

Chimes

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38 Calvin faculty sign post-election commitment

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

BY KATHRYN MAE POST
Religion Editor

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

Although the faculty clarify that they do not speak for their institutions in signing the document, the statement "identifies faculty members from various Christian academic institutions who are seeking truth, justice, and reconciliation in our communities," according to Kumar Sinniah, professor of chemistry at Calvin.

The statement begins by expressing the signers' decision to join their voices "with those who are most vulnerable."

This statement is an adaptation and expansion of statements written by faculty and staff at North Park Theological Seminary and Westmont 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 suffering alongside all created in God's image. The statement affirms the signers' commitment to truth, and recognizes the deep fear and pain experienced by marginalized groups. Finally, it calls Christian communities to seek justice and healing, confesses failure to promote love and justice and describes a vision of Christian communities that earnestly seek to love their neighbors.

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Library opens on Sundays as study space sans services

BY PETER FORD
On-Call Writer

The second floor of the Hekman Library will be open as a study space from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays until May 14, the final Sunday of the semester. Although a single student employee will monitor activities, none of the library's services will be available, including circulation and reference. Aside from the second floor, the rest of the building will be off-limits to students, with the stairwells locked.

Back in 2014, the Hekman Library Committee voted to open the library on Sundays, but President Michael Le Roy pulled the plug, saying that the issue is

"complex" and that he "want[ed] to have more conversation about it." Three years later, the proposal has become reality—at least through the end of the semester.

Although a single student employee will monitor activities, none of the library's services will be available, including circulation and reference.

Student senate has been pushing for Sunday hours at Hekman Library for many years. The senator in charge of the push this year

is student librarian Magdalene Osei. She said that getting the library open on Sundays is "the number one desire of many students here on campus... It's what the students want."

Senate decided to start slow by asking the library to be open during exam weeks, and "then push for more."

Not everyone was thrilled by the move, however. Osei said her boss Carla Hotz "was not necessarily cool with the idea," wondering about the budget and willingness of student workers to work on Sunday. As both a student library worker and a senator, Osei said she tried to work for both the student body and her employer.

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PHOTO BY JOSEPHINE KWON

Student senate election initially allows multiple votes

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS
Local Editor

Ballots sent out to the student body at 8 a.m. Wednesday morning gave students the opportunity to vote for their chosen student senate candidates — as many times as they wanted, and without any measure to ensure that the voter was a Calvin student.

But multiple ballots could easily be cast by clearing browser history, using a different internet browser or opening the ballot on a cell phone or other mobile device.

The SurveyMonkey ballot was hosted at a generic link that could be accessed on any computer or device, and voting was anonymous. The only protective measure in place initially was that

voting was tracked by browser history. But multiple ballots could easily be cast by clearing browser history, using a different internet browser or opening the ballot on a cell phone or other mobile device.

After students alerted them of the vulnerabilities of the ballots, the student senate elections committee and student senate's advisor, John Britton, modified the original survey to require voters to include their full name, ID number and Calvin email address.

The updated ballot was in place by 10:55 a.m., and student senate president Bill Warners informed students by email that "a technical error" had occurred. Ballots cast in the first three hours of the election would be discarded, and those students would need to re-vote later that day.

According to Britton, 679 ballots had to be voided because they were completed in the three-hour window before the ballot was changed.

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Chimes is the official student newspaper of Calvin College. The mission of Chimes is to reform, review, challenge and foster dialogue within the Calvin community.

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Letters to the Editor

See page 11 for guidelines on submitting letters and opinion pieces

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The official Student Newspaper of Calvin College Since 1907

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 Persons in Community (PIC) core category and the second year of foreign language to students in Bachelor of Science (BS) and Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS) programs was voted down at this week's faculty senate meeting.

The proposal failed in a 19-23 vote after two weeks of discussion.

Several professional programs already have a world language exemption, and the engineering program also currently has a PIC exemption. The proposal cited this precedent as reason for offering the same exemption for BS and BSC programs.

"It's an easy target," social work professor Lissa Schwander said of PIC. "Understanding that Calvin will move toward a new core at some point in the near future, I believe targeting particular pieces of the core now will again become precedent for eliminating them the next time."

Schwander stressed the role that PIC plays in teaching Calvin students how to live in a diverse society:

"[PIC] is the one core category that requires students to think deeply about identity (our own and others') and how the intersections of identities, race, class, gender,

sexuality, religion, ability [among others] shape experiences," she said. "I think we are living in an era where understanding difference and being able to communicate and engage across difference is more important than ever."

Computer science professor Joel Adams, however, found the result of the vote "disappointing," as the proposal "was designed to best serve Calvin students by letting [them] change their majors more easily and still complete their degrees in four years."

Adams sees a "social injustice" in the size of the core that the proposal was intended to help address:

"The current situation privileges students from privileged backgrounds ... [who] are more likely to enter Calvin with many core exemptions."

If approved, Adams said, the proposal would have allowed students with a variety of educational backgrounds more freedom in changing majors while still being able to graduate in four years.

More details and other faculty members' thoughts about the proposal can be found in our coverage from last week.

"The current situation privileges students from privileged backgrounds."

Talent show wows

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 mounted the stage in an attempt to prove Calvin's got talent. The performances were diverse in genre, some acts taking a serious stand, and others producing laughter from the crowd 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 Gonzaga, 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 ambitious project ODD Crew has ever done." The ODD Crew has been around for only two years, and some of the seniors involved were founding members. The idea for the story the dance narrated came from memories of freshman year that seniors could come together and talk about. The number of different experiences in the group gave them a lot of material to work with.

"Calvin has had a special place in our hearts for giving us a place to dance, meet new people, and discover different passions," Gonzaga said. "Through all these great experiences, we also wanted to look forward to how these significant parts of our college experience would carry over 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 videoing, they had to take one shot at a time, and wait for the snow to melt to get much of the footage. Gonzaga explained, "to see our work come together for one day after all the preparation was very stressful yet ultimately satisfying. In other words, indescribable!"

