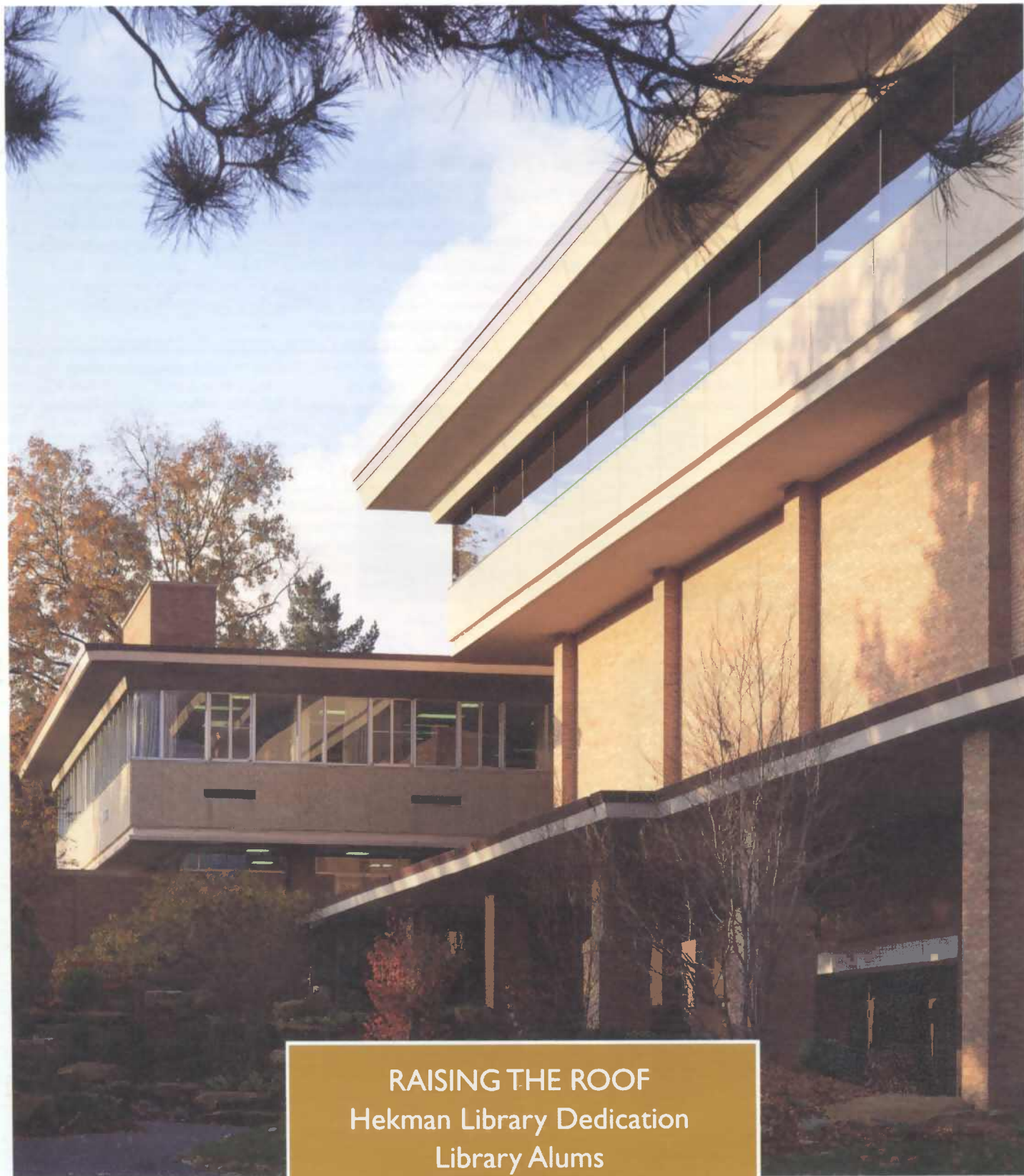


THE CALVIN *Spark*

WINTER 1994

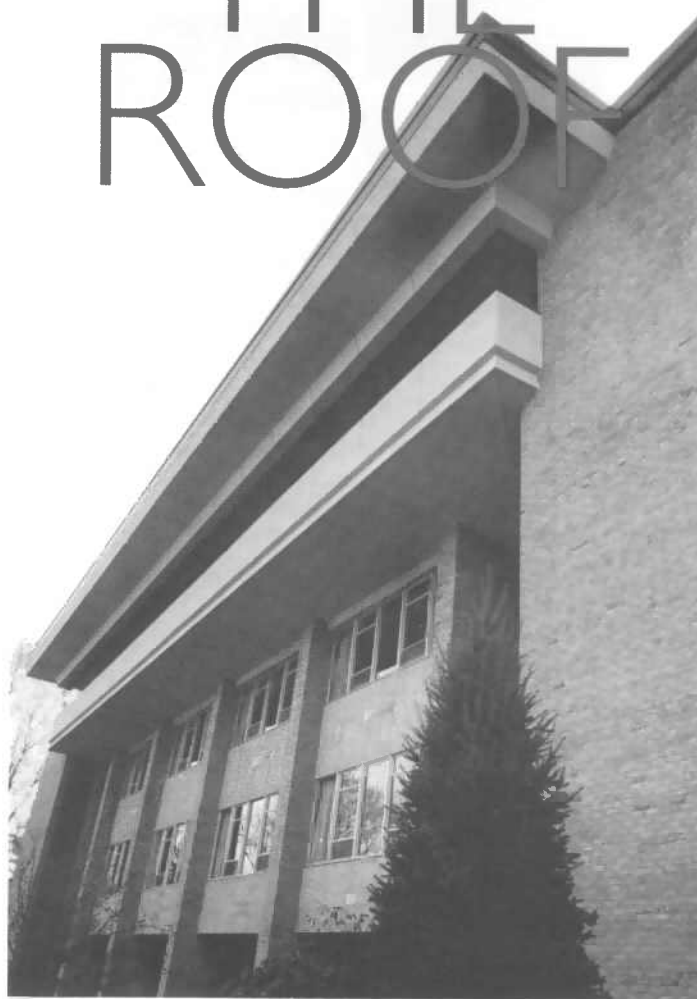
THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF CALVIN COLLEGE



RAISING THE ROOF
Hekman Library Dedication
Library Alums

Homecoming '95 Invitation Enclosed

RAISING THE ROOF



A LOOK AT THE LIBRARY'S FIVE FLOORS

By Lynn Bolt Rosendale '85

From the southeast corner on the second floor of Grand Rapids' Williams Street Christian School in 1876 to the towering five floor structure, that is now a dominant feature of the Knollcrest Campus, the library has always been a strategic part of Calvin College.

The fact that the library began with the founding of the school contributes to it being a highly-regarded institution both locally and across the state of Michigan.

"Our collection is much older than most," said Marvin Monsma, library director. "Maturity is definitely a factor. For example, our

subscriptions date further back and are more complete than a lot of libraries."

It began when the college was founded as Calvin Theological Seminary. At that time the school retained a separate, small room for books—mostly old Reformed writings.

The "library room" had grown to 3,500 volumes by 1915 and 13,800 just ten years later. Today the library collection numbers 1,135,665 including print items and all other formats combined. Included in that figure are 2,630 subscriptions, 109,748 government documents and 535,294 units of microforms.

In comparison with other schools of the same size across Michigan, Calvin ranks second behind the University of Detroit for the number of print items.

"It's very difficult to make comparisons based solely on numbers," said Monsma. "The emphasis is changing from ownership to access."

In the past that access was limited to inter-library loan through which Calvin loaned out three times as many books as it borrowed.

