respectively. Vaca Guzman, Brown, Asfour, and Vroon lost No. 1, 3, 4, and 5 matches, respectively.

Calvin’s victory was not the only story to come out of the match, however.

Several Calvin players mentioned a violation of the unwritten rules of tennis etiquette by some Adrian players as well as some Adrian fans in attendance.

One of the Adrian players played against an international Calvin tennis player, and continued to trash talk him. This included telling him to go back to his country, that he was a liar, and that he should be expecting the “hook” back home.

Furthermore, another Calvin player was referred to as being “gay” for asking a referee to disqualify the game. The crowds encouraged and participated in this type of behavior.

Calvin’s victory was not the only story to come out of the match, however.

There were also instances of impolite behavior, where Adrian players would hit the ball up to the corners between points, which is not normal tennis etiquette.

Congratulations to the women’s lacrosse team, which clinched the MIAA season title by defeating Adrian on April 25, 2017.

Knights of Calvin: Amanda Davio

“I am 20 years old, I’m from Okemos, MI. I have a family with two sisters. I work at an animal hospital right now.”

When did you start playing lacrosse, and what do you like about lacrosse?

“I’ve been playing lacrosse since 7th grade. I feel like it’s really taught me how to be on a team, or how a team really works. With lacrosse there are a lot of ways in which you can’t play it as an individual sport. It just really doesn’t work if everyone tries to accomplish their own goals, so it’s really taught me how to come together with a team to accomplish a common goal and to work together; rather than just focusing on individual goals.”

How did you feel about this season?

“This season has gone really, really well. It’s been exciting to see just because we started off with a lot of freshman coming in. We are a pretty young team, we only have one senior graduating this year. It’s exciting to see how we’ve grown over the season, not only the current season, but to see where we’re going to in the coming seasons next year and the years to come. It’s been really cool to see how people have meshed in and assumed roles from what we lost last year, and the roles we really needed to be filled in order to be successful. People have really been stepping up, we faced a lot of adversity because of injuries throughout the season; that’s something we’re pretty familiar with, we dealt with that last year as well. We’ve just really been able to bounce back from that, and that’s just a really cool thing, people stepping up.”

What made you come to Calvin?

“Lacrosse was the biggest factor. I really just wanted a small Christian school, and I hadn’t even heard of Calvin until nearing the end of my senior year of high school. Then at a tournament I was approached by some of the coaches and I just really loved the way they interacted with the team and with me, and the goals that they had. I had just had a really good feeling about it, I visited and hung out with the team, and seeing the relationships that had been built and how everything had been developed was a really big pushing force.

“I could really make a home, the people that were there could really be a family, and the coaches have been like my second dads. I know that I can always come to them. It was really just an emotional feeling, I felt at home. I didn’t really get that with other teams, like I visited Hope and didn’t feel that genuine connection with any of the players and the coach; wasn’t very active with recruiting either, so I didn’t really feel comfortable with that situation. But I felt like I was really wanted at Calvin, and that they would welcome me with open arms, and that was a cool feeling. In addition to that, got the perk of [Calvin] being the small Christian school I was looking for, having good academics and not being too far from home. So it was kind of the whole package there.”
Mineral Spotlight

BY DANIEL BLAKEMORE
Staff Writer

Crocoite is an exotic red-orange mineral with elongated crystals and often waxy luster. Its deep color and rarity make it a highly sought-after mineral for collectors. Crocoite forms in the oxidation zone of lead deposits where the oxygen and water from the surface alter the lead ore body into lead chromate (PbCrO4), and because of its rarity and difficulty to acquire, it's easy to understand why crocoite is a favorite. Dice explained how the Smithsonian wanted to purchase the crocoite very badly at one point because of its rarity and quality. Instead, Dice gave his crocoite, along with with over 300 other extraordinary samples, to Calvin in 2012.

Come see this exceptional piece for yourself in the Dice Mineral Museum located on the first floor of North Hall, and open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Waxworms consume and digest plastic

BY SADIE BURGHER
Sci/Tech Editor

Many of the world’s greatest scientific breakthroughs happened in laboratories, but every so often, curious discoveries are fostered by chance. A recent example of such a discovery — caterpillars who can chew and potentially digest plastic — might help eat away the tons of plastic waste in landfills all over the earth which would otherwise stay put for centuries or more.