The overall show went smoothly. Gonzaga commented on some issues with communication 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 smoothly, and the performances were at their best.

Senior Dillon Carhuff, a week-end programming intern for Nite 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 Friday. On Saturday they could go through a dress rehearsal, and run through their act twice. This was not only helpful for the performers, but also for the tech and stage crews to work through how transitions and set up would go for all the acts.

"There was a lot of coordination that needed to happen between our team, 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 times were going to happen and when the tech and stage crews were going to be there. We felt the event went very smoothly."

Fulbright and Goldwater research scholarships awarded to students

BY EMILY STROBLE
On-Call Writer

Three Calvin students recently received major academic awards: sophomore Nathaniel Kazmierczak was named a Goldwater scholar, junior Brianna Busscher received a Goldwater honorable mention and senior Micah Warners was named a Fulbright scholar.

Despite Warners' impressive credentials, the Fulbright scholarship came as something of a surprise.

"My dad encouraged me to apply for it, and I did it because I thought it would be a cool opportunity, but I didn't think there was any chance and I put it in the back of my mind," said Warners.

In January, he heard that he was a finalist and started to get excited. The Fulbright scholarship will enable Warners to teach English 20 to 25 hours a week in Honduras for the 2017-2018 school year as part of a micro scholarship program. Warners is looking forward to make a difference in the community he will be joining.

He shared that in this program he will interact with high caliber students of a variety of back-

grounds. Additionally, this is the first Fulbright teaching program in Honduras.

"I will be able to kind of start [a teaching program]," said Warners.

Warners will also spend approximately 20 hours a week on an additional project. Warners has a lot of freedom to choose what kind of project he would like to do. Possibilities he is considering include working with a non-profit or working with residents to start a community or rain garden.

Warners has experience with rain gardens, having worked for the past three summers with Plaster Creek Stewards. Warners worked with student "Rain Teams" to clean up creeks and plant rain gardens, which improve water quality and increase biodiversity. A project like this would give Warners the opportunity to continue integrating his diverse passions.

"If it is possible to not compromise a passion ... do it," commented Warners on his multiple majors. Early in his college career, he knew he wanted to teach but he didn't know what. So he decided on two education majors and later added biology. Warners'

passion for teaching comes from a love of "being around people and seeing how they grow."

Warners also credited his roommate, Enrique Melara, and his professors for supporting him as he pursued his interests:

"In a lot of my classes I've been able to find or choose a topic I've wanted to study more. I can choose a topic related to the environment. It's cool to be encouraged to integrate different things and study different things and not focus on one topic."

Professors, he said, are eager to help students. "Just because it's a Fulbright doesn't mean you couldn't do it. Utilize professors to review your essays. Seek advice. I had three professors look over [my] essays. They went from being mediocre to a lot better."

Kazmierczak also emphasized the importance of interaction with professors. He started researching with chemistry professor Douglas Vander Griend three months after arriving at Calvin.

"Calvin's undergraduate research program is tailored toward is giving undergrads a central place in the scientific process."

This is different from programs where professors and grad-

uate students do much of the actual research and undergrads are peripheral to the process.

Kazmierczak encouraged his fellow students to start pursuing their interests early in their college experience and interact with professors.

Warners also encouraged other students not to worry if they have trouble choosing between passions.

"I still don't know what I'm doing with my life. It's okay if you don't know at sophomore year and switch a few times," he said. Warners hopes to attend graduate school, and work with Spanish speakers in the US.

For both Warners and Kazmierczak, this recognition confirms the importance of their work and sense of calling.

"It's a validation that the work Dr. Vander Griend and I have been doing is good work," said Kazmierczak. "The research path I have chosen is one that God has allowed me to be good at, and the skills I've acquired at Calvin ... will allow me to succeed."

"Recognitions come when they come, if they come," said Kazmierczak. "The science is what matters."

Library

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Another student library worker, Esther Ryou explained, "When it was brought up last year in October or November-ish, we had hesitations about opening on Sunday because Sunday is the time you spend with God. ... We didn't want people to be working on Sundays. ... Of course, some coworkers of mine were not happy."

When Osei didn't hear back from Sarah Visser, vice president of student life, last December, she thought, "as usual the project was scratched." So when David Malone, dean of the library, announced in an email to all students the library will be available on Sundays, Osei was surprised.

"They should have found a better way to tell everyone about it. Some senators didn't know about it at first. I didn't know until [I received] an email from my boss asking for us to take shifts." Osei said that when the student workers found out, shift signups on Sunday afternoons "went so fast. Many thought it was an easy shift."

David Malone became the library dean in the summer of 2016.

"Coming into this position, I knew there was some history with Sunday hours." He explained that Le Roy suggested a compromise. According to him, the second floor of the library

was designated one of the "living room spaces." Malone said many students "desire to have a place" to study.

Esther Ryou agreed: "There's nowhere else you can go to study on Sundays. ... Even if I live off campus, I don't want to go to a coffee shop." She said, "A lot of my friends were extremely happy about it...I'm honestly really happy."

According to Ryou, "My boss Carla [Hotz] brought it up, tried to seek [the student workers'] opinions. I like it. It gives more hours to students. My boss talked to the board about it to ask what they thought, and they thought it was a good idea."

While it has been relatively simple to open up other areas on Sunday afternoons, such as Johnny's and the lobby of the DeVos Communication Center, Malone said, "Locking down Hekman to allow access to only the 2nd floor was much more involved." In fact, "It took several months for the building to get situated so that just the second floor was accessible," a process which included installing locks on the staircases.

Malone assured, "No one is being forced to work on Sunday." He said student employees volunteer to work the Sunday shift. "It's low-impact that benefits the students...We have only one monitor, and we are relying on campus safety if we need backup."

Some students have wondered about the seemingly arbitrary

limitations. As a student worker, Ryou said, "I think [five hours] is a reasonable amount of time... I think it's reasonable that we only open the main floor. We'll start out with the main floor and see how it goes... We can try to improve what people are not happy about."