"That in itself demonstrates the quality of a library," said Monsma. "When you loan three



Conrad Bult, assistant director of the library, shows one of the Rare Book Room treasures. The book dates before 1500.

Calvin's Rare Book Room: A Hidden Treasure

Down a winding corridor in the halls of the first floor library lies an often overlooked treasure among the holdings of the library—the Rare Book Room.

Marked only by the number 217 and kept locked at all times, the room contains a few thousand books placed there because of their inherent value.

"The books are not put in here just because they're old," said Conrad Bult, assistant director of the library and a collector himself of rare children's books. "They are put here because of their intellectual worth or because we would not be able to secure them again if lost."

One of the oldest books in the collection, however, dates before 1500 and contains beautiful drawings of signs of the zodiac.

Other interesting parts of the collection include an 1852 edition of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a 1777 collection of *Diderot's Encyclopedia*, a 1799 edition of (Samuel) *Johnson's Dictionary* and a run of *Aunt Judy's Magazine*, a magazine for children, beginning in 1866.

As one might expect, there are many books on Dutch theology, written in Dutch, in the room.

But perhaps a surprise, there are a significant number of books about Abraham Lincoln, now housed in the Rare Book Room, which were donated by the Kindel family from their father's collection in 1982-83.

Other items in the collection stand out because of their beautiful bindings or illustrations.

Some of the books or sets of books here are worth thousands of dollars, Bult said.

"We don't stress their value in terms of dollars though," he said. "The books are here because of their unique scholarly value—their intrinsic value."