Biologist Federica Bortocchini was tending her beehives at home when she came upon greater wax moth caterpillars — waxworms, to be more precise, which are known for being highly destructive to beehives as they chew through the wax that holds hives together. In an effort to save her hives, Bortocchini removed the waxworms and placed them in a plastic bag, only to later discover holes in the bag and caterpillars missing. According to The Atlantic, as she realized that the worms had eaten their way out of the bag, Bortocchini wondered: “Were the waxworms actually digesting the plastic?”

Bortocchini decided to officially investigate the efficiency of waxworms in breaking down plastic in a collaborative study with University of Cambridge biochemists Paolo Bombelli and Christopher Howe.

Bombelli and Howe “pointed out that, like beewax, many plastics are held together by structures called methylene bridges (molecular units consisting of one carbon and two hydrogen atoms, with the carbon also linked to two other atoms). These bridges are impossible for most organisms to break, which is why plastics based on them are not normally biodegradable, but the team suspected wax-moths had cracked the problem,” according to The Economist.

While greater wax moth caterpillars are not the first organisms suspected to be capable of breaking down plastic, they are the speediest known; while other organisms took weeks or months, waxworms could chew holes through polyethylene plastic bags in 40 minutes, as The Economist reports.

Ultimately, according to The Economist, the team of researchers “discovered their caterpillars eat an average of 2.2 holes, three millimeters across, every hour, in the plastic film. A follow-up test using standard shopping bags weighing just under three grams each found that an individual caterpillar took about 12 hours to consume a milligram of such a bag.”

While Bortocchini, Bombelli and Howe’s work is exciting in the face of a planet filling with plastic, more research needs to be done before waxworms could be used to help break it down. For example, waxworms love to attack bee hives, as Bortocchini noticed in the beginning, and the caterpillars could easily abandon plastic and give their full attention to hives if released en masse, along with any number of ecological disruptions, such as the possibility of toxic feces from waxworms.

In an interview with The Economist, Bortocchini noted that the ideal goal would be to “identify the enzymes that they [the worms] are using to degrade polyethylene,” in order to potentially “produce it at high-scale rather than using a million worms in a plastic bag.”

At any rate, innovations for degrading the vast amounts of plastic on the earth are under way, with hopefully more ideas to come soon, be they biological or by another mode.
Behind the leafy green of the Calvin Community Garden lies a quite ordinary looking house. Apart from the candle with the skull on the front doorstep, 3151 Hampshire Avenue could just as well be any other house full of Calvin students. For the “Garden House,” as it’s called, it is the people who inhabit it and the practices they implement that make the place what it is: a model of sustainable living at Calvin College.

Senior Kaitlyn Farris and juniors Kendra Larsen, Suzanne Melin and Maaike Mudde are the current and first-ever residents of this new project house.

“This is the first year of the Garden House right now and we’ve been kinda making things up as we go. The focus has always been on sustainable living and working are all work towards different justice ends, and that feels really good,” said Farris.

"Hospitality is a big part of living sustainably," said Mudde. She elaborated, saying that in the United States, “we have so many single family detached homes that take up so much space, so how we live is really inefficient. So having more people in one space is an easy way to practice sustainability.”

Compromise is another integral part to living sustainably:

"The value of when you seek to live sustainably, often that means to sacrifice a few things in your life and choosing to live a little more humbly or simplicistically maybe. I’m even in the process of trying to clean out my closet because there’s way too much crap in there," said Farris. "How we seek to live, we're not going to take the ease of just getting the plastic bags at the grocery store we take our own bags, that’s like the tiniest thing.”

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The Garden House is still a work in progress: “We’re still trying to figure out what exactly is the right blend of expectations, the students are extremely busy and they’re typically involved in a number of sustainability related and like, the environmental stewardship coalition, things like that, and we don’t want to detract from that,” said Koejte.

However, the hope for the Garden House is that it shows that sustainability comes in all shapes and sizes. By having very diverse interests and exploring different avenues of sustainability, Larsen hopes that “this sets a precedent that this house isn’t sustainable, it’s the people inside it.”
Kendrick Lamar – Cognitive Dissonance on "DAMN."

BY BLAKE STAAT
Guest Writer

With hype building up after two surprise songs dropped, including an enigmatic concluding message of a potential album release date, Kendrick Lamar chose Good Friday to give his fans a sneak preview of his latest album, "DAMN." Adding a 4th LP to his collection of highly praised and critically acclaimed albums, "DAMN." has been well received by both fans and critics alike, and helps to solidify his position as one of the top rappers among his contemporaries.

Following the format of the title, each track consists of a single capital-lettered word and period combination, giving a sense of boldness to the album as Kendrick breaks away from his traditional track list titling format.