Osei said "people are excited" about the Sunday hours, although she admitted hearing "mixed reviews, but it's more on the positive side. Some say, 'Now I have a place to study!' and others say, 'What? I can't check out books?' One thing at a time, you know?"

According to Malone, a little over 100 people visited the library

on April 23, the first Sunday it was open, filling up about half of the available 200 seats.

"We hope to add furniture to that space to make it more usable. ... We are glad that the building is of use and we are trying to make that second floor a place that invites student engagement and learning."

Neither Osei nor Ryou knew if the Sunday hours would continue into next year. Malone said, "I assume we will continue this into next year. If it continues to be used as it is, it meets the spirit of some of those who desire to not have it open on Sundays."



Students study in the library on a Sunday for the first time.

Students make cases for new org charters

BY JOSH POLANSKI
On-Call Writer

Thirteen potential student organizations have applied to be among Calvin's 70 officially chartered spots for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The proposals accepted for consideration Apologetics Club, Astronomy Club, Calvin Democrats, Christian Leader Institute, Prison Writers Club, International Justice Missions, Rangeela, Self Asian Student Organization and Water Polo.

Each organization is required to provide a minimum of 17 members, three student leaders and one faculty or staff advisor in order to be considered.

Out of the 13 applications, four proposed organizations (Calvin Scooter Club, GO, Peanut Butter and Jelly Club and The Republic) were denied for various reasons.

For example, The Republic was denied because they wanted to engage in political discourse. John Britton, associate dean of campus involvement and leadership, expressed that there are already enough opportunities for political discourse on campus and encouraged them to partake in those ongoing conversations.

The remaining nine organizations (listed above) will argue in favor of a charter spot for their organization.

"They submitted applications to be organizations. These applications were approved 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 new organizations.

Out 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.

This would have left only three new open charter spots.

To create more open spots Student Life Committee (SLC) took the organizations with the bottom seven scores, based on an annual evaluation system, of the 75 remaining organizations.

The annual evaluation is a score from zero to 100 that considers each organization's membership, self-evaluation reports and budget efficiency, amongst other considerations. The scores are then compared to each other.

The African Student Organization and Food Recovery Network had the two highest scores out of the 70 organizations during the 2016 school year.

The seven previously existing organizations with the lowest scores (Feast of Knowledge, Our Daily Dance Crew, Organization of Student Social Workers, Friday Night Soccer, Renewable Energy Organization, Theology Forum, National Society of Black Engineers) will compete with the nine new student organizations for the ten charters.

The decisions will be made May 1 by the SLC.

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 reduce the overall budget for student organizations by \$7,000.

Instead of reducing the number of available charters to reduce the budget, SLC has decided to make reductions across the board. Britton said they will "identify organizations that can have cut [spending] initiatives."

However, not all organizations have a negative spending record. For example, many of the performance based organizations like Dance Guild and Improv earn money for SLC to fund the other student organizations.

Senate

► CONTINUED FROM P. 1

The new ballots still use a generic link, but each ballot will be checked, one-by-one, against a list of current Calvin students' names to ensure that each ballot corresponds to one student. Christian Rodriguez, vice president of representation and manager of the voting system this year, emphasized that the elections committee would finish this extra task in time for results to be announced Friday.

In the past, student senate has used Qualtrics software to conduct elections.

Rodriguez said that it was "an internal decision" to use SurveyMonkey instead of Qualtrics this year, and SurveyMonkey had been "suggested by various sources" to the elections committee, whose members include Rodriguez, Warners, Reitsma Mpindi, Sylvia Nyanuhungu and Hans Leisman.

"To maintain integrity in internet voting, you need a way to limit each person to one vote. Platforms like SurveyMonkey and Qualtrics

allow you to upload an Excel file of email addresses — which student senate has — and email a unique, one-time survey link to each respondent," 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 they designed the initial ballot. Rodriguez called the incident "a mistake," and said the problem "was unexpected. We were unprepared." They were expecting students to use "the honor system" and only vote once, Rodriguez explained.

But Rodriguez emphasized that "after the fix of the balloting system, voting [in the election] is legitimate, fair and accurate."

He hoped students' trust in the system is not damaged by the mistake: "We want people to have a strong belief in the system and its integrity."

PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN SENATE

NOTABLE MENTIONS

COMING UP

- **Faith and the Democratic Party**
Friday, April 28, 10:00a.m. @Chapel Sanctuary
- **Nicholas Nickleby**
Friday & Saturday, April 28-29, 7:30p.m. @ Spoelhof Center Gezon
- **SAO Movie: The Lego Batman Movie**
Friday, April 28, 8:00 p.m. @ CFAC
- **Calvin 5K Spring Classic**
Saturday, April 29, 8:30 a.m.
- **Calvin Orchestra**
Saturday, April 29, 8:00 p.m. @ CFAC
- **Just Citizenship: Climate Change and Human Rights**
Monday, May 1, 3:30p.m. @Chapel Sanctuary
- **Leadercast 2017**
Friday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. @ CFAC
- **Capella**
Friday, May 5, 8:00p.m. @Chapel Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Interested in writing for Chimes?**

Email chimes@calvin.edu.

Calvin College equips students to think deeply, act justly, and live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

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PHOTO BY TANNER VINCENT

Calvin students describe their role in the research

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS 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 Lamberth 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 Lamberth'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 drive through a neighborhood are not always the same population as those who live there. Vangeest and Maurer 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 Lamberth 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 people into categories that the drivers 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, marking "unknown" or "ambiguous" for just 1,259 out of the 57,660 vehicles counted in the study.

These tallies were compiled by Maurer and Vangeest, who

sent the numbers to Lamberth Consulting, based in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Maurer and Vangeest were the only Lamberth employees on the ground in Grand Rapids for the duration of the data collection.

Analysts at Lamberth then compared this data to 2013, 2014 and 2015 traffic stop data provided by the GRPD. The traffic stop data included not only information about the race and gender of drivers pulled over by the police, but also information about the kind of searches conducted and whether or not the officer found contraband in those searches.

Maurer and Vangeest noted the growing divide within the police.