All of the books in the Rare Book Room are accessible to the public and are included in the computer catalog but are not circulated.

times as many books as you borrow it shows that others are looking to us more than we look to others."

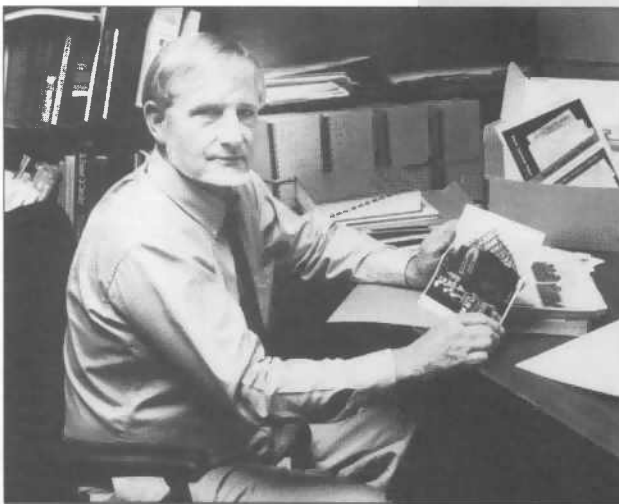
With advances in technology, access has become the buzz word of the future.

First came additional access through the use of photocopy machines.

"People don't think about it that much, but it's quite a change from the cylinder we had on the old campus," said Conrad Bult, assistant director of the library. "We would put a cover on it and you could easily burn your fingers while making a copy. You came out with really not a very remarkable copy and no student casually made copies like they do today. In fact, not all students were allowed to use the books, and the magazines were kept behind the circulation counter."

An intermediate advance was the advent of the fax machine which sped up and increased access to articles in periodicals.

The future, however, is basically unlimited access to information through the use of



Herb Brinks, curator of the Archives, maintains the records of Calvin College and the Christian Reformed Church.

The Archives: Safekeeping Calvin's Past

You are working on a research project. You need to read some of the papers and letters of Garrett Heyns, minutes of the Synod of 1945, as well as the minutes of the board meetings from 1967 at Ripon Christian High School. Tough assignment? Not for the person who knows about the Calvin College Library Archives.

The archives are home to a vast collection of documents pertinent in one way or another to the Christian Reformed Church. Curator Dr. Herbert Brinks explains that "because of this sort of Kuyperian world we envision, where in order to have a Christian world we need Christian institutions, we have a lot of records of these institutions." Minutes, agendas, and other records of Synodical meetings, consistory meetings, school board meetings and Christian school yearbooks can all be found in the archives.

Additionally, the archives are home to the papers of various active individuals who have a history with Calvin and the Christian Reformed Church. The papers of Peter De Vries, a respected and well-read author, and Garrett Heyns, a long time Michigan prison warden and national director of institutions, are two recent additions. In fact it was the donation of a large collection of personal papers belonging to Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte which prompted the appointment of Brinks to the

position of Denominational Archivist in 1962, giving birth to the archives.

In addition to students working on research projects in history, sociology and religion, the archives are frequented by literary researchers, professional historians and individuals looking to uncover their family history. Brinks has just completed a compilation of letters from Dutch immigrants to the homeland, translated to English, as part of a series by the Cornell University press. Many of these letters were collected in Europe by Brinks, and are available in the archives.

Those interested in the archives may wish to write for information on subscribing to *Origins*, the Historical Magazine of the Archives.

The Meeter Center: Calvinism Capital of the World

Dr. Richard C. Gamble made his first trip to Michigan with the purpose of visiting the Calvin College Meeter Center while doing graduate research on Calvinism. He was so impressed that he has stayed, and is now both a professor at Calvin Seminary and director of the H. Henry Meeter Center—home to the largest collection of books by John Calvin in North America as well as the largest collection of articles on Calvin and Calvinism in the world. The Center attracts researchers from around the world every year.

"The Europeans are drawn particularly by our unique collection of over 14,000 articles on Calvin and Calvinism," explained Gamble, "more so than our collection of books—Geneva has somehow managed to collect more books than we have."

The Meeter Center provides a number of services to students and visitors. Undergraduate students preparing history or religion papers may come to the Meeter Center not only for information related to Calvin and Calvinism but also for tours of the available resources and guidance in writing the paper itself. Graduate students enjoy the uniquely vast collection of materials including many rare 16th century texts including early editions of Calvin's Institutes and Reformation-era Bibles.

Those desiring more information about the Meeter Center are encouraged to write for a copy of its brochure or most recent newsletter.

Government Documents: Gaining Exposure on Computer System

One of the more intimidating areas in Calvin's library is the government documents section. Set apart from the rest of the second floor by a small fortress of dividers, the government document section is an entity in itself.