Many know Kendrick for his socially conscious lyrics, complex grammatical vocals, and calm confidence as he speaks about his experiences, finding a formula for telling extremely vivid stories through his lyrics and skins on each track. Although "DAMN." does not feature the frequent voice changes that listeners have come to expect from his back catalogue ("Section. 80" (2011), "good kid, m.A.A.d city" (2012), or "To Pimp a Butterfly" (2015)), listeners can still hear Kendrick's internal and external struggles through every track, told expressively through the lyrics and rhythm of each piece.

With a small list of features including Rihanna, Zacari and U2, listeners can expect a significant departure to Kendrick, as he invites listeners to unpack many contrasting ideas through his lyrics and music in a dichotomous manner. Looking at the track list alone, listeners won't find anything dealing with like "LOVE" versus "HATE," or being "PROUD" versus "HUMBLE."

Kendrick also often shows us transpositions that he struggles with via his lyrics, and this album is no different. As the three-way battle between life and death, found in the first track, or calling himself a savior and a king on the same line in another song, it is clear that Kendrick does not pretend the world is black and white, and often finds himself dealing with a gray area that is hard to define.

The underlying theme of Kendrick going with the weakness, moving into a boastful or vulnerable altitude, also flows through many songs as he listens to himself and his shortcomings of falling into temptation. Another apparent thread in the album is the changes that are found on many of Lamar's albums. Though he has not stepped away from his past, the threads that were so prevalent in "To Pimp a Butterfly," "DAMN." features both aggressive trap beats containing provocative, yet lyrical lines, layered along side slower, intimate songs with soothing choruses, giving off a strong sense of contrast between every other track. As the album progresses, listeners can tell that Kendrick is using his music as a catharsis. When questions along with us, and often times it seems he has not found the answers.

One thing that makes Kendrick so interesting is the struggle: is his lyrics blur the line of simple rap rhymes and literary works. Many fans spend endless hours on forums discussing the meanings of his lyrics, finding regularly that one word can have multiple meanings depending on which line it appears in or one line actually meaning the antithesis of its face value in the context of the album. It has helped to provide evidence that Kendrick Lamar is just as good at story telling as he is at rapping, both of which deserve high recognition; as he's mastered both lyrical depth and rhyme delivery making it hard to deny his adequacy as an artist.

Kendrick gives listeners intimate insights into things he's going through personally, spiritually, and politically, which most of us can relate to. It's a true testament to what is so important about listening to Kendrick and his music is the content we gain access to through him. Though many listeners have not personally struggled with the topics he delivers, the experiences he raps about, we see his passion and connection to the struggles, and can empathize with these feelings and trials, understanding the true sense of humanity in the connection, which seems to be an artist's goal all along. "DAMN." works as an album that holds a very impressive repertoire by delivering the message while listeners can take inspiration from, while also giving an effective platform for Kendrick to express his inner struggles with current social issues and human short comings to the audience.

Calvin Nickerson: a dark, vivid portrayal of action against injustice

Nicholas Nickerson: a dark, vivid portrayal of action against injustice

BY NATALE HENDERSON
Staff Writer

The Calvin Theatre Company's current production of "Nicholas Nickleby" is an intriguing visual and mental work of art, and according to 2016 Calvin grad and assistant director Emily Wetzel, "like many works of Charles Dickens, [Nicholas Nickerson] addresses the social injustices and oppression of life in Victorian England. This particular adaptation of the novel places great weight on those issues and asks the audience to consider the level to which one's actions affect those around them. In the face of abuse and discrimination, how we choose to respond?"

The play is filled with intersecting encounters and humorous characters, allowing them to explore sensitive topics with artfulness and depth. So far, audience members have praised the play for double-cast, playing drastically different characters in the same scene, and giving each actor a new challenge as an actor and an elderly man.

"I play the actors, storytelling and emotion go hand-in-hand. The characters are in such a gray area: they are playing unclear roles in the plot — they can be seen as good or bad, rather they exist in shades of gray. Ashkinazi values his role in his own experience; for me, you come to life in your face, then you are left with something incredibly meaningful."

Wetzel added, "Theatre is live storytelling, and storytelling is such an important part of how we understand and connect to the world and each other. To give an actor the opportunity to have certain feelings, what makes them come to life in your face, then you are left with something incredibly meaningful."

Ashkinazi added, "I play the part of Newman Noggs. Newman Noggs is an old man; he is a character who is really kind, but he is also kind of a broken character who is re connecting the town and trying to turn things around the Nickerson family."