Vangeest said that the data about police searches results contradict a common argument he hears from people who disagree that racial bias is a factor in police practices. Though black motorists were 2.54 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. To determine 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 Lamberth categorizes as benign, 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 significant amounts 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. This surprised 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 between officers who are open to programs like implicit bias training and those who feel attacked and defensive about racial bias studies like this one.

Maurer said that she drew hope from the fact that many of the surveyors she worked with to collect the data were in train-

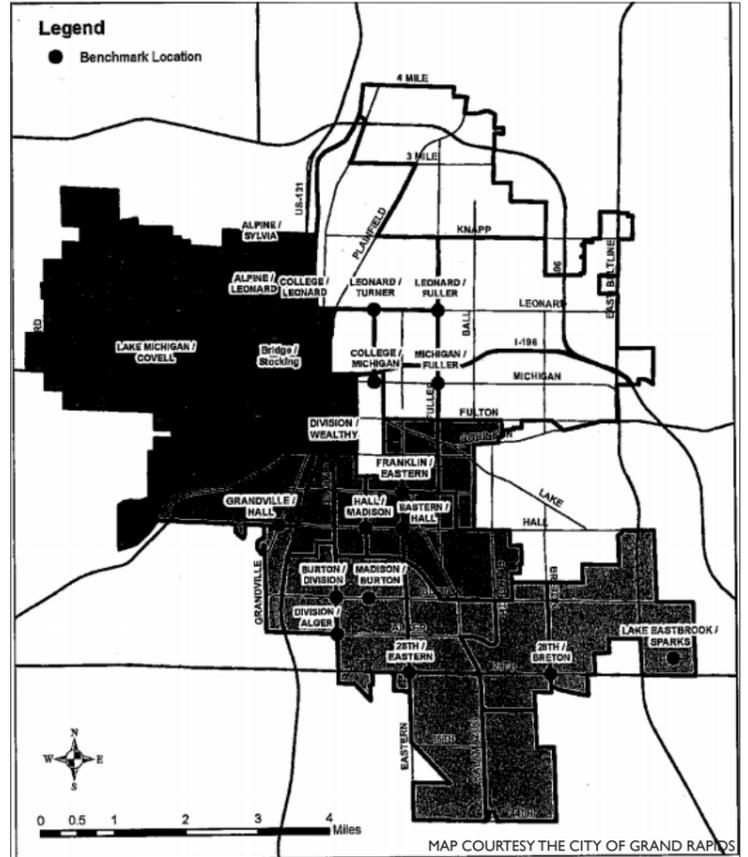
ing to become police officers. It gives her hope that future police officers are invested in the problem of racial bias and want to understand its extent and implications.

The study backs up anecdotal evidence of racial bias in policing. "A lot of people's reactions were just like, water is wet, we already knew this," Maurer said. "It's their experience, and this just reinforces their experience," Maurer said of minorities in Grand Rapids. But the study is significant because the experience of minorities is "still being dismissed," Maurer said, while empirical evidence is less easy to dismiss.

Vangeest said he still gets accused of fabricating or skewing the data with a liberal bias, even though he notes that he couldn't have done so if he had wanted to. "We didn't have any data from [the police] before starting the survey," he said, and since the study compared current demographics with already-recorded police data, neither he nor the police department could have attempted to change the data in anyone's favor.

Both Vangeest and Maurer framed the study in the context of what Maurer called "the militarization of the police" and the "divide" between the police and the communities they are charged with protecting.

"Some people see this study as another attack on the police," Vangeest said. "But I didn't come into it thinking that at all ... I was thinking we can address this problem with empirical evidence; we can change this."



The traffic stop data was collected from 20 intersections around Grand Rapids, shown in the map above.

28th & Breton	1.47	Franklin & Eastern	2.64
28th & Eastern	2.16	Grandville & Hall	2.33
Alpine & Leonard	2.37	Hall & Madison	2.32
Alpine & Sylvia	1.38	Lake Eastbrook & Sparks	0.48
Bridge & Stocking	2.77	Lake Michigan & Covell	1.89
Burton & Division	1.73	Leonard & Fuller	1.96
College & Leonard	2.56	Leonard & Turner	2.67
College & Michigan	1.86	Madison & Burton	2.01
Division & Alger	1.46	Michigan & Fuller	1.62
Eastern & Hall	2.56	Wealthy & Division	1.76

IMAGE COURTESY THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

2015 numbers show how much more often black drivers are pulled over compared to their presence in each intersection.

Climate Change and Human Rights

Making the Connection through an Equity and Social Justice Lens



Special Guest Speaker

Dr. Robert Bullard

"Father of Environmental Justice"

Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy,
Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs,
Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.

Monday, May 1, 3:30 pm
Chapel, Calvin College

JUST CITIZENSHIP

Co-sponsors: Sustainability Initiative, Byker Chair in Applied Reformed Theology & Worldview, Center for Community Engagement & Global Learning, Faith & Citizenship Initiative

Men's tennis secures win over Adrian despite demeaning behavior

BY PURUN YEO
Sports Editor

On April 22, 2017, the Calvin men's team defeated Adrian in a close 5-4 match to capture third place in the MIAA season.

Calvin won all three doubles matches. Freshman Rodrigo Vaca Guzman and junior David Brown were the first to secure a victory, with a score of 8-1 in No. 2 doubles.

Senior Anthony Vroon and sophomore Jason Wolters won the No. 3 doubles next, finishing with a score of 8-2.

Junior Matt VanWinkle and senior Taylor Asfour scored the third victory in No. 1 doubles for Calvin ending with an aggregate of 8-6.

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 singles, 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 the 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 mediate 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.

To clarify, not all Calvin players were subject to this type of behavior, nor were all Adrian players part of Vcreating this atmosphere.

Coach Ross said, "I was very proud of our attitude and effort not only throughout this match but our entire season. Our team was up against a very

tough and challenging opponent and we were able to keep our emotions in check. Our action throughout the match was clear to anyone who observed this match.