"I think people are some times afraid to come in here," said Diane Vander Pol, government documents librarian. "If they don't come in though, they are missing a huge research tool."

As a selective depository, the Calvin Library receives documents daily from a variety of governmental departments. It is one of two government depositories in the



Richard Gamble is director of the Meeter Center, which contains the largest collection of articles on Calvin and Calvinism in the world.

computer networking.

"It's what people are calling the 'virtual library' or the library without walls," said Glenn Remelts, Calvin automation librarian. "What that means is that it won't matter if you're in the library or not, you'll be able to get the same information. There will come a day when you find a citation and you press a button to get a photocopy."

What it has already meant for Calvin is an on-line cataloging service which makes Calvin's holdings accessible to anyone in the world.

"The use of computers to manipulate and store information in this way is as great an invention to the library world as the printing press was back in the 1400s," said Bult. "It has great implications for how people learn, how they comprehend things and their attitude towards the world."

Calvin first automated the library in 1990, replacing the old card catalog system with a computer look-up.

"This makes it very easy to update subject headings, keep track of lost books and identify usage," said Remelts.

This summer the library took another jump by switching to a new computer which is "more in line with the rest of the world," said Remelts.

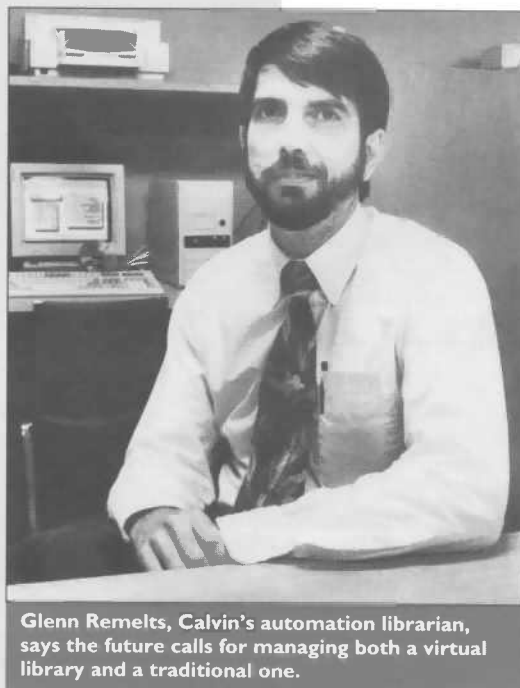
"The new computer made it much easier to hook up to the Internet," he said.

It also made it possible for anyone on campus to call up the library catalog from their own computers.

"Students can find what they need for research projects at three o'clock in the morning from their own dorms," Remelts said. "They can print out the call numbers and then come check out the books the next day."

Calvin is one of only a few schools in west Michigan which offers campus-wide accessibility.

"You have to have a stan-



Glenn Remelts, Calvin's automation librarian, says the future calls for managing both a virtual library and a traditional one.

standardized infrastructure in order to do this," said Remelts. "It was really because of the insight of our own computer services department that made this accessibility possible."

Recently, the library also added CD-ROMs which cite periodical entries under various subject headings like the printed volumes such as *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. The discs are updated every three to four months which allows for more current entries. The CD-ROMs are also accessible campuswide.

With all of this new technology, the library has been able to provide better and more efficient access to its patrons, but it also has created some complications for the library.

"Since 1970 I've been reading about this paperless society," said Monsma, "and here it is 25 years later and more books are being published than ever. What do people do when they find something on the computer? They print it out. Type on paper is still the easiest form to read and you can mark it up. All of the new technology has not made paper obsolete; it has only supplemented the printed word."

Thus it has made the upkeep of the library twice as challenging since administrators now need to budget and plan for space of both printed works and new technological equipment. There is also need for additional staff to teach patrons how to use the new equipment.

"The future calls for managing both a virtual library and a traditional one," said Remelts. "There is a certain group that gravitates to a virtual library and a certain group that gravitates towards a traditional setting. There are scientists that are aghast if you can't get an article within 24 hours or even shorter. Historians are not as geared to wanting things now. They tend to research the archives and manuscripts. So there will always be the demand for both."

The fifth-floor addition comes at a time when the library is expecting to continue its rapid pace of change.

"A lot of new things are going to be happening in the next couple of years," said Remelts.

Here's a future scenario: searching the database for an item, filling out an on-line form for an interlibrary loan and sending it via the Internet to the acquisitions librarian without

district. The Grand Rapids Public Library is the other.