The play is beautifully re acted with the involvement of cold-stone walls and vivid-colored lights. Transitions in the show are set to music by the likes of Philip Glass and Krzysztof Penderecki.

"The show on a whole is a distinct experience for us — in. Wakeman launched last fall, a Kickstarter campaign that raised $7,300 to help listeners find a sense of humanity, which seems to be an artist's goal all along. "DAMN." works as an album that holds a very impressive repertoire by delivering the message while listeners can take inspiration from, while also giving an effective platform for Kendrick to express his inner struggles with current social issues and human short comings to the audience.
Calvin prof starts multi-generational Bible study

Professor David Noe draws on scripture and John Calvin’s writing as he leads a study on suffering.

BY MEGAN MANN
Guest Writer

Professor David Noe of the classics department began a Bible study in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) tradition on March 13. The study meets Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Room of Raybrook Manor, a retirement home within walking distance of Calvin. This study focuses on the topic of suffering and the perspective of the Bible and John Calvin’s “Institutes,” and emphasizes principles of faithful teaching and sanctifying fellowship.

Noe, a ruling elder in the OPC, teaches the study from John Calvin’s “Institutes of the Christian Religion,” III.6-10, called “The Golden Booklet of the Christian Life.” The biblical focus is Mark 8:34 and Matthew 16:24. Based on these verses, Noe teaches three main topics concerning suffering in the Christian life: 1) self-denial; 2) creation care and environmental stewardship; and 3) the future life.

Each study night consists of a time of teaching during which questions are welcome, a time of discussion and then time for fellowship and prayer. Junior student Ryan Heckman said, “The 20 or so regular attenders are of one of the widest age ranges I’ve ever done a Bible study with, from teens through people in their 80s. Hearing people talk and ask questions is always interesting because you aren’t sure exactly what people may ask or say and the views are very diverse.”

Noe’s interest in creating this new Bible study came from many sources. One of the most influential causes was the shift among Christian college students to leave Calvin background attending Calvin. Noe noted that many students don’t have a Reformed background and so have never received a clear explanation of the Reformed faith. He was interested in creating a safe space to teach historical Christianity and Reformed theology as a simple expression of the Reformed faith.

Another reason for Noe’s interest is that this Bible study is an exploratory study. Noe is interested in planting a church near Calvin and reaching out to conservative or curvaceous students. Noe is also very focused on creating an environment of serving God, one another and the community in this study and in any future church plant.

In order to continue the study and to discover if there is enough interest for a church plant, the group will need to find additional core families who will attend the study and will welcome and encourage the college students attending during the school year. Right now, there are about five core families consistently attending in addition to Raybrook residents and college students from Calvin and other local schools. Noe said that the involvement of college students in church is exciting because they have so much energy and enthusiasm to offer.

The current study of suffering ends May 10, aligning with the end of the semester. Though most college students will be leaving the Grand Rapids area for the summer, the study will continue through the summer. Beginning May 17, the study will move to the topic of “The Sacraments of the Old Testament and Their Fulfillment in the New Testament.”

Looking at local churches: Fifth Reformed Church

BY ERICA NORMAN
Guest Writer

Less than a mile from Calvin’s campus, Fifth Reformed Church sits tucked back in a well-developed neighborhood near Griggs Street. This church, which belongs to the Reformed Church in America, has services at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. every Sunday to provide flexibility for both early-risers and those who prioritize a later service.

Sophomore Heather Milks, who has been attending Calvin’s Fifth Reformed for about a year, said that the strong sense of community is what he likes about the church at Fifth.

“I went to a church and the people aren’t necessarily churchy who are there. That’s the thing I like about Fifth.”

On my first Sunday I had already been greeted by the pastor and his family and met fellow college students at a lunch. The following week, I received a few emails reaching out to me for a coffee and talk about my faith journey. I was extremely impressed by how well and how thoroughly they reached out to me.”

The church emphasizes long-term service projects. They’ve partnered with the local Mission for the Last Ten, a Reformed church in America, in services at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. every Sunday to provide flexibility for both early-risers and those who prioritize a later service.

Sophomore Heather Milks, who has been attending Calvin’s Fifth Reformed for about a year, said that the strong sense of community is what he likes about the church at Fifth.

“This sermon aren’t meant to be academically rigorous, but to be memorable and applicable during the rest of the week. The sermons typically ask simple and direct questions like ‘What should I do with my faith and science?’ or ‘How should I use my money?’”

To boil it down, Fifth is a welcoming, traditional Reformed church with a contemporary twist. If you want to place a find out who I am and some practical teaching about our discipling of Christ, then be sure to check it out.

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Graphs from the Pew Research Center depict polarization.
The student conduct office took a report of an incident of dating violence, which occurred in Timmer Hall on April 3, 2017. The student conduct office handled the incident as a case of student misconduct in accordance with the college’s Safer Spaces policy.

Reported 4/17/2017

The campus safety department took a larceny report from a student who was missing a longboard that they had left in the crossing bridge. Video surveillance revealed that three young boys had taken the longboard. They had seen the board in the same location several times and thought it had been discarded, so they took it. The board was recovered and returned to the student.

Reported 4/19/2017

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

3 Propels
47 That guy
48 "Python" opener
49 Landfill,
51 Commotion
52 Swindles
53 Pond organ-
54 Symbol of
55 "Richard — "
56 Despot
27 Michigan, for
1 Notation
gauges, for
39 Short
41 Assistant
42 Interpection
49 Biscuits
37 "Who cares?"
38 Adversary
39 Fodder plant
40 Simpson’s
41 "Hey, you!
46 Wire
50 Intercom
49 Mast
39 Mind
38 Most
45 Fist
51 Literary collec-

**DOWN**

6 Nip of
11 Suburban
12 Suspense
16 Swell
20 "Mony"
22 Candy Bar
23 "You only have to have so much time!"
23S "Dumb"
24 "Glorious""Great"
25 "Victory"
26 "Babooch Saqhuman"
27 Quaint stuff
29 Yaghi’s 61
30 "Your yard!
32 On Interval
33 Swimmer later called a Swimmer
34 "Rug" on
35 ""I’m not a
36 (back)
37 Was old
38 Report on
39 Product in
40 Spanish in
41 Netherlandish
43 Fats made of
44 Fats made of

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

6 9 2 1 8 1 3 7 5
7 3 2 4 9 5 1 8 6
6 1 8 3 7 4 2 5 9
1 5 3 2 9 6 7 4 8
3 4 7 1 8 2 9 6 5
2 6 9 5 4 3 8 7 1
8 4 1 6 5 2 3 9 7
5 2 3 7 1 9 6 8 4
4 7 5 8 3 1 9 2 6

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Halleck's in Rome

Juliana Ludema (2015)

As intercolumnar microwaves inevitably accumulate Macaroni dust and rust, fish paste and fruitcake, Vitruvius peers, curious, trying to elucidate Why modern inventions would dare deface His perfect pillars’ empty space
Dorms are better than commuting

BY MARK PELESS
Online Editor

Let me preface this by saying that one cannot generalize about all of Calvin’s students, nor all of the students living in the dorms. Each one might differ greatly from yours, and that’s because I’m not you and you aren’t me.

With that said, for those who are from Grand Rapids, I think that living in the dorms for your first two years at Calvin is a much better experience than the alternative: commuting.

I came out of high school as a regular introvert. I enjoyed spending hours by myself, and that’s because I’m not you. And I may differ greatly from yours.

As such he should be in every school, or at least a class year. Unless otherwise specified, names will be printed.

Letters should be no longer than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to edit any letters for grammatical accuracy or clarity.

SEND ALL LETTERS TO: VICTOR LYNDE - VEL2@STUDENTS.CALVIN.EDU

PENNIES FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

Chimes encourages healthy discussion of issues within the Calvin community and welcomes opinion pieces from all students, staff, and faculty. If you would like to submit, email an article or your ideas to the section editor and we’ll help you out.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The opinions expressed in articles on this page are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Chimes, Calvin College or the Christian Reformed Church.

OPINION & EDITORIAL

APRIL 28, 2017  l  Page 11  l  calvin.edu/chimes

Practicing the day of rest

BY LEA WASSINK
Guest Writer

Like many students, I came to Calvin for many reasons. I became interested, I could study the subjects that I wanted, I could study abroad, the student to professor ratio was excellent, the school was small (but not too small) and the location was far enough away from home (but not too far). Besides those things, what attracted me to Calvin was the community and the fundamental values on which it bases its all community and learning.

One of the fundamental values that Calvin has very thoroughly demonstrated to me is the practice of taking a day of rest. The fact that academics buildings close one day of the week is evidence of this to me, reminding me that I do not need to be a student 24/7.

Truly, the day of the week on which a person takes their rest does not matter. For me, it has made logical sense to take Sundays off. On Sundays, and during the weekdays I am in class and Sundays I attend church. This special designation of one day of the week allows the body, mind and spirit to continually develop. I know that something I have truly cherished is being an engineer student. On Friday last week, student news included an announcement that the second floor of the library would be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays until May 14.

The announcement stated that the library was only providing the second floor as a study space and that regular library services would not be available.

Earlier in the week, an email was sent out to me and all the other library student workers asking for a few of us to act as monitors during those hours in the library. Opening the library, even just for the space, requires the presence of a student worker.

“I do not need to be a student 24/7.”

My reaction to this announcement is a mixture of understanding, resigning and concern. I understand that there is a need for students in the dorms not to have other spaces, besides their dorms and apartments, available to them on Sundays. I remember as a first-year student, I felt ten, felt, anti-social and out of place all at the same time. Calvin is nowhere else to be besides my dorm. Without a place to go, I usually ended up doing homework.

I am resigning to the fact that one of the most convenient spaces for students to use on Sundays is the library. It is a large space, has plenty of tables and chairs and is generally very quiet.

I am concerned that Calvin is taking steps that fail to demonstrate the practice of the day of rest. The choice of taking a day of rest looks different for each person and it is a personal choice, but as a school Calvin is supposed to demonstrate its values to its students and to the community.

The topic of opening the library on Sundays is complex and involves various students, faculty, and staff who have varying opinions. At the end of October last year, I wrote an article for the Chimes about my perspective as a liberal student worker on opening the library on Sundays and I still stand by that article. The main purpose of the library on campus is to provide students with easy access to the tools they need to do their work, and study, and to the community.

The library is a place of learning, studying, and research, the fundamental concepts that define the work of a student. It is here that Calvin students can continually develop that is not only an intellectual mental value that attracted me to attend in the first place, but as it continues to strive to meet the wants and needs of its students.

As much as it was, it took

Is my God your God?

BY MICHELLE HOFFMAN
Features Editor

Christian is a word that envelops a whole lot of different kinds of people. Here at Calvin, many of those people can be found. We may have a lot in common because of our religion, but there are some things we do not have in common.

There are different denominations, and among those there are liberals and conservatives.

There are those who accept all lifestyles, who say “everyone is loved.” And there are those who might say “I love you, but I cannot agree to how you live.”

That is what we, here on the earth, might say. What we say is what we believe God would have us say. We have all our reasons, our verses, our proofs and arguments.

Don’t want to get into those.

I want to think about who God is to each of us. Do we allow God to be in our life, how close are you to him? God is with us in each and every moment of our life; he sees what we do, hears what we say and knows what we think.

Does that affect how each of us live? Does the God I worship allow the same things I do? Or does the God you worship?

I am conservative. I am not afraid to say that. I go to church twice every Sunday because I believe that is what God requires of me. I believe that you are less than me if you do not? No. I believe that God has called to something different than me. Or you are anyone. I do not call differently than I am.

I change the radio station when I hear a song about sex or lust. It is my opinion that everyone should do the same. I know they don’t know it. And it makes me wonder, what is God to those people? Those that I know; there are some who listen to music that I would not. And they are still so well versed in the Bible.

I can tell that those who live differently than I do still know God as well, or maybe even better.

And I ask myself, is our God the same? Or do I worship a God that is not as lenient as theirs? Is it possible that there can be so many forms of worship, in which many are in disagreement with one another? Could you be the same God? Before coming to Calvin I might have said no. But now, having talked with so many different people of so many different backgrounds, and having seen their love for God come out in ways so different from mine, my answer has changed.

I still have the opinion that there are only those who know God, and do not live a life that is pleasing to him. So I ask you to ask yourself, how is God physically by your side everyday, would you live your life the same? Right now? Would be silent by your side if you continued to do the thing you do? Because we do believe that God is by our side everyday, he might not be physical, he is there but do your lives? We don’t always show that we believe that. I am not excluding myself from that category.

We are Christians. His name is in the very title that defines us. As such he should be in every moment that we live. As totally depraved humans, though, that is something that we find extremely difficult, but that is no excuse not to try.

I challenge you to ask yourselves this question: Who is God to you? How much does he live in your life right now? Would be silent by your side if you continued to do the thing you do? Because we do believe that God is by our side everyday, he might not be physical, he is there but do your lives? We don’t always show that we believe that. I am not excluding myself from that category.
CALVIN’S GOT TALENT

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HSU & ESTHER RYOU