We accomplished our goal, which was play to in a manner that honored and represented our Heavenly Father."



Junior David Brown serves against Albion.



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

BY PURUN YEO
Sports Editor

Name : Amanda Davio
Year : Junior
Sport : Lacrosse
Major : Biology

Introduction

"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 go 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 rolls from what we lost last year, and the rolls 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 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, I 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."



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN SPORTS INFORMATION

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 alters the lead ore body into new minerals – often brightly colored.

Crocoite has the chemical composition $PbCrO_4$ (lead chromate), and because of the unusual chemical combination, it is found in only a handful of locations around the world. Tasmania, off the coast of Australia, is one of the most prominent locations, which is where Calvin alumnus Bruce Dice acquired some of his favorite samples in his mineral collection.

In an interview with Dice in the fall of 2015, he described some of his favorite pieces and stories of his collection. Dice is especially enamored with the crocoite in his collection: “It’s one of the most beautiful things ever and it’s a very unusual mineral.” For the aesthetic value 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 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 Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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 fueled 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 Bertocchini 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, Bertocchini 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, Bertocchini wondered: “Were the waxworms actually digesting the plastic?”

Bertocchini 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 beeswax, 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 Atlantic* reports.

Ultimately, according to *The Economist*, the team of researchers “discovered their caterpillars each ate 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 Bertocchini, Bombelli and Howe’s work is exciting in the face of a planet filling with plastic, much research needs to be done before waxworms could be used to help break it down. For example, waxworms love to attack beehives, as Bertocchini 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*, Bertocchini 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 underway, with hopefully more ideas to come soon, be they biological or by another mode.

THE 2017 PAUL B. HENRY LECTURE

Senator Ben Sasse

(Republican – Nebraska)



Before the End of Time: Religion and Politics in this Messy, Broken Age

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 at 7:30 P.M.
PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER

THE 2017 CENTER FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE

KUYPER LECTURE

CO-SPONSORED BY THE HENRY INSTITUTE

Rediscovering Sphere

Sovereignty in the Age of Trump



Charles Glenn

Professor Emeritus —
Boston Univ. Educational Leadership

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 at 7:30 P.M.
PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER



Faith and the Democratic Party

Washington Post journalist *Sarah Pulliam Bailey* and presidential campaign faith outreach veterans *Burns Strider* and *Michael Wear*

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 at 12:45 P.M.
PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER

Henry Institute Roundtables and Panels: Prince Conference Center

Christians and American Foreign Policy in the 21st Century

Thursday, April 27, 4PM

Called to Justice: The Christian Case for Criminal Justice Reform

Friday, April 28, 8:15AM

Persuasion in a Polarized Polis: Opportunities (and Pitfalls)

for Christian Public Intellectuals Friday, April 28, 2PM

How Did Charitable Choice and the Faith-Based Initiative Become

Mainstream? Or Didn't They? Friday, April 28, 4:15PM

Religious Liberty and LGBT Rights: The Merits of “Fairness for All”

Saturday, April 29, 8:45AM

Single events are free and open to the public — or register for the full Symposium on Religion and Public Life by contacting Ellen Hekman at elh4@calvin.edu



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THE GARDEN HOUSE



PHOTO CREDIT SUZANNE MELIN

Maaiké Mudde, Kendra Larsen and Kaitlyn Farris laugh as they roast marshmallows over a burner.

BY MADDIE HUGHEY
Print Editor

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 Maaiké 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 it’s meant to be a com-

munity for upper level students who want to explore sustainable living options,” said biology professor David Koejte, one of the house’s mentors. Professors Jamie Skillen, geo, and Becky Haney, economics, are the other two mentors.

Unlike Project Neighborhood, the mentors do not live in the house with the students. They have monthly meetings to discuss what’s working, what’s not and what things they want to explore in the future.

“It’s different than a lot of other places because we don’t have mentors living with us, it’s just us,” said Farris. “We make our own rules in the house ... we’re focused on sustainability, but since we’re the pilot year we’re essentially figuring it out along the way.”

This first year has mainly been about brainstorming and cementing rules for the house and figuring out what community expectations would be for the next set of students living there.

“We’ve talked about starting microgreens in the basement or having one of those bikes that helps power the house and things like that,” said Farris.

In addition to traditional methods of sustainability like

composting and recycling the residents of the Garden House have also come to realize that sustainable living can mean a lot of different things and be applied in a lot of different ways.

Larsen recalled a time when her church was hosting a music festival and they needed hosts. The residents offered their home to the visitors and ended up hosting around 18 musicians:

“We have this huge basement or this space that we don’t use or take up all the time ... what it mean[s] to use our space, to hold that loosely ... is part of what sustainability is like. Being willing to offer up your floor when people need it and realizing that every space you have or are in isn’t just yours ... that’s a really sweet thing,” she said.

“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 simplistically 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.” Most choices come down to foregoing convenience to prioritize doing a little extra work to be making more sustainable decisions.

Sustainable living is not the only aspect of life that the Garden House has enhanced for its residence — it has also kept them more connected to campus and the community. The residents all run in different Calvin circles, but the Garden House helps them anchor their diverse interests to their common desire to live sustainably.

“For me, it’s kept me attached to Calvin which I think in some ways is a good thing, because my world otherwise would be so separate,” said Larsen.

Mudde works in the Service Learning Center, and she’s seen some of the things they’re work-

ing towards overlap with what her and her housemates are trying to live on a day to day basis: “It feels like where I’m studying, living and working are all working towards different justice related ends, and that feels really whole,” she said.

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.”



PHOTOS BY MICHELLE HOFMAN

The Garden House is located next to the campus community garden.





PHOTO COURTESY ICECREAMCOVOS.COM

Kendrick Lamar's latest album "DAMN." is his fourth LP and features the song "HUMBLE."

Kendrick Lamar – Cognitive Dissonance on "DAMN."

BY BLAKE STAAT
Guest Writer

With hype building up after two surprise song drops, including an enigmatic concluding message of a potential album release date, Kendrick Lamar chose Good Friday to give his fans a new album entitled "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 conventional track list title formatting.

Many know Kendrick for his socially conscious lyrics, dynamic vocals, and calm confidence as he raps about his experiences, finding a formula for telling extremely vivid stories through his lyrics and skits on each album. Although "DAMN." does not feature the frequent voice changes from past albums ("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 being told expressively through the lyrics and his passion as he raps.

With a small list of features including Rihanna, Zacari and U2, this album seems more personal to Kendrick, as he invites listeners to view his inner conflicts, unpacking many contrasting

ideas through his lyrics and music in a dichotomous manner. Looking at the track list alone shows some conflicts that he is dealing with like "LOVE." versus "LUST." or being "PROUD." versus "HUMBLE."

Kendrick also often shows us juxtapositions that he struggles with via his lyrics, and this album is no different, showing contrasts between life and death, found in the first track, or calling himself a savage 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 showing wickedness or weakness, morphing into a boastful or vulnerable attitude, also flows through many songs, as listeners hear him bragging about his accomplishments or a shortcoming of him falling into temptation. Another apparent clash in the album is the music changes that are found on many of Lamar's albums. Though he stepped away from the jazz roots that were so prevalent in "To Pimp a Butterfly," "DAMN." features both aggressive trap beats containing provocative, yelled-out lyrics paired alongside slower, intimate songs with soothing choruses, giving off a strong sense of contrast between every other track.

By the end of the album, listeners can tell that Kendrick is searching for answers to life's questions along with us, and often times it seems he has not found them yet.

One thing that makes Kendrick and his music so intriguing is that his lyrics blur

the line of simple rap rhymes and literary works. Many fans spend endless hours on forums or websites discussing the meaning 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 song. "DAMN." has helped provide evidence that Kendrick Lamar is just as good at storytelling 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 struggles with, rapping passionately about religion, race, lust, alcohol and depression, which most of us can relate to on some level, and what I think is so important about listening to Kendrick and his music is the connection that we gain access to through him. Though many listeners have not personally struggled explicitly with some of the experiences he raps about, we see his passion and connection to the struggles, and can empathize with these feelings and trials, helping listeners find a sense of humanity in the connection, which seems to be an artist's goal all along.

"DAMN." works as an album both to build Kendrick's impressive repertoire by delivering genuine music that listeners can take inspiration from, while also giving an effective platform for Kendrick to express his inner struggles with current social issues and personal shortcomings to the audience.

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

BY NATALIE HENDERSON
Staff Writer

The Calvin Theatre Company's (CTC) spring play, "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 Nickleby"] 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 do we choose to act?"

The play is filled with interesting encounters and humorous characters, and it broaches sensitive topics with artfulness and depth. Sophomore Joshua Ashkinazi plays Newman Noggs in the show, who, as he puts it, is "the fourth-wall-breaking character who is recounting the tragic events surrounding the Nickleby family."

The play is beautifully realized with the juxtaposition 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.

"So much thought and design went into this play, which helped to bolster our enthusiasm for the show," Ashkinazi said. "The true heart of play comes from expressionist art, and the imposingly jarring etchings of 18th century artist Giovanni Battista Piranesi, alongside other expressionist forms."

Ashkinazi added that "the play holds many themes, such as love, violence, friendship and wealth, making it a complete package."

Artist collaboration plays a significant role in CTC's approach. The CTC community is a tight group, and the actors and crew must be willing to lean on each other for support on and off the stage.

Lexi Viegas, a first-year student with a minor in theater, finds the act of collaboration as one of the most important elements of her experience:

"Firstly, teamwork is the foundation of any show, especially a show of this scale and magnitude. Everyone from crew to cast has a vital role to play and the excellence in which they execute their role directly affects the team."

A theater veteran since the age of six, Viegas found particular poignancy in the play because she can relate personally to the main characters:

"I can relate to the storyline of Nicholas Nickleby because, like Nicholas and Kate, I also lost my father at a young age. The uncertainty that comes along with this life-altering event was something I identified with."

She also found unique challenges in her roles this season and found director Michael Page's insight helpful in her search for her character's portrayal:

"I play Mrs. Nickleby and Charles Cheeryble. In the early rehearsals for this production, we did a lot of character development work. I found this to be especially challenging having never played a male role before...[Michael Page's] guided character development was some of the best I have ever participated in! Most of the actors in this show are double-cast, playing drastically different characters such as a teenaged girl and an elderly man."

According to the actors, storytelling and emotion go hand-in-hand. The characters are complex and sometimes play unclear roles in the plot — they can't be delineated as good or bad, rather they exist in shades of gray. Ashkinazi values his experiences acting because they allow him "a chance to really feel emotions."

"So often in life we tend to experience emotion spontaneously, which, of course, there is nothing wrong with that, however people never truly get a chance to think intentionally about feeling that emotion," Ashkinazi said. When you figure out what drives certain feelings, what makes them come to life in your face, then you are left with something incredibly meaningful."

Wetzel added, "Theater is live storytelling, and storytelling is such an important part of how we as humans connect with our world and with each other. To look into another person's life and story, whether it be fictional or nonfictional, is to embrace and celebrate what it means to be alive and active in the world."

Viegas' outlook on acting expresses the same sentiments:

"I love acting in general because it is an opportunity to study people, who may be very different from me, in an intimate way. ... Art in general is God's way for us to express ourselves creatively. Theatre specifically is an emotional way for the actors, as well as the audience, to connect to part of themselves, others, and the world around them. As a campus made up of stewards of God's kingdom, it is our responsibility to maintain this particular lens through which to view God's greatest creation, man, as well as use our gifts and talents to glorify him."

Nicholas Nickleby will be showing this Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Gezon Auditorium.



PHOTO BY JOSEPHINE KWON

Calvin professor produces worship CD

BY MADDIE HUGHEY & BRANDON SCHREUR
Print Editor and
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Calvin professor Forrest Wakeman is about to drop his newest contemporary worship album — "Messes to Miracles" — this spring of 2017. The album, which is being produced by Wakeman, features a series of religious artists from the Grand Rapids area.

"Messes to Miracles" is not Wakeman's pioneer studio album, but it is his first with local worship director and producer Andy Ferris. The album is "nearing completion right now, as my tracks are all in Nashville being mixed there by Shane Wilson, a professional mix engineer who has mixed for dozens of nationally known major-label Christian and worship-related artists," Wakeman said.

Wakeman hopes that his music offers a compilation of anthems that modern day churches will be able to use. "My goal for this was to write a collection of origi-

nal songs that are intended to be used in corporate worship," said Wakeman. "They are definitely contemporary in style, ranging from power ballads to anthems to intimate expressions of praise to quirky, fun, upbeat worship tunes. Several of the songs use direct paraphrases of scripture passages as their lyric inspiration."

The album is set to be released May 15 and will be available as a physical CD, on iTunes, Spotify and "pretty much any other outlet where you can purchase or stream music," Wakeman said.

This is not Wakeman's only presence in the music scene. According to his biography, he has "played for over 20 Broadway tours (including national tours of "Wicked," "Grease," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and others), the Grand Rapids Symphony, West Michigan Symphony and Holland Symphony orchestras, numerous solo and ensemble recitals, weddings, banquets, corporate functions, etc."

He was also a member of the band Felix Culpa in the 1990s, playing at the same music festi-

val as artists such as Jars of Clay.

In addition to his computer science classes, he is a private piano lesson instructor for Calvin and serves as an adjunct at Cornerstone University and Aquinas College. He is also the music director at Blythefield Hills Baptist Church in Rockford, MI, where Wakeman will be giving a live CD release concert for this new album on Friday, May 19.

Preliminary reviews have already started surfacing, and Wakeman is receiving high praise for his work:

"Forrest has an exceptional talent and God-given gift that he has diligently honed over his lifetime to provide anyone listening live or by recording an enjoyable performance," said the executive director of Highway Melodies Ministries, Bryan Tilburt.

"Messes to Miracles" was made possible through a Kickstarter campaign that Wakeman launched last fall, in which he raised \$7,300 to produce the album. This was Wakeman's first time producing music and his own album after taking a hiatus.

Statement

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kevin Timpe of Calvin's philosophy department heard about the statement from one of his colleagues at Westmont College. Timpe said that one paragraph in the statement particularly compelled him to sign:

"Regardless of where Christians stand politically, the gospel demands we recognize vulnerable populations among us. The gospel also demands that Christians recognize ways we benefit from and participate in structural injustices. Ignoring policies that denigrate and even endanger vulnerable groups is not a faithful option, even if privilege allows some to do so. When we have power, we are called to use it justly and for the good of all."

Timpe explained that privilege must be used to empower those in precarious social situations: "I teach a number of classes that deal with the virtue of justice, and I think the statement is right that we are obligated to work for justice, even if the injustice doesn't directly affect us but others."

After hearing about the statement from Timpe, Sinniah decided to add his name to the list of signatures because it resonated with his belief in identifying with people who live in fear, his desire to identify with his neighbor, and his belief that Christians "need to be 'truth seekers' and not pander to political ideologies."

In signing this document, Sinniah said he hoped that it will give Christian faculty "a platform to speak against hatred, especially when it comes from Christians against those who

are weak and vulnerable" and will "help to bridge the polarization among Christians within our churches."

Timpe said he hoped "an expression of solidarity like this gives some degree of comfort to those to whom we are committing." He went on to say that the statement presents the opportunity to confess both intentional and unintentional moral failings, and explained that signing the statement allows his students and colleagues to hold him accountable to the commitments expressed in the document.

In signing the statement, Christian faculty commit to the vision of "a community in which walls of hostility are broken down [...] and where love casts out all fear."

When asked how the Calvin community is breaking down barriers of hostility, Sinniah said, "I believe the college has made a tremendous effort at breaking down barriers at the institutional level." Yet he also added that it is still a work in progress: "There is much to be done in this area at the individual and departmental levels at Calvin."

Timpe said, "What I've been impressed with during my short time here is the College's willingness to wrestle with some of the difficult questions that my previous university preferred to ignore." One example, he said, was the number of Calvin faculty who signed this statement. In doing so, these faculty and staff commit to "humbly seek not only to love our neighbor but to know our neighbor [...], through our conversations, classroom discussions and times of prayer."

Calvin prof starts multi-generational Bible study



Professor 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 from 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) cross-bearing and 3) meditation on the future life.

Each Wednesday 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 Heckaman 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 away from students of CRC 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.

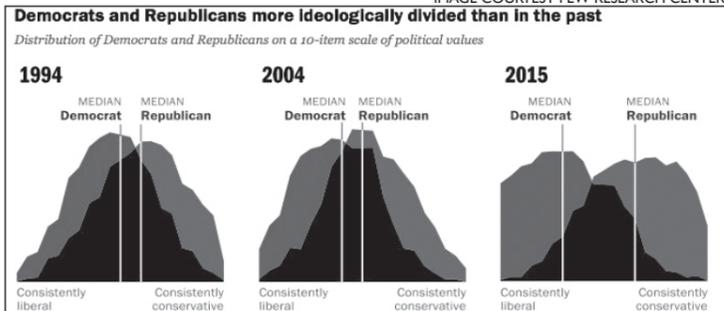
Another reason for Noe's interest is that this Bible study is an exploratory study. Noe and several core families are interested in planting a church near Calvin's campus to reach out to conservative or curious students. Noe is also

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 with students who remain in town and the growing core of families. Beginning May 17, the study will move to the topic of "The Sacraments of the Old Testament and Their Fulfillment in the New Testament."

IMAGE COURTESY PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Graphs from the Pew Research Center depict polarization.

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 on 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 prefer to sleep in.

Sophomore Heather Milks, who has been attending Fifth Reformed for about a year, said that the strong sense of community is what has made her set down roots at 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 jour-

ney. I was extremely impressed by how well and how thoroughly they reached out to me."

This sense of rich togetherness and care for others is represented in the ministries of Fifth Reformed:

"The church emphasizes long term service projects. They've partnered with the same few organizations for a long time and aim to remain faithful in their service," said Milks. "I'd also say they prioritize local service over sending teams internationally for missions projects."

Many of the programs at Fifth Reformed involve people of all ages. Their central mission, as stated on the Fifth Reformed website, is to "make disciples who make disciples." Many of their programs reflect the importance of growing their church members to be disciples in their communities. There are monthly seniors gatherings for any people from the area to attend. Additionally, a whole website,

fifthkids.org, exists for their extensive Sunday school and summer children's programs, something Milks volunteers for on a bimonthly basis.

But these ministries, whether it be the women's ministry, the student youth group or the summer JAM (Jesus And Me) Bible camp, do not keep people from different demographics and age groups from interacting.

"This is one of those congregations that behaves as a family, and as you continue to go they continue to draw you into it," Milks stated. She also emphasized the importance of after-church fellowship time at Fifth.

As for worship style, Fifth maintains strong roots in the Reformed tradition with creeds and catechisms, but music on any given Sunday can range from organ and hymns to a full worship team and perhaps some liturgical dance.

Milks also appreciated the type of sermons offered at Fifth:

"These sermons 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 Reformed is a welcoming, traditional Reformed church with a contemporary twist. If you want a place to find a church family and some practical teaching about living as a disciple of Christ, then be sure to check it out.



Fifth Reformed Church sits close to Calvin on Griggs Street.

Practicing the day of rest

BY LEA WASSINK
Guest Writer

Like many students, I came to Calvin for many reasons. I came because 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 all its 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 because 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 rest and rejuvenate, something that I have truly cherished as an engineering student.

On Friday last week, student news included an announcement that the second floor of the

library would be open from 1 to 6 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 monitor 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, resignation and concern.

I understand that there is a need for students in the dorms and in the KE apartments to have other spaces, besides their dorms and apartments, available to them on Sundays. I remember as a first-year student, I often felt trapped, anti-social and alone on Sundays because I had nowhere else to be besides my room. Whether or not I wanted to, I usually ended up doing homework.

I am resigned 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 students, faculty, and staff have varying opinions. At the end of October last year, I wrote an article for the Chimes about my perspective as a library 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, not necessarily to be a place of socialization and relaxation.

The library is a place of learning, study, and research, the fundamental concepts that define the work of a student. It is my hope that as Calvin continually develops that it may hold onto the fundamental values that attracted me to attend in the first place, even as it continues to strive to meet the wants and needs of its students.



PHOTO COURTESY PEXELS

Is my God your God?

BY MICHELLE HOFMAN
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 all have our reasons, our verses, our proofs and arguments. I don't want to get into those.

I want to think about who God is to each of us. What does he allow in your life, how close are you to him? God is with us in each and every aspect in 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 in my life as 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. Do I believe that you are less than me if you do not? No. I believe that God has called you to something different than me. Or perhaps you are answering His call differently than I am.

I change the radio station when I hear a song about sex or lust. It is my opinion that every Christian should do the same. Do they? I know they do not. And it makes me wonder, what is God

to those people? I know that there are some who listen to music that I would never listen to, and they are still so well versed in the Bible and know so much about God. 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, and they all please 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 those who know God, but do not live a life that is pleasing to him. So I ask you to ask yourself, if Jesus were physically by your side everyday, would you be living the life you live right now? Would he be silent by your side if you continued to do the things you do? Because we do believe that God is by our side everyday, he might not be physical but he is there, and yet our lives don't always show that we believe that. I am not excluding myself from that category.

We are Christ-ians. 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.

So I challenge you to ask yourself these questions: Who is God to you? How much does he affect the way you live? How much might your life please him now?



PHOTO COURTESY HEKMAN LIBRARY

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 commuters nor all of the students living in the dorms. My opinion on this 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 would be fine if I spent a day without interacting with anyone.

My family didn't have the money for me to live in the dorms, but student loans are a hell of a drug. So when it came time for my family to decide between commuting and the dorms, I was told that I had to live in the dorms (future debt notwithstanding).

On move-in day I was absolutely terrified, having to meet an entire building full of strangers, and then live with them.

Everything ended up all right, but living in the dorms was a huge first step towards independence and breaking out of my vacuum of comfortability.

I ended up making friends in my dorm, but I noticed something odd: I also made friends outside of the dorm. The purpose of this piece isn't to tell my story; however, this turning point in my social life gave me a different perspective that I wish I could have offered to the younger me who was dying to not live in the dorms.

I didn't even need to go to all of the dorm or campus events to feel as though I was ingrained in the campus itself. I could have had the opposite reaction to the dorms and become more excluded from the world around me.

Living in the dorms isn't all about friends or social life, though. Practically speaking, living a minute away from everything that you need to do well in school is incredibly useful.

You could be a hermit in your room (as your roommate avoids you incessantly) and still reap plenty of benefits from living in the dorms, such as having a meal

plan included in your costs, not having to worry about transportation, enjoying the amenities provided by the laundry room and studying spaces and much more.

Before you think that I can't come at this from an objective place, I have been both a dorm resident and a commuter.

As much fun as it was taking out student loans, I had no choice but to live at home for the first semester of my sophomore year. During that time I saved a lot of money, and I recognized some of the advantages of commuting.

I was able to avoid the temptations of hanging out with friends as opposed to getting school work done. I was also forced to work more efficiently while at school because if I left, I would only be able to work on what I could take home with me.

I know plenty of people who don't care for the dorms, but most don't have a choice if they didn't grow up ten minutes from campus. If you do, though, as a first-year student or a senior in high school, then deciding to live in the dorms could have a positive impact on the rest of your college career.

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PENNY 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 your article or your ideas to the section editor and we'll help you out.

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

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

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All letters and opinions must include the writer's name and class year. Unless otherwise specified, names will be printed. Chimes does not accept anonymous letters except under very special circumstances.

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The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on Tuesday for print on Friday.

PHOTO ESSAY

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TALENT