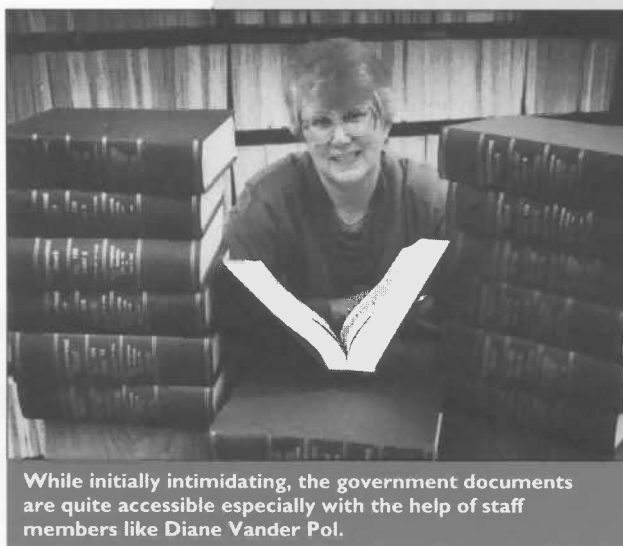
Among the collection, begun in 1967, are more than 100,000 items in paper, microfiche and electronic formats. Some of the more greatly used materials are census reports containing extensive information on population, housing and other national statistics; U.S. Statutes at Large containing all components of laws as they are passed; the Congressional Record containing day-by-day transcripts of Congress action; and income tax forms and books.

"Marketing and sociology students use the census data for projects," said Vander Pol, "so do seminarians when they're working on potential church planting projects. The tax forms and booklets are also popular around that time of year."

Some of the more interesting components of the collection are National Park maps, NASA posters and pictures, art books and a copy of the budget of the U.S. government.

While some students and community members have begun to discover the wealth of information available in this section, it is hoped many more soon will as government documents were entered into the library's automated system just this summer.

"We're hoping that more people will see what we have down here," said Vander Pol. "It may be a bit overwhelming, but we're very anxious to help anyone who comes here looking for information."



While initially intimidating, the government documents are quite accessible especially with the help of staff members like Diane Vander Pol.

Comparative Library Statistics 1992*

Institution	Fall '92 Enrollment	Print Items	All Other Formats
U of Detroit	7,774	874,229	760,458
Calvin	3,947	564,132	517,336
Andrews U	2,979	548,088	660,796
Ferris	12,071	424,272	3,229,332
Grand Valley	12,867	417,549	662,332
Hope	2,775	281,465	137,333
	Units Added	Print Items/Student	Circ/Student
U of Detroit	76,267	112	7
Calvin	40,339	143	33
Andrews U	25,514	184	58
Ferris	65,503	35	13
Grand Valley	68,118	32	9
Hope	26,396	102	28
	Inter Library Loan: Loan	Inter Library Loan: Borrow	Weekly Gate Count
U of Detroit	4,110	2,960	3,458
Calvin	4,729	1,855	15,620
Andrews U	1,571	1,184	3,841
Ferris	4,453	1,321	10,576
Grand Valley	5,280	2,934	12,572
Hope	3,043	4,216	3,996

*Reprinted from the *Directory of Michigan Library Statistics*

Cayvan Room: For Your Listening Pleasure

One typically does not expect musicians with names like Friedrich, Dizzy, Bob and Bono to be found in the same room. But then neither does one expect to go to the *Messiah* to see a chemist play the violin. But it is such odd fusions that one encounters in the Cayvan Room at Calvin College.

Before coming to Grand Rapids, Leo Cayvan had been a driver for a Boston refuse company, had obtained a bachelor's degree in chemistry and had begun to collect music and instruments. After moving to Grand Rapids he became closely involved with many students at Calvin with whom he played in his chamber orchestra. He also was a violinist for many years with the Calvin Oratorio Society at their annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

His collection of records was eventually given to Calvin College (then still at the Franklin Street campus). Since then, additions to the Cayvan Collection have been made by the music department as well as other outside donors. Today, whether a music major or a leisure listener, you can come to listen to any of 17,294 titles by artists ranging from Beethoven to Dylan to U2 on headsets or in one of two listening rooms.

Cayvan's collection of instruments, valued at around \$30,000, has been donated to Calvin as well and can be viewed in the Fine Arts Center.

ever leaving your chair

"There are a number of databases housed off-campus that we could gain access to," said Remelts. "There's all kinds of intriguing stuff you can do in terms of gaining greater access of information. It's all a matter of time and money."

Lynn Rosendale is Calvin's publications coordinator.



In the library world, the emphasis is changing from ownership to access and Calvin is taking part in that change, said Marvin Monsma, library director.



The fifth floor of the library includes both space for additional stacks and study carrels for students